



CENTRE FOR ALTERNATIVES

FOR VICTIMISED WOMEN AND CHILDREN



2010 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR VISION

A society free from Gender Based Violence and all other forms of abuse against women and Children

OUR MISSION

To empower women and children who have been victimized. Enshrined in this, is the principle of promoting women's and children's rights and achievement of gender equality regardless of one's ethnicity, race, religion, sexuality and sexual orientation

OUR VALUES

Honesty
Transparency
Accountability
Openness
Non-discrimination
Equality

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ACRONYMS

AAIM	Action Aid International Malawi
ADC	Area Development Committee
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CAVWOC	Centre for Alternatives for Victimized Women and Children
CAG	Community Action Group
CBCCC	Community Based Child Care Centres
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
COWFA	Coalition of Women Farmers
COWLHA	Coalition of Women Living with HIV/AIDS
DEC	District Executive Committee
DHO	District Health Office
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GVDC	Group Village Development Committee
HCT	HIV Counselling and Testing
HIV	Human Immune-deficiency Virus
LDF	Local Development Fund
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NGOGCN	NGO Gender Coordinating Network
PLWA	People living with HIV & AIDS
PDVA	Prevention of Domestic Violence Act
PRRP	Participatory Review and Reflection Process
RBA	Rights Based Approach
REFLECT	Regenerated Freirian Literacy through Empowering Community Techniques
STDs	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
TA	Traditional Authority
VAW	Violence Against Women
VCT	Voluntary Counselling and Testing
VSU	Victim Support Unit

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT – Mrs. Joyce Phekani



I am pleased to present the 2010 CAVWOC Annual Report which outlines activities undertaken from January to December, 2010. This was another successful year in which CAVWOC has implemented programs on Gender, Human Rights and good governance, Sexual reproductive Health, Food Security, HIV/AIDS, Water and Sanitation and Education.

With funding from our various valued Development partners CAVWOC has reached out to vulnerable community groups especially women, girls and children in the 3 districts of Chikhwawa, Chiradzulu and Blantyre Rural. The support enabled the organization carry out activities aimed at reducing gender based violence and child abuse; improving access to justice at community level; mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS; promote Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights as well as enhancing household food security. Additionally, the programs over the past year continued interventions that seek to increase access to safe drinking water; improve household and community sanitation (schools) and increase household incomes.

The mission, vision and objectives of CAVWOC are achievable owing to our experience and the potential of program officers and the different funding partnership opportunities that exist as well as resource mobilization pursued over the years. The challenges that we encountered in implementing the programme interventions require us to be alert, focused and responsive to the environment in which we work. We required concerted efforts of the whole of the CAVWOC team to build, strengthen and sustain different programs, human and financial resources

On Governance, CAVWOC has a Board of Directors which met quarterly to give oversight direction on number of issues including making sure that all reporting requirements of different partners are adhered to , commissioning of a yearly audit and formulating policies. The Administrative and Financial policies guided the day to day running of the organization. And programs were implemented following the different Memoranda of Understanding that were signed with our partners

The work achieved in the year has been made possible by support received from our different Development Partners: Action Aid International Malawi, Oxfam, Gorta, SIMAVI, Steven Lewis Foundation; The Norwegian Embassy (thru. The NGO Gender Coordinating Network),AIR (American Institute for Research) MSA (Marie-Schlei-verein).

The Board and Management of CAVWOC are indebted to all for this support which is going a long way in promoting gender equality and empowering vulnerable communities.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joyce Phekani'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Joyce Phekani
Executive Director

INTRODUCTION



Poverty which is severe and widespread in Malawi has been increasing over the past 15 years or so. The figures for North, South and Centre show that the southern region has the highest concentration of poverty seconded by the north and lastly the centre. Poverty levels in Malawi are reflected in the country's social welfare indicators which include high mortality rates; high population density; household food insecurity; malnutrition, declining household income; high unemployment rates; environmental degradation; low literacy rates; low access to safe drinking water and basic health services; high HIV/AIDS prevalence and gender imbalance.

At community level poverty is understood to include lack of credit facilities; the HIV/AIDS pandemic creating orphan-hood and widowhood; gender inequalities; low agricultural production resulting in shortage of food; human and asset insecurity; poor leadership; divorce leading to female headed households; inability to send children to school among others.

In 2010, CAVWOC implemented a number of projects: Building a Conscious Society “A Milestone Against Gender Based Violence” in Phalombe; a Women’s Rights Programme in Chiradzulu District ; Amayi Angathe”: A Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Project in Chiradzulu; “Wakusina Nkhutu ndi Mnansi” a Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Project in Blantyre rural; Food and Livelihoods Project in Chikwawa; United We Stand; an HIV and Aids Project in Blantyre; and Sexual and Reproductive Health Project in Chikwawa; Farmer Voice Radio Project, an extension service provision through radio (National and 5 Community Radio stations); and a Community Based Monitoring Project in Chikhwawa District.

