



SUMMARY REPORT ON AN ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND HYGIENE MEETING HELD WITH SAKATA PRIMARY SCHOOL LEARNERS SPECIFICALLY ON PROMOTION OF ZERO WATER CONTAMINATION

From: The Executive Team of the AHC, Zomba City, Malawi.

To : Dr. Hala Ghoson, Executive Director of UVGI, USA.

Date of Report: 26th November 2024



Group photo taken soon after the club's meeting

SUMMARY

On the 20th of November 2024, The African Harmony Collective in conjunction with United Voice for Global Impact (UVGI) held an Environmental Conservation and Hygiene meeting with the Environmental Conservation and Sanitation Club of Sakata Primary School. The meeting mainly concentrated on promotion of zero water contamination in all water sources within the area.

We borrowed this concept of promoting zero water contamination from the UVGI Health Programmes.

To say the fact, the community in our catchment area have polluted and are still polluting all water sources such as rivers, wells, boreholes and a lake nearby called Lake Chilwa.

This water contamination, driven by plastic waste, urination and defecating in rivers, Wells as well as in the lake, poses a severe threat to marine ecosystems. Urban dwellers of the City of Zomba are contributing significantly to this problem through improper waste disposal. The consequences directly affect the aquaculture, as they often ingest plastics, human urine and faeces leading to illnesses and threatening the delicate balance of marine life.



Club matron Chisomo Moyo facilitating on Personal Hygiene

Target audience: The project is targeting a young audience, especially learners at Sakata Primary School and the youth especially those of Trust Youth Club. These are better placed to champion the various interventions of mitigating/combating water pollution malpractices within Sakata community.

Challenge(s)

The main challenge is inadequate resources for the implementation of this Project. But since UVGI did implement it early last month, we are of a strong view that it will continue to be implemented even with little resources so that together, we can build a world of possibilities.

Recommendation

There is need for the learners and Trust Youth Club members to be provided with the electronic gadgets if this Project is to achieve its intended purposes and objectives.



The learners chanting an environmental conservation motto

Plans for next year (2025)

Should resources be available, we would like to implement the following activities next year: -

1. Organize learning visits to Lake Malawi in Mangochi or Salima District and to some major rivers in Malawi such as Shire River in Chikwawa, Ruo River and Dziwe la Nkhalamba Dam in Mulanje District.

Aim/objective of the visits: To provide the opportunity to these dedicated school children to have a practical lessons of the natural beauty of the Lake Malawi, the major rivers and Dziwe la Nkhalamba Dam so that they will in turn sensitize their fellow learners on the importance of conserving the water bodies and trees that are within their area.

2. Conduct a 3 days Refresher Training on Peer Mediation, Peace Building and Conflict Resolution for the *Environmental, Health and Sanitation Club*, their Patrons and the school's administration.

Main Objective: To make the school's programmes' implementation more vibrant and eventually bring tangible impact both at the school and in the community.

3. Introduce and establish similar programmes in the neighbouring Schools.

Main Objective: To maximize the programmes' impact to wider community

4. Introduce and establish similar programmes in selected youth clubs that are within Sakata community.

Main Objective: To maximize the programmes' impact to wider community.

DISCUSSION ON PERSONAL HYGIENE

Apart from the Environmental Conservation activities, Sakata Primary School learners are also carrying out Hygiene and Sanitation activities. And on this particular day that we visited the school, the learners also had time to discuss on personal hygiene. The discussion was facilitated by the club's matron Chisomo Moyo who is also a teacher at the school. She asked the club members to cite examples of personal hygiene that they knew. The Learners ably cited examples such as washing clothes, bathing, drinking clean and treated water as well as haircutting/ dressing.

The matron emphasized on the need for every person including the learners themselves to wash their clothes and ensure that they always look clean. She also told the club members to preserve water because it can be used for human health be it at school, in homes and at every communal/traditional gathering. She further said that water is life, and therefore, no water no life—hence the need to ensure that clean water is made available for any use.

Still under personal hygiene, the club also discusses issues of menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls.

Another important area that the club focuses on is on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH). The main emphasis under this topic is to make boys and girls abstain from sex to prevent themselves from sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and early pregnancies.



The club members listening attentively to their matron's presentation

CONCLUSION

Sakata Primary School and Trust Youth Club are very much interested to implement environmental conservation and health programs in order to become models on natural resources management and on all health-related issues in the area. They also intend to amplify their actions and voices in their location in terms of addressing water contamination in the surrounding rivers and in Lake Chilwa. On health, there's also need for sensitizing all learners and the community on the use of clean and treated water from boreholes, wells and all other water sources available. Therefore, there is need for provision of chlorine and/waterguard to each and every village water point (under a healthy campaign dubbed **"No Cholera Outbreak"**) in order for the people in the area to be well protected from all water-borne diseases, especially this time of the rainy season. There is also a need for undertaking serious sensitization meetings to the entire

surrounding community on **'Zero Water Pollution'** in Lake Malawi and all the other water sources.

It is our hope that if resources will be available, both programmes should be implemented to change the current scenario of our catchment area.

Finally, it is also worth informing you that the Sakata community, chiefs and government are all very happy with and grateful for your brainchild because as far as they are concerned, it is going to develop our nation. In fact, you Dr. Hala, have proved beyond reasonable doubt to be a person who is so eager and determined to save the world, Malawi inclusive, from issues of climate change. Thank you very much!

END OF THE SUMMARY REPORT