



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS IN MALAWI  
(NAPHAM)**

**FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT  
DECEMBER 2013 – DECEMBER 2015**

**SUBMITTED**

**TO**



**EUROPEAN UNION**

**DELEGATION TO REPUBLIC OF MALAWI**

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### List of acronyms used in the report

ADC	-	Area Development Committee
AIDS	-	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CBO	-	Community Based Organization
CBSS	-	Country Based Support Scheme
CLEAR	-	Child Labor Evidence to Action Research
CRC	-	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	-	Civil Society Organizations
DEC	-	District Executive Committee
DfID	-	Development for International Development
DSWO	-	District Social Welfare Office
EIDHR	-	European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights
EU	-	European Union
GBV	-	Gender Based Violence
GEWE	-	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
GVH	-	Group Village Head
HIV	-	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HQs	-	Headquarters
HTC	-	HIV Testing and Counselling
IEC	-	Information, Education and Communication
JournAIDS	-	Journalists Association against AIDS
M&E	-	Monitoring and Evaluation
MBC	-	Malawi Broadcasting Corporation
MGDS	-	Malawi Growth and Development Strategy
MHRC	-	Malawi Human Rights Commission
MHRRC	-	Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre
MoGCDSW	-	Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare
NAPHAM	-	National Association for People living with HIV/AIDS in Malawi
NGO	-	Non-Governmental Organization
NSA	-	Non State Actors
PDVA	-	Prevention of Domestic Violence Act
PEA	-	Primary Education Advisors
PLHIV	-	People Living with HIV
SO	-	Specific Objective
TA	-	Traditional Authority
TV	-	Television
UDHR	-	Universal Declaration on Human Rights

UNFPA	-	United Nations Population Fund
VDC	-	Village Development Committee
VSU	-	Victim Support Unit
ZBS	-	Zodiak Broadcasting Station

## 1. DESCRIPTION

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1.1 Name of beneficiary of the grant contract: **National Association for People Living with HIV/AIDS in Malawi (NAPHAM)**

1.2 Name and title of the Contact person: **Master Mphande, Executive Director.**

1.3 Name of partner in the Action: **Journalists Association Against AIDS (JournAIDS)**

1.4 Title of the Action: **Positive Voices Against Gender Based Violence in Malawi**

1.5 Contract number: **EIDHR/2013/330-427**

1.6 Start date and end date of the reporting period: **27<sup>th</sup> November 2013 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015**

1.7 Target country(ies) or region(s): **Malawi**

1.8 Final beneficiaries and/or target groups: **Women, Girls and People living with HIV**

1.9 Country (ies) in which activities take place (if different from 1.7): **Malawi**

## 2. ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES

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### 2.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

The National Association for People Living with HIV/AIDS in Malawi (NAPHAM), a lead applicant and the Journalists Association Against AIDS (JournAIDS), a collaborating partner have been implementing a project entitled *Positive Voices Against Gender Based Violence in Malawi* in the four districts of Salima, Dowa, Ntchisi and Nkhotakota at a cost of 144 900.00 Euros. The project which is financed by the European Union through the Country Based Support Scheme (CBSS) of the European Instrument for

Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) has targeted various stakeholders such as NGOs, local government structures and magistrates. The project which is in line with various laws and policies such as the 2006 Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, National HIV Policy, Child Rights Convention and other policy and legal frameworks is aimed at raising awareness on GBV, HIV and human rights and strengthening the capacity of key actors critical in addressing GBV including community and police victim support units. The project has generated media attention in the two main national newspapers: The Daily Times and The Nation, as well as on radio stations and online publications. The project has linked with various GBV and gender equality initiatives such as the European Union and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) funded program called "GEWE ---Gender Equality and Women Empowerment).

In Salima district, the project is implemented in the areas of Traditional Authority (TA) Kambwiri in the five NAPHAM support groups of Namunthu in GVH Mgaya, Msenga in GVH Malapa 1, Nkhawazatha in GVH Mzembera, Chana in GVH Mphembera and Mtondo in GVH Ngolomi. In Dowa it is being implemented in TA Chakhaza in the five support groups of Chitsanzo in GVH Chizolowondo, Msaope in GVH Madziada, Madisi in GVH Madisi, Tilitonse in GVH Chikhobwe and Tikondane in GVH Gobede. In Ntchisi district, the project is being implemented in TA Chilooko in the five support groups of St. Pauls in GVH Malomo, Mmbomba in GVH Matidza, Mthawira in GVH Kavulala, Kamndulu in GVH Chabinya and Mpalo in GVH Kasiya. In the district of Nkhotakota, the project is implemented in TA Kanyenda targeting NAPHAM support groups of Tilimbike in GVH Longwe, Katimbila in GVH Katimbila, Msenjere in GVH Aaron, Mwaiwathu in GVH Mbuna and Tiyamike in GVH Chiya.

The project has enhanced networking and collaboration with key stakeholders such as in the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, especially the District Social Welfare Offices (DSWO) across the four districts, which are vital in addressing gender-based violence. However to a larger extent inadequate funding has affected the work of the social welfare offices, police victim support units and the Judiciary and has negatively impact on the GBV response across the districts. The project has recorded a number of success stories (see annex 1 for examples) and generated lessons in addressing human rights violations related to HIV and gender based violence. In collaboration with the Judiciary, the project has documented the weak enforcement of the legislation such as the 2006 Prevention of Domestic Violence Act and the gaps in the legislation to confront gender based violence across the impact districts.

## **2.2 ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS**

### **Activity 1.4 Produce and distribute IEC materials**

The Action was expected to produce 2800 posters, 1000 stickers, 1300 t-shirts and 1000 GBV Flip Chart Manual on human rights, GBV and HIV and AIDS but due to inadequate funds the materials that have been produced are 1681 posters, 1000 stickers and 1000 t-shirts and 250 flip chart manuals are yet to be designed and produced by Greenfield Printers. The 1681 posters were designed and produced by Samsai Multimedia and are of three different kinds carrying three different messages that are in *Chichewa* language; the first kind of posters (561) has a photo of the chief with a message of advising his fellow chiefs to assist resolving GBV cases of vulnerable people without paying court hearing fee locally known as *Chabwalo* because it delays and / or denies accessibility of justice by GBV victims; the second kind (560 posters) has a photo of the policeman and a sign post of police VSU with a message of encouraging GBV victims especially women and children to come forth and report their cases to Police VSU in order to

receive proper assistance and the third kind (560 posters) has a photo of relatives of a deceased husband grabbing property while wife and children are looking on with sorrow faces with a message of appealing to the general public to respect the rights of women and children of owning property and desist from grabbing deceased properties. The 1000 stickers (200 with English and 800 with Chichewa message) and 1000 t-shirts (400 with English and 600 with Chichewa message) were designed and produced by Aproxie Printers and have a general message targeting men to stop violence against women and children.

These IEC materials are to be distributed to project beneficiaries and stakeholders in the impact districts and other stakeholders at national level with the aim of raising awareness to the general population on the respect of human rights and access to justice.