The report shows achievements and challenges in 2010. We, consulted District Executive Committees (DEC), Area Development committees (ADCs), Area Executive Committees (AECs) Village Development Committees (VDCs) , chiefs, community based educators, Women Living with HIV/Aids, School Management Committees, Reflect circles committees, Village Savings and loans village agents and members, school girls and boys, and community members to come up with the report.

2.1. 2010 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

2. 1 Gender Based Violence

We invested a total of MK 8, 787, 052.00 on elimination of gender based violence and did the following activities:

2.1.1 Awareness meetings on Gender based violence and human rights



CAVWOC conducted sensitization campaigns through open days and community meetings in Phalombe, Blantyre , Chikwawa and Chiradzulu districts targeting chiefs, religious leaders, community action groups, women empowerment committees, men to men groups (Abambo Angathe), victim support units village committees, community based educators, women forum, men women , boys and girls.

We procured and distributed 800 t/shirts carrying gender based violence messages (500 in Chiradzulu and 300 in Phalombe)to CAG members, victim support committee members, chiefs and key stakeholders at both district and

community levels. The t/shirts are not only disseminating information but also promoting projects visibility and motivating volunteers

Through these awareness meetings there is increased level of rights awareness on the part of women, men, boys and girls to such an extent that there is apparent reduction in cases of GBV. There is increased reporting by women on cases of violence against women and girls in our impact areas in Chiradzulu, Phalombe, Chikhwawa and Blantyre rural. These meetings influenced traditional and religious leaders to change harmful, cultural and religious practices

2.1.2 Building the capacity of VSU committees, CAG members, women forum, men to men groups, chiefs, and religious leaders to handle gender based violence cases

Community Action Groups, VSU committees, chiefs, religious leaders, women forum were trained in PDV act, gender , gender based violence, women's rights, human rights , HIV and Aids, Wills and inheritance Act, Marriage Act, CEDAW, Penal Code and the Constitution to provide adequate support to victims of gender based violence and to carry awareness meetings in the impact area. To facilitate the mobility of these Committees 104 bicycles were procured and distributed in Blantyre rural, Chiradzulu and Phalombe. We continued working with committees through reviews meeting, focus group discussions and field visits



Capacity building of community structures, chiefs and religious leaders has been very relevant as trainings and other material support like bicycles have enhanced the capacity of beneficiaries to ably implement projects activities and executive their functions even after the end of the projects. Considering their qualifications, it is very amazing to seeing how their capacities have been built through trainings. The structures are vibrant and dealing with GBV cases in a manner that meets the needs of the people

2.1.3 Legal Aid clinics and case handling

Conducted legal aid clinics and supported women, men, boys and girls to access justice in the face of violence



Seeking redress

2.1.4 Radio panel discussions

Conducted radio panel discussions during the commemoration of 16 days of gender activism

2.2 Right to education

In the year 2010, we promoted the attainment of quality basic education as a right for all especially vulnerable children (girls, children with disabilities, those infected and affected by HIV & AIDS, orphans), adult women and men. With a total investment of

MK 7, 634,964.00 most of our effort was on promoting retention of vulnerable children in school especially girls, influencing government to provide good teachers' houses in the rural areas to attract female teachers, supported the construction of teacher's houses, teachers' office ,toilets, community based child care centre (CBCCC) and building capacity of school management committees, VDCs and ADCs in rights-based programming in education, established and strengthened girls clubs, mother groups, youth clubs, gender based violence clubs, conducted girls' conference, conducted role modeling and raised awareness on readmission policy , supported mother groups and school management committees to lobby for Local Development Funds(LDF) through District Councils on the improvement of learning facilities, supported girls clubs and mother groups to conduct campaigns in schools on early and forced marriages and school related gender based violence

2.2.1. Promoting girls attain their right to education



To ensure children, especially girls and vulnerable children's right to education is fulfilled, we worked with mother groups and children themselves. We sensitised mother groups on the Convention of the Rights of the Child. As a result, the women are now taking girls back to school and are also sensitizing girls and parents on the rights to education and the dangers of early and forced marriages.

Girls' conference in session

2.2.2 Supported the construction of school block, teacher's house, office, toilets and CBCCC in Chiradzulu

As a means to advocacy CAVWOC supported the construction in teacher's house, office , school block, toilets, CBCCC in Chiradzulu so that government should emulate it and offer quality education in the district.



Student showing old toilet



one of the new toilets

2.2.3 Promoting adult learning through REFLECT circles

In 2009, we facilitated formation of REFLECT circles .In 2010, we supported their action points in Chikwawa. We also conducted a review meeting with the facilitators to identify the successes and gaps .In 2010, 28 circles opened for classes instead of 25 meaning , showing was an increase by three circle even though their facilitators were not yet trained. The total enrolment in 2010 was 810 and 80% were women. Evidence has showed that those who graduated in 2009 are able to undertake small business activities, do simple calculations and are able to read and write.

2.3. Promoting Right to a life of Dignity in the face of HIV& AIDS

In the effort to support the creation of a just and enabling environment where those infected and affected, especially poor women and vulnerable children and orphans, can demand and realize their right to information and access to quality HIV & AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support service, our major focus was supporting communities to advocate for increased access to information. It also focussed on prevention, treatment, care and support services; supported support groups with income generating activities; conducted HIV and AIDS training for Condom distributors; In Chiradzulu and Chikwawa the trained volunteers have been linked to the DHOs so that are able to be accessing both male and female condoms. 25,000 female condoms and 30,000 male condoms were distributed in 2010; As a

result women access to female condom which is the primary mode of HIV and AIDS prevention has increased. In addition women negotiation capacity for safer sex has been enhanced; Chiefs, men, women and youth held focus group discussions where they discussed harmful cultural practices that promote HIV/AIDS and gender based violence; Conducted open days in Chiradzulu during the commemoration of International Aids Day; and conducted awareness meetings on stigma and discrimination. The initiatives attracted a total investment of MK 8, 354, 061.00

2.3.1 Using STAR to raise rights consciousness

Society Tackling Aids through Rights (STAR) was the main approach used in promoting the rights of people living with the virus to access treatment. We worked with communities to implement action points from STAR circles in Chiradzulu and Blantyre rural and prompted couples to visit VCT centres for counselling and testing. The result was many couples came to know their sero-status and those diagnosed with HIV began treatment. Another result led to improved food security and nutrition for HBC clients' households due to establishment of communal gardens which were established STAR circle participants. They also engaged with the Department of Works responsible for road improvement to construct feeder roads which have improved mobility to VCT and health centres and markets. In addition CAVWOC supported the construction of a bridge in T/A Nkalo in Chiradzulu district.



Bridge under construction in Chiradzulu

Case study



In Chiradzulu , CAVWOC facilitated the formation of Nkalo and Kadewere COWLHA to address problems women with HIV & AIDS experience. There are over 1,000 women who have come together and are advocating for the rights of women living with HIV & AIDS. Already their existence is bearing fruit. For instance, they advocated for inclusion of women living with HIV & AIDS in the fertilizer subsidy programme.

Mrs Esnart Mbandambanda -COWLHA

In the past chiefs and other local leaders were sidelining these women on the basis of their health status. Another milestone is that they engaged MSF officials on administration of ARVS and other services at Nkalo Health Centre. COWLHA is also advocating for MSF to open a separate window where women living with HIV & AIDS can access medicines without being insulted and discriminated against by other members of the community. These women have also formed Village Savings and Loans groups where they are saving and lending money. They also have communal gardens where they grow maize with support from Red Cross.

2.3.2 Documentation Project (Pilot)

In 2010, CAVWOC was privileged to participate in a pilot documentation project because of work in providing care and support to women, orphans, grandmothers and people living with HIV and AIDS in our impact areas more particularly Blantyre rural. Through this project, CAVWOC procured video camera, digital camera and a voice recorder. Staff members were trained in video and it was expected that by the end of the project community members in the target areas will also be trained on how to document their personal stories. Apart from enabling PLWHAs to keep records of their experiences for their children and relatives, it will also greatly strengthen our advocacy work.

We also engaged a consultant who facilitated a capacity assessment, training of staff and orientation of community members on monitoring and evaluation. In addition, in order to enhance peer learning amongst partners, CAVWOC project officer travelled to South Africa-Ekupholeni Centre for Mental health where they have a Gender Based Violence and Sexual Violence Project.

2.4. Rights to Food

In line with our strategic objectives of improving access to adequate nutritious food among the poor and vulnerable groups especially women, girls, men and boys; improving access and ownership of productive resources like capital, land, assets by women; ensuring that women and PLWAs have direct access to nutritious food; and raising awareness on the right to food, we invested MK 13, 233, 507.00 in this initiative and the following activities were undertaken in the year

2.4 1 Irrigation schemes



Part of Lingoni Irrigation Scheme in Chikwawa

In Chikwawa , a 10 hectares irrigation scheme with approximately 1 kilometre canal was completed at Lingoni irrigation scheme in 2010. The features of the canal include the concrete weir, two canals, three small deep dams and three fish ponds with 6000 fingerings.

In the year we also facilitated the topographic survey, designing of another scheme in Chikwawa called Nswanswa. We built the capacity of famers in Chikwawa to engage with Ministry of Agriculture to demand for the provision of extension services and irrigation equipments like pipes and engines. In Chiradzulu we supported women famers in small scale irrigation with watering canes, fertilizer and maize seeds.

2.4.2 Provision of fertilizer and maize seeds

In Chiradzulu, CAVWOC supported 150 women famers with loan of two bags of 50 kg fertiliser and 5kg hybrid maize seeds (23:21:0 and Urea). We also supported female headed households who were affected by the dry spell in Chiradzulu with 50kg sweet potato vines.

2.4.3 Livestock pass on system

CAVWOC initiated goat and pig pass on system in Chiradzulu with 12 pigs and 108 goats and strengthen monitoring of pass system in Chikwawa. Beneficiaries were trained in pests and disease control, feeding and crop management.

