FPAM

UN THE GO

OCT - DEC 2022

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

INSIDE STORIES

WOMEN URGED TO SEEK EARLY POST ABORTION CARE

WHEN THEY LEAD,COMMUNITIES GET VACCINATED

N'ZATONSE PROJECT PROMOTES RIGHT TO SRHR SERVICES



FPAM

FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION OF MALAWI

NDI NJIRA ZITATU ZOKHA COVID-19 SANGAFALENSO

SAMBANI M'MANJA PAFUPIFUPI THEKA LA MPHINDI
sambani m'manja ndi sopo pafupipafupi kapena gwiritsani ntchito hand sanitizer

KHALANI MOTALIKIRANA PA MTUNDA OSACHEPERA MAMITA AWIRI

VALANI MASIKI NDIPO ATCHINGE NFUNO NDI PAKAMWA

Zitetezeni, tetezaninso okondedwa, abale ndi anansi anu!

Imbani **54747 (Airtel)** kapena **929 (TNM)** mwaulere ngati muli ndi zizindikiro za COVID-19

KABAITSENI KATEMELA WA COVID 19 KUTI MUDZITETETEZE KU MATENDA A COVID 19

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FPAM ON THE GO

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OUR MISSION

To provide quality, accessible and affordable, comprehensive Reproductive Health and Rights information and services to young people, women, men and the underserved.

OUR VISION

A Malawian society with access to quality and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information and services.

CORE VALUES

››› Diversity
››› Social Inclusion
››› Partnerships
››› Volunteerism
››› Accountability

MOTTO

Centre of Excellency in the Provision of Sexual Reproductive Health Services

WHO WE ARE

An Indigenous, non-profit making and non-political Malawian local Non-Governmental Organization established in 1999 and registered under the Trustees Incorporation Act.

FPAM is affiliated to International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) as a member association.



EDITORS NOTE

I am delighted to bring you the Second edition of the FPAM newsletter. We are glad to be bringing you the newsletter dubbed FPAM On The Go to highlight, inform and alert our valued clients, stakeholders, and donors about FPAM project activities and the direction the association is taking to grow in an ever-changing Sexual Reproductive Health work environment.

In this second issue, we have compiled a list of stories comprising our work, FPAM end year service delivery statistics and other informercials.

Kindly subscribe to our website newsletter from **https://www.FPAMalawi.org** to get this information quarterly.

I hope you enjoy this issue.

Andrew Bishop Mkandawire

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

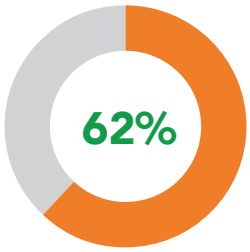
Malawi is one of the countries with highest rates of early marriages and teenage pregnancies in the world, with about half of girls marrying before the age of 18, according to government records.

Malawi is a signatory to the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Africa Beyond 2014, under the theme Harnessing the Demographic Dividend: The Future We Want for Africa. Against this phenomenon, it is important to eliminate the problem of teenage pregnancies in Malawi.

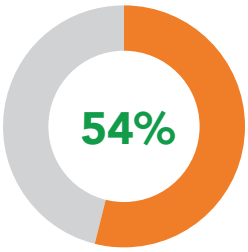
FPAM being an organization that provides Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) comprehensive information and integrated services to young people aged 10-24, men, women and children and other high risk key populations such as people living with HIV and female sex workers, we are geared to work with the government in provision of general medical care and sexual reproductive services to Malawians.

Donald Makwakwa

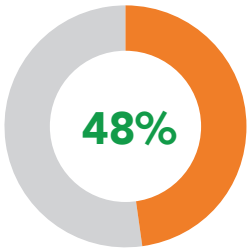
2022 ANNUAL AGGREGATE PERFORMANCE



CYP



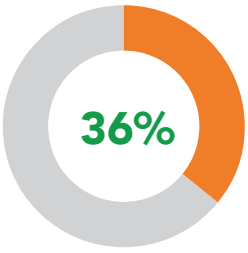
FAMILY PLANNING



POST ABORTION CARE (PAC)



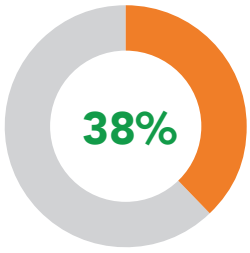
HIV ONLY



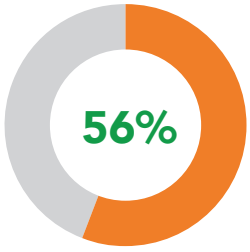
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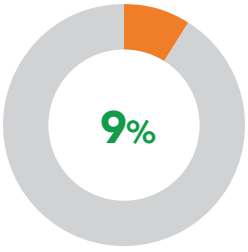
CERVICAL CANCER



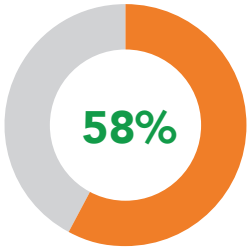
GBV



SRHS TO YOUTH



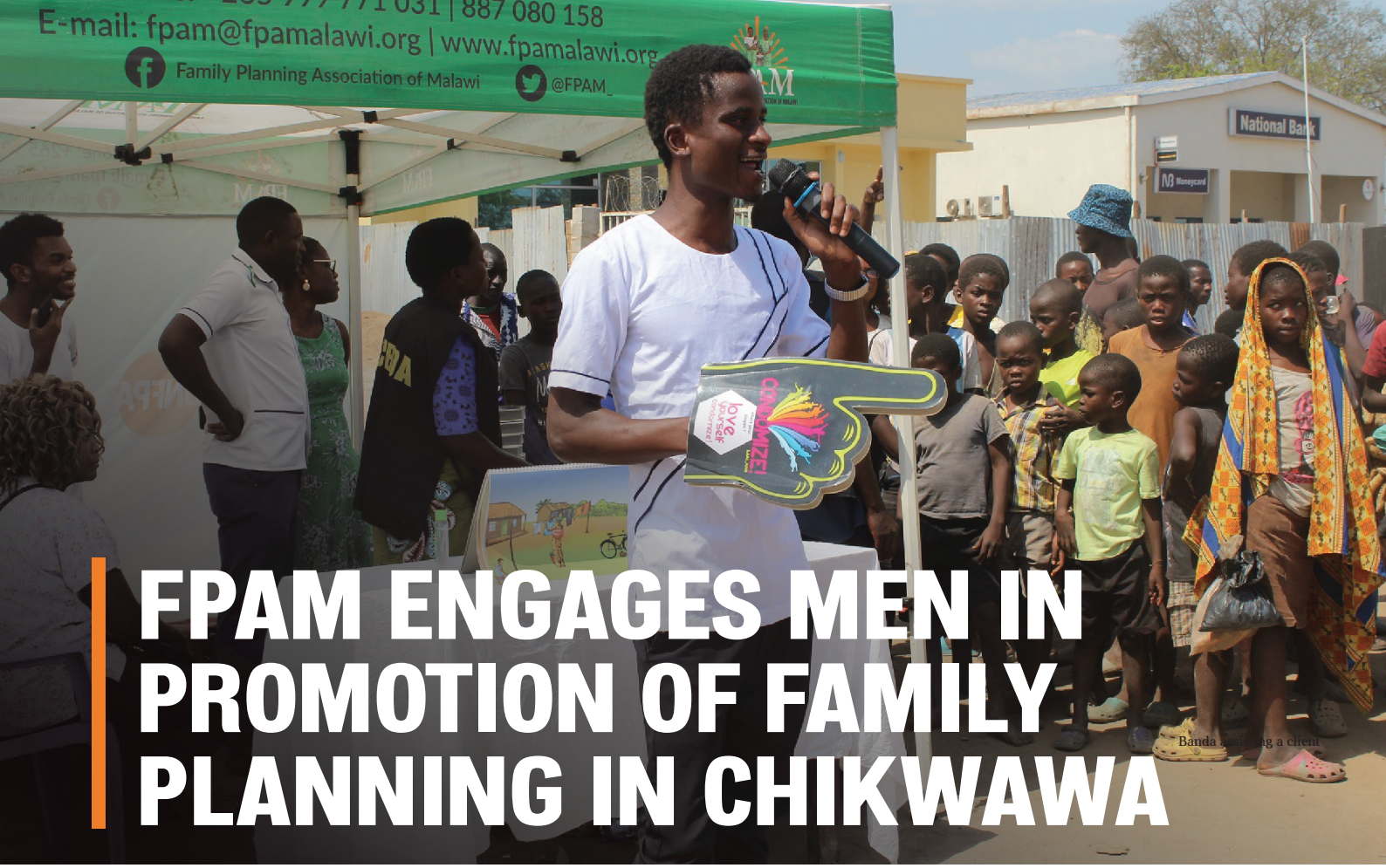
OTHER SRHS



TOTAL SHR SERVICES

ACHIEVED TARGET

	CYP	PAC	HIV ONLY	STI ONLY	GBV	FAMILY PLANNING	CERVICAL CANCER	SRHS TO YOUTH	OTHER SRHS	TOTAL SHR SERVICES
ACHIEVED	118403	2403	46175	7193	4765	280652	2945	211613	1902	346327
TARGET	191904	5000	46831	20043	12500	515379	15000	380598	21496	595472



FPAM ENGAGES MEN IN PROMOTION OF FAMILY PLANNING IN CHIKWAWA

Banda [illegible] a client

A quest to engage men in the promotion of uptake of modern family planning services in Chikwawa has taken a stride through open days that were organized by Chikwawa District Hospital and Family Planning Association of Malawi with support from UNFPA under theme "Promoting Access to Modern Family Planning Services."

Patrick Mchenga 40, a parent from TA Lundu in Chikwawa district appealed to men to recognize that most women are forced to give birth to more children because most men in Chikwawa do not have adequate knowledge of family planning. "Most happy families have men who have good knowledge of contraception and their spouses do not face any restriction to access modern family planning methods. I'm one of those men who use modern contraception in my family, and we are happy," he said.

Odala Adam 22 who is a Community Based Distribution Agent (CBDA), and a member of the Nchalo Youth Club called on male gender not to be shy about contraception. "Guys its time to rethink the benefits of delaying fatherhood until you are ready to take care of the child. Life is expensive and planning for a happy family begins with planning when to have a child and how many children to have. This is possible with modern contraception only because it is reliable," he said.

Steve Munyonga 25, a nurse from Chikwawa DHO who provided integrated sexual reproductive health services during FPAM organized market open days in the district, noted that most girls and women demand injectable contraception regardless of comprehensive counselling to opt for other family planning methods. "Most women are afraid of their spouses and boyfriends because most men in Chikwawa believe that contraception takes off women's libido and that it causes cancer. Most people here have a culture of having more children and family planning becomes a barrier to their norm. This makes women sneak and access contraception that cannot be known to their spouses," he said. "I think having more community engagements like these would help to penetrate cultural and religious barriers including dispelling myths and misconception circulating family planning to increase uptake of modern contraception among men and women," he added.