#### **Activity 1.5: Produce and air radio programs on GBV and human rights abuses related to HIV and AIDS**

In addition to 48 radio programs that were produced and aired on Malawi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) Radio 1 and Nkhotakota Community Radio Station during the first year of implementation, NAPHAM engaged Zodiak Broadcasting Station (ZBS) radio to produce and air four (4) programs and these were aired on Thursdays at 11:30 am to 12:00 noon from 15<sup>th</sup> October to 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015. The main issue tackled in these radio programs was traditional court fee locally known as *Chabwalo* which hinders vulnerable GBV victims who cannot afford to meet the requirements to access justice when victimized. The program drew 25 chiefs from TA Chakhaza, 2 district officials from Dowa District Council (DSWO and Director of Administration who was represented by Assistant District Registrar) and 20 support group members from the five support groups with the aim of pleading with the chiefs, not accusing them, to consider revising the fee for the benefit of the poor to access justice when victimized not only for Dowa district but for the whole country. It was noted during the visit that some chiefs in the district such as GVH Kachira has developed by-laws that promote justice to vulnerable people and the chiefs agreed to come up with uniformity of these by-laws during the next meeting of ADC at TA Chakhaza headquarters.

#### **Activity 1.7 Conduct GBV discussions in Support Groups**

The targeted twenty (20) support groups from the impact districts conducted a total of 162 discussion meetings in the second year of project implementation and these discussions were conducted as preparatory activity before conducting community mobilization campaigns. The number of discussion meetings conducted in the second year was less than that of first year when they conducted 298 meetings because during the second year they conducted such meetings only when they were about to conduct community mobilization campaigns to organize themselves by reminding each other on gender based violence, human rights and HIV and AIDS issues and giving each other roles to play during the mobilization campaigns. These meetings were being attended by all support group members and the meetings are expected to continue beyond the life span of the project.

From these discussions the support group members were able to conduct community mobilization campaigns as stated in activity 1.8 and deal with challenges linked to gender based violence and HIV at family level.

### Activity 1.8: Community mobilization campaigns on GBV and human rights

The twenty (20) support groups in the impact areas conducted a total of 162 community mobilization campaigns in the second year of project implementation in collaboration with CBOs, community leaders, ADC, VDC and community social actors. These campaigns aimed at continued raising awareness the general population on the respect of human rights by highlighting gender based violence as a challenge to socio-economic development and making them develop their own strategies for preventing and responding to violations.

The number of mobilization campaigns conducted by the 20 support groups in the impact districts are as summarized in the table below:

**Table : Community Mobilization Campaigns**

District	Support group	Dates	Days	Venue	No. of mobilization campaigns
Salima	Chana	On going	On going	Support group catchment area	12
	Nkhawazatha	On going	On going	Support group catchment area	19
	Mtondo	On going	On going	Support group catchment area	14
	Msenga	On going	On going	Support group catchment area	18
	Namunthu	On going	On going	Support group catchment area	21
Nkhotakota	Tilimbike	On going	On going	Support group catchment area	15
	Tiyamike	On going	On going	Support group catchment area	11
	Katimbira	On going	On going	Support group catchment area	9
	Msenjere	On going	On going	Support group catchment area	2
	Mwaiwathu	On going	On going	Support group catchment area	2
Dowa	Chitsanzo	On going	On going	Support group catchment area	10
	Tikondane	On going	On going	Support group catchment area	3
	Madisi	On going	On going	Support group catchment area	5
	Msaope	On going	On going	Support group catchment area	2
	Tilitonse	On going	On going	Support group catchment area	2
Ntchisi	Mthawira	On going	On going	Support group catchment area	5
	Mpalo	On going	On going	Support group catchment area	4
	St. Pauls	On going	On going	Support group catchment area	3
	Mmbomba	On going	On going	Support group catchment area	2
	Kamndulu	On going	On going	Support group catchment area	3
<b>Total</b>					<b>162</b>

**Source:** support groups reporting forms

#### Results:

1. NAPHAM support groups and stakeholders at community level are willingly conducting mobilization campaigns on their own without external financial support and these campaigns are expected to continue beyond the project's life span.

### **Activity 3.3: Track media coverage on GBV, HIV and AIDS and human rights violations**

The project in the course of implementation undertook a media monitoring assignment covering the print media in 2015 with a focus on the extent media houses reported on human rights and gender based violence issues. It was noted that rape and defilement cases were on increase. The media was also dominated by stories of government accusing CSOs of giving inaccurate reports at the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in Geneva.

Some of the institutions including Center of Development of People (CEDEP), Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR) and the NGO Child Rights Coalition were those among CSOs who went to Switzerland to report on the human rights situation. Malawi Human Rights Commission, CHRR, CEDEP were those gaining a lot of media prominence. In the four targeted districts of Dowa, Ntchisi, Salima and Nkhota-kota, the radio was the source of many stories. Zodiak Broadcasting Station and MBC radio were the radio stations which aired over 40 new items (*See some MP3 file attached and copies of CDs*). The print media did not perform well in terms of coverage in the project as the districts are not well covered by journalists working in the print media as compared to radio due to huge numbers of radio stations that have mushroomed in recent times. It should be noted that the under developed print media is a huge challenge that compromise coverage on human rights and key issues.

### **Activity 3.4: Produce TV documentaries**

NAPHAM engaged Malawi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) Television to produce TV documentaries and they visited the impact districts of Dowa, Ntchisi, Nkhotakota and Salima to collect materials from victims, beneficiaries and stakeholders of the project from 23<sup>rd</sup> November to 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015. At national level, the MBC TV crew filmed The Executive Director of NAPHAM and The Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare.

The script is being finalized by MBC TV where editing, voice over, subtitling and et cetera are being done and the finished product is planned to be aired twice on MBC TV and twice on Times TV by January 2016 in order to raise awareness on human rights violations, show the key successes and achievements made in the project and to lobby for legal reforms necessary to reduce human rights violations that cause gender based violence in Malawi. The documentaries are also going to be used as a resource material to inform programming on tackling gender based violence for civil society organizations and various stakeholders.

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES for follow-up and internal/external evaluation under 2.1.2 p 17&18 of ANNEX 1**

#### **Conduct Bi-Annual Review meetings**





Picture : Review meeting with stakeholders in progress in Salima, TA Kambwiri headquarters - Pic by John Mazowe

NAPHAM in collaboration with JournAIDS conducted two review meetings with project partners at community level involving support group leaders implementing the project and all community based structures. The first meeting was conducted in Ntchisi district at TA Chilooko headquarters on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2015 with the aim of tracking the progress of the project by taking stock of successes, lessons, best practices, experiences, challenges and exploring the solutions in strengthening the response of gender based violence in the district. A total of 26 participants (5 females, 21 males) that included traditional leaders, Malomo police VSU, community VSU, CBO, District Social Welfare Officer, NAPHAM support groups, Area Development Committees, Village Development Committees, religious leaders and ward councilors attended the meeting.

#### Results:

1. The meeting observed the need for financial support to police victim support units, such as the one at Malomo who are overwhelmed with increasing cases of gender based violence and other related human rights violations. The police VSU in Ntchisi at Malomo has no computers to document and keep data on the cases. In addition mobility is a huge challenge in the district for the Police VSUs.
2. Malomo Police VSU observed increased coordination and collaboration with stakeholders in handling GBV cases especially with the coming in of the project in the area. There is a good relationship between stakeholders.
3. Traditional leaders in the communities were faulted for demanding materials such as soft drinks, food stuffs and even cash before hearing the GBV cases which was scaring GBV victims not to trust and use the traditional courts to seek redress and access justice. As a result of the development, traditional leaders are not being used frequently, while people now prefer Police VSUs or community VSUs who do not charge or demand any materials. However some traditional leaders denied the accusations saying not all traditional

leaders were demanding food stuffs from GBV victims before hearing the cases. Stakeholders in the review meeting recommended the need to strengthen the capacity of traditional leaders and educate them on the need to provide equitable access to justice to GBV victims and not demand materialistic things from GBV victims.

4. The stakeholders in the review meeting commended on the engagement of ward councilors to strengthen the investment at district level in the prevention and tackling of GBV in the district. It was also noted that with the coming of the councilors after the May 2014, Tripartite Elections, their level of engagement has been very low, while there were a lot of opportunities for inclusive engagement.

The second review meeting with stakeholders was conducted in Salima on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at TA Kambwiri headquarters with the aim of sharing case handling on gender based violence associated with HIV/AIDS and human rights and sensitizing the general community to continue reporting any cases of rights violations faced to relevant authorities. This review meeting was characterized by speeches and testimonies spiced up with traditional dances and reciting of poems. A total of 192 people (89 males, 103 females) patronized the review meeting and they comprised of NAPHAM support group members, chiefs, religious leaders, DSWO representative, Police VSU, Community VSU, HTC counselors, CBO, ADC, VDC, Ward Councilor and members of the community around the venue of the function.

#### Results:

1. A total of 19 clients (3 males, 16 females) voluntarily had a chance of knowing their HIV sero status by participating in HTC services that were provided in a confined room at the venue of the function. All the clients tested and counseled were above 18 years old and 18 clients were diagnosed HIV negative while one female was diagnosed HIV positive and was given a referral form to Chagunda Health Centre. There is need to continue providing this service alongside activities of this kind in order to contribute to 90-90-90 national target.



*Picture : One of the clients receiving HIV testing and counseling (HTC) services on the day of the function - Pic by John Mazowe*

2. It was noted that gender based violence cases are reducing in the district but Salima Police VSU Officer, Sub-Inspector Lita Lazaro, raised a concern that cases of defilement and child labour though declining but are still high in the district. Some parents are still sending their children to sell commodities at Kamuzu Road market while their colleagues are at school learning and she warned the community to desist from this malpractice.
3. It was also noted that excessive beer drinking is promoting GBV in the area and Salima District Council Chairperson, Councilor Peter Kadammanja warned the community members against the malpractice.
4. Culturally it was noted that many men are marrying two or more wives but failing to provide for household necessities and school needs for their children. Conversely, women are fond of

playing gambling game locally known as *njuga*. These malpractices are increasing school child drop-out rate in the district and the review team cautioned the community to refrain from these.

### Conduct Quarterly Review Meetings



*Picture : Quarterly review meeting at Mbolebole Motel in Mponela, Dowa district-Pic by Paul Manyamba*

Two meetings were expected to be conducted but only one meeting was conducted and this meeting was conducted at Mbolebole Motel in Mponela, Dowa district on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2015 to determine the levels of progress achieved since its inception. The review was also aimed at establishing key challenges that could negatively impact on the successful implementation of the project and track indicators and other lessons for documentation to enhance knowledge and learning. Support group representatives from the impact districts of the project had chance of sharing success stories, lessons and key project issues to promote coordination and synergies that are critical towards successful project implementation. The following were noted during the review meeting:

1. There was somehow a challenge working with a few traditional leaders who were not owning the project and showed reluctance as they demanded monetary incentives in exchange of project participation. Taking into serious consideration the role of the local leaders, this is unfortunate; it derails gains made already in tackling GBV. It was proposed that NAPHAM and JournAIDS and its stakeholders should call for a high level local leaders meeting in the four districts to have constructive dialogue to ensure that local leaders take a leading role in tackling GBV.
2. There was a gradual reduction in the cases of gender based violence faced across the four impact districts. The nature of GBV cases featured dominantly include; land/property grabbing, rape / defilement, physical abuse and emotional abuse typically involving married couples. The cases of

some traditional leaders and the police victim support units failing to discharge their duties as a result of suspected bribes and corruption were mentioned during the review.

3. The review also noted a huge increase in the number of suicides arising out of emotional abuses in the impact districts and Dowa topped with 15 cases in 2014 alone and 4 cases in 2015. It was not clear as to why other three districts had few suicides.
4. There is now a huge recognition of the work of NAPHAM support groups across the four districts whose role has now gone as far as intervening and resolving GBV cases in families and married couples in the communities. Additionally the communities are now able to widely report GBV cases using the community structures facilitated by the EIDHR project.

## **2.3 ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE NOT TAKEN PLACE**

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES for follow-up and internal/external evaluation under 2.1.2 p 17&18 of ANNEX 1**

#### **Conduct monitoring and exercise at district and national levels**

These activities have not taken place due to (Insert reasons)

The activities related to monitoring at district and national levels were delayed due to organizational challenges due to serious staff lay-offs, as NAPHAM is undergoing serious challenges.

## **2.4 ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS OF THE ACTION**

The project has yielded the following results during the implementation period:

1. There was an increase of GBV cases being reported to VSU, magistrates and traditional leaders in the first year of project implementation due to trainings conducted to different stakeholders and beneficiaries and due to mobilization campaign meetings conducted by support groups to the general community. This increase signifies that people are no longer hiding GBV cases happening in their communities due to project intervention but the trend decreased in the second year of implementation because the would-be perpetrators of GBV cases were deterred to engage into malpractice for fear of being rebuked or punished. For instance, the baseline survey report shows 874 cases reported in the year 2013 but within the first three months of project implementation there were 439 cases reported from the impact districts. Thus proportionally there was an increase in the number of GBV cases reported. On the contrary, Malomo Police VSU recorded 15 GBV cases between July and October 2014 but the number of cases decreased to 6 in the same period of July to October 2015 (*this is according to Sergeant Raphael Banda of Malomo Police*).
2. NAPHAM support groups and stakeholders at community level are willingly conducting mobilization campaigns on their own even without external financial support hence have conducted 162 campaigns in the second year of project implementation against the target of 100.
3. More members are joining support groups. For example, Mmbomba support group from Ntchisi had a membership of 18 in July 2014 but the membership increased to 22 in

October 2014 and this is attributed to the execution of these campaign meetings signifying that GBV related to HIV stigma and discrimination is reducing in the catchment areas.