2.4.4 Integrated Aquaculture Agriculture

CAVWOC in 2010 initiated an Integrated Aquaculture Agriculture Scheme in Blantyre Rural with the aim empowering poor women economically. We planned to construct fish ponds/dams along the Shire River basin. However, due to the rainy season the construction of fish ponds/dams was rescheduled to take place in 2011. Therefore, in 2010 we only managed mobilize the communities and 3 groups of 30 women each who have shown interest have been established.

2.5 Women's rights and gender equality

We invested a total of MK 14, 946, 402.00 on women's rights and gender equity and did the following:

2.5.1 Gender Mainstreaming in Farmer Voice Radio (FVR) Project

Since 2009, CAVWOC has been a gender partner in the FVR initiative which aims not only to provide /enhance Agricultural Extension service, but also to develop a scalable, sustainable model for extension service provision through radio. Lessons learned will be shared with other counties for them to develop their own FVR programs, and similarly use the Radio as essential tool in Agricultural Extension Service Provision. Therefore gender is an essential component in the FVR project.

In 2010, CAVWOC made sure that gender considerations are being mainstreamed into all aspects of FVR programs and activities, and further encouraged gender awareness and active gender mainstreaming by community members and their leadership at grassroots level. Specifically, CAVWOC engaged with various FVR related structures (such as Radio Listener Clubs, Gender Advisory Panels, Local Radio Agriculture Agenda Committees); Attended a Farm Radio Programming Symposium, where CAVWOC used an opportunity to solicit ideas from different stakeholders on how best to infuse gender dimensions in radio programming through one of the thematic area presentation titled ' Gender dimension to access and utilization of agricultural radio broadcasts by small holder farmers'; Supported Malawi Broadcasting Cooperation (MBC) in the development of gender sensitive programmes and agriculture tips ; Supported the development of a gender sensitive LARA and National Agriculture Radio Agenda (NARA); Conducted a gender orientation for community leaders and monitored the Gender Advisory Committees in Blantyre, Chiradzulu, Chikwawa, Mchinji, Lilongwe, Mzimba; Strengthened the gender capacity of REOs, radio station officers and AGRESS officers.

2.5.2 Capacity building of women and girls

Women and girls in Blantyre and Chiradzulu were trained in group dynamics, leadership and assertiveness skills, radio listening skills, public speaking, women's rights, human rights, and governance. In addition, we trained women Chiradzulu in campaign management in preparation of the Local Government Elections which have been postponed to 2014. Supported learning and exposure visits; and procured and distributed 70 bicycle to community village gents

These trainings strengthened the capacity of women and girls to claim their rights and meet their basic needs, take action to protect women and girls from violence, strengthen women leadership and participation in governance and decision making processes. In the past there were few women who were actively participating in decision making even on issues affecting women and their communities.

2.5.3 Promoting women's social and political rights

We conducted open days on women's rights, facilitated community dialogues with traditional and religious leaders, men, women, boys and girls to develop strategies for modifying harmful cultural practices and beliefs and provided technical support to women in forum in Nkalo and Kadewere in Chiradzulu to demand for the review of customary and common laws on property and inheritance as away of linking with national level advocacy campaigns

2.5.4 Promoting women economic empowerment

CAVWOC introduced VSL in Blantyre and Chikwawa and continued to strengthen the capacity of VSL groups in Chiradzulu district. Communities in Chikwawa and Blantyre rural were mobilized to voluntarily form 15- 25 member self selected VSL groups, and save money, through purchasing shares. Some of the noted outcomes include the following:

- Group members are borrowing from their group savings to finance expansion of their income generating activities or lend the savings to other borrowers at market based interest rates thereby generating additional income.
- Some members borrow to purchase food and agricultural inputs, thereby enhancing agricultural productivity of beneficiaries and improve their food security. They also borrow to send children to school or meet other pressing needs.
- Some VS&L groups have shown that people living with HIV and AIDS who are participating in the VS&L schemes are able to better adhere to anti-retroviral therapy regimes resulting in improvement of health status, greater mobility and additional income generation potential
- Increase in knowledge on their economic potential rights by women. For instance, it is reported that due to the visible transformations in the lives of members of VS& L groups, more women including non members have become aware that they can ably engage in income generating activities and are since forming their own saving groups using various strategies
- Increase in levels of household fixed and capital assets –women are citing several instances of women procuring iron sheets ,pushbikes, and building brick houses from proceeds from small scale enterprises they initiated with capital from VS&L groups
- Through VS&L, women are being empowered, their social standing in society has improved, and so have been their family relations
- Decision making at household level, especially, has become more inclusive of women and family resources are being used more wisely.

A number of women in VS&L groups had their story to tell and made the following comments:

- “We are proud of our own bank in the village. We are no longer walking long distances to get savings and loan facilities from banks”;
- “We are now able to save money and plan for better use of money which could not be possible individually”;
- “We are not enriching banks, but ourselves through service charge we charge, resources are not taken away from us but remain with us”;
- “We are able to access loans & engage in productive activities, which was not possible with formal banks or financial institutions”;
- “We are able to access farm inputs with profits from our share investment and produce enough for food and sale”;
- “We can afford to pay fees for our children”
- “In case of us women, our husbands respect and are proud of us in the community because we have money”;
- “We can help each other in times of needs (death, sickness, natural disaster etc) through our social fund”.

Case study

Changing Women’s Lives in Chiradzulu

Most families in Chiradzulu live from hand to mouth. These families are overly dependent on the husband to provide food. When CAVWOC came to the area, women were encouraged to form groups and others were trained in Village Savings and Loan. As such many women joined the Village Savings and Loan groups just to see how their lives would be transformed and Patricia is one such woman. Patricia Chimombo of Chapweteka village, Group Village Head Maoni has two children and she is not married. She struggles on her own to feed and clothe her children.

“When Village Savings and Loan groups were introduced here, I was one of the first people to join. I wanted to see how much this would transform my life and improve the living standard of my family. In my group where we are 12, each one was saving K50.00 (£,21) every week but things were tough and sometimes even I was failing to contribute. In June, CAVWOC gave our group 7 female goats and I was one of the 7 people that benefitted because priority was given to parents whose children are in sponsorship programme. When the goats reproduce, I will pass-on the offspring to another member of my group. This goat has really made



a difference for me because I have organic manure from its droppings which I have used in my maize field and my home vegetable garden. This encouraged me to buy another goat after we shared the money from Village Savings and Loan group, I received K8000.00 (£34) and I bought another goat, now I have two goats. Right now the goat is expecting and soon my children will be drinking tea with milk.”

2.6 Water and sanitation

We invested MK 4, 123, 510.00 on the following activities:



- Supported drilling of seven boreholes in Chikhwawa
- Built the capacity of water management committees
- Conducted water point sanitation and hygiene meetings

Where women were drawing water in Nkalo in Chiradzulu

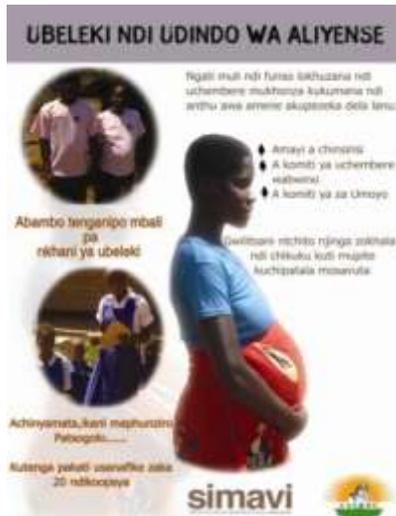


New borehole in Nkalo in Chiradzulu

2.7 Sexual reproductive health rights

We invested MK 13 158 045.00 in this theme and did the following activities

2.7.1 Community awareness meetings



Community awareness meetings were conducted at district and community level to sensitize communities or lobbying key stakeholders on a number of issues relating to sexual and reproductive health rights. In Chikwawa six community discussion meeting were conducted. Discussions centered on usage of and accessibility of male and female condoms, HIV prevention, male participation in safe motherhood activities and family planning among others. In addition we printed and distributed 4000 posters showing safe delivery with skilled attendants messages. One open day was held in

Chikwawa in December under the theme of Sexual Gender Based Violence. 800 t-shirts were procured, printed and distributed to community volunteers in the project.

As a result of these meetings, there is an increase in number of couples and the youth accessing family planning methods and advice as a way of reducing maternal and neonatal deaths. Through existing community structures CAVWOC also distributed over 1500 female condoms. Use of drama groups and traditional dances also contributed to increased participation of males in safe motherhood activities within the community and at district level.

2.7.2 Capacity Building

a. Secret mothers training

A total of 188 women have been trained as Secret Mothers. These women were trained on all components of safe motherhood which include family planning, sexually transmitted infections and HIV and AIDS, Safe delivery, documentation, sexual reproductive health for the youth, issues of cancer related to reproductive health and general issues regarding maternal and neonatal health.. The role of these women in their villages will include identifying and recording expectant mothers, ensuring that expectant mothers start antenatal clinics on time, general counseling on family planning and other safe motherhood issues, and ensuring that expectant mothers deliver in clinics all the time. They are also responsible for carrying out planned monthly awareness meetings in their villages.



Village Health Committees Trainings

A total of 162 members (81 men and 81 women) from village health committees were trained to enable them handle maternal and neonatal issues at community level. We also organised a monitoring sensitisation meeting with 46 Health Surveillance Assistants (HSA). Supported safe motherhood task force meeting in Chikwawa . 15 Youth Clubs were strengthened so that they should be targeted in Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights programme in 2011.

b. Procurement and distribution of 20 bicycle ambulances

As a measure of reducing transportation problems to health facilities especially by expectant mothers, CAVWOC procured and distributed 20 bicycle ambulances. Distribution specifically targeted hard to reach areas so to ensure that women reach health facilities in time for delivery. Furthermore these ambulances are not restricted to only serving expectant women but also those that are suffering from other diseases.