SGVH Malemia, TA Ngabu 89 observed that there were only four million during his young age in Nyasaland, now there are more than 20 Million, but land is not even extending to accommodate the growing population. "We need to have families we can feed, clothe, educate and provide for all necessary needs with ease," he said.

The Ngabu chief however, appreciated that although the penetration of cultural, religious, and traditional social norms are restricting some people from accessing modern family planning services is taking a great direction because of continuous health community engagement sessions that are increasing knowledge of family planning in his area.

"I should thank our health surveillance assistants, nurses, and all health workers for strengthening door to door information and service reach that is helping youth, men and women to know more about modern family planning services. It is evident that a manageable family is a key to family happiness and contraception is a catalyst to that," he said. "It's true there are still cultural and religious restrictions but every chief under TA Ngabu does not tolerate beliefs that inhibit people from accessing condoms and other contraceptives," said SGVH Malemia.

FPAM executive Director Donald Makwakwa supported the narrative of Director of Reproductive Health Fanny Kachale that regardless that Chikwawa modern family planning services uptake is at 46/100 percentage among women against government target of 59/100 women who were supposed to be on modern family planning service, men are encouraged to take leading role in ensuring that girls and women are not restricted from accessing the family planning services.

"As you can see in the Chikwawa Health Promotion Group drama, most men do not know what family planning methods are all about and such men do not have time to engage with health workers to learn more. It's time that men and women should maximize family planning dialogue to avoid gender-based violence and all sorts of misunderstanding while cherishing their family health," Makwakwa added.

Edutainment supported community mobilization and access to modern family planning information and one of the culturally accepted artist who performed during the open days was Livison Thifu 39. "I use music to help people understand development ideas and contraception information is very key in ensuring that people have manageable happy and healthier families," he said.

UNFPA JPGE III project through FPAM began serving people of Salima, Dedza, Mangochi and Kasungu in 2014 to 2017 in phase I, 2018 to 2020 in phase II, 2021 to 2023 in phase III and 705,081 young people have been served with sexual reproductive health services comprehensive information and integrated services through mobile clinics

WOMEN URGED TO SEEK EARLY POST ABORTION CARE



Ntcheu district hospital's Safe Motherhood Coordinator Mwayi Sabola-Banda has urged women to seek post abortion care (PAC) in good time to prevent complications and save their lives.

Her remarks come at a time when Family Planning Association of Malawi (FPAM) is implementing a yearlong PAC services project in Lilongwe and Ntcheu which is funded by Large Annonymous Donor (LAD).

Speaking in an interview during a media tour, Sabola-Banda who is also the district's PAC Coordinator, highlighted that there is a large population of women who need post abortion care in the district, but they often shun the public hospitals for fear of stigma.

"Last year we had two maternal deaths related to post abortion complications, because of haemorrhage and sepsis, which means that if they had sought timely post abortion care, their lives would have been saved, " she said.

But she stated that between July and October 2022 following the introduction of the PAC Services project, the hospital provided post abortion care to 88 women, 28 of whom underwent manual vacuum aspiration while the remaining 60 had evacuation.

The Ntcheu FPAM Clinic on the other hand, saw 19 women in the same period according to the district manager Given Chilimira, and none of them lost their life, nor developed life threatening complications.

"It is sad that some women and girls are experiencing complications because they seek health care very late. So, they end up losing their uteruses, getting hospitalised, and even losing a lot of money in the process.

"The government is also losing a lot of money in post abortion care when one has complications. We still need to do more to create demand for the PAC services," he said.

He thus urged pregnant women that as soon as they start feeling like they are losing the pregnancy, or if they experience abdominal pains, vaginal bleeding or a health service provider has confirmed that it is an abortion, they need to rush to the hospital for PAC services.

In Ntcheu PAC services are being provided in five health facilities including Ntcheu FPAM Clinic, Ntcheu District Hospital, Katsekera Health Centre, Lizulu Health Centre and Kasinje Health Centre.

Eluby Matias, from Zuze Village in the district who accessed the PAC service in July following a miscarriage, also urged other women to rush to the hospitals when they experience anything strange during pregnancy as it might mean that they are losing or have lost the pregnancy, and the hospital can provide the best care.

JOIN THE ACTION, PROTECT THE FUTURE

Youth Action Movement (YAM) established in 2005 is a youth arm of Family Planning Association of Malawi (FPAM). YAM has a model of youth participation, which enables young people to advocate and be recognized, and empowers them to be equal partners in programmatic decision making and resource allocation, both at national and district levels. YAM has twelve branches across Malawi including Tertiary Institutions. FPAM is an organization that provides integrated comprehensive Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services to young people aged 10-24, men, women and other high-risk key populations including the underserved. FPAM envisions a Malawian society with access to quality and comprehensive SRHR information and services. The organization recognizes YAM structure which was endorsed by the 33rd Session of the Africa Regional Council of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) to which FPAM is a Member Association as a youth structure championing the delivery of Comprehensive Sexuality Education.

Here with a pictorial focus of some of the activities YAM has been undertaking in order to reach its goals.



A peer educator and student of the University of Malawi distributing condoms to a fellow student



FPAM Youth Coordinator Jimmy Kachale making a presentation during a Peer Education mentorship session at Mzuzu University



Members of Lilongwe YAM posing after scoping position one in a quiz organized by SRHR Africa Trust



Members of Mzuzu YAM engaging their peers on modern contraceptives during an outreach clinic



Participants pose for a jovial photograph after a panel discussion at Times Television studios on meaningful participation of young people on health care sponsored by FPAM



Members of Lilongwe YAM providing SRH services at ABC grounds during a University league



FPAM Social Behavior Change Communication Lead Andrew Bishop Mkandawire engaging young people on modern family planning methods at the International Youth Day event



FPAM Executive Director Donald Makwakwa and Director of Programmes Tazirwa Chipeta posing at a pavilion with YAM members during the International Youth Day celebrations



WOMEN HAIL LONG TERM FAMILY PLANNING METHODS

Improving access to family planning services in Africa has the potential to help women and couples achieve their desired family size, reduce cases of high-risk pregnancies and improve child health and growth status.