4. There is now a huge recognition of the work of NAPHAM support groups across the four districts whose role has now gone as far as intervening and resolving GBV cases in families and married couples in the communities. Additionally the communities are now able to report GBV cases using the community structure facilitated by the project i.e. network of community social actors on GBV.
5. There is increased coordination between Police Victim Support Units, Magistrates, Social Welfare offices and Community Victim Support Units to provide justice to vulnerable groups of women and children due to trainings and review meetings conducted. For example, there are referrals taking place among the structures mentioned above.
6. There is improved documentation of GBV cases among local leaders and this was observed when some local leaders from Dowa district were requesting hard covers where to document the cases.
7. There is a good reporting system thus the community leaders have clear understanding of which GBV cases to handle and which ones to be referred to other relevant authorities.
8. It was observed that referral cases are now reducing because stakeholders, support groups and community members have gained knowledge on where to report when encountered with different types of cases with the project trainings, review meetings and mobilization campaigns conducted and that the relevant authorities are handling the cases professionally.
9. Increased media coverage in the project especially on the radio which is also a huge source of information to rural communities in the four targeted districts.

## **2.5 OUTCOME OF THE ACTION**

The implementation of the Action has the following outcome on the final beneficiaries:

1. Women, girls and PLHIV, who are final beneficiaries of the Action, are able to report human rights violations faced to relevant authorities like chiefs, community VSU and Police VSU.
2. PLHIV who are in NAPHAM support groups are able to learn from each other during group therapy sessions on how to deal with challenges linked to GBV and HIV and AIDS at family level as well as at community level.
3. PLHIV in support groups are able to conduct community mobilization campaigns to the general population to increase awareness on human rights violations thereby enabling communities to develop strategies of preventing and responding to rights violations. For example some chiefs like GVH Kachira of Dowa district have developed by-laws to prevent and respond to GBV violations.

## **2.6 MATERIALS PRODUCED DURING THE ACTION**

Materials produced during the Action are of the type of IEC materials and the list of the materials are as follows:

1. Posters whose quantity is 1681 and they were designed and produced by Samsai Multimedia. These posters are of three different kinds carrying three different messages that are in *Chichewa* language; the first kind of posters (561) has a photo of the chief with a message of advising his fellow chiefs to assist resolving GBV cases of vulnerable people without paying court hearing fee locally known as *Chabwalo* because it delays and / or denies accessibility of justice by GBV victims; the second kind (560 posters) has a photo of the policeman and a sign post of police VSU with a message of encouraging GBV victims especially women and children to come forth and report their cases to Police VSU in order to receive proper assistance and the third kind (560 posters) has a photo of relatives of a deceased husband grabbing property while wife and children are looking on with sorrow faces with a message of appealing to the general public to respect the rights of women and children of owning property and desist from grabbing deceased properties.
2. 1000 stickers (200 with English and 800 with Chichewa message) that were designed and produced by Aproxie Printers and General Supplies with a general message of targeting men to stop violence against women and children.
3. 1000 t-shirts (400 with English and 600 with Chichewa message) that were designed and produced by Aproxie Printers and General Supplies with a general message targeting men to stop violence against women and children.

These IEC materials are to be distributed to project beneficiaries and stakeholders in the impact districts and other stakeholders at national level with the aim of raising awareness to the general population on the respect of human rights and access to justice.

**Copies of each of the items produced are as enclosed.**

## **2.7 CONTRACTS AWARDED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION ABOVE 10,000€**

None.

## **2.8 SUSTAINABILITY OF THE ACTION**

NAPHAM is optimistic that some of the activities of the Action will continue after the support from the European Union has ended. Firstly, the capacity building (trainings) provided to beneficiaries (support groups) and stakeholders (CBO, VDC, ADC, community leaders, police VSU, community VSU, magistrates) have made these groups to own the Action. The community structures have added on their agenda in their scheduled meetings to discuss about gender based violence and other human rights violations. Establishment or strengthening of community social actors' networks on GBV and related HIV/AIDS issues has enhanced continuity of the Action. These networks are working hand in hand with the existing community structures in handling gender based violence. It is anticipated that activities of the Action such as GBV discussions in support groups and community mobilization campaigns by support groups on GBV and human rights will continue beyond the life span of the project.

## **2.9 MAINSTREAMING OF CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

The interventions in the project were mainstreamed with other key cross-cutting issues as follows; Food security and land rights; The project documented a lot of cases of access to land and food security, many communities across the four districts were struggling with food insecurity due shortage of land. The grabbing of land from PLHIV and elderly women was rampant in Nkhota-kota and Salima. In Nkhota-kota many communities especially men reported to have their land sold by traditional leaders who have colluded with sugar production companies. The booming sugar industry in Salima and Nkhota-kota is a serious human rights issue as land grabbing is worsening among poor and excluded citizens. Most people who depend on subsistence farming are having a challenge as their arable land is being grabbed by their own traditional leaders who are supposed to protect them powerful multinational companies.

Access to girl child education and school related GBV;

In the project schools provided a strong platform for engaging school teachers and school girls on tackling school related GBV, although this aspect of GBV was not part of the project design but it offers a lot of lessons for any future work to be undertaken. During community mobilization and other community engagement interventions, including documentation of case studies, schools were utilized as meeting point. The participation of schools in the project was an important step towards curbing GBV in schools. School related GBV is a serious challenge that derails access to girl child education and is an important cross cutting to take into serious consideration as girls drop out from school due to sexual harassment, bullying and other aspects of pressure into early marriages.

## **2.10 MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE ACTIVITIES**

The project's evaluation and monitoring of planned activities mainly involved M&E review meetings that involved members of HIV support groups, traditional leaders and NAPHAM district coordinators. The monitoring involved the documentation of case studies, tracking cases of GBV using the monitoring tools and reporting forms which NAPHAM distributed across the targeted communities.

The monitoring and reporting forms were given to lead persons of support groups who linked with police VSUs, community policing forums (CPFs) and traditional leaders to track and record GBV cases. The lead persons were all trained at the start of the project and brought a great sense of community project ownership. The district coordinators also tracked numbers of project stakeholders and beneficiaries. In terms of the media, media monitoring was also used to track the media coverage, it must be noted that the weak print media landscape in Malawi is a huge challenge as there are a lot of competing interests who also want the print media for coverage.

