

OSF Newsletter



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EDITORIAL:

Editor:
Chris Chimangeni

Assistant editor:
Jephther Ngwira

Design, Layout, Graphics and Page setup:
Chris Chimangeni

Stories:
Chris Chimangeni

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND EDUCATION ON ECONOMIC WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

By: Chris Chimangeni

On November 27, 2012 Outreach Scout Foundation (OSF) with funding from Royal Norwegian Embassy through NGO Gender Coordination Network Programme organized a one day Community Awareness Education on Economic Women Empowerment training at Rehabilitation Center, Falls in Lilongwe. Participants to the training were drawn from different communities in Traditional Authority Tsabango and Chiseka where OSF is working. The beneficiaries included; widows, girls that have left school due to various reasons and men. In Malawi, it has been discovered that women are the most vulnerable when it comes to economic empowerment.



Some of the participants who attended the training

During the meeting it was discovered that women have a lot of challenges to access loans from the bank and even to get some financial assistance from their husbands and even donors. It was noted that most of the women seem to have no capacity to repay back loans because most women have no permanent jobs or source of income. The other challenge is that most women especially unmarried ones become vulnerable because most

men look for their sexual services before given money for small businesses.

In his remarks the Executive Director of OSF, Amon Lukhele said his organization belongs to a Permanent Committee on Women Economic Empowerment in Agriculture. He also said that his PC is emphasizing on the rights of people especially women and girls in Economic

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Empowerment in Agriculture. "When doing advocacy, we include men and boys so that they must be responsible citizen in the society," Lukhele said. He also hinted much on how participants would access and save money at a group which is called Village Saving and Loans (VSLs). He also said that these VSLs help communities to have freedoms on their own money and they get a credit at a smaller percentage as they contribute.

Among other activities done, there were group discussion, presentations, feedback from the participants and speeches among others.

Mrs. M. Ngolleka who facilitated one of the



A participant being interviewed by one of the Journalists

sessions came up with a suggestion of involving these women with businesses which will require agriculture produces (Farming). She emphasized on vegetable farming and after some time women can even engage themselves in tobacco or maize farming.

After some contributions and debates it was suggested that Royal Norwegian Embassy should allocate some funds to cater for financial management course for these women. Others were with the view that small starter packs should be introduced in this

programme and small interest rate be introduced. One of the participants, Linly Chinkhuzi said the training was so useful in the sense that she gain general knowledge about agribusiness and her knowledge has been increased. She further said that she will apply to her daily work the gained skills and will definitely share the experience through interaction to her colleagues.

Among other challenges the training encountered, participants expressed that there is need for more training in economic empowerment in agriculture. They said resources as regards to funding should also be available to higher an expert to train them in this

ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING MEETING WITH AGRICULTURE OFFICERS

By: By: Chris Chimangeni

D on 13th December, 2013 Outreach Scout

Foundation (OSF) put in order a one day workshop on Agricultural Policies Analysis at the Baptist Theological Seminary, Falls in Lilongwe with the financial assistance from Norwegian Embassy through NGO Gender Coordination Network Programme.

The workshop was officially opened by the Executive Director of OSF, Amon Lukhele who began

by welcoming the participants and thanking the Norwegian Embassy for funding the activity through NGO Gender Coordination Network Programme.

Amon Lukhele outlined the overview of the workshop on gender equality and equity, and participants were informed that Malawi has made significant strides in policy and programme interventions towards reversing gender inequalities in the society. "At policy level, Malawi is a signatory to several



Participant to the Agricultural Policies Analysis workshop for the District Agriculture Managers in the central region

International and Regional Instruments and Commitments that promote gender equality, including the SADC Protocol on Gender, the Convention on

the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Protocol on the African Charter on Human and

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Peoples' Rights of Women in Africa, among others," Lukhele outlined. He further said that Malawi has a national Gender Policy, launched in 2000 (and currently under review) which was followed by the National Gender Programme in 2004. The provisions of the International Instruments have been incorporated in the policy as well as the Constitution. The Ministry of Gender and Child Welfare has mandate to promote gender equality. Gender mainstreaming is promoted in the public and private sectors as well as in the civil society through the creation of gender networks.

Economic empowerment for women remains a key component for sustained development in Malawi. Malawi has 52% of its population comprising women. Notably women suffer as a vulnerable group in many fronts. They are among the group that experiences economic gender based violence through, for example, being denied the opportunity to participate in economic decision at house hold level, land, among many other things.