It is estimated that by 2030, the population of Africa will rise to 1.3 billion. Despite knowledge on contraceptives, there is an obvious knowledge-practice gap. There are barriers— at personal, religious and community levels— to contraceptive use.

Contraceptives have a lot of benefits to the mother, child and community.

Thirty-six-year-old Snaleti Flyton of Felemu Village in Neno District can now afford a smile after successfully receiving loop, a long-term family planning method she has been afraid of.

This is one of the most popular contraceptive methods, especially for long-term reversible contraception, as it can be easily fitted and removed.

Flyton said, for the past years, she has been using short-term family planning methods to meet child spacing objectives.

According to Flyton, myths perpetuated by some people have been one of the major factors discouraging her and other women from accessing family planning services.

"I was one of the people that have been failing to access family planning methods after being fed with those lies. Some people say one may end up becoming barren if she uses long-term family planning methods, which is not correct. Other people believe that the loop causes problems that may lead to death, and that is what prompts some women to shun such methods," she observed.

Flyton, who we came across at a mobile clinic in Felemu Village, said, previously, she could struggle to access family planning methods because of the long distance to a health facility.

That has since changed, thanks to the availability of mobile clinic services.

She said, due to the availability of mobile clinic services, it has become easy for her to take good care of her husband and children.

"I have been hearing some women claim that loop induces bodily pain, something I have since learned to be untrue," Flyton pointed out.

She said, in the past, she could abandon household chores to travel to a health centre located at a distance to access family planning services.

The exercise was not only tiresome, but time-consuming, too.

Francina Chibisa, 42, said she made a decision to use a long-term family planning method because she was aware that there are benefits that would manifest in the family.

"When a couple is practising child spacing, family members become healthy," she emphasised.

In addition, the husband and wife find enough time to raise their children, who are given proper care.

The Government of Malawi accords the promotion and practice of family planning high priority, which is not surprising because it is one of the ways of improving citizens' quality of life.

Haindi Sitima, who is a Health Surveillance Assistant (HSA) in the area of Felemu, said mobile clinic services provided courtesy of Family Planning Association of Malawi (FPAM) have given villagers who were failing to access services a lifeline.

Sitima cites those who could not access family planning methods due to long distance to healthcare service centres among those that have benefitted from mobile clinics.

He said, in the past, people from Felemu Village were finding it hard to access services at Chifunga Health Centre because of the distance factor.

The distance between the village and health centre is 24 kilometers.

Sitima said the FPAM project has positively impacted on people, as evidenced by the increased number of women who are flocking to the mobile clinic for family planning services.

He, however, bemoans pockets of resistance among some women.

"There are many women that still don't understand the importance of using long-term family planning methods," the HSA laments.

But, through the project, "we were able to reach out to many households using a public address system, thereby giving women and youths the much needed information", according to Sitima.

Things are panning out well, except that the project is billed to be phased out in December this year.

This is a cause for worry to Sitima, who said he wished FPAM could continue with the project so that those with reservations can be reached out to.

Senior Chief Mlauli commended FPAM for the initiative, saying the provision of services through mobile clinics has helped community members embrace health service seeking behavior.

"Mobile clinics have become a game-changer in our area.

"For this reason, I appeal to those that are financing the project to continue providing mobile clinic services. That way, many people will access services and improve their quality of life," the traditional leader said.

N'zatonse Phase IV is a continuation of the N'zatonse Project where it builds on the deliverables of phase I, II and III.

N'zatonse IV aims at improving access and use of Sexual Reproductive Health services in rural while ensuring that the behavior of the target population is better adapted to the needs of individuals as well as the nation.

FPAM mobile clinic team lead for Neno, Joyce Stephano, confirmed that the project, which is being implemented in Neno and Ntcheu districts, is coming to an end in December.

While this marks a low point, she is overjoyed that, during the project implementation unit, women and adolescents who used to be marginalised have accessed services at last.

Maybe good things do not last.

FPAM INTENSFIES SRHR SOCIAL INCLUSION IN LILONGWE AND KASUNGU

Through the WISH2ACTION project funded by the UK government through Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Family Planning Association of Malawi (FPAM) has resurrected efforts to ensure social inclusion in the provision of contraception information and services among the youth, women, and men. This was learned during youth and health workers quarterly cluster review meetings that took place in Lilongwe and Kasungu in September 2022.

Elizabeth Banda 14 and Faith Mafuta 15 were some youth with disabilities who attended the quarterly cluster review meeting in Area 25 cluster. They were escorted by their guardians. "As parents, we need to ensure that youth with disabilities are also enjoying social inclusion with their peers. That is the only way they can learn about society values and health issues in particular," said Mphatso Banda, mother to Elizabeth.

"It is no longer a secret that girls who have started menstruating need to know how to engage in safer sex. This secrecy has led to many girls falling pregnant when they are still very young because they do not get linked with service delivery points that are youth friendly for counselling and guidance. I have brought Faith to get connected with health workers to know more about reductive health," said Caroline Mafuta, aunt to Caroline and a businesswoman at Area 25 market.

