

Community Governance Action

A Tilitonse Foundation Newsletter: Issue 6, June 2023



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Foreword



Welcome to the 6th edition of the **Community Governance Action** newsletter from Tilitonse Foundation. We are excited to present to you this edition which covers a continuation of our activities on Strengthening Food and Nutritional Programming project in partnership with Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and Civil Society Agriculture Network (CISANET), and introduces a new programme on *Shift the Power* being implemented in partnership with Comic Relief and UK Aid.

The edition introduces to you the Shift the Power Programme in Malawi and the preliminary activities that have been undertaken under the programme. These include an international conference on Shift the Power that the Foundation organized in partnership with the Global Fund for Community Foundations, and a paper unpacking concepts behind *Shift the Power*. We also take you through activities the Foundation has undertaken in Ntcheu, Dedza and Nsanje under the Food and Nutrition Security Project in partnership with WHH and CISANET.

In this edition, the Tilitonse Foundation also shares with you other activities undertaken under the *Shift*

the Power programme which include the rolling out of the Catalyst Fund which is aimed at supporting Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to develop effective and viable project proposals for funding through the Civil Society Strengthening Fund under the Shift the Power Programme. It also includes a learning event the Foundation took part in that was held in Lusaka, Zambia bringing together anchor partners for the Shift the Power Programmes from Zambia and Ghana, and the visit by Comic Relief to Malawi on the Shift the Power Programme. We also include the networking and partnership activity the Foundation has undertaken under the Civil Society Social Protection Network.

We hope that this edition will provide the necessary information to all our stakeholders and partners on the developments and activities at the Foundation as we journey together. The Foundation promises to adhere to its values and deliver its mandate on promoting good governance and sustainable development. We thank you for being part of us.

Robert White
Chief Executive Officer



Shift the Power Conference: Galvanizing Malawian CSOs around the Shift the Power Movement



Tilitonse
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Tilitonse Foundation Partners with Comic Relief and UK AID

In December, 2022 Tilitonse Foundation partnered with Comic Relief and UK Aid to roll out an 8 year Shift the Power Programme in Malawi. The Shift the Power (StP) programme is aimed at supporting locally - led, Southern - based CSOs to become more effective, sustainable and to better represent local people's priorities. It will do this by developing the capacity and sustainability of locally - led CSOs in Malawi, Ghana and Zambia. The Programme is within the broader global Shift the Power movement, which will influence global north funding to move away from the short-term, technocratic, project-based donor funding model to a longer-term, localised model that empowers and provides agency to local organisations so that they stay true to their missions and respond to the priorities of local people. The Shift the Power Programme will focus on the following thematic areas: Gender Justice, Early Childhood Development, Mental Health and Safe and Secure Shelter.

Amidst growing calls for a transformation in the global aid landscape, the Tilitonse Foundation in collaboration with the Global Fund for Community Foundations (GFCF) set to ignite a wave of change in Malawi.

Held from 22nd to 23rd March 2023 at Ufulu Gardens in Lilongwe, the Shift the Power conference served as a rallying point for civil society organizations (CSOs) across the country. With a firm focus on the principles of Shift the Power, this gathering aimed to foster local leadership and reshape the dynamics of international funding systems.

Under the theme "Towards the Civil Society We Want", the conference aspired to bring together CSOs, partners, and allies from diverse backgrounds all eager to explore and contribute to the ongoing efforts of reforming aid and championing locally-led solutions. By creating a platform for knowledge exchange and networking, the event sought to empower participants with invaluable insights from both homegrown experts and international resource persons who share a deep commitment to strengthening civil society in Malawi.

Throughout the conference, an array of esteemed speakers from Malawi and beyond graced the stage, lending their voices to the chorus of change. These passionate advocates, drawn from various sectors, are poised to illuminate the path towards a future where civil society takes center stage and power dynamics are transformed. With representation from across Africa and the wider #ShiftthePower

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movement, their collective experiences will serve as a guiding light igniting the spark of inspiration and collaboration among attendees.