Among other key issues to the workshop, it was noted that low levels of understanding or knowledge among women and general public on



Senior Traditional Authority Mazengera (left) and Sigele Kasasi from DIWODE

economic rights, low capacity in women to engage in substantial economic activities, cultural attitudes and practice that hinder them economic opportunities and productive resources and also minimal comprehensive and satisfactory policy framework on economic empowerment of women. Proposed activities during the workshop were advocacy and lobbying to influence policy law reform, taking into account provision of international instruments also consider provisions in the Malawi Constitution (Articles 30, 37, and 43) and other policies including the MGDS II, community awareness on economic rights and women empowerment, community mobilisation to garner community support for

women economic empowerment, capacity building training by training women and girls in economic rights, and agro-business management.

During the workshop participants were grouped into two groups namely; Gender Dimensions in Agriculture Policies (GDAP) and Gender sensitiveness in the design of farm input subsidy programme (FISP). According to these groups,

both sexes grow cash crops e.g. groundnuts, tobacco, cassava but when it comes to decision men dominate. Land allocation to grow crops though women take part in decision of which crops to grow and use of farm implements but when it is time to sell crops after harvest men take charge of decisions and in most circumstances Women do more agricultural work than men. According to these two groups, field officers experiences and observations on gender and agriculture policy implementation, more women access agriculture extension officers for advice and direction. Gender mainstreaming in agriculture sector development programme is a must such that many women participate in different agriculture activities e.g. IRLAD Programme and FIDP. Women also take part in animal health improvement except in small scale fish

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One of the group discussions



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farming where men are most people who own fish ponds than women.

Some of the recommendations to the

workshop were that Gender mainstreaming should cover in all agriculture activities and there should be formation of female farmer groups or clubs in order to empower

the female farmer. Capacity building should be a continuous process for all stakeholders in order to empower women. There should also be review some of the policies and acts

because they are out dated and do not much with the current situation. Planning should start at ground (grass root) level. It was recommended that when planning an activity or

STAKEHOLDERS MEETING ON WASTE MANAGEMENT PRESENTATION

“Waste Management Practices the case of Malawi”

By: Chris Chimangeni

On 10th November, 2012 Outreach

Scout Foundation (OSF) attended a stakeholders meeting on waste management presentation “waste management practices the case of Malawi” held at the Lilongwe Town Hall.

Mr. Peter Kayenda, the Representative of Malawi Health Equity Network (MHEN) who was the Master of Ceremonies welcomed all participants to the meeting. He informed delegates that the Waste Management Policy Stakeholders meeting was yet another chance for Malawians present at the Consultation to give their views and comments on the Presentation on Policy. Mr. W. Mitole the representative from Water Aid Malawi, delivering his few remarks. Firstly, He explained that Outreach

Scout Foundation approached Water Aid Malawi on the waste management issue having in mind that Water Aid is implementing urban water supply and sanitation Projects in Malawi. Water Aid wanted to have the general view on the issue presented by outreach Scout Foundation hence the combination of Sectors.

The Executive Director of Outreach Scout Foundation (OSF), Amon Lukhele made a presentation on waste management practices the case of Malawi. This policy presentation calls for technology initiatives in keeping with Malawi's economic ability to transform waste into useful by products, or effective attenuation of hazardous forms of waste before disposal. Photos were captured to show how wastes deployed in various areas.



Participants to the meeting

Lukhele said the objectives of this Policy are numerous but he was quick to outline the most important ones that include minimizing and reducing wastes in industry, commerce, private and households, maximizing environmentally sound waste reuse and recycling and of course promoting environmentally sound waste collection, treatment, and disposal.

When asked to give his views to this reporter, one of the participants Dalitso Kafuwa sited the issue of

waste management is real and needs a special attention and giving an example of Mudi River in Blantyre and area 47 that City council stopped collecting waste. Issues of ecosystems and others affected are very true it need stakeholders to do something. She continually said, this is a good starting point for Outreach Scout Foundation (OSF) to chart the way forward. She explained that she will

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share this issue to World Bank during their meeting. On his part Victor Maulidi, the Coordinator of NGO Gender Coordination Network Programme (GCN) thanked Outreach Scout Foundation (OSF) for identifying such a very important issue, he continually emphasized that we should not wait for someone from a far country to identifying our problem. Nobody can say waste management is not a problem in Malawi.

Wilson Asibu from Country Minders also made his comment by saying that the situation is alarming which will need a policy to manage waste management in Malawi. This policy will reduce issues of climate change, pollution and other water born diseases that caused by lack of sanitation. Another participant, Mr. Kwanjana the Deputy Director for the Health Services at the Lilongwe City Council contributed towards the discussions by stating that the Council is still using old by-laws which were formulated long ago and at that time there was low population but as of now population is increasing. He added that beyond the policy, there should be civic education to the public. He further made an overview of current situation as regards to the same issue.



Women planting a tree using recycled waste

Kwanjana said that government is the signatory to the Summit Agenda, an international programme of action for the next century, was agreed upon. An Agenda called for sustainable and environmentally sound development in all countries to preserve, protect and improve the quality of the environment, to contribute towards protecting human health and to ensure a prudent and rational utilization of natural resources.

The way in which waste is managed is one of the key factors which can have an impact on the environment. Sustainable waste management may be defined as that which meets the needs of the present without compromising the

ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

In general terms, waste management in Malawi at present is inadequate. Malawi has no Waste Management Policy by the moment which could help to improve the situation.

The protection of these invaluable resources is vital to the continuing health and prosperity of the country. The current practice of uncontrolled dumping of wastes will inevitably lead to the deterioration of drinking water quality and may also contribute to toxic substances entering the food chain and to the spread of infectious diseases.

As a general view, it was agreed that there should be waste management policy.

It is believed that this policy will be proactive and incorporate various principles which will make its implementation both feasible and achievable.

The fundamental principles embodied in this strategy include the Principle of Prevention whose basic premise is to minimize environmental pollution by introducing appropriate management measures before damage occurs; the Polluter pays Principle which allocates the costs of preventing, eliminating or compensating for damage to the environment to the party responsible; and the Principle of Co-operation which seeks to foster neighborliness and co-operation among all social groups in the resolution of

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environmental problems. In addition the policy will have adopted the internationally acceptable Waste management Hierarchy predicated on Waste Reduction, Reuse and Recycling.

At the end of the meeting the participant put forward some recommendations. Others recommended that the policy should be national wide, this will be guided by this preparation of civic education on waste management. There should be clear definition of waste management that it should

be not collide with other policies that exist. The meeting agreed that there must further be more consultative meetings with other stakeholders. It was recommended that OSF should encourage others to awareness on waste management. The other recommendation was that there is need for more debates on this issue of waste management. Others suggested that it is good to start with the Lilongwe City Council then followed by others (putting up by laws). There is need for the document (the policy to be



Compost toilet starter kit No. 1 made from recycled waste. It is used as fertilizer for crops

developed) to address Waste Management issues. Participants also agreed that they should make sure

that what they have started no-one should overtake them. They finally agreed to make sure that the policy

ABOUT OUTREACH SCOUT FOUNDATION (OSF)

Background

Outreach Scout Foundation (OSF) is a non profit making non-governmental organization established in 2002 but registered in 2004 under the government of Malawi Trustee's Incorporation Act 1962.

Affiliation/Networking

Outreach Scout Foundation is a member to the following organization namely;

- NGO Gender Coordination Network (NGCN)
- Malawi Health Equity Network (MHEN)
- Human Right Consultative Committee (HRCC)
- Water Environment Sanitation Network (WES Network)

Our Vision

Malawi with well empowered young women and men in development

Our Mission

OSF exists to provide optimal framework condition to vulnerable young women and men in rural communities through promoting social justice and good governance, water sanitation, environmental protection, agriculture and nutrition security, rights of the children, and HIV/AIDS prevention and support.

Objectives

OSF seeks to address challenges that are faced by young women and men in Malawi through the following specific objectives;

- To foster and increase young people's participation in various development initiatives through lobbying and advocacy
- To promote agriculture and nutrition security in Malawi while also making sure that a voice of a young farmer is heard
- Facilitate and support the enforcement of good health and environment management practices

OSF's priority areas of intervention

- Good governance and human rights
- Food Security and Sustainable Livelihood
- Public Health including Rural Water Sanitation and Hygiene
- Environmental Protection and Waste management

Contacts: Located at Masabambise Area 44, Kadango Plot, Off Chidzanja Road to area 23 road, Branch at Chilinde Primary School or at Kings Stage, Box 791, Lilongwe. Malawi. Phone: +265 884309820

Website: www.outreachscoutfoundation.webs.com **E-mail:** outreachosf2007@gmail.com

