



QUARTERLY E-NEWSLETTER

CONGOMA

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Participants at a Regional Meeting: Photo by Lena Lungu

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself."

--Henry Ford

CONGOMA Holds Regional Meetings

By: Lena Eunice Lungu

After two years of non-functional regional committees, CONGOMA holds the first regional meeting which saw the election of new Regional Committee chairpersons to oversee regional activities in the year 2016. The meetings which were held on 17th March for Southern Region, 29th March for Central Region and 31st March for Northern Region were successful and saw Age Africa, Disabled Women in Africa and Matunkha Development Trust respectively being elected as Regional Chairing organizations for the year 2016/2017.

With the aim of advancing coordination and networking in regions, Regional Committees have the responsibility of promoting regional NGO activities; facilitating coordination between NGOs in the Region and the Regional Office; set and agree Standing Orders to ensure effective regional governance within the Region; fundraise for the NGO Regional community; oversee the management of the Regional Office and present the interests of NGOs working within the Region to the Governing Council of CONGOMA.

Among other things the meetings discussed 2015 AGM Key resolutions; NGO Governance Charter; CONGOMA 2016 plans; 2015 updates and conducted Regional Elections. In particular it was announced that NGO week and AGM will be held sometime in third or fourth quarter of 2016, there will be capacity building for NGOs which will focus on training in development of a Theory of change vs log frame and understanding the balance sheet for non-finance directors. In addition, CONGOMA secretariat announced the initiative it is undertaking to establish an NGO workers SACCO. In this regard, NGOs are expected to submit to CONGOMA numbers of their employees that are interested to join the SACCO. It is a requirement by MUSCCO that we have a minimum of 300 people for a SACCO to be registered among other things. Besides information on CONGOMA computers project and progress in the development of the NGO policy were share.



Participants in a Tailoring Training– Photo By There is Hope

GC and Trustees Board of CONGOMA Re-affirms the NGO Governance Charter

By: Lena Eunice Lungu

Following the affirmation of the NGO Governance Charter at the 2015 AGM on 20th November 2015, CONGOMA Governing Council and Trustee's Board agreed that implementation of the Charter should proceed noting that the exception in Clause 4.1 of the Charter is deemed adequate to cater for any NGO which is not required to have members.

Clause 4.1 of the charter says "Except where the law may otherwise permit, all CