



YOUTH AND COMMUNITY VOICES

Ntocha village Headman

The issue of teen age pregnancy is rampant and HIV infection is still going up here in my village and this is because there is unavailability of free condoms and even our groceries do not sale condoms above all health centres are quite far, just imagine our closest clinic is Lirangwe Health centre which is 10KM away from here.

Fred II

Many girls do drop out of school because of inadequate support at household level, like soap and cloths and this do prompt girls to go for early marriages

GROUP VILLAGE HEAD MCHERE

Our big problem here in our village is that parents do not open up with their children, they prefer their children to be counseled by family friends, we need to discipline them on our own and we need to improve to ensure that our children do not indulge in behaviors that would lead into teen age pregnancies and HIV and AIDS cases

Matindi Primary Head mistress

The situation of Girl child school dropout is very pathetic here at Matindi primary school and I believe this problem is in all primary school where young girls as young as 13 years have been found pregnant, we really a solution to this, it's either we should be able to tell them about contraceptives and the use of condoms, only this year we have lost 17 girls.

Girls School Program

Today in Malawi, a lot of girls are not attending school just because they are GIRLS! The Malawian culture and practices but also the poverty don't give them the chance to finish their education. In addition, a lot of girls get married or get pregnant before the age of eighteen. Their chances to stay in schools are very few and most of them drop out knowing that they will never attend lessons again.

Goals and objectives

Since ANPPCAN was created, the ambition to protect those girls from all kind of abuse but also to help them to enjoy their rights as children and women had been the biggest objective of the organization. That's why since September 2015, five girls have been sending back to school in order to give them the opportunity to enjoy their right of education. It was also important to emphasize that a pregnancy or a marriage cannot prevent a girl from finishing her education.

Implementation

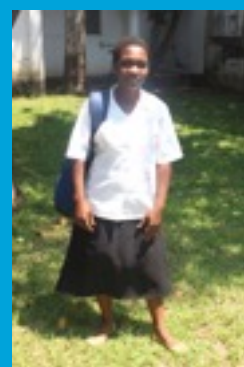
In 2015, ANPPCAN Malawi Chapter has launched again its Girls School Program in order to achieve one of its goals: **Give the chance to Malawian's girls to enjoy their right of education.**

These five girls, after that they dropped out from school, started again their secondary school:

- Faith machinjiri, 22 years old and mother of a 7 years old boy.
- Lonely Tchulani, 16 years old and mother of a 2 years old girl.
- Zinenani Marko, 19 years old and mother of two kids, 6 and 4 years old
- Fyness Jasson, 17 years old
- Livester Dzimkambani, 19 years old

In order to get them back to school, we are providing for them:

- School fees for the three terms 2015/2016 school year
- Uniform, school shoes and school bag
- Books and school material for all year such as pen, calculator, mathematic instruments...etc
- Hygiene kits with soap, teeth brush and washable pads to make sure they will attend school everyday.



"I thought that child marriage was the best solution to escape poverty. I was wrong."

When you look at Zinenani, you would hardly believe that this young lady is already **nineteen years old and mother of two**, her oldest child being six-years old. As **1 in 2 girls in Malawi**, Zinenani entered marriage while she was still a child and became pregnant shortly after. Her life then changed drastically.

With 13, she married in the hope of escaping poverty but is today not able to afford her family's basic needs. **As a child bride, she also had to drop out of school, giving up her dream of ever becoming a nurse.**

Zinenani Marko was born in 1996 in Mulanje District, one of the districts with a very high rate of child marriage in Malawi. She is the first born of a family of three children. When her father died in 2001, her mother had to raise her children alone. Because of poverty, she was not able to afford school costs (school fees, uniforms, books, and other indirect costs) for all of her children. While. When talking with Zinenani, one can see how much she loved school and cherish her memories of that time. She said she had always loved sciences and math in school and had always wanted to become a nurse. Her best memory of school was when teachers asked her to read out loud in front of the whole class.

In spite of her love for school, she dropped out with 13 as her mother convinced her to enter into early marriage with a 30-year old man. As her now-husband kept offering her gifts and paying things for the house, Zinenani's mother, who could not take care of her anymore after her husband died, accepted the marriage's proposal. Thirteen-year old Zinenani was first very saddened when her mother decided she must marry. **She did not want to drop out of school, but after some thinking came to believe that marriage was the best solution for her to escape poverty.** Six years later, Zinenani admitted that she thought wrong and that child marriage was not what she expected. Marriage left her to take care of two children alone, without having sufficient knowledge on how to raise them and provide for their future. She was very unhappy in her marriage, as her husband kept seeing other women. He has left her in 2012 to work abroad and has never come back. Never has he contacted her to inquire after his children, and although she is leaving near her husband's family, she does not receive support of any kind from them.

In spite of numerous obstacles, Zinenani is still an optimist and does not blame her mother or husband for convincing her into entering in early marriage. **She affirms that child marriage exclusively find its roots in poverty and not in cultural beliefs/ traditions as it is often believed.**

ANPPCAN Malawi Chapter has been following Zinenani for years, since she and M. Mhango, Country Director of ANPPCAN Malawi Chapter, met in 2011 in Mulanje. **Moved by her story, he decided to support her education and paid for her school fees for three years.** Thanks to money raised by a team of motivated high-school students from Monaco, the NGO will be able to pay for her last year of secondary school, so that she can pursue her dream of becoming a nurse and take better care of her family.



Helema Village

In our village and surrounding villages they are a lot of households who are involved in producing local beer (kachaso and mowa wamasese) which has a lot of influence in alcoholism, school dropout and teen age pregnancy, in addition some village members sale Indian hemp which is quite dangerous

Mercy Chasokoneza Case Study



The picture above is for Mercy Chasokoneza is a girl aged 17, she leave at Fred II village traditional Authority Makata in Blantyre District, during the mapping exercise she did mention that she got pregnant because she dint had adequate information regarding contraceptives that could prevent her from getting the pregnancy.



Alefa Eliasi Case study

Honestly speaking I don't know the real father of my baby Alefa Elias said, what happened to me to get pregnant is long story, actually here at our home we had some celebrations as we were preparing my relatives engagement , at this night I met a man and he proposed me and at the same night we agreed to have sex and I didnt know that I was impregnated, a month later I started feeling signs of pregnancy then I consulted elders and they confirm that am pregnant, even if I want to find him I can't recognize him because I was too drunk to meet him and it was night



Mr MacDonald Chatsala (Village Head kajawo)

My village is not spared as far as issues of Teenage pregnancy, early marriages and HIV and AIDS and school dropout is concerned, my village is highly affected, it's high time parents and key informants in the village and other villages around TA kapeni started open up and guide the youth, I guise this can help to combat the problem.

To children and youths who are already in these challenges, am saying this is not the end of the road they should go back to school for the country to be