The two-day event promised a rich tapestry of activities with a carefully curated program that was designed to facilitate meaningful dialogue, learning, and collaboration. Attendees engaged in panel discussions, thought-provoking workshops, and interactive sessions aimed at equipping them with the knowledge and tools necessary to navigate the changing landscape of international aid. By harnessing the collective wisdom of participants the conference aimed to unleash the full potential of Malawian CSOs and foster a vibrant

ecosystem where local solutions can flourish.

The Tilitonse Foundation and the Global Fund for Community Foundations (GFCF) invited all stakeholders, visionaries, and change-makers to join forces at this historic event. Together, they aspired to reshape the narrative of international aid ushering in a future where power is shared and the voices of local communities resound with unwavering strength.

As Malawian CSOs unite to champion their own destiny, the stage is set for a new era of empowered change and the reverberations are sure to be felt far beyond the conference's walls.





CSOs Receive K225M in Nutrition Grants

Four civil society organizations (CSOs) received a K225 Million grant to be split equally among them to address food insecurity in the country.

The CSOs include Youth Initiative for Community Development, Foundation for Civic Education and Social Empowerment, Dedza Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace and Centre for Youth Empowerment and Civic Education.

In an interview on the sidelines of the award ceremony on 18th April 2023 in Lilongwe, the Tilitonse Foundation Chief Executive Officer Robert White noted that the grants will play a critical role in addressing food security amid Tropical Cyclone Freddy.

“We expect that the community we are going to work with will improve their food security and the households will have better nutrition status. We also expect that the project will inform other stakeholders in terms of how to plan, manage and implement successful food and nutrition programmes,” he said.

The grants were made under the “Strengthening Food and Nutrition Programming in Malawi”

project in partnership with the Civil Society Agriculture Network (CISANET) and the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ) through Welthungerhilfe (WHH).

WHH Project Coordinator Percy Chimpanda committed that they will ensure that the funds trickle down to rural communities.

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Tilitonse Foundation's Robert White signing off a memorandum of understanding



Tilitonse Foundation and WHH make a symbolic presentation of the grant to CCJP

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“Our country’s strategy is that by 2025, 75 percent of our projects should be implemented by these CSOs as they know the problems in the communities and they are the best to implement them”, he said.

On her part, Christie Banda from the Foundation for Civic Education and Social Empowerment, promised to ensure the funds are put to good use for their intended purpose.

“Our project is targeting young women especially pregnant mothers, lactating mothers, those living with HIV and AIDS as well as victims of Cyclone Freddy in promoting their nutrition capacity as the cyclone has put extra nutrition burdens on their livelihood,” she said.



Christie Banda from Foundation for Civic Education and Social Empowerment



WHH’s Percy Chimphanda

Shift The Power Programme Partnership Building, Learning and Strategizing (Zambia)



Tilitonse Foundation's Gladney Mulima (1st from left), Tinkhani Khonje (5th from left) and Towera Nkhoma (4th from right) with other participants at the conference.

In a significant step toward fostering collaboration and amplifying the voices of local communities, the Tilitonse Foundation participated in a three-day partnership building, learning, and strategizing event.

Organized by Comic Relief and UK AID, the event brought together key stakeholders from the Shift the Power movement and the Shift the Power (StP) programme. Held from 24th to 26th April 2023 at the Sun Southern Hotel in Lusaka, Zambia, the conference aimed to strengthen connections, develop strategies, and chart the course for collective action.

With the overarching objective of empowering communities and catalyzing sustainable change, the partnership-building event witnessed the convergence of notable organizations dedicated to advancing the shift the power movement. The Foundation's active involvement in this event underscores its dedication to

amplifying the voices of marginalized communities and ensuring their active participation in decision-making processes. Their active involvement in this event underscores their dedication to amplifying the voices of marginalized communities and ensuring their active participation in decision-making processes.

Joining forces with Tilitonse Foundation were partners such as Zambia Governance for Civil Society (ZGF), Star Ghana, and the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI). The collective presence of these influential organizations laid the groundwork for forging stronger partnerships, sharing knowledge and experiences, and collectively strategizing for future endeavors.

During the event, participants engaged in thought-provoking discussions, interactive workshops, and knowledge-sharing sessions. The program fostered an environment where ideas flourished, networks

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expanded, and key components were developed to empower local communities. By facilitating meaningful connections between organizations, the event aimed to harness the collective power of the shift the power movement thereby ensuring that grassroots voices are heard and taken into account in decision-making processes.

Gladney Mulima the Tiltonse Foundation Fund and Finance Manager noted that change is helped by a reflective process which needs to be done for the Shift the Power programme to be successful.

“In regards to the change process within the StP, we strongly believe in the importance of soul searching. It is crucial for us to reflect on what we should stop doing and what we should start doing,” Mulima said.

Throughout the event, participants collectively

identified key priorities and outlined a roadmap for the future. Their shared commitment to the shift the power paradigm underscored the urgency of transforming conventional approaches to development. By embracing diversity, promoting inclusivity, and amplifying the voices of marginalized communities, these organizations paved the way for a more equitable and participatory society.

Looking forward, the partnership-building event served as a stepping stone for sustained collaboration and collective action. Organizations left the conference equipped with renewed inspiration, fortified partnerships, and a shared vision for empowering communities and dismantling systemic barriers.

In this collective endeavor, the partnerships formed during the event will prove to be the bedrock upon which a fairer and more inclusive society is built.

Strengthening Food and Nutrition Programming in Malawi: CSO Spotlight

Four civil society organizations (CSOs) received a K225 Million grant to be split equally among them to address food insecurity in the country as part of the Strengthening Food and Nutrition Programming in Malawi project that the Tilitonse Foundation is implementing in partnership with the Civil Society Agriculture Network and the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany through Welthungerhilfe (WHH). In this section we introduce them to you and share highlights on their proposed projects.



Youth Initiative for Community Development

Organizational overview: Youth Initiative for Community Development (YICOD) is a local grassroots organization established to support the socially marginalized and systematically excluded groups (youth, persons with disabilities, women) to speak out for their rights.

BMZ Project Highlights: Improving nutrition and health of women through Integrated food security and WASH. To improve the nutritional status of women of reproductive age in Dedza district through Integrated food security and WASH by 2% (MDD-W 26%-28%) by March, 2024

Previous projects:

1. Chuma chili M'kachewe funded by Transforming Agriculture through Diversification and Entrepreneurship (TRADE)
2. Strengthening youth-led SRMNCAN+N advocacy in Malawi funded by Population Action International (PAI)



Foundation for Civic Education and Social Empowerment

Organizational overview: FOCESE is an advocacy and service delivery youth organization working in communities in Nsanje district to engender holistic positive transformation in the lives of the most vulnerable and excluded rural young people and women.

BMZ Project Highlights: Improving Food Security and Resilience of the vulnerable women of reproductive age through sustainable livelihood interventions in Nsanje district, Malawi. To improve dietary diversification for women of reproductive age by 2024 through an integrated, gender and human rights approach, environmentally sustainable systems approach to food availability, access, safety and quality.

Previous projects

FOCESE has been implementing an Active Participation Project, since 2017 up to December 2022, aimed at contributing towards empowerment of youth and local governance structures to participate in decision-making process and have access to productive resources in Nsanje district.

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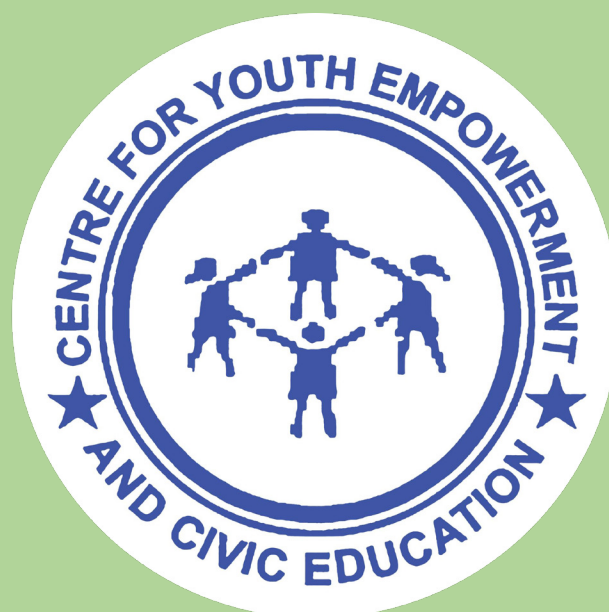
Dedza Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace

Organizational overview: Dedza Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (Dedza CCJP) is a social, advocacy and lobbying arm of the Diocese of Dedza. It was established in 1997 and it stretches its jurisdiction to cover three administrative districts of Dedza, Ntcheu and Salima.

