

June Newsletter



HIGHLIGHTS

By Kate Hartley-Louis, Country Director

- The UNICEF-funded SHASHA WASH in Schools project in partnership with the Water and Environmental sanitation Network (WESNET) commemorated the 2022 Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) day in Mzuzu. The theme of the event was: *Committed to promoting menstrual hygiene for all by 2030*. The guest of Honour at the event was the Minister of Gender, Social Welfare and Disability, Honourable Patricia Kaliati.
- With funding from The One Foundation, the Beyond Boreholes Project rehabilitated four non-functional boreholes in T/A Changata, Thyolo district providing safe water to 2,070 people (928 men and 1,142 women).
- Our GIZ -funded Food and Nutrition Security Programme (FNSP) organised a learning visit for 29 grain bank members (16 men and 13 women) from Kapanda VDC to visit Mtemwende VDC. Grain banks often evolve organically around the sites where SHA/UP have helped establish banks as a result of other community members seeing the impact. These cross learning visits therefore enable committee members to learn about others' experiences and best practices.
- SHA/UP joined the commemoration of the International Tea Day in Thyolo. Our WASH, Resilient Livelihoods and Sustainable Energy projects showcased various interventions in Thyolo and Mulanje districts. The function was graced by the Minister of Trade, and Industry, Honourable Mark Katsonga.

P1 - Key Programme Highlights

P2 - Update on our programmes and looking back at our impact

P3 - Operations, research and our team

P4 - Stories from the people we work with



SoSure Project Team at the launch of the Catchment Conservation Campaign in Mulanje



KULIMA BETTER Project team with the Deputy Minister of Agriculture at the launch of the Catchment Conservation Campaign

- Through our EU-funded KULIMA BETTER and SoSuRe projects, SHA/UP participated in this year's catchment conservation campaign launch which was held under the theme: *Integrated Catchment Management: A key to sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources Management for Improved Livelihoods and Resilience*. The event was held at Kambenje Primary School in Msuka section, Thuchira EPA in Mulanje district.
- With support from our long standing partner Action on Poverty, SHA/UP trained 86 Lead Farmers (41 men and 45 women), 430 Follower Farmers (131 men and 299 women) and 22 Area Nutrition Coordinating Committee members (9 men and 13 women) in a number of Orange-fleshed Sweet Potatoes recipes. This is proving to be extremely valuable to farmers who are keen to explore how to make affordable and nutritious food items to sell and consume in their community.



The Minister of Trade, Honourable Mark Katsonga interacting with SHA/UP team at the International Tea Day commemoration

- With funding from UNICEF, SHASHA WASH in Schools project supported four mother group members from Chikwawa and Lilongwe to participate as producers for MHM products (reusable sanitary pads). Mother groups support girls in schools by providing counselling and sewing reusable pads with the aim to keep girls in school during menstruation.
- The GIZ-funded FNSP programme conducted focus group discussions with 445 participants (98 men and 347 women) with the aim to promote the consumption of pulses, groundnuts, eggs and milk in TAs Kamenyagwaza, Chauma, Tambala and Kasumbu in Dedza.
- Amidu Climate Resilience Action (ACRA) project funded by Give Directly conducted field days to appreciate and promote the adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture Technologies for 380 women and 104 men.



ACRA project participants during the field day in Balaka district

OPERATIONS

SHA/UP launched the new integrated Employee Handbook at the end of June. Staff came together during a workshop to review and discuss the new working conditions following the merger last August.

We welcomed new members to our Safeguarding and Wellbeing Committee. See updated Committee membership and contact details to the right.