## 2.11 LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE ACTION

- The print media land scape and the project's positioning; The print media remains a critical platform towards raising awareness on the need to tackle gender based violence and enhance human rights and the rule of law. However the weak print media landscape which is overwhelmed with other issues such as politics needs to be closely examined. The print media is a source which helps in educating policy and decision makers and the general public and should not be ignored while the print media journalists need to effectively engaged.
- The integration of cross-cutting development issues and human rights; The project learnt on many aspects of engaging various stakeholders which met cross-cutting issues such as land rights and food security. At present Malawi is facing rapid population growth which is linked to scarcity of arable land and the deepening of poverty. The booming sugar industry is a good sign of economic development but corruption and poor leadership among traditional leaders was a huge source of concern. The people's land was being grabbed by sugar companies who pretend to have made an agreement with traditional as the owners in the customary land tenure system. The human rights violation was a serious one and needs urgent attention.
- The government's lack of political will in tackling GBV and enhancing access to justice; The current Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (2006) is having a lot of gaps whereby its enforcement is problematic. There was also lack of commitment on the part of government to strengthen police victim support units. Most of the police VSUs such as in Ntchisi, Dowa and Salima are struggling and operating without computers and have inadequate safe spaces for GBV victims. The response on GBV can only be enhanced if there are robust systems in place coupled with resourcing and monitoring, at present the fight against GBV is not being won and the gains being made are also being derailed. The Malawi government must improve and pay attention urgently to these issues.
- Collaboration with other actors working towards tackling gender based violence; The implementation of the project faced numerous challenges as other stakeholders such as those in GEWE were not fully interested in engaging with NAPHAM and JournAIDS. In the future there is a need to enhance collaboration with other key actors to harmonize interventions and maximize the impact in targeted communities.
- The negative influence of traditional leaders and chieftaincy wrangles; Taking into serious consideration the project was targeting rural communities in the four districts of Dowa, Ntchisi, Salima and Nkhota-kota, JournAIDS and NAPHAM encountered a serious challenge where by some traditional leaders such as at Nkhunga in Nkhota-kota were not interested to take part in project activities instead of leading in mobilizing their people. The demand for monetary incentives by traditional leaders and other materials at the expense of providing access to justice was a serious challenge. In some districts such as Dowa, the chieftaincy wrangles at TA Chakhaza made activities was negative sign that if traditional leaders are divided GBV response will remain to be weak. The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development should work hard to review Chiefs Act and ensure that traditional leaders are well trained and engaged in local development issues in the communities



### 3. PARTNERS AND OTHER CO-OPERATION

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#### 3.1 Assessment of relationship between the formal partners of this Action

The National Association for People Living with HIV in Malawi (NAPHAM) and JournAIDS have collaborated effectively in the implementation of the action starting from the inception phase in which the project was introduced to members of District Executive Committees (DEC) in the targeted districts of Dowa, Salima, Ntchisi and Nkhotakota. The relationship between beneficiaries, NAPHAM and JournAIDS has been very cordial taking into consideration that we have developed a strong collaboration as follows: NAPHAM Support Groups: In the project, the two collaborating partners have managed to train and build the capacity of members of support groups which include women and men in all the four districts of Dowa, Ntchisi, Salima and Nkhotakota.

The support groups in turn have made progress by helping in documenting gender based violence cases in the districts. The support groups as beneficiaries have also greatly enhanced cooperation with JournAIDS and NAPHAM by being part of a community structure where communities are now reporting GBV related cases, in addition the support groups have taken an initiative to link up with respective NAPHAM district coordinator's offices to file and report cases using a case register form developed by NAPHAM M&E section.

Magistrates: The project has registered strong success with magistrates in the two districts of Ntchisi, Salima and Nkhota-kota in particular being very cooperative with NAPHAM and JournAIDS. The magistrates from the courts of the three districts have participated in trainings and have in turn collaborated by providing information on gender based violence related cases using the case registers. For instance during project stakeholders' review forums, the magistrates in Salima and Nkhotakota have provided data on the cases for compilation based on the cases registered across the courts. However as the judiciary continues to face challenges of understaffing, magistrates in Dowa have not been responsive with the beneficiaries and the affiliated entities. Magistrates have reportedly faced a lot of time constraints to fully take part in the project, this has in turn affected the documentation of cases in which NAPHAM and JournAIDS have not effectively managed to receive the cases in the district as desired.

Local Civil Society Organizations: In the action, a lot of CSOs in the four districts have been very cooperative with NAPHAM and JournAIDS, for instance there has been a strong collaboration with community based organizations (CBOs) who have managed to intensify awareness on GBV although funding constraints have negatively affected their collaboration to some extent. However there has been weak participation of the CSOs as most of them have not been able to fully participate due to lack of capacity amongst District Social Welfare Offices (DSWOs) to mobilize the CSOs to cooperate in the action's implementation.

Traditional leaders: In the action, traditional leaders who have been trained in all the targeted districts are now fully collaborating and actively taking part to document cases. Notably the Traditional Authorities of Chakhaza in Dowa and Traditional Authority Chilooko in Ntchisi have been very active and have been part of stakeholder review meetings. The traditional leaders and their Group Village Headmen (GVHs) have been very instrumental to bring out GBV cases from their local tribunals and have routinely shared this information with NAPHAM as a lead implementing institution of the action. The traditional leaders for instance Traditional Authority Chilooko himself has provided a space for activities to take place at his

headquarters for instance, a project inception meeting for Area Development Committee (ADC) members held on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2014.

### **3.2 Continuity of the formal partnership**

The partnership between JournAIDS and NAPHAM will end formally on the project's closure. However the two organizations will continue to collaborate in joint resource mobilization to mobilize financial resources implement similar projects. JournAIDS and NAPHAM will work in partnership on human rights and HIV/AIDS projects in the districts to be targeted.

### **3.3 Assessment of relationship between NAPHAM and State authorities in the Action**

In the action, NAPHAM and JournAIDS in the reporting period have worked with staff from District Social Welfare Offices who have linked the action with their initiatives. For instance in Salima the District Social Welfare Officer has taken her personal effort to participate in project review meetings; in addition the project has been linked to stakeholders and NGOs. In the district, the officer has linked the project to a European Union and UNFPA funded program called "Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE). It is expected the positive working relationship will link the beneficiaries and victims of gender based violence to access various health and psychosocial support services through One Stop Centers once they become fully operationalized. Additionally in Nkhotakota and Dowa districts, the state authorities from the District Social Welfare Office have facilitated training workshops for Village Development Committees, Community and Police Victim Support Units. The capacity provided by these state authorities has been very essential to enhance capability of the beneficiaries and target groups to track GBV cases for further redress and help in strengthening human rights and the rule of law.

The project has also managed to engage the Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC) as a state institution mandated by Government to address human rights issues in the country. The MHRC has actively participated in radio programming to raise awareness on GBV, human rights and HIV issues. To a larger extent the MHRC is also affected by lack of funding which affects the popularization of GBV, HIV and human rights related laws and policies, this has a negative effect on the action as people still have low levels of awareness which is critical in confronting GBV, HIV and rights violations. Additionally the Ministry of Gender which is a custodian of gender related laws and policies for instance the 2006 Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (PDVA) has been involved in radio programming. In a general overview the staff from District Social Welfare Offices which are part of the Ministry of Gender have been very supportive, the major challenge at the moment is that the offices are hugely underfunded by Government. The scenario also affects program delivery especially linked to the project as the offices are not able to fully track GBV cases.