BMZ Project Highlights: To improve nutrition of women of reproductive age through integrated homestead farming, gender equality and WASH initiatives at household level.

Other current projects:

1. Sustainable Rural Development Support Program
2. Promotion of Gender Equality and Access to Legal Assistance for Rural Women in Malawi
3. Voices for Action and Accountability in Malawi (VAAM)



Centre for Youth Empowerment and Civic Education

Organizational overview: CYECE is an organization that works for children and young people. CYECE defines children as those from 0-18 years, while young people refers to those from 10 to 35 years. CYECE's work primarily benefits most marginalized children and youth in their diversity.

BMZ Project Highlights: Sustainable Community Response (SCORE) in Food and Nutrition Security (SCORE in FNS). The overall goal of the project is to reinforce specific food and nutrition-related behaviours and practices to change habits that contribute to poor health among women of reproductive age (18-49) particularly pregnant women, lactating mothers and adolescent girls and young women in Dedza district

Other current projects:

1. Prevention of SGVB in Rural Malawi
2. Girls Empowerment for Meaningful Participation in Education
3. School Feeding and After School Activities Program

Shift The Power: Unpacking Political Fear Of Development Aid

The word Power when applied to social science infers authority: the requirement for one to stand higher than another or simply have others behave in a certain way or cause things to move in a certain direction.

The nature of power is that it comes with a certain prestige, an advantage that causes those who have it to despise the thought of sharing it or giving it up. This is usually observed in systems where power to decide and cause things to happen rests on one or a few people, in business but mostly in politics.



It, therefore, appears to be quite unfortunate that the newest developmental programme that the Tilitonse Foundation has embarked on owns the seemingly ill-conceived title of “Shift the Power”. Ill-conceived because development work comments on and touches on government activity and institutions, but even worse is the fact that we are heading into a national election campaign year. Talks of shifting power are therefore destined to cause some discomfort to those in the political arena, especially those currently in power.

True to this, the Tilitonse Foundation did receive in May 2023, at one of its information meetings for Civil Society Organizations in Lilongwe, a gentleman who introduced himself as a representative of the

“Tonse Alliance Organization” but then the Tonse Alliance has never been a civil society organization.

If not a political initiative what then is the Shift the Power programme all about?

In the simplest of terms, the Shift the Power programme is an initiative that seeks to alter the way development aid is deployed in our communities. Traditionally, development initiatives have been conceived by, initiated and implemented by the so called “Global North” countries. These are countries that have been sponsoring development programs financially in developing countries since the inception of the term “Development Aid”.

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The Shift the Power programme being embarked on in Malawi is part of a global initiative that seeks to shift some of the power such donors have in deciding what needs to happen and how, shifting it from their hands to those of the people designated as beneficiaries of such development initiatives. However, the goal is to shift “some” of that power rather than take it away completely.

What is proposed is a partnership where people in developing countries cease to be beneficiaries and become development partners in the truest sense of the term by participating in the decision making from the very start.

In its most basic form the idea behind the Shift the Power program is to have a Piyason Chitawira and the members in his community able to stand in front of donors and debate the merits of building a school in his community rather than a health facility.

Of course, like all worthwhile endeavors, this is easier said than done. For such a community to reach a point where they are able to focus their resources towards making such requests and counter proposals heard they need help. They can either be not fully organized or lack the ability and understanding to have their voices heard.

It is at this point that common interest groups come in, either through Civil Society or Community Organizations, Community Networks or other similarly focused groupings. The Shift the Power programme is designed to work with civil society and community organizations which naturally incorporate various individuals like Piyason from within communities with an aim to solving their development needs among other things.

To assist with shortcomings in ability, the Shift the Power programme has in its design an initiative that seeks to assess the ability of civil society and community organizations to make development proposals, use development grants, and monitor and evaluate their own work.

Naturally, many civil society and community organizations are bound to have gaps when this assessment is concluded and the programme has in its design also catered for a Civil Society Strengthening Fund and an Organization Strengthening Framework consisting of financial, training, and knowledge resources aimed at closing those gaps. This should make the civil society and community organizations stronger and abler to operate effectively and efficiently.

Every once in a while, one may find in society some notable individuals who rather than open the palm of their hand and ask for aid will get off the floor and move to change their own situation. There is usually much handclapping and talk around individuals and

communities that mobilized themselves to build a school or health center using their own abilities and resources.

Such initiative has been applauded for years and encouraged by donors. It has also been incorporated from time to time in the design of development programmes. It appears the feeling is that it promotes ownership of developmental infrastructure that comes into a community, after all one who plants a tree is more likely to protect it and less inclined to look kindly on he who cuts off a branch or two.

On the other hand, it can be argued that any development aid is likely to respect more the desires of those who already have a handle on developing themselves than those who are sat down doing nothing. It follows then that, for communities to have the power to make developmental requests and counter proposals that are taken seriously, it is necessary for them to elevate their status from being recipients and beneficiaries of aid to being development partners by showing initiative in development efforts in their community.

To encourage this shift in ideology, the Shift the Power programme has in its design a Community Resource Matching Fund that consists of financial resources that will be granted to communities which have raised some resources towards developmental initiatives. The grant given will match the value of the resources available, if a community has been able to mobilize 15,000 bricks they will be granted financial resources equal to the value of 15,000 bricks for their project and so on and so forth.

Overall, the Shift the Power programme targets the capacity building of civil society and community organizations, and their constituents at community level, towards a point where they have a better say as regards what happens to them development-wise. It is, after all, the Tilitonse Foundation's vision to have citizens and non-state actors that are competent and resilient, and are demanding and enforcing accountable, responsive and inclusive governance.

It is hoped that the programme might perhaps also change attitudes, beliefs, practices and processes regarding the deployment of development aid along the way.

As such the presence of government agents at Shift the Power information meetings is not a cause for worry but a very welcome outcome as no development can be successful without the involvement of government. The attention and involvement of government and its representatives in the programme is not only preferred but necessary.

The Shift the Power Programme is being implemented by the Tilitonse Foundation in partnership with Comic Relief and UK AID.

Using a Small Grant to improve Food & Nutrition of women in Ntcheu



A smiling Puliti

The Dedza Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace on 12th May 2023 were given authorization by the Ntcheu District Executive Council (DEC) to roll out their project in the district.

The project aims to “Improve the Nutrition of Women through improved Food and Nutrition Security, WASH and GESI at Household Level” within Traditional Authority Champiti’s areas of influence. It intends to impact 200 direct beneficiaries: 110 of which are women, 40 men, and 20 adolescents.

For this work they have secured €50,000 worth of funding (equivalent to MK56 million) as part of a broader “*Strengthening Food and Nutrition Security Programming in Malawi*” being implemented by the Tilitonse Foundation in partnership with the Civil Society Agriculture Network (CISANET) and German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through Welthungerhilfe(WHH).

Winning a project grant is more like passing a job interview. After winning, the actual work needs to begin and this raises the question of where does one start. Others freeze and flail about indecisively where some take the first step in a positive direction. This can be the difference between those who overpromise but do not have the ability to deliver and those able to achieve the required outcomes.

So what comes next for the Dedza CCJP now that they have secured the funding for their project?

According to Lawrence Puliti, the Director of the Dedza CCJP, the organization already has a clear outline on what its initial next steps are.

“For the CCJP, the first move is to meet with Area Development Committees in the T/A Champiti area to present the project concept and get community buy-in. In the process the identification of beneficiaries and internal procurement processes will be conducted,” he said.

