



# ILO MALAWI

Promoting Jobs, Protecting People

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## Cooperatives strengthen the fight against child labour



his subjects to make use of the training and subsequent activities in the project in order to uplift the living conditions of the children in the area, "we are ready to eliminate child labour and we need the support of all stakeholders including government to win this fight, this will help to reclaim children's rights to education and good health". Said the representative.

### A cross section of participants to one of the trainings conducted at Lifidzi in Salima

Over 300 Cooperative members have been trained on child labour and how they can identify it, civic educate their communities on evils of child labour and importance of education.

Speaking during one of the training session at Lifidzi in Salima, The Chief Executive Officer for the Tobacco Association of Malawi Mr Mathews Zulu emphasizes on the need for cooperatives to join the fight against child labour if their communities are to develop. "As children who are in child labour grows, cannot think of bringing tangible developments into your community". Said Zulu.

Participants to the training bemoaned the prevalence of child labour in their areas. People are using children in goat herding, charcoal making process, tobacco plucking and grading instead of sending them to school.

TAMA is implementing these activities with support from the International Labour Organization under the social dialogue and child labour an ILO-ECLT PPP project. The Project aims at strengthening the capacity of Tobacco Association of Malawi to address child labour through social dialogue.

At the end of the training at Lifidzi, the representative of TA Masumbankhunda urged



The Chief Executive Officer of TAMA addressing participants

## NOT US BUT ADULTS, CHILDREN DEMANDS THEIR RIGHTS



Music plays an important role in society and has the potential to contribute to changing social norms and values in communities. Music can improve the quality of education of

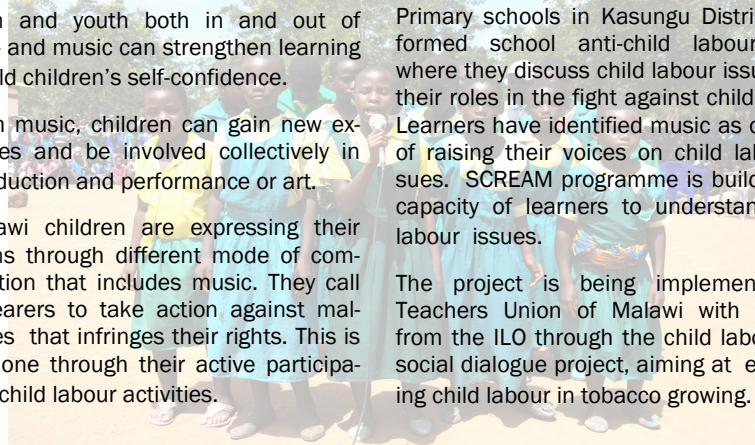
children and youth both in and out of school - and music can strengthen learning and build children's self-confidence.

Through music, children can gain new experiences and be involved collectively in the production and performance or art.

In Malawi children are expressing their concerns through different mode of communication that includes music. They call duty bearers to take action against malpractices that infringes their rights. This is being done through their active participation on child labour activities.

Primary schools in Kasungu District have formed school anti-child labour clubs where they discuss child labour issues and their roles in the fight against child labour. Learners have identified music as one way of raising their voices on child labour issues. SCREAM programme is building the capacity of learners to understand child labour issues.

The project is being implemented by Teachers Union of Malawi with support from the ILO through the child labour and social dialogue project, aiming at eliminating child labour in tobacco growing.





## ECAM EMPOWERS STAKEHOLDERS ON MENTORSHIP



Employers consultative Association of Malawi ECAM empowered small scale enterprises on mentorship as one way to increase apprentices uptake in their businesses.

Speaking during the Mentorship capacity building workshop in Ntcheu ECAM Programs Officer Emmanuel Magomero said the workshop aimed to gain commitment from enterprises that they will be taking apprentices especially those that are withdrawn from or at risk of child labour.

Magomero said giving the children necessary skills will help them to have hope and meaningful future as they will grow to help their families and the society.

ECAM work hand in hand with YECE in Lilongwe and CICOD in Ntcheu. The Program Coordinator for YECE Ignacious Mambo and CICOD's Monitoring and Evaluation Officer Daniel Phiri gave a good background of the different skills that have been provided to the withdrawn and prevented children from child labour. They mentioned that more children have benefited from the project and are now able to train other children particularly on Carpentry and Joinery,

Speaking on behalf of all enterprises representatives present during the training, Nelson Gunda owner of Musadodome Furniture located at

Mchesi in Lilongwe assured ECAM that as enterprises they are committed to help and train other children as well.