### **3.4 Relationship with any other organizations involved in implementing the Action**

Final Beneficiaries and Target groups: In the action, NGOs, traditional leaders, members of Village Development Committees (VDCs), Area Development Committees (ADCs), magistrates, councilors, youths, members of NAPHAM Support Groups, Community Victim Support Units and Police Victim Support Units have all collaborated well with NAPHAM and JournAIDS. The target groups and beneficiaries have been very positive. For instance councilors who were not initially part of the target groups when the action was being designed before the May 2014 General Elections have now made a strong commitment to establish

by-laws in all the targeted areas especially in Nkhota-kota and Salima which will greatly enhance the GBV response. The district ward councilor chairpersons in the two districts representing all the councilors will take action to put in place and implement the by-laws with guidance from magistrates and other law makers to make the by-laws to be in line with constitutional provisions.

All the local government structures such as VDCs and ADCs have been responsive in the project and have also committed themselves to take a lead in documenting and reporting GBV cases to human rights NGOs, Victim Support Units and the courts. At the moment the VDCs and the ADC members and the Support Groups are all involved in documenting and tracking cases for redress.

Other third parties involved (including other donors, other government agencies or local government units, NGOs: One of the notable achievement in terms of enhancing the working relationship with other actors in the action is that NAPHAM and JournAIDS has now linked itself to District Social Welfare Offices (DSWOs), GBV district networks and NGOs working under the District Executive Committee (DEC) members. The DEC members which consist of these stakeholders such as District AIDS Coordinators, CBOs and international NGOs amongst are collaborating after the project was introduced in all four districts during its inception phase. In addition the project is planning to strengthen networking and coordination with the primary justice project implemented in Salima district by the DSWO through funding from Department for International Development (DfID) which is essential to tackle GBV cases. Other CSOs the project has worked with include World Relief, Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre (MHRRRC). Other potential partner NGOs for instance in Ntchisi district include those working on tackling child labor under the Child Labor Evidence to Action Research (CLEAR) initiative.

### **3.5 Links and synergies developed with other actions**

In the action, NAPHAM and JournAIDS have established linkages with the European Union funded GEWE program which aims at supporting Government's commitment to reduce gender inequalities between men, women, girls and the youths in accessing productive resources and development opportunities. It also seeks to promote decision making for a full contribution towards Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the 2011-2016 Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS). The NGOs under the program are working with the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare (MoGCDSW). In Salima, Nkhota-kota and Ntchisi districts the DSWO which is under the MoGCDSW is also implementing the GEWE program. The linkage is that the work of the partners under the GEWE also directly complements the EIDHR program implemented by NAPHAM. However there has been lack of lesson and case study sharing with the GEWE partners which could make a huge contribution towards confronting gender based violence.

The action has also developed synergies with stakeholders in the agricultural sector especially in the context of tackling child rights violations. There are many cases of children being denied access to basic primary education as they are being forced into herding livestock. Additionally in Ntchisi and Dowa which are chiefly tobacco producing districts, children are still involved in child labor; most of the child rights violations go unreported and undocumented. Hence in collaboration with Agricultural Extension Workers and those from the district agricultural departments in the districts, it is expected that child labor will be

tackled in the agricultural sector in targeted districts. Additionally the action has strongly linked with education authorities especially teachers and primary education advisors (PEAs) as one way of tackling GBV across schools. It is recognized from the action that girls drop out from school to get married with older men who are considered wealthy, the early marriages expose girls to HIV and gender based violence. Hence the schools are one of the platforms who have been engaged across the targeted districts.

### **3.6 Previous EU Grants**

NAPHAM has not received any grant previously from European Union towards strengthening the same target group related to gender based violence and human rights. The only received in the past from EU was on Enhanced advocacy for change project in 2009 under capacity building program for non-state actors in Malawi, NSA/CAPACITY BUILDING/2008/66, whose objective was to contribute towards the strengthening of the national health care systems in terms of HIV and AIDS services. Furthermore, the location the previous action is different from where current action is being implemented.

### **3.7 Evaluation of co-operation with the services of the Contracting Authority**

The EU Delegation in Malawi as a contracting authority has been very flexible with financing, the arrangement of financing activities with a 12 month full disbursement for project activities provided flexibility towards the implementation of project activities. The contracting authority provided strong technical support in report writing to the implementing partners.

However there was a challenge as the implementing organizations did not have any opportunity to learn from lessons from other grantees. It is important that as implementing organizations have a platform for knowledge and learning in the same financing mechanism (EIDHR).

The EU provided a strong financing mechanism which enabled NAPHAM to implement interventions of high quality within the time-frame although there were serious delays on our part.

## **4. Visibility**

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Starting from the implementation of the action at the inception phase, NAPHAM and JournAIDS have strongly increased the visibility of European Union's contribution by branding the logos of the EU in all project materials. The action has generated radio programs on Malawi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC Radio 1), Nkhotakota Community Radio Station, Zodiak Broadcasting Station Radio, MBC TV and Times TV which were widely aired across Malawi and brands EU contribution especially the "European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights and the Country Based Support Scheme and the European Union." The EU visibility is also attributed at the IEC materials produced, thus, stickers, posters and t-shirts.

The project has ensured visibility by engaging the local print and electronic media to raise awareness on the project through radio news inserts and also in newspapers. The Daily Times and The Nation are the two newspapers that have covered the project and EU contribution to a larger extent. The project has been publicized online on media platforms such as Malawi Voice (see Annex 2: Some of the articles that appeared in the newspapers or that broadcasted on radio stations).

**The European Commission may wish to publicist the results of Actions. Do you have any objection to this report being published on the EuropeAid website? If so, please state your objections here**

There is no objection to have the action's results publicized on European Aid website

Name of the contract person for the Action: .....

Signature: .....

Location: .....

Date report due: .....

Date report sent: .....

## **Annex 1: A showcase of some of the success stories of the Action**

### **1. Support group changes man to stop violence**

At the age of 35, Alfred Ndumbule still seems not to believe how he got changed and stopped abusing and assaulting his wife every night he came home late after a drinking spree. Most of the times, he left home in the morning without providing money to his wife to buy relish and food to enable her feed the kids. In the evening Alfred was heavily drunk, shouting at his wife and confronting her as to why there was no food for him.

On a certain afternoon in 2014, Alfred saw a group of people from a support group of the National Association for People Living with HIV/AIDS in Malawi (NAPHAM) who came to address people in the village of Mgwede. He joined the gathering and learnt on the need to tackle gender based violence through the Nkhawazatha Support Group. Since that day Alfred changed his mind not to abuse his wife again.

***“I realized that when a husband and wife have misunderstandings and there is domestic violence like what was happening in our home, it derails economic productivity. It perpetuates poverty in the family”, Alfred Ndumbule, Traditional Authority Kambwiri.***

Ndumbule believes that he is a living testimony and that it is possible to tackle violence against women in the homes and that men can be transformed to start respecting and treating their wives with dignity. He however observes the need to engage men as agents of change since they are the ones who mostly perpetrate the violence which is further worsened by cultural norms and beliefs of male superiority.

