

STAKEHOLDERS ORIENTATION WORKSHOP REPORT

IMPROVING HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR BLIND AND LOW VISION CHILDREN, AN EXPANSION TO LILONGWE RURAL WEST, CENTRAL WEST EDUCATION ZONE



16th January, 2018



1.0 INTRODUCTION

Blantyre Institute for Community Outreach (BICO), organized an orientation workshop for different stakeholders, from Ministry of Health and Ministry of Health of Educational and BICO Staff at Riverside Hotel in Lilongwe on 16th January 2018. This meeting was organized following the expansion of low vision services to Lilongwe Central Rural Zone with financial support from USAID. The purpose of this project is “Improving Eye Health and Educational Services for Visually Impaired Children in the targeted Central West Zone”. The workshop was attended by officials from the Ministry of Education, Special Needs Department, Lilongwe District Education Office, Primary Education Advisors (PEAs), Special Needs Desk Officer from Lilongwe Rural West, Low Vision Specialist from Kamuzu Central Hospital and officials from the Department of School Health and Nutrition. See appendices 1 and 2 for the list of participants and program.

2.0 MEETING AGENDA

- To orient staff and partners on the new Low Vision Project
- Share progress made in the South East Zone Project (Low Vision)
- Develop a joint work plan and strategies on project implementation
- Discuss on roles expected from each partner and stakeholder

3.0 REMARKS AND PRESENTATIONS

The meeting started with a word of prayer and was followed by remarks from BICO Executive Director, Professor Khumbo Kalua. In his remarks, Prof Kalua gave an overview on BICO Low vision project with emphasis on the Central West interventions and achieved results. He explained on the reason for expanding to Lilongwe Central West, the duration of interventions and what the various stakeholders were expected to do in this project. He encouraged the participants to actively contribute and come up with strategies of achieving the intended targets.

His remarks were followed by official opening remarks from Mr. Magombo, Special Needs and Inclusive Education Officer from MoeST, Department of Special Needs Education. He thanked BICO for various interventions it has implemented in the South East and Central West Zones. He also gave an update on the approximate figures of children with Low vision in the district and that this project will give an insight to the Ministry on the current figures of this group. He pointed on

the need to build capacity of teachers to identify children with various visual problems and that PEAs should assist in the identification of such teachers.



Prof Kalua (standing) captured while giving opening remarks

4.0 PRESENTATION

A presentation was made on the work BICO has been doing in the Central West Zone and the results. The presentation also covered the type of services to be implemented in the Lilongwe rural west zone, target for each intervention and the duration.

5.0 DISCUSSIONS

After presentations there was a general discussion on the issues presented. This time participant had time to ask questions where issues were not clear and also to explain what was presented with their situation in the district.

5.4 STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANNING

This time, participants were asked to plan how various activities will be done based on the situation in the zone. The participants also provided current situation on the following;

- Number of zones in Lilongwe Rural West
- Number of schools (Primary and Secondary)
- Number of Primary Education Advisors
- Number of Itinerant teachers (ITs)

(a) Strategies

- Training of teachers, volunteers and health workers (Clinicians and Optometry Technicians)
- School screenings
- Community sensitization

(b) Stakeholders and roles

ITs and Regular Teachers

- To identify learners with visual problems
- To refer the identified learners to hospital for care
- Sensitizing parents and other teachers on the project and available services

Primary Education Advisors (PEA)

- Facilitating communication between District Education Managers Office and other stakeholders
- Linking parents and stakeholders
- Participating in sensitization meetings

District Education Manager

- Monitoring and supervision of the project
- Lobbying other donors for support

BICO

- Financial support
- Supervision and technical advice

(c) Work plan

Activity	Month	Target Group	Facilitators
Training of ITs and PEAs on identification of children with visual impairment	January- planned to be done on 19 th January 2018 at Dzedza Teacher Development Centre (TDC).	To be attended by 16 ITs, 6 PEAs, 2 representatives from DEM and School Health and Nutrition Office(s)	BICO and Ministry of Health
Training of regular teachers from Lilongwe rural west schools	January- planned to have two training sessions. 1 st session to be done on 23 rd January 2018 at Dedza TDC and 2 nd training session to be done at Chikhutu TDC	1 teacher from each school in the zone	BICO, Ministry of Health (Clinicians) and trained specialist teachers
School screening, low vision assessment, distribution of eye glasses and low vision devices	February	Eye care workers (Optometrists)	BICO and Ministry of Health
Reporting	March	Project Coordinator	BICO



Pictures of displays and presentations made during this workshop

6.0 CLOSING REMARKS

In closing remarks Professor Kalua urged the DEMs office to consider issue of gender balance when selecting participants for the trainings. He also asked participants to alert BICO whenever opportunities arise in their various sectors that may need the involvement of the organization.

Mr. Magombo also thanked BICO for organizing this workshop and appealed to the office of the DEM to support the project. He also asked BICO if other children with disabilities can also be considered and stressed the importance of sharing reports after interventions.

7.0 CONCLUSION

This meeting was very successful as it brought together key stakeholders to the project who were able to share ideas and agree on how best to collaborate and implement the project. An action plan was jointly developed by the stakeholders and BICO staff.

Appendix 1. Program for the Meeting

Day	Session #	Time	Topic	Facilitation
15 th January 2018			Arrival of participants to the training venue	
16 th January 2018	1	9:00– 9:10	Registration	Christopher
	2	09:10-09:020	Opening prayer & Introductions	Christopher
	3	09:20 – 09:50	Opening Remarks	Prof kalua
			Remarks MOE	Nsendema
	4	09:500-10:00	Agenda & objectives of meeting	Hendrina
	5	10:00-:10:20	Extension of low vision services to the Central Region	Ignasio
	7	10:20-10.40	Tea Break	
	8	10.40- 12:00	Group discussion: 1.strategies and action plan for identifying children for refractive error and low vision within time frame 2.Role of stakeholders in the project/sustainability	Ignasio/Prof

			Group presentation	Fanny
	9	12:00 – 13:00	Lunch break	
	10	13:00-13:40	Action planning: What next	
	11	13.40-14.00	Closing Remarks & End of the programme	Prof Kalua/ Magombo
	12	14:00	Afternoon Tea & Departure	
	13	14:30	Logistics	

Appendix 2. List of participants

	NAME	SEX	POSITION	ORGANISATION	DISTRICT	CONTACT
1	Konzi M. Phili	M	DOPE	District Education Office	Lilongwe	0991119084
2	Chipo Chithonje	F	Primary Education Advisor	MOeST Rural West Zone	Lilongwe	0996747384
3	Charity Chadewa	F	Primary Education Advisor	MOeST Rural West Zone	Lilongwe	0999705863
3	Lucia Chidalengwa	F	Deputy District Education Manager	District Education Office	Lilongwe	0999358904
4	Hastings Magombo	M	SNE & Inclusive Education Officer	MOeST Special Needs Dept	Lilongwe	0884198000
5	Mike Maulidi	M	Inclusive Education Advisor	MoeST	Lilongwe	0999918445
6	Wordsworth Rashid	M	Special Needs District Coordinator	District Education Office	Lilongwe	0999267559
7	Judith Chimimba	F	Primary Education Advisor	MOeST Rural West Zone	Lilongwe	0999196087
8	Polina Nkhunga	F	Primary Education Advisor	MOeST Rural West Zone	Lilongwe	0999335052
9	Esther Nyirenda	F	Low Vision Therapist	Kamuzu Central Hospital	Lilongwe	0888854605
10	Suzan Phukaphuka	F	Senior inspector of Schools	District education Office	Lilongwe	0999919981
11	Maxwell Dzikanyanga	M	Programme Officer SHIN	MOeST	Lilongwe	0991285515
12	Elbey Chunga	F	Primary Education Advisor	MOeST Rural West Zone	Lilongwe	0999014569
13	Christopher Phili	M	Project Assistant	BICO	Blantyre	0993562906
14	Ignasio Wachepa	M	Consultant	BICO	Blantyre	0991024794
15	Phillip Pinto	M	Driver	BICO	Blantyre	991188890
16	Fanny Mbewe	F	Optometry Technician	BICO	Ntcheu	0881940064
17	Nellie Chatsika	F	Driver	BICO	Blantyre	0993059924
18	Prof Khumbo Kalua	M	Director	BICO	Blantyre	0999958176