Chiefs and parents who attended the meetings expressed how the W2A project will help both youth and parents understand importance of sexual reproductive health to people of reproductive age. "We people under Senior Chief Wimbe, we welcome the project again because it promotes social inclusion in accessing family planning for good health. We know that cultural beliefs and religious restrictions are still inhibiting some youth to fully access contraception services and that's why this time chiefs are also here to sensitize communities and educate them about the health benefits it has to all of us. Youth will now have the energy to teach their peers and parents and guardians about reproductive health services available to our people," said GHV Mpeni representing Senior Chief Wimbe in Kasungu district.

"I didn't know more about all types of modern contraceptive methods. Now I'm going to teach my colleagues about loop, condoms, pills, injectables and implant contraceptives and link our fellow youth with health workers.

We are going to use drama through our youth club to reach more youth who do not have adequate information about contraception. I have also liked the concept of youth targeted outreaches which follow where youth are and this will also help youth with disabilities to easily access the contraceptive services," explained Khilifodi Zimbili 25, Motorcycle Taxi Driver from Mtunthama in Kasungu.

Zimbili: I will teach my colleagues about modern family planning services

Dabson Chunga, MACOHA Community Rehabilitation Worker in Lilongwe emphasized that youth with disabilities need not to face any restriction in accessing sexual reproductive health services because they have the right to engage in safer sex, have children and they need to be protected from sexually transmitted infections including HIV.

The Deputy Family Planning Coordinator of Kasungu District Health Office, Lydia Msowoya, alerted youth that their success begins with planning. "No one will decide for you how to become healthy and successful in life. You need to take care of yourselves by access health services that make you healthier and strong to work. Take the contraception information you have learnt to your colleagues.





YOUTH CHAMPION PEER MOBILIZATION FOR SRHR/HIV SERVICES

The heart to serve and safeguard youth health on a voluntary basis may seem impossible as some people would think it's a lucrative job opportunity. But youth leaders in Lilongwe and Kasungu have sacrificed to ensure their peers access to Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights and HIV (SRHR/HIV) information and services to prevent unwanted pregnancies and venereal infections.

Youth leader George Matanje, 20, chairperson for Chamama health center Youth Friendly Health Services (YFHS) corner, TA Wimbe in Kasungu, claims that after learning community mobilization approaches during 2019 Social Behaviour Change Communication – SRHR/HIV training at Wimbe in Kasungu, he has convinced over 170 parents to understand the importance of adolescents and youth to access health information and services including contraception. "The youth corner now has 70 adolescents and youth are fully aware of the dangers of unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections," he added.

Matanje – Shared community mobilization approaches during youth leaders' performance quarterly review meeting at Wimbe Teachers Development Centre Hall

From the chairperson of Bwemba youth club, TA Santhe in Kasungu, Madalo Banda, 24, uses drama to attract more youth to access contraception information. Being a living testimony of injectable and implant contraception, she has real-time appeal and dispels myths and misconceptions circulating contraception. "I promote delayed first pregnancy and birth spacing behavioral messages where the former targets youth in primary and secondary school and the latter youth who have given birth for the first time and done with secondary education and/or are in college. So far, I have referred more than 50 girls to community health workers and hospitals to access short and long-term contraception," she said.

The drama queen warns parents, adolescents, and youth that abstinence doesn't work permanently for sweet and young partners because sex feelings graduate every day. "Parents and guardians should not pretend that abstinence is a lasting solution to youth in close relations, access to contraception is the only guarantee to prevent unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections," Madalo advised.

Mentored youth leader Madalo also encouraged youth to commit to school because it builds a successful future claiming that she eyes a lot when she gets back to Soche Technical College in Blantyre where she has a place through TEVET to complete her studies in Tailoring and Fashion Designs.

Youth leaders of Kawata and Chikande youth clubs in TA Santhe and TA Nyaza Noel Sylvester Chatula and Nelson Ngoma respectively, agree that apart from championing referrals of youth to health workers, sports, and reading materials are reinforcing information reach to adolescents and youth. "We wish more organizations like FPAM would supply us with footballs and netballs, and family planning brochures to reach more youth with sports and information packs," they requested.

This successful peer mobilization job is not passing without challenging youth leaders. "Some parents chase youth who opt to access contraceptives at a routine outreach clinic or even at the hospital premises," Anthony Malata, a youth leader from Mitundu in Lilongwe said. "Such parents force other youth to send their friends to collect condoms on their behalf and it's a bad practice," Mackison Levenia, Youth Community Based Distribution Agent (YCBDA) who reports to Chiwamba health center, TA Chimutu in Lilongwe said.

Responding to the condemned behavior, Deputy Family Planning Coordinator for Kasungu District Hospital, Lydia Msowoya said "Youth should not be using friends to collect condoms because they miss out on access to counseling and mental health support that comes when issuing SRHR/HIV information and services." She called parents to understand the importance of adolescents' and youth sexual and reproductive health.

Msowoya – Called adolescents and youth to generate self-confidence to personally face health workers to access contraception services

Youth leader, YCBDA, and Wimbe Youth Network chairperson, Ruth Kuyere, 23, explained that "previously most parents would flood my place to accuse me of introducing their children to prostitution. They were getting it wrong because today they thank me for protecting their girls and boys from unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases which have gone down in Wimbe area."

Chamama Youth Friendly Health Services (YFHS) youth corner chairperson observes that some parents still do not understand the concept of YFHS. "We still have some parents that refuse to release their children fearing they will be introduced to sex. What they do not know is that they cannot tell if their children are already indulged in sex because, at Chamama health center, 13-year-olds in middle primary school classes come with unwanted pregnancies at the health facility," he said.

