

Stamp Appeal 2019

CCAP Chigodi Women Centre Blantyre Synod

The CCAP is the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), part of the world-wide church. Our mission is the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of mankind; the shelter, nurture and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the promotion of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness and well-being of mankind.

In order to turn the mission into a reality, the Synod has different departments and institutions each with specific mandate.

Established 50 years ago, Chigodi Women Training Centre (CWTC) is the Christian training arm for women and girls in Blantyre Synod. It is the only residential training Centre for women and girls in the southern region of Malawi. The Centre was registered as a women's rights organisation in 1997.

The vision of CWTC is to see a society in which all women have equal opportunities and are empowered to make choices in matters that directly affect them spiritually, socially and economically. Our mission is to nurture and empower women and girls in accomplishing their social roles and responsibility effectively and confidently through various skills development trainings and capacity building interventions that promote women's rights, sustainable livelihoods in the society.

The Centre has previously implemented different funded projects and programmes such as knitting and embroidery, fashion design and tailoring, women leadership, health care including HIV and AIDS, computer skills, advocacy on gender, and sexual reproductive health.

Project background, rationale and approach

Poverty in Malawi remains widespread, around 50% of the population is poor, and 25% lives in ultra (extreme) poverty.

Approximately 95% of the country's poor are located in rural areas, a proportion that has remained constant during the period 2004 - 2014.¹ The project intends to address the social economic challenges affecting girls and women from rural communities in the southern part of Malawi.

Challenges within the labour force in Malawi reflect the poor outcomes of the education sector, with 81.8% of young people under qualified for the workplace.² Currently, approximately 80% of young girls and 70% of young boys have no qualification. Young people are the least likely to be in any form of secure, contracted work, with the majority employed as 'contributing family workers' – working in a family business without pay.³ Some studies suggest that 15-20% of children start work by 15 years of age, largely as agricultural labourers or domestic workers, either unpaid or informally paid.

The more hours young people work, the more likely they are to drop out of school⁴ creating a vicious cycle of limited employment options and poverty. This particularly affects girls. One in four young women are unemployed or underemployed in the informal sector, compared to one in eight young men. Young people face an acute lack of apprenticeship or internship opportunities. Only 36 % of girls who successfully complete primary school enter secondary school due to limited space and fees.⁵

Increasingly, young people are completing their education with very little prospect of securing jobs, undergoing training or engaging in entrepreneurial activities. Most employers look for those with work experience, very few employers are willing to recruit and train them on the job. The main contributing factor to the issue of unemployment and poverty among the young people is lack of employable skills since the training institutions cannot meet the demand.

This project therefore presents proposed solutions through skills development thereby creating jobs and increasing employment prospects among girls and women in informal sectors. The project once implemented shall offer skills that

¹ Republic of Malawi (2016). Poverty Assessment-Povert & Equity Global Practice African Region, World Bank Group

² Mussa R. (2013). Op cit.

³ Mussa R. (2013). Op cit.

⁴ Guarcello L, Lyon S, Rosati F, et al. Child labour and out-of-school children: evidence from 25 developing countries.

⁵ National Strategy for Adolescent Girls and Young Women 2018 – 2022



The Church of Scotland

provide more opportunities for job creation and contribute towards transforming their families socially and economically.

In particular, in order to address challenges facing the girls and women, the project shall train them in fashion design, tailoring and poultry farming. The training approach shall involve theory and practical. The trainees shall graduate with certificate. Within the training curricular there will be a component of entrepreneurship, business management and marketing.

Documentation of practices

Lessons learnt and best practices shall be documented through case study stories and other forms to continually improve the programme. To track impact a baseline and end of project evaluation shall be conducted.

Project goals

To train the disadvantaged and unemployed girls and women in fashion design and tailoring skills towards employment and job creation.

To increase coordination and marketing of products made by young people.

Establish poultry farming/rearing of chicken

Our approach to address the problem

Our approaches to addressing the challenges will further focus on giving beneficiaries the chance to form relationships with caring adults, build skills, exercise leadership, and help their respective church and communities.

Target population

The project shall target 40 disadvantaged/vulnerable girls and women from informal settlements/slums in urban settings and from rural communities. The project shall be implemented for a period of 12 months. Literature reveals that most girls and women face various forms of gender based violence, lack of access to education and economic empowerment opportunities. By targeting girls and women, the project is ensuring that similar opportunities are available to all genders. This will encourage everyone to realise their full potential to contribute to national, political, economic, social and cultural development, and to benefit from the results.

Sustainability

The project has been designed to be self-sustainable beyond the phasing out of funding. The project beneficiaries shall be identified through Church and community involvement it shall instill ownership of the project by the community. The training approach will be dominated by a hands-on approach in which the trainees shall be involved in designing and making clothes which in turn shall be sold to help generate income for the sustainability of the project. The poultry/rearing of chicken shall also be introduced as a strategy for project sustainability. Funds that will be realised from such initiatives shall be used to train other participants after the phasing out of the project.