“we are willing to train them and mentor them until their work is perfect. We are also committed to help more children as our job is to provide necessary skills”, he said.

The training also had learners' representatives who gave an assuring skills knowledge presentations to the enterprises' owners. Hosea Kadyanji presented his knowledge on Carpentry and Joinery, Tamala Chiwaya presented her knowledge on Tailoring and Moyenda Balon presented his knowledge on Brick Laying.

In his closing remarks, Christopher Sanena Community Development Officer for Ntcheu thanked the project for its efforts in complementing government's programs on skills development and decent job creation for the youth. He was particularly happy to note that the project has provided skills opportunity to the migranised rural young people.

Apprenticeship program is a proven way to address the issues and risk factors that lead to child labour and provide a path to empowering school dropouts. It will allow children/youths to explore a variety of career opportunities through training and paid work placements, helping them develop skills that translate to the workplace

## FROM CHILD LABOUR TO SELF EMPLOYMENT

Lovemore Kalimba dropped out of school at the age of fifteen (15) in Form three due to the challenges of school fees.

Lovemore sort ways and means to cover his tuition as he hang on with desperation to complete school. After serious contemplation he turned to charcoal burning. “At that time, I thought I would find money to pay school fees by burning charcoal but I never succeeded. Because the job was tough, I could not go to school regularly. As such, my performance was poor.” he explains.

Those who know what it takes to produce charcoal in Malawi will agree that it is one of the toughest jobs. One would seldom recommend the job to their siblings. Lovemore was identified through the Community Child Labour Committee and withdrawn from the

charcoal burning business. The intervention for a case like Lovemore's where children between the ages of 14 to 17 are withdrawn from child labour or have dropped out of school and may not rejoin due to their age is to offer vocational and entrepreneurial training. The purpose is to develop entrepreneurship skills of withdrawn children especially those above 15 years of age



and cannot be reintegrated into formal education. Most of the withdrawn children are from poor families and removing them from their work without providing alternative income generation would only result in their regression to their former work.

Through a partnership between ILO and the Circle for Integrated Community

Development (CICOD) an implementing partner for vocational training, Lovemore was able to gain skills that would change his life. When the opening came he fell in love with carpentry and joinery.

“To me carpentry is profit table unlike charcoal burning or working in tobacco estates,” he said. The realization came that working alone initially had its challenges and he decided to work with others in a group. “Working in groups is assisting us in that we can't lose the skill. We are able to practice and improve in our skills.” Charcoal burning was not only hazardous to his health but to the environment. At the tender age of fifteen continuing in this business would have deprived him of a brighter future. His carpentry business now adequately provides for his family.

### ASSOCIATION LEADERS GROOMED ON CHILD LABOUR ELIMINATION



As one way of eliminating child labour in the agriculture sector, the National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi (NASFAM) has trained over 80 Association Leaders and NASFAM Staff members in Kasungu District on how they can contribute to the elimination of child labour and ensure child labour free farming. The training emphasized on child labour and occupational safety and health.

NASFAM is implementing a child labour project with funding from the International Labour Organization (ILO) under the "Strengthening the capacity of NASFAM to address child labour through social dialogue" project.

According to the facilitator of the training Cynthia Tewete, the training was very helpful because it has created awareness on child labour and its worst forms and the dangers it brings to the family, community and the country.

"The training enhanced leaders' capacity on

their roles and responsibilities in relation to child labour so that they provide the right messages to the communities. They now understand the difference between child labour and child work. Most leaders thought a child working in tobacco was part of training a child to become a responsible citizen but it is not," said Cynthia.

Mr Goodwell Chiteya, the board chairperson for Chulu Association in Kasungu for Innovation Productivity Centre (IPC) says the training was very beneficial because it has enhanced their knowledge on child labour issues.

"As farmers, we now understand the difference between child work and child labour. We have been piling work on our children with the mentality that we are empowering them but this was at the expense of their education and safety. We will now take it upon ourselves to sensitize other parents and farmers to desist from using children in tobacco and other activities that hinder a child's development", said Goodwell.

Leaders agreed to form child labour committees which will be responsible for monitoring child labour at community level and also training fellow farmers on the dangers of child labour so that people change their perceptions and in turn enroll more children in schools.