Villagers are responsible for the maintenance of the ambulances as they make monthly contributions towards the procurement of spare parts. This is part of ensuring that the materials are sustainable.

Case study

The dilemma: Church teachings or medical treatment?

Rosario James is a 27 year old married woman with three children (2 boys and a girl aged 6, 3 and 3 months respectively). She has been married to Mr James for 7 years and they are small scale farmers with the husband being in control of many income generating activities of the family. The whole family belong to the Apostolic Faith Church which according to their belief does not allow any medical treatment but believes that God takes care of every situation in people's lives.

Rosario was expecting her third born daughter. She has a history that she almost died during delivery of her second born son at home. The secret women in the village also knew her situation and decided to give her counselling so that she could deliver with the help of qualified midwives at the hospital which is very close. Mrs Rosario James also attended the village sensitisation meeting where the chief disseminated the by-laws regarding delivery in the village. Rosario was caught in a dilemma between following the religious doctrine or the newly established law which is there to ensure she does not die when delivering but be taken care of by qualified people. This is what she had to say, "I thought my life was above everything and these secret women meant good for me. Their counselling allowed me to make a choice to deliver at the hospital and it was so nice, safe and now I have a healthy baby girl".

Mrs James did not know that the husband was not happy and barely five days after delivery, she was told to leave her matrimonial home because she did not follow the teachings of the church according to her husband.

She complained to the chief about this situation and together with the District Nursing Officer convened a meeting. The marriage has been restored and they are now happily together. The husband said this in conclusion "It is good that we have the active health committees, the chief and the project, things have changed and I hope more people like me will benefit and save their lives."

2.8. Right to Just and Democratic Governance

In 2010, we increased capacity of the poor and community structures to dialogue, engage and take action on governance and macro socio-economic issues impacting on poverty. We also made efforts to increase accountability, transparency and political and executive commitment of governing institutions to protect and fulfil the social and economic rights of citizens.

We continued to strengthen community structures like Group Village Development Committees (GVDC) and Area Development Committees (ADC) in all impact areas. In collaboration with the District Assembly, inactive structures have been activated and have benefited from trainings in good governance, human rights, and paralegal issues. We invested MK 1 047 267.00 in this theme.

Case study

THE GOVERNMENT BOWS DOWN TO DEMANDS BY LUPANGA STAR CIRCLE ON SUBSIDIZED FERTILIZER.

Lupanga STAR circle is one of the STAR circles which were formed with our support in T/A Likoswe in Chiradzulu district. Using pair wise ranking the circle identified the following problem in order of priorities: 1.High prevalence of HIV and AIDS; 2. Hunger, due to lack of productive resources like fertiliser and hybrid seeds; 3.Lack of portable water due limited number of boreholes in the village; 4.Lack of bridges; 5.High illiteracy level among women and girls;6. High poverty levels; and 7.Lack of CBCC structure

After identifying these problems they started discussing their most pressing issue of high prevalence of HIV and AIDS. However, while discussing HIV and AIDS, they observed that people from Lupanga and the surrounding villages had difficulties in buying fertilizer using coupons from Subsidy Programme. They witnessed a lot of fights and quarrels at the Chisombezi ADMARC buy women, men, boys and girls who wanted to buy fertilizer. They also noted that fertilizer was not being delivered to the ADMARC regularly. A lot of people had coupons, but there was no fertilizer.

This is what Mrs Piringu the chairperson of the Lupanga STAR circle said:

"Noticing that a number of people had coupons but were not able to buy fertilizer because there was no fertilizer in the ADMARC, we decided to temporarily suspend discussions on HIV and AIDS and move to our second issue of hunger because it was an urgent issue. We first demanded an explanation from the ADMARC officials at Chisombezi Depot, why fertilizer was not coming regularly. The ADMARC officials seemed not to have very good answers and we realized that it is a political and tricky issue. We then held discussions with Village Development Committee, Area Development committee and chiefs. They all shared the some concerns and urged us to go ahead with the issue. After these meetings, we held discussions with T/A Likoswe, who shared the same concerns but advised us to meet our Member of Parliament. We did manage to talk to her on the phone, she promised to back but she never did despite several reminders.

We then decided to present our problem to Chiradzulu District Commissioner, but before we could do that we asked CAVWOC for its technical support. CAVWOC advised us to collect evidence on how big the problem was. We called for the community meeting and asked those who had coupons to bring them to the STAR members or their village headman so that we could tabulate the figures. Communities showed much support and encouraged us to go all the way and they were really behind us. In total there were 496 coupons from 8 villages from GVH Sumani 1. Realizing that time was not on our side we decided to go to the media while we are arranging a meeting with the DC at his office or in Lupanga. CAVWOC facilitated our engagement with Star Radio.