***“Many people are amazed and happy to see how I changed, it is important to educate men as key actors to reduce violence against women. Most of the times men don’t want to accept that they are the ones leading in fueling violence”,***

Alfred recalls the situation in which all the family counselors (Ankhoswe) failed to reduce the violence he was perpetrating and calls upon NAPHAM to continue with the project in the communities to reach out to more men and raise awareness on the evils of gender based violence. At present calls himself a role model and champion to tackle gender based violence and wants more men to join him in this bandwagon to tackle violence in the community.

### **2. Woman rejoices when economic violence ends**

There is no other happy woman like 37 year old mother of eight, Pasula Kachilele from Mgwede village in the area of Traditional Authority Kambwiri in Salima district. Pasula and her husband, Leonard Gondwa had been living in Dowa district in 2011 when both worked hard to buy a sewing machine. The sewing machine became an instant income generating tool through the tailoring skills of Leonard. Pasula was surprised that every day the husband went to do the tailoring, he was not bringing any money and gave excuses that the business was not faring well. The situation worsened because the house had no money to buy food and pay necessities to enable the kids in the home to go to school.

***“My husband would not disclose how much money he made from the tailoring, yet we bought the sewing machine together”, Pasula Kachilele, from Traditional Authority Kambwiri’s area in Salima district***

Pasula one day heard that Nkhawazatha Support Group was coming to the village to talk about reducing gender based violence. When the day came she quickly met the members of the group and explained to

them about the economic deprivation and the attitude of her husband. Soon after the encounter with the group, Pasula went to inform the husband. However Leonard was not amused and accused her for taking marriage issues outside the home to outsiders and was angry.

Surprisingly Pasula noticed a change with her husband when he brought cash and started providing all the needs in the home a few days after meeting the support group.

***“I think my husband got the message loud and clear that what he was doing was domestic violence. I think it is always important to report gender based violence because most men when they hear that you have reported them to a group working on a project, they think they will be arrested and change their actions”, Pasula Kachilele.***

Pasula and Leonard are now very happy and enjoy their marriage thanks to the European Union funded project which Pasula feels should continue to tackle gender based violence. She is of the view that without the project, things could not have changed in the household. She urges all women to start reporting to authorities working on human rights when faced with economic deprivation as a solution to address the vicious cycle of violence instead of keeping quiet and suffer in silence.

### **3. Family wins land grabbing case, challenge traditional leader**

After owning a piece of land for 20 years, Story Moloko a 49 year old husband of 5 children from Group Village Headman Malapa II in Traditional Authority Kambwiri’s area lost the land after it was sold to another person by his own village headman, fighting hard for justice he has claimed it back.

Moloko who owned the 12 acre piece of land since 1995 had a nightmare only to find out that the land was sold to a lady with a large family who had just settled in the village from Thavite in Salima district. He was surprised to hear that Group Village Headman Mgaya had sold the land to the woman:

***“In August, 2014, I went to Traditional Authority Kambwiri to lodge a complaint on the land grabbing so that I get it back. The case was heard with all the witnesses in presence. The Traditional Authority ruled in my favour saying Mgaya was wrong to sell the piece of land which belonged to someone else.” Story Moloko, from Traditional Authority Kambwiri’s area.***

Moloko narrates that some men who were hired by the woman to extract wood from the piece of land were ordered to vacate the land and hand over the wood to the Traditional Authority for evidence. Mgaya was still unwilling to cooperate with the chief and was summoned to a second hearing as the men were still on the piece of land. However, later they finally left and handed over the wood to the Traditional Authority.

The land was given back to Moloko and his wife who are now using it freely.

***“Most of the time people in the community now applaud me for being brave to challenge the Group Village Headman. It is true that people are scared to report and seek justice when a traditional leader perpetrates violence against them”, Story Moloko.***

Moloko thanks the EU funded project for empowering him with knowledge on human rights and tackling gender based violence. He notes that the coming of the project in the community sends a strong message that nobody is above the law.

### **4. Community Victim Support Unit excels in tackling gender based violence**

Moses Green is a 42 year old man, married with 4 children and is a very popular face around the area of Katelera in Salima district in the village of Ngolomi for his work in addressing gender based violence at the Community Victim Support Unit.

The Community Victim Support Unit (CVSU) was constructed by Action Aid in 2010 and is helping people in the community who find it convenient and easy to reach. Green explains that way back in 2008 he was operating from the headquarters of Traditional Authority Kambwiri before Action Aid came in the nick of time to build the CVSU.

Green was elected by people as a secretary to the CVSU due to his previous track record of working at the National Initiative for Civic Education (NICE) as a child rights officer.

***“The Community Victim Support Unit is an easy alternative for local communities to access justice, whereby victims of gender based violence report cases and access justice. We’ve helped a lot of families to reduce violence, the records are kept in the GBV register provided by UNICEF”, Moses Green, Katelera CVSU, Traditional Authority Kambwiri’s area.***

He also thanks the NAPHAM Support Group members at Katelera for working with the CVSU in tracking cases and raising awareness. Green notes that in the implementation period of the EU financed project, GBV cases are drastically getting reduced as compared to the past.

At present the CVSU records 15 cases as a highest point and around 8 as the lowest (is it per week or per month? Need for that qualification), most cases peak during harvesting when married couples argue on sales of crop produce when men tend to hide the money and spend with other women other than their wives or using the cash for drinking sprees.

***“Now women realize the importance of reporting cases to the community victim support unit, it seems most women here tend to have little trust in traditional leaders who demand a case hearing fee unlike here at the unit. Many women prefer reporting cases at this unit”, Moses Green***

The CVSU although small in size has a safe space for victims of violence who are mostly women and can accommodate 4 women at a time. The CVSU has 2 bicycles which are used to transport victims of violence to the health facility when injured and also to the Salima Police Victim Support Unit located a couple of kilometres away.

## **5. Primary school teacher jailed for defilement**

Rosemary Chitowe at the age of 58 could not believe it that her 10 year old granddaughter was being repeatedly defiled by a single primary school teacher living right next door in the compound. It took the determination of Rosemary to make sure that Ganizani Saidi faced life behind bars.

It was in August, 2014 when Rosemary discovered Ganizani a tenant in her compound to have been defiling her granddaughter, he kept on gagging her not to report, some blood stains on the girl’s under wear prompted Rosemary to take action. The coming of the positive voices against gender based violence project by NAPHAM and JournAIDS at Walemera area in Nkhota-kota district empowered Rosemary who was unfazed by some people who wanted her to drop the case against the primary school teacher.

***“In June, 2015, the Nkhota-kota magistrate court sentenced Saidi to 7 years imprisonment, I feel that justice has been served. This is a lesson to all perpetrators of violence against women”, Rosemary Chitowe, from Group Village Headman Chia in Traditional Authority Kanyenda’s area in Nkhota-kota district.***

Rosemary recalls that the father of Ganizani came several times pleading with her to withdraw the case against his son but she moved forward and pursued the case. On the other front, the school staff members



at Walemera Primary School accused Rosemary of bringing their fellow staff member into prison and are still unhappy with her.