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It is sometimes easier to see the forest rather than an individual tree. In this regard a question was posed to Puliti on what partners should expect success to look like at individual level if we are to ignore all the complicated English and technical speak used to describe this in project proposals.

“For us success is to have individuals that are eating well, have a hygienic home environment, and that are drinking safe water, he said.

He further comments that the project has potential, however, the achievement of it depends on their partners and how they are managing the project

especially in terms of disbursement of funds for project activities. Since the one-year project timeline given may not be enough to achieve project outcomes, a simple delay in funding could see the project lose much valuable time thereby affecting its success even more.

In terms of accountability for project grants Puliti reassured that the Dedza CCJP is part of the Catholic Diocese and as such has structures that will provide for that as well as segregation of duties to ensure checks and balances.



Cross section of the DEC Meeting

Tilitonse Foundation Joins Civil Society launch of a Civil Society Protection Network (CSSPN)



In a bid to promote accountability and ensure the effective implementation of social protection programs, more than 50 civil society organizations have united to form the Civil Society Social Protection Network (CSSPN).

During the official launch held in Lilongwe on 31st May 2023, the Chairperson of CSSPN in the North, Kinnear Mlowoka, highlighted the diminishing role of civil society and emphasized the need to facelift their influence on social protection programs.

“CSSPN aims to provide an objective voice and actively participate in shaping policies and programs related to social protection”, he said.

Furthermore, Patience Matandiko, a Technical Officer on Social Protection for the International Labour Organization (ILO), expressed her viewpoint that Malawi should go beyond solely providing social protection programs for the ultra-poor. Matandiko urged the introduction of comprehensive programs that encompass the entire population, thus expanding the reach and impact of social protection efforts.

“The formation of CSSPN signifies a collaborative effort between civil society organizations and the government and international bodies like the ILO to address the gaps in existing social protection programs and enhance their overall effectiveness”, she said.

Patricia Zimpita, the Director for Poverty Reduction and Social Protection in the Department of Economic Planning and Development acknowledged the crucial role of the government in championing policies and implementing social protection programs.



“It is important to incorporate an objective voice from civil society organizations to ensure transparency and effective delivery of these initiatives,” she observed.

By consolidating their efforts and working in tandem, CSSPN aims to promote greater accountability, transparency, and inclusivity in the implementation of social protection initiatives across the country.

With the establishment of CSSPN, Malawi takes a significant step toward strengthening its social protection framework and ensuring that the welfare of its citizens remains a top priority. The network’s collective voice and influence are expected to bring about positive changes in social protection policies and programs, ultimately improving the lives of vulnerable populations and fostering equitable development in the nation.

Strengthening Food and Nutrition Security: CSOs Embrace Peer-to-Peer Learning in Malawi



In an effort to promote food security and resilience in Malawi, the Tilitonse Foundation in partnership with the Civil Society Agriculture Network (CISANET) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through Welthungerhilfe (WHH) is currently implementing a three-year project titled “Strengthening Food and Nutrition Security Programming in Malawi” that aims to enhance the capacity of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Malawi.

Under this initiative, ten CSOs are being supported to improve their capacity and knowledge in addressing food security challenges. One of the key activities of the project is Peer-to-Peer learning, which encourages CSOs to learn from each other's best practices.

To facilitate this knowledge exchange, the Tilitonse Foundation organized a one-day Peer-to-Peer learning visit on April 19th, 2023. The learning session was hosted by the Centre for Youth Empowerment and Civic Education (CYECE) in Dedza, and was held at the Mapiri Lodge.

The event was attended by representatives from each of the ten CSOs, along with district authorities from the nutrition committee and community leaders. This diverse group of stakeholders gathered to learn about the remarkable work being carried out by CYECE in the communities they serve.

CYECE shared valuable insights about their organization, as well as two projects they are currently implementing in the field: Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) and Soya Milk Production. Through these initiatives CYECE aims to empower local communities by providing them with the necessary tools and knowledge to improve their livelihoods.