Chulu Association, which covers T/A Chulu, Mphomwa, Chisinga, Mnyanja, Simlemba and Kaluluma, has already established 19 child labour committees and has conducted 6 awareness meetings which targeted the Area Development Committee, Village Development Committee, Teachers, Health Surveillance and Club leaders.



### GROUP VILLAGE HEADMAN CHIKANDA WARNS HIS CHIEFS ON CHILD LABOUR



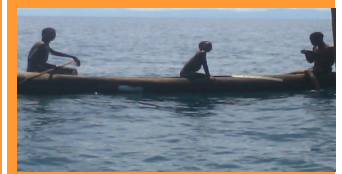
Group Village Headman Chikanda of Traditional Authority Kambwiri in Salima summoned his five villages to his yard only to tell them to stop using children as goat headers. He informed them what he learnt during the 'Mlimi Wozindikira' organised training for community leaders that took place on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at the

Lifidzi Community Day Secondary School. He has ordered that whoever is found using child labourers in any work will be punished. The GVH has since reprimanded one Village Headman and his subjects for not showing

up to the awareness gathering.

"I am here not to play games, but to tell you that you should be

vigilant like a snake and open your eyes against child labour, I don't want to hear that there is a child heading cattle, goats, burning charcoal, fishing or doing any child labour related activities in your villages, if found both the perpetrator and you the Chief will face me" fumed the Group Village Head.





# WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR - 12 JUNE 2018

This year, the **World Day Against Child Labour (WDACL)** and the **World Day for Safety and Health at Work (SafeDay)** shine a spotlight on the global need to improve the safety and health of young workers and end child labour.

This joint campaign aims to accelerate action to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 8.8 of safe and secure working environments for all workers by 2030 and SDG target 8.7 of ending all forms of child labour by 2025. Achieving these goals for the benefit of the next generation of the global workforce requires a concerted and integrated approach to eliminating child labour and promoting a culture of prevention on occupational safety health (OSH).

All workers have the right to safe and healthy work. Young workers (15-24 year olds) suffer up to a 40 per cent higher rate of non-fatal occupational injuries than adult workers above the



age of 25. In addition to injuries, the workplace hazards they face often put their health and very lives at risk. Children have the right to be protected from all forms of child labour, including hazardous work, which affects 73 million children worldwide.

The campaign highlights the critical importance of improving safety and health for young workers above the minimum legal age for work, not only to promote decent youth employment but also to combat hazardous child labour as part of an integrated approach to eradicate all forms of child labour. Some types of work, e.g.

mining, are inherently dangerous and prohibited for children under the age of 18 under any circumstances.

The campaign also stresses the critical importance of removing children below the minimum age for work from all forms of child labour, including hazardous work, and ensuring they have access to quality education and attend school at least until they complete compulsory education and reach the minimum legal age for work



## MALAWI'S NEW SOCIAL PROTECTION FRAMEWORK RECEIVES HIGH-LEVEL APPROVAL



In response to chronic poverty, widespread food insecurity and high degrees of vulnerability to environmental degradation and disasters, the Government of Malawi and partners have significantly increased their efforts to develop a comprehensive social protection system for Malawi in recent years, aiming to provide

consumption support for the most poor and vulnerable, support resilient and productive livelihoods and facilitate an alignment between social protection and humanitarian interventions.

Between 2012 and 2016, these efforts were guided by the Malawi National Social Support

Programme (MNSSP) and supported by the ILO, together with other partners. In 2016, the MNSSP expired and after an extensive and ILO-supported process of stakeholder consultation, a successor programme, the MNSSP II, was developed.

The MNSSP II will run from 2018 to 2022 and build on the successes and lessons learned during the implementation of the first MNSSP. It maintains the same prioritized interventions – cash transfers, public works, school feeding and financial inclusion - but these are organised around thematic priority areas, thus providing enhanced strategic policy guidance on promoting linkages, strengthening systems, and improving monitoring activities.

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the MNSSP II was finally approved by the high-level National Social Support Committee, chaired by the Chief Secretary of the Government. ILO will continue supporting the development of a comprehensive and coherent social protection system for Malawi, starting with the facilitation of a strategic implementation plan for the MNSSP II.



Designed by :  
Gracious Ndalama

Contact us on: ILO Malawi Project Office, Mercantile Building, Opposite Area 13 Mosque, PO BOX 30135, Lilongwe, Malawi