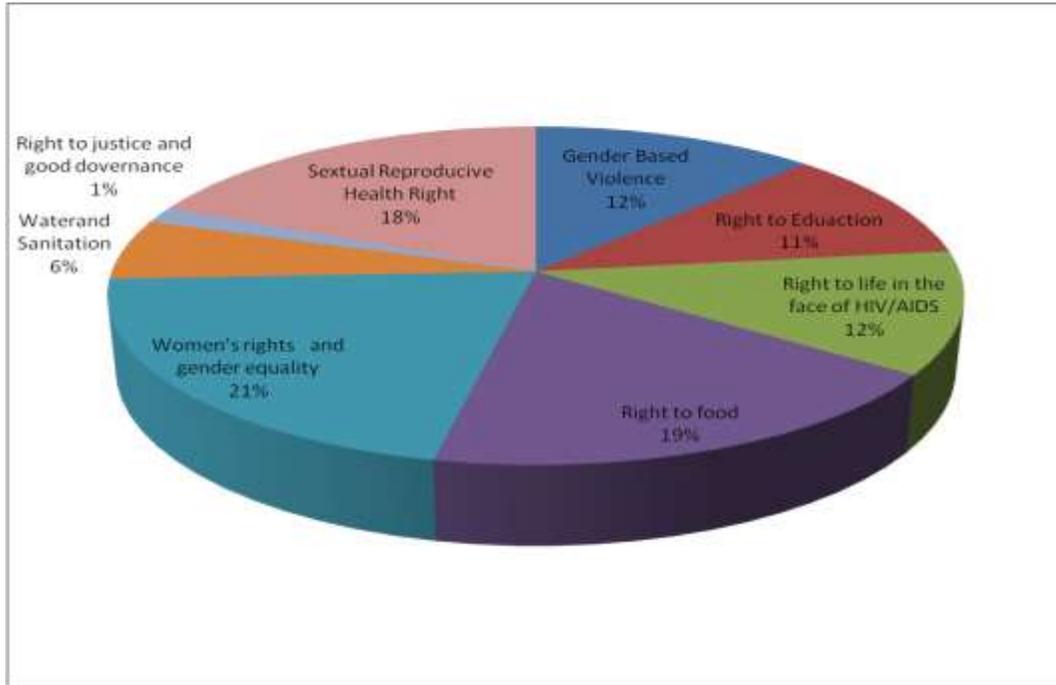
Star Radio took up the issues; they followed the issue with Member of Parliament of the area, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Principal Secretary of Agricultural, Chiradzulu District Commissioner, DADO and ADMARC officials. All these officials showed not to have an answer where fertilizer was not available in most ADMARC deposits including Lupanga ADMARC depot. Three days later, on 4th February, 2011 to be more specific the issue was on air in the main news and news bulletins. In addition to being part of the news articles, Star Radio produced a phone in program on the issue. People across the country shared their observations and experience on how the 2010-2011 fertiliser subsidy programme has been implemented.

At the same time a Parliamentary Meeting of Members of Parliament had just been opened and Members of Parliament especially from the opposition side, asked the Speaker to allocate some time so discuss the fertiliser subsidy programme. They echoed the same problem that people had coupons despite the 8th February, 2011 deadline which the Ministry of Agriculture had set. The community congratulated us for taking the issue to the media. They said even if the government would not deliver fertilizer to our depot but we have made a case, and we should go all the way to the DC with the unused coupons. To our surprise and excitement while planning to meet the DC, on 6th February, 2011 the ADMARC officials told us that the government was bringing fertilizer on 7th February, 2011. We received 200 bags of UREA at Chisombezi ADMARC depot and another 200 bags were delivered at Nguludi Turn-off ADMARC, the nearby depot.”