***“I challenged them to go to police to close the case, but they didn’t go and when they see me they are scared and think that I am wicked. Even many people said I am a bad woman for making the primary school teacher to be imprisoned, but I am not moved at all”, Rosemary Chitowe.***

Rosemary who is also a member and founder of Tiyamike Support Group which started in 2008 is involved in the EU funded project and actively raising awareness on tackling gender based violence. She now mostly spends time praying and encouraging her granddaughter in school studies. The grand daughter who is in Standard 2 smiles when asked about her future aspirations, she wants to become a nurse.

## **6. Malomo Police VSU shines in tackling gender based violence**

Sergeant Raphael Banda of Malomo Police Victim Support Unit is not just a law enforcer but is also considered as a friend of the community in tackling gender based violence, while the unit faces numerous obstacles on the way, the unit is not relenting in fighting violence.

Banda comes from the border district of Mchinji in the village of Kalayi in Traditional Authority Simphasi area and is married with 3 kids.

***“ Many people now realize the importance of reporting to the right authorities to curb gender based violence, the ending of marriages puts children and families at further risk of violence”, Raphael Banda, Malomo Police Victim Support Unit***

Banda notes that the Police VSU at Malomo receives a lot of cases related to men abandoning their families and marrying young women especially the road construction workers under Mota Engil in the Kasungu-Nkhota-kota road projects. In addition people living with HIV (PLHIV) have also reported discrimination cases to the unit which it resolves.

He is grateful to the EU funded project which has strengthened collaboration between CSOs, traditional leaders, the police and relevant stakeholders to tackle gender based violence. At Malomo, the EU funded project has made a huge contribution to a significant reduction of cases of gender based violence. For instance between July to October, 2014, there were about 15 cases as compared to only 6 cases in July, 2015.

Banda laments the fact that the VSU is struggling in information and data management to record cases due to lack of computers and appeals to well-wishers to help so that cases can be tracked and properly recorded.

***“At this victim support unit, we don’ have computers to record GBV cases, there is a need for civil society organizations and other development partners to quickly come in and help out”, Raphael Banda.***

He discloses that over a period of 5 years, the unit has not been receiving funding allocations which has paralysed its operations. In addition under staffing is another challenge where by the unit urgently requires female police officers to help women victims of violence who need confidentiality and require the attention of a female. The sergeant also cited the problem of office space for police VSU for confidentiality which I feel need to be included in the story.

## **7. Man stops assaulting wife over family planning**

Agnes Ngozo is a 38 year old woman, married with 4 children and hails from Traditional Authority Chakhaza in Mandevu village in Dowa district. Having got married in 1991, she was concerned with her child bearing and wanted to limit the number of children to lead a healthier life. After several visits to Bua Health Centre, she was convinced to stop child bearing, while the husband wanted her to have 10 children.

***“ I have been suffering from violence and repeated physical assault at the hands of my husband, he didn't want me to go on family planning and wanted me to bear him 10 children, which I felt was not right considering my health”, Agnes Ngozo, Mandevu village, Dowa district.***

During the difficult times, Agnes was threatened by her husband not to dare to report to the police and prevented her when she wanted to pack her belongings to go back home. He used to challenge her that her parents had benefited a lot from his financial assistance and had the right to do anything on her. The neighbours also looked scared and could not rescue her by reporting to the police.

After noting that the violence was becoming severe, Agnes rushed and reported the matter to members of Tikondane Support Group who also swiftly called for a hearing session involving her and the husband. The situation has now changed as he understood the importance of respecting a woman and admitted to have been wrong.

***“Tikondane Support Group brought me and my husband to hear the case, my husband is a changed man, I am now on family planning, he used to beat me up and burnt my clothes. He has bought me new clothes and we are now living together happily”, Agnes Ngozo, Dowa district.***

For Agnes the project which is financed by the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights is a game changer which has completely changed her life for better.

## Annex 2: Some of the articles that appeared in the newspapers or that broadcasted on radio stations

### 1. NAPHAM Engages Chiefs in Anti Gender Based Violence Drive

(Written by: Malawi Voice on July 16, 2014).



#### **NAPHAM District Coordinator for Salima, Yanjano Mbendera**

In attempt to reduce gender based violence among the couples in Salima District, National Association of People living with HIV and AIDS in Malawi (NAPHAM) is training chiefs and local people in the district on how they can prevent gender based violence and its effects.

NAPHAM District Coordinator for Salima, Yanjano Mbendera said her organization was greatly concerned with reports that a lot of women in the district specifically in the area of Traditional Authority Kambwiri there has been a lot of such abuses and thought it wise to involve the chiefs as custodians of culture so that they disseminate the message to their subjects.

“We are aiming at contributing towards enhancement of women’s rights with a specific focus on the rights of people living with HIV and democratic governance. We would like also to raise awareness and document women’s rights violation associated with HIV and AIDS in line with national policies,” said Mbendera.

According to Mbendera, the project will also enhance capacity of the police’s Victim Support Unit department, the judiciary and the local structures on how they can address and document cases of women’s rights violation related to stigma and discrimination in Malawi by 2015.

With financial assistance from the European Union, the 2 year project called positive voices against gender based violence in Malawi is apart from Salima District also being implemented in three other districts of Ntchisi, Dowa and Nkhota-kota with Journalist Association against AIDS (Journal AIDS) as its collaborating partner.

## 2. Lack of enforcement officers in the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare

(Story was aired on Zodiak Broadcasting Station; written by Shakira Chimbaza)

Lack of enforcement officers in the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Welfare is reportedly creating a big gap in the fight against gender based violence in Nkhotakota.

This was revealed during the stakeholders training in the fight against gender based violence organized by the National Association of People Living with HIV and AIDS in Malawi (NAPHAM) in the district.

Our sunrise reporter in Nkhotakota Shakira Chimbaza joins us with a report



Insert: “ NAPHAM ENFORCEMENT ENG.MP3

Cue in : ENFORCEMENT ENG

Cue out

CHICHEWA

Kusoweka kwa anthu ochita kalondolondo ndi kutsimikiza kuti zilango zomwe mabwalo amilandu apereka kwa anthu ochitira nkhanza anzawo mu unduna wa kusasiyana pakati pa amayi ndi abambo ndi chisamaliro cha anthu ati kukukhudza ntchito zolimbana ndi mchitidwe wa nkhanza za m'mabanja m'boma la Nkhotakota.

Izi zadziwika pa maphunziro a magulu othandizira kuthetsa mchitidwe wa nkhanza omwe anakonzedwa ndi bungwe la anthu omwe anapezeka ndi kachiroambo ka HIV la NAPHAM.

Mtolankhani wathu wa sunrise ku Nkhotakota Shakira Chimbaza ali ndi lipoti ili

Insert

Cue in: ENFORCEMENT CHICH

Cue out

## 3. Article that was aired on Nkhotakota Radio Station



NAPHAM ENG.MP3

## 4. Program aired on ZBS radio



22- 10-15 SUPPORT GROUP & CHIEFS PROG.wav

<Contract number: EIDHR/2013/330-427>