Following this session, the participants embarked on a field visit to Kafisi Village in Golomoti. This village has become a hub for VSL and milk production groups as witnessed by significant progress in these endeavors. During the visit, the CSOs had the opportunity to interact directly with the VSL and milk production groups thereby gaining a practical understanding of their management practices and the impact of these interventions.

The VSL and milk production groups shared their experiences, highlighting the benefits they have reaped and the challenges they have faced along the way. Additionally, they provided a hands-on demonstration of the Soya milk production process and conducted a meeting with a VSL group, showcasing the dynamic nature of their initiatives.

To shed light on the transformative impact of these interventions, I had the opportunity to speak with one of the beneficiaries, Mrs. Joyce Mawale. A member of the VSL group in Kafisi Village, Joyce shared her inspiring story of progress and resilience.

Prior to joining the VSL group, Joyce struggled to make ends meet and provide for her family since her husband passed away. Through the group she gained access to financial services, enabling her to save and obtain loans for income-generating activities. With the additional income she invested in small-scale farming, diversified her crops, and increased her harvest.

“The VSL group has been a lifeline for me and my family,” Joyce shares with a beaming smile.

“Thanks to the support and knowledge I gained from the group I have been able to provide my children with a better education, improve our nutrition, and even save for the future.” She said.

Pictorial focus on the Peer-to-Peer learning visit in Dedza





Tilitonse Foundation holds Regional Meetings on Shift The Power Catalyst Fund Results

The Tilitonse Foundation on 16th May 2023 held the first regional meeting aimed at addressing misconceptions on the Shift the Power (StP) Catalyst Fund grant-making process.

Held at Crossroads Hotel in Blantyre, the meeting was a follow up of consultations held with the CBO Coalition for Human Rights and Good Governance which previously expressed concerns over the process. Discussions at the event revolved around the proposal review process and resolutions reached in meetings held with the CBO Coalition, among other things.

Speaking at the end of the event, the Chairperson of the Tilitonse Foundation Board of Directors Desmond Kaunda expressed a hope that the meeting had cleared any misconceptions about the grant making process for all who attended.

“We hope that you have found the interaction useful and that we have made everything transparent to you”, he said.

Jafari Mustapher, Director of Kamawi Youth Organization and participant in the event commented that he had found the discussions at the event reassuring and encouraged the Tilitonse Foundation to continue their efforts to see the work through.



Tilitonse Board Chair Desmond Kaunda addresses participants in Blantyre

The meeting in Blantyre was one of three with another that took place in Lilongwe on 17th May, and in Mzuzu on 19th May 2023.

Tilitonse Foundation holds Due Diligence exercise on Shift the Power Programme Catalyst Fund

The Tilitonse Foundation conducted due diligence visits of all 23 organizations identified as awardees of grants under the Shift the Power Programme's Catalyst Fund. The visits were conducted between 29th May 2023 and 2nd June 2023 nationwide. The programme is currently being implemented in partnership with Comic Relief and UK AID.



Empowering Vulnerable Women for a Food-Secure Future: FOCESE's Project in Nsanje



Nsanje, a district in southern Malawi, is home to a resilient community that has faced numerous challenges including food insecurity and limited opportunities for vulnerable women. On May 13th, 2023, a ray of hope emerged as the Foundation for Civic Education and Social Empowerment (FOCESE) presented their project titled “Improving Food Security and Resilience of Vulnerable Women of Reproductive Age through Sustainable Livelihood Interventions in Nsanje” to the Nsanje District Executive Committee.

The aim of this project is to create sustainable livelihood opportunities and enhance food security for vulnerable women in the community. With an unwavering commitment to empowering the most marginalized individuals, FOCESSE was granted MK 56,250,000.00 by the Tilitonse Foundation under the “Strengthening Food and Nutrition Programming in Malawi” project. This initiative is being implemented in partnership with the Civil Society Agriculture Network (CISANET) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through Welthungerhilfe (WHH).

Recognizing the critical role women play in community development and the challenges they face, FOCESSE has strategically designed sustainable livelihood interventions to address these issues. By fostering economic empowerment and access to nutritious food, this project seeks to transform the lives of vulnerable women and lay the foundation for a brighter future for their communities.