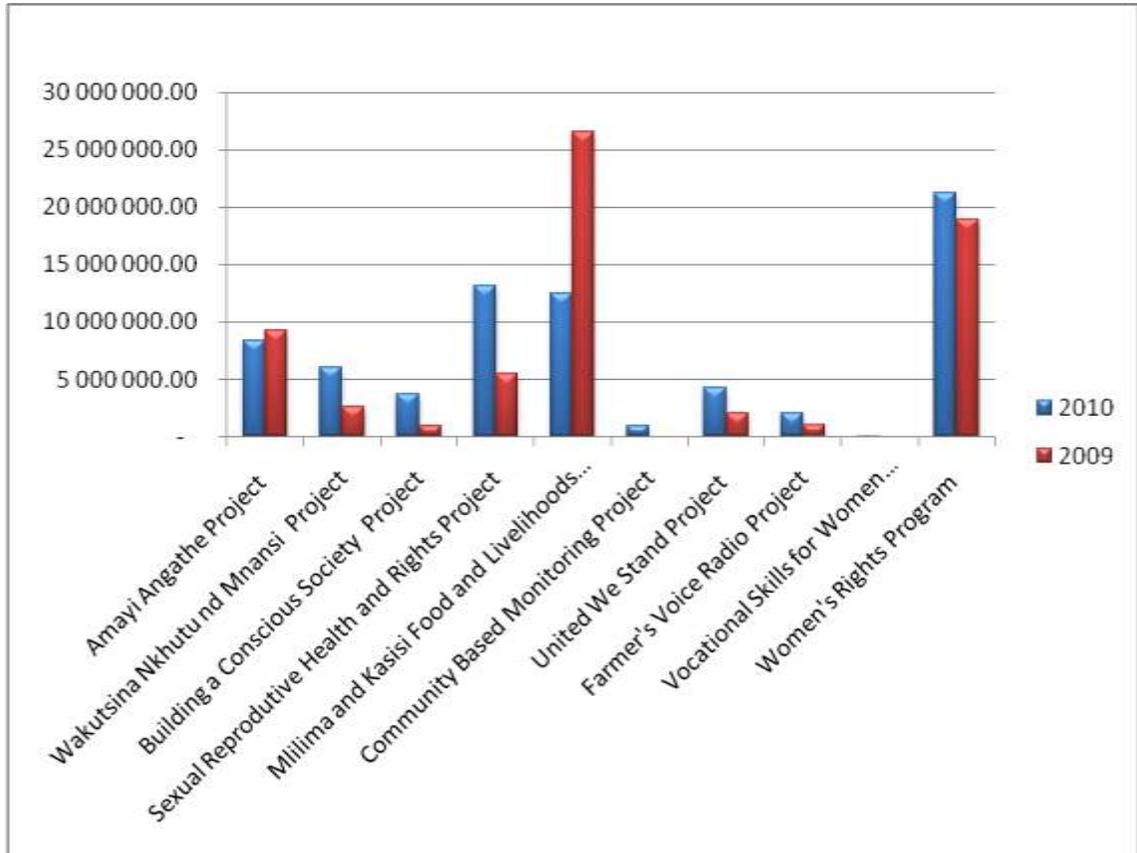
2.9. Key Challenges

- Lack of adequate resources to support victims of gender based violence particularly those whose cases have to be taken to courts.
- Lack of a comprehensive approach to dealing with survivors of Sexual gender based violence and physical abuse. The official system is fragmented where the police, health personnel, legal aid and NGOs often treat a case with little support from other sectors.
- Lack of structures (except in some districts like Chiradzulu) with facilities to support survivors for a short stay while their cases are being looked into. Often they are sent back to their abusive husband.
- Postponement of 2011 Local Government Elections to 2014 after we had already spent some funds on preparation of the elections in 2010
- Despite women in workplaces facing considerable challenges and higher levels of child labour in the districts, CAVWOC does not have adequate interventions in these areas.
- Poor community participation in construction projects especially where they are expected to contribute sand, stones, bricks etc.
- Lack of business management skills among women in VS&L schemes makes them vulnerable.
- Group formation, supervision and community meetings were difficult during rainy (growing) season
- Fish ponds construction could not be done in the rainy season and related activities were pushed to 2011
- High illiterate levels among women
- Attainment of food and nutritional security is challenged by erratic rains especially in Chikhwawa and Chiradzulu.

Financial Performance
Funds Utilization by Theme



Funds utilization by Project/Program (excluding administration, salaries and programme effectiveness costs)



DONORS CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DURATION:Year ended 31 December 2009

	2009
	K
Balance brought forward	9 435 014
FUNDS RECEIVED	90 865 376
Bank Interest	175 452
Other income	195 294
Total Receipts	<u>100 671 136</u>

EXPENDITURE

Personnel	13 725 000
Admistration	4 827 580
Bank charges	143 311
Board meeting	69 500
Audit Fee	200 000
Procure of Motor Vehicle	2 366 000
Procure of Laptops	407 400
Recruitment Expenses	184 000
Fuel- local travel	738 603
Staff Capacity Building	374 064
Team Building	496 000
Community Mobilisation	2 261 116
DEC meeting	212 400
Area Development Committeee Meetings	166 750
Chiefs Stakeholder Meetings	141 950
Provide financial support-Construction of brigde	2 491 107
Provide financial support - construction of elaphant pump	2 863 000
Provide financial support - construction of school block	1 997 917
Train club patrons	486 268
FVR Training	146 200
Gender in Broadcasting Training	22 200
Formation of Women Advisory Panel	29 400
Facilitate Establishment and building capacity of COWLHA	279 360
Support to COWFA	1 581 920
Focus group discussions	343 100
Women's Rights Training	1 127 850
Building capacity for COWFA	492 250
Strategic Plan	279 385
Legal Aid Clinics	469 190
Child Sponsorship	3 042 695
Stakeholders meeting	286 260
Open day -16 Days and International womens Day	887 420
Exchange Visits	555 295
Chiefs Training	1 088 229
Training CAG VSII Religious Leaders in PDVA and CEDAW	770 770

VSL Programme	2 531 857
Reflect cycles	3 143 110
Agroforestry	823 500
Material and equipment	881 775
ICE Materials	1 129 999
CBCC caregivers	907 570
CBM Training	1 073 252
Total Expenditure	<u>84 945 357</u>
 Surplus	 15 725 779