And Nelson Ngoma and Madalo Banda shared that some areas in Kasungu like TA Nyaza have no Community Based Distribution Agents (CBDAs) to serve youth club members with short-term contraceptives. "We only depend on Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs) who serve a vast area and priorities under-five clinics," they said. "Other young people pull back when they hear or face contraception side effects like continued menses. But we refer them to the hospital where they are provided with a more suitable family planning method," they added.

Youth leaders in Kasungu and Lilongwe agree that moving forward, they require to engage more parents and guardians to let their wards attend youth clubs and FYHS corners meetings to access comprehensive contraception information necessary for their sexuality decision like how to detect rape and how to engage in safer sex. They also pointed out the need to partner with organizations that can supply them with youth-friendly sports materials and more literary SRHR/HIV books to deal with myths and misconceptions trailing sexual and reproductive health and services.

N'ZATONSE PROJECT PROMOTES RIGHT TO SRHR SERVICES

Communities in Ntcheu have commended N'zatonse Project for promoting access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services through outreach clinics.

They made the sentiments last week, during a visit to mobile clinics under the KFW funded project being implemented by Family Planning Association of Malawi (FPAM) in Inkosi Makwangwala, Ganya, Chakhumbira and Mpando where people get long-term family planning and reproductive health services.

Inkosi Makwangwala said the project has helped people to access the services right in their villages.

"Women used to struggle to get the contraceptives as Nsipe Mission Hospital or Ntcheu District Hospital are far away. Coupled with myths on sex and the methods, the uptake was low. This contributed to increased teen pregnancies and unsafe motherhood through maternal related deaths and complications," he said.

Rhoda Petro of Malili Village in Inkosi Mpando said the development enlightened them on the importance of the methods on socio-economic growth.

"We understand how family planning can help us thrive. We have embraced the long term services such as implant and loop. The once rampant unwanted pregnancies are history," she said.

Inkosi Chakhumbira said the project should continue for sustainability of strides registered in lives of women and girls.

Ntcheu District Council's acting director of health and social services Emily Jenya said FPAM has complemented their efforts of providing the methods to people in the district 's hard-to-reach areas.

"People in areas where we do not have health facilities are able to get the services courtesy of this project. We have also registered an increase in uptake of the methods among youths," she said.

FPAM Ntcheu outreach team-led Martha Mitambo says they are proud to have improved communities' access to health care.

"We created demand among the communities, especially the youths, and provided them with the desired health services," she said.



WHEN THEY LEAD, COMMUNITIES GET VACCINATED

Use of influential people including chiefs, supervisors of community health workers, politicians, and religious leaders to demonstrate that Covid-19 vaccine is not lethal to Malawians, has proven fruitful as many areas in Neno and Ntcheu district that are known not to conform to health service seeking behaviors have finally accepted to get vaccinated ahead of December 2022 vaccination target of 50% of national population of Malawi.

As of September 2022, Neno district had reached a national target of 15/30 percent vaccination rate and Ntcheu was floating at 8.9/30 percent national target on vaccination.

"We are glad that all myths and misconceptions that that dragged people from getting vaccinated are almost put to a rest and people can now get vaccinated although there is need for more awareness of the Covid-19 vaccine, especially how the vaccine protects someone from severe sickness or possible death," explained Senior Chief Mlauli during Ligowe Covid-19 Vaccination Awareness Campaign. He added that "I just got a Covid-19 vaccine jab, have I transformed into a beast of any kind?" he asked the gathering that participated in the event.

Senior Chief Symon who also got the Covid-19 vaccine on spot during Lisungwi Covid-19 Vaccine Awareness Campaign shared that he was also frightened in the first place before he got the vaccine because he heard a lot of misleading information. However, the moment he got connected to health workers from Lisungwi health facility, he learned a lot, no wonder did not even hesitate to volunteer as a testimonial for his community to get motivated to access the COVID-19 jabs.

Neno Director of Health and Social Services, Grace Momba, asked how her office could connive with Ministry of Health to eliminate lives of Neno people through Covid-19 vaccine. "Our job is to save people from diseases so that Malawi has healthy citizens. There is no hospital in Malawi that aims at killing Malawians. Get vaccinated and stay safe," she appealed during Lisungwi awareness campaign.

In Ntcheu, chiefs were also every supportive in ensuring their communities had left the campaign site with evidence that the promoted vaccines were not lethal to human beings.

Group Village Head Kakhobwe from Katsekera, T/A Mpando was the most admired chief to access Covid-19 vaccine because he has been boycotting community health workers call to get vaccinated for over two years. "You are are all my witnesses. If I die because of this Vaccine, you will tell and if I get to be alive by next week, you will also testify about the truth that this vaccine does no harm to people," GVH Kakhobwe opened his testimony speech. "I'm very sure that whatever people have been speculating, it is not true because all the chiefs who got the same vaccine from June 2021 are all alive and very strong. So what are you waiting for?" he called on his communities to get vaccinated as well.

Traditional Authority Inkosi Chakhumbira, Group Village Head (GVH) Manjawira of ST/A Tsikulamowa, GHV Madzulo and GVH Lazalo of T/A Njolomole, and GVH Masese of T/A Ganya all got a platform to share their story of motivation on the importance of accessing the COVID-19 vaccine.

Ntcheu Director of Health and Social Services, Emily Jenya, shared that she got earlier before she got pregnant. Many threatened her that she would not survive the pregnancy that came immediately after getting the jab. "I can tell you that I have healthy baby girl and I have no problems in breastfeeding her. Do not listen to non-medical personnel, they only carry fake news and information," she emphasized.

All the 12 COVID-19 vaccination awareness campaign sites were backed with health education sessions, testimonial sessions, and edutainment where Piksy, Miracle Chinga and Katele Ching'oma entertained Neno and Ntcheu communities.

