

## **Reducing Food shortage and improving health standards among members of support groups in T/A Kamenyagwaza in Bembeke area Dedza District.**

Since January 2023 Malawi has been hit by the cholera pandemic more especially in the central and southern parts. More than thousand people have died so far and despite government efforts there seems not to be much improvement.

As of 12 February, 42,427 cholera cases and 1,3841 deaths were registered in Malawi. A total of 11,500 children and 188 deaths.

Dedza district which falls in the central region has not been spared daily updates indicates numbers of people affected and infected by the pandemic. It should be clarified that in Malawi sometimes the numbers presented by government statistics only show part of the true presentation because some local people decide not to go the hospital due to beliefs and other convictions.

There has been a number of deaths connected to Cholera in Bembeke area, however, as indicated above Bembeke Health centre does not have statistics for such.

In addition, to cholera pandemic the members of the support groups have also been hit by hunger due to unreliable rainfall in the previous growing season and delayed farm inputs to the local farmers. Most of the people in Bembeke rely on agriculture for their sustainability both subsistence and commercial.

A physical encounter with the members, portrayed the impact as most of the members has lost body weight and looked less health.

It is with this background that the proposal is being written to support members of the support groups with knowledge on preventive measures and the importance of seeking early medical attention. In addition, we are also appealing for materials for prevention like, chlorine, soap making materials and food staff.

### **PROBLEM STATEMENT:**

People living with HIV/AIDS face a lot of challenges. Lack of basic needs and poor health are some of the problems. Since most of the people are on Ant Retroviral Drugs there is need to take enough food which is not very easy for the victims due to their health status.

Poor health has contributed:

- Low crop production
- frequent absenteeism of workers as they do not have the energy to work

We feel that it is important that this problem should be addressed as soon as possible because the results of this problem will cause:

- an increase in death due to malnutrition
- Low development and poor economy due to frequent absenteeism of workers

- Dependency due to begging

### **The strategic objective and its activities**

**Goal:** All members of the support group have sufficient food supply throughout the year, basic needs and improved health.

This project will address the following Specific objective and activities:

**Specific Objective:** To provide cholera prevention materials and supplement food in form of maize

**Activities 1:** Purchase of and distribution of 75 bags of maize

**Activities 2:** One-day training for cholera prevention and response

**Activities 3:** purchase and distribution of cholera prevention materials

### **Budget**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Materials</b>	<b>Target population</b>	<b>Unit Price</b>	<b>Total</b>
Training	Refreshments	150	1000	150,000.00
	facilitation	1	30,000.00	30,000.00
	Transport	2	1746 per Litre	52,380.00
Soap Making	Caustic Soda	3 support groups	77,000	231,000
	Cooking oil	3 support groups	17500	52,500
	Dye	3 support groups	2000	6000.00
	Perfume	3 support groups	4000	12000.00
Preventive measures (cholera)	Chlorine	12 support groups	230, 000 per bag	920,000.00
Food staff	Maize	75 households	35,000	2,625,000.00
	Transportation		100,000.00	100,000.00
		<b>Total</b>		<b>4,178,880.00</b>

### **Narrative**

The activities are grouped into two as follows;

1. Cholera treat has training, soap making and purchase of preventive measures i.e chlorine
2. Food security would involve purchasing and transportation of the maize.

Although most of the families are hit by hunger we only considered 75 households due to the intensity their situations.

**3. Notification on Melania foundation.**

In search for assistance I came across Melania supporting Strong Women. It is a foundation aimed at empowering women through grants. I met women from the 12 support groups to discuss with them and they have shown interest. The foundation provides grants up to \$3000 for women groups.

I intend to apply for the women groups in our foundation so that they can be able to start small scale business to supplement farming and the pig project which they have.

NB: Attached is a brochure for the foundation.