“We firmly believe that by empowering women, we can unlock the full potential of the community. Our project aims to break the cycle of poverty and improve the lives of vulnerable women through sustainable livelihood opportunities,” says Christie Banda, the Executive Director of FOCESSE.

The project’s multifaceted approach includes several key components. Firstly, FOCESSE plans to provide comprehensive training and capacity building programs for women in areas such as entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and agricultural practices. By equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge, FOCESSE hopes to empower these women to create sustainable income-generating activities and become self-reliant.

In collaboration with local agricultural experts, FOCESSE will also promote climate-smart farming techniques and sustainable agricultural practices. By introducing resilient crop varieties and implementing conservation agriculture methods, the project aims to enhance food production and reduce the impact of climate change on agricultural activities. This, in turn, will contribute to improved food security and nutrition for vulnerable women and their families.

The project’s success heavily relies on collaboration and partnership. Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and CISANET bring their extensive experience and expertise in food security and sustainable livelihoods to the table, ensuring the project’s effectiveness and long-term impact. The support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) further validates the project’s importance and potential for success.

As the project unfolds, FOCESSE remains dedicated to closely monitoring its progress and impact on the lives of vulnerable women. By empowering these women and ensuring their access to nutritious food, FOCESSE strives to create a community where everyone can thrive and contribute to its development.

With the funding received and the collective efforts of FOCESSE, WHH, CISANET, and the local community, the project is poised to be a catalyst *continued on page 22*



Tilitonse Foundation Provides OSH Mentorship Support to Dedza CCJP

In a bid to ensure the well-being of its partners and promote safe working environments, the Tilitonse Foundation on 19th May 2023 organized a workshop in Dedza for the Dedza Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP) focused on training and guidance in Occupational Safety and Health Policy development.

The workshop led by consultant Robert Matengula took place under the umbrella of the Strengthening Food and Nutrition Programming in Malawi Project that the Tilitonse Foundation is implementing in partnership with the Civil Society Agricultural Network (CISANET) and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ) through Welthungerhilfe (WHH).

During the event, Matengula covered a range of topics including risk assessment, hazard identification, emergency preparedness, and the formulation of safety protocols. Through interactive sessions he emphasized the importance of fostering a culture of safety within organizations and provided practical tips for achieving this goal.

“We are extremely grateful to the Tilitonse Foundation for their support,” Brian Ngalimo the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer for the Dedza CCJP remarked.

“Their support in organizing this training workshop, alongside the expertise of Robert Matengula, has equipped us with the necessary knowledge and skills to enhance occupational safety and health within our organization. This will undoubtedly benefit all our staff and contribute to the overall well-being of our community,” he said.

The Tilitonse Foundation, represented by its Grants Officer Deodatus Khoriyo, expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the workshop.

“We are proud to support the Dedza Catholic Commission and Peace in their pursuit of safe working environments,” he said.

The workshop concluded with participants expressing their renewed commitment to implementing the knowledge gained and actively incorporating occupational safety and health policies within their respective departments. The event served as a catalyst for change, ensuring that the Dedza Catholic Commission and Peace continues to provide a safe and secure working environment for its employees, while setting an example for organizations across the region.

Empowering Vulnerable Women for a Food-Secure Future: FOCESF's Project in Nsanje

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for positive change in Nsanje. By improving food security, enhancing the livelihoods of vulnerable women, and promoting sustainable practices, this initiative holds the promise of a brighter, more secure future for the entire community.



Tilitonse Foundation welcomes Comic Relief Staff to Malawi

The Tilitonse Foundation staff on 25th May 2023 converged at Woodlands Lilongwe for a networking dinner with visiting staff from Comic Relief our partner for the Shift the Power programme.

The team comprised of Head of Programme: Poverty & Injustice Poonam D'Cruze and New Partnership Manager Elle Covell who were on mission to Malawi and Zambia which are among the countries which have received funding for the programme.

Comic Relief and the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom (FCDO) are together the partners supporting the 8-year Shift the Power programme that aims at building the capacity of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to be better able to implement development programmes in various areas, among other things.





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