Four campaign sites in Nano and eight campaign sites in Ntcheu were a success and 441 people got vaccinated with Manjawira in Nctheu and Lisungwi in Neno recording higher figures of 74 and 53 people vaccinated respectively while Dambe in Neno and Masasa in Ntcheu vaccinated less people at 9 and 12 respectively. The figures recorded was a success because Neno and Ntcheu DHO's gave FPAM areas that are hard to vaccinate.

The COVID-19 vaccination awareness campaigns were an extended N'zatonse project that aims at promoting community access to SRHR/IIV/GBV comprehensive information and integrated services in Neno and Ntcheu districts.





DCSAS NEED MORE EDUTAINMENT TO INCREASE COVID-19 VACCINE UPTAKE IN MALAWI.

FPAM through Nzatonse project supported Neno and Ntcheu districts Health Offices to get to hard-to-reach areas to call upon people to get Covid-19 vaccine while enjoying the live performance of Piksy, Miracle Chinga and Katelele Ching'oma. It has been learnt that areas that were hard to vaccinate even one community member, some members opened for vaccination because of edutainments, use of influential leaders, thorough health education sessions and availability of COVID-19 vaccine.

Neno district being one of the districts that is disadvantaged in terms of health information flow and number of testimonials to dispel myths and misconceptions regarding COVID-19 vaccine, community members showed up and some got vaccinated on spot after successful health education and testimonials appeals. "We really struggle have Neno people vaccinated because there are deep beliefs and demonize COVID-19 vaccine as 666 as well as linked to cause to male infertility," said Martha Rukunya from Neno District Hospital. "Sometimes we visit several households but very few or sometimes non respond to access the vaccine. Its is encouraging to see the same people accepting the Covid-19 jabs right here at awareness campaign while being educated and entertained by well known artsists," she added.

Some youthful community members who got vaccinated from Neno awareness campaigns shared that the edutainment hooked them in and upon learning of the benefits of Covid-19 vaccine, they decided to access vaccine. Cornelio Nazario 16 from Ligowe said, "I have learnt here that that people who get sick of COVID-19 do recover quickly if they got Covid-19 Vaccine than those who did not vaccinate. I just want to be safe," he said. Anne Fulandison 35 said, "I do not believe that all the people we hear got vaccinated they stopped giving birth and they are not dead. I have just learnt enough, and I opted to become one of those testimonials to shut up all false and fake claims that demonize COVID-19 vaccine

In Ntcheu district, some areas are well informed about the benefits of Covid-19 vaccine while other areas still need more information reach to dispel myths and misconceptions surrounding Covid-19 vaccine. "We do vaccinate people without problem, but we need more attractive ways to ensure many people get the messages and vaccine in an interactive way as FPAM has done," said Gerald Gunde who reports to Manjawira Health Center, Sub T/A Stikulamowa, Ntcheu. "Sometimes we stay the whole week without anyone vaccinating even when we do door to door vaccination campaigns," said Masese 1 clinic site Disease Control Surveillance Assistant (DCSA) Brian Madula.

The DCSA for Katsekera Health Center David Kacheyo wondered why such educative and interactive campaigns do not happen often especially in times that communities need to more information and testimonials to dispel myths and misconceptions to enable people demand health services. "Look, GHV Kakhobwe, T/A Mpando has finally accepted the Covid-19 vaccine which will prompt many people from his area to follow suit. Had it been that this event did not happen here, he could still hold on to wrong information regarding Covid-19 vaccine," he expressed his satisfaction.

The DCSA Nelson Chinsima from Sub Traditional Authority Mtukumula of Ntcheu district who reports to Bilira Health Center said, "More young people need to get vaccinated and bringing interactive and educative sessions like this campaign where we are able to see famous artists right here among other kinds of interactions including local dances and traditional musical artists, would surely create demand for the COVID-19 vaccine."

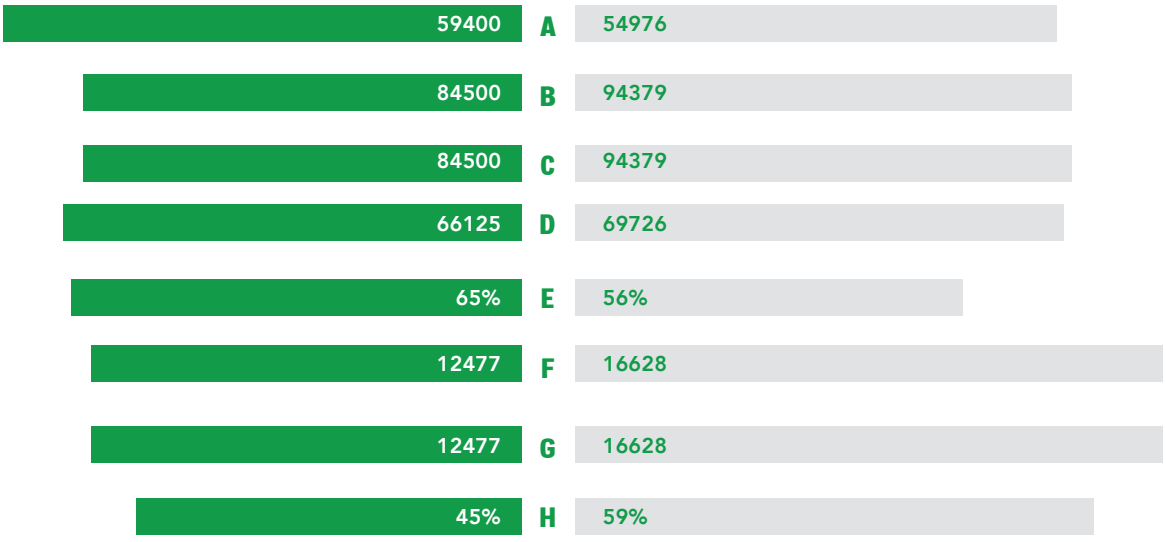
In Ntcheu district, community members who got vaccinated on spot during Covid-19 vaccine awareness campaigns shared that their close contact with community health workers helped them to clear out fears that were speculated against the vaccine. Enipher Samson, 35 Representing Jehova's Witness members from TA Mpando said, "Our church encourages good health and continued physical interaction and accepting health workers call to vaccinate was not a problem." Elizabeth Sabiti 19 from ST/A Mtukumula also indicated that her close link with community health workers who also conduct door to door health service provision, and it was easy to understand more about Covid-19 vaccine through health education sessions. "Using radio and health workers in our area, my husband makes no excuses to stop me from accessing any recommended health service including Covid-19 Vaccine. Today I'm getting my last Covid-19 jab to encourage my fellow young women to do the same for their good health," said Ethel Mandauka from S/TA Tsikulamoya in Ntcheu.

Neno and Ntcheu COVID_19 Vaccine awareness campaigns saw 441 people getting vaccinated with Manjawira in Ntcheu and Lisungwi in Neno standing recording higher figures of 74 and 53 people vaccinated respectively while Dambe in Neno and Masasa in Ntcheu vaccinated less people at 9 and 12 respectively. The figures recorded was a success because Neno and Ntcheu DHO's gave FPAM areas that are hard to vaccinate.

The COVID-19 vaccination awareness campaigns were an extended N'zatonse project that aims promoting community access to SRHR/IIV/GBV comprehensive information and integrated services in Neno and Ntcheu districts.

N'ZATONSE IV PROJECT YEAR 1 & 2 STATISTICS

N'zatonse IV Project implemented from March 2021 to December 2022 focused on youth and most interventions were tailored to improve youth access to SRH services. Despite providing services to all clients of childbearing age, Nzatonse project ensured that more than 65% of the services provided to young people. FPAM outreach teams have been conducting youth targeted outreach clinics by visiting various youth groups where young people meet to share information and also the project used Community health workers such as YCBDAs and peer educators for service provision as well as mobilizing their fellow youths to access SRH service.



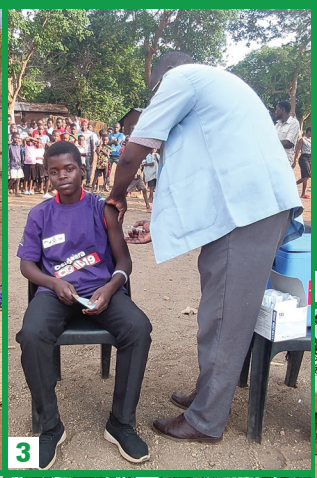
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
TARGET	59400	84500	84500	66125	65%	12477	12477	45%
ACHIEVED	54976	94379	94379	69726	56%	16628	16628	59%

- **A** CYP (Couple Year of Protection) delivered through the programme
- **B** Number of SRHR Client visits through CHWs disaggregated by client category
- **C** Number of SRHR Client visits through CHWs disaggregated by cadre
- **D** Number of SRHR Client Visits through Outreach
- **E** Percentage of services provided to youth by service channel
- **F** Number of clients referred for service delivery disaggregated by method
- **G** Number of clients referred for service delivery disaggregated by referring cadre
- **H** Percentage of CYPs generated through Youth Uptake of Services

PICTORIAL FOCUS


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2


3


4


5


6


7

1. "As a model parent, I see no reason to deny girls to access FP services. I want Ephridah to work with top NGO's in Malawi," Aisha Jimmy, youth advocate, Neno.
2. "Ntcheu people will find it hard to walk long distance to access FP services because they were used to doorstep SRHR services," Brenda Malola, FP Coordinator for Ntheu DHO.
3. "I just learned that COVID-19 is deadly, and I need to get protected from the virus," Cornario Nazalio 16 posed as a youth testimonial during FPAM Covid-19 Vaccination Awareness Campaign in Neno.
4. Key to youth acccess to SRHR services is to engage community gatekeepers before you get yto the youth," John Bosco Bonga, FPAM CRHP, Neno.
5. "FPAM has shown commitment to promoting SRHR in Malawi. As a ministry, we recognize the efforts you make," Hon. Enock Phale Dep. MOH Officially Opened Mzuzu FPAM Clinic in July 2022
6. "COVID-19 vaccine does not cause any harm to people on ART treatment. That is a lie," Mary Sosten Zulu, Kamwendo Support group Chairperson, Mchinji.
7. "This is my first time moving away from home. I have never gone to a market, church or any social gathering because I have mobility challenges. Thanks, FPAM for helping me to attend this FP community dialogue. I have at least known some FP methods," Aida Banda (Centre), Mtunthama in Kasungu.

QUOTES



DONALD MAKWAKWA
FPAM Executive Director.

"LAD and N'zatonse IV projects have enabled FPAM to reach out to more clients with the much needed integrated sexual reproductive health services. This could not have been the same if it was not for these projects. These projects have contributed to the achievement of FPAM's mission while been complementing government efforts towards the achievement of the Malawi vision 2063,"



TAZIRWA CHIPETA
FPAM Director of Programs.

"N'zatonse IV project used a hybrid model of COVID-19 vaccination awareness campaigns to reach out to youth with SRHR messages and services. Health workers in existing structures reached more youth with SRHR information and services and youth championed peer to peer referrals. I'm confident that the structures put in place will be sustained to ensure youth SRHR needs in Ntcheu and Neno are met,"

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