Kate Hartley-Louis	0992 389 893
Olivia Sawyer	0992 484 387
Esther Mweso	0888 862 823
Gift Munthali	0997 579 173
Virgina Kwizombe	0993 708 660
Mary Kanyika	0998 969 600
Yohane Misongwe	0999 661 022
Isaac Sangweni	0999 911 944
Angela Ng'oma	0888 504 245

RESEARCH & LEARNING



At Malindima Irrigation Scheme, Sigala Benard channels water in her potato field under the ASPIRE programme

Achieving Sustainable Poverty Reduction through Increased Inclusive Resilience and Empowerment (ASPIRE) project (2017-2022) funded by the Embassy of Ireland recently held a

learning session with the aim to share findings from a study on the impact of deforestation and COVID-19 on women and men in Dedza district. The session brought together district government partners, our team, partner organisations and the Embassy of Ireland.

The key learnings include:

- Be aware of the unintended consequences of increased regulation of forests.
- Participation in decision-making-bodies does not automatically guarantee decision-making power for women.
- Interventions focused on food security and savings are key when building resilience.
- Vulnerabilities drive people to employ negative coping mechanisms, such as the depletion of forest resources or child labour.

The ASPIRE project was a five-year multi-disciplinary, integrated livelihoods and governance programme designed to enable households to break free from the vicious cycle of poverty and insecurity.

Our team is the driving force behind our success

Flera Chimango is the Project Manager of the GiZ-funded FNSP programme. Flera joined UP in August 2016. He has over 18 years of work experience in agriculture. He is a member of the SHA/UP Business Development team and the SHA/UP Global Nutrition team.

"Learning and growth perfectly describe my experience with SHA/UP, I owe all my professional experience and growth to this organization," says Flera.

"When it comes to work, I enjoy the freedom I am given to come up with ideas and actually seeing them being translated into doable actions by the organization and our donors. I feel that I am making a contribution towards the change we all aspire".

Flera dreams of becoming a Public Health Expert and is completing a Masters.



Flera Chimango, FNSP Project Manager Dedza District

STORIES FROM THE PEOPLE WE WORK WITH: COMMUNITIES UNITE TO MAKE PASANI HILL GREEN AGAIN



Before: Pasani Hill before the communities dressed the hill



After: KULIMA BETTER Project participants admire the dressed hill

"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit," this is a famous quote by Nelson Henderson. Henderson's profound words rings a bell when one is to consider what members of Pasani Catchment Cluster Committee have done to reforest Pasani Hill in Mulanje.

Pasani Hill is situated in Traditional Authority Mkanda; Group Village Headman Mkawera in Mulanje. The hill is surrounded by five villages, namely Mkawera, Muliya, Mkwera, Harrineck and

Nkhunguza. Back in 2018, Pasani Hill's natural beauty faded because of the cutting of trees by people in the community.

The shortage of trees led to a massive gully erosion at Pasani Hill and in the fields. When the rains came, the nutrients in the soil were washed away causing low crop production that led to hunger. The women were burdened with the time consuming hunt for wood. The community agreed that deforestation was a problem that needed to be addressed by all.

The chairperson of Pasani Cluster Catchment Committee, Bornwell Ntumwinda recalls how their hearts were full of joy when the EU funded KULIMA BETTER agreed to help them in the restoration of the trees.

To ensure that there was cooperation, committees comprising of 12 members were formed in each of the five villages. These committees together with village headmen formed the Pasani Catchment Cluster Committee that has 67 members. The cluster committee has since planted a total of 10,734 trees and 86% of these trees have survived and are being managed by the community.

Village Headman Muliya works together with Pasani Catchment Cluster Committee, encouraging people to be committed to taking care of the trees. Muliya with the other local leaders, and Mulanje District Council formed by-laws as one way of sustaining the newly budding forest of Pasani Hill. One of the by-laws is that when a person is found cutting a tree, they should pay a penalty fee of \$5.

"All these measures have been put in place in order to protect the hill, so that the future generation will benefit from the fruits," concluded Muliya.

Today, the community is proud to see the fruits of their hard work, as the hill is now slowly being restored. There is hope that the trees planted will benefit the community and in the near future it will indeed offer shade to a young men and women in the next generation as Henderson once said.

GET IN TOUCH:

We can be reached at our new office in Lilongwe at the following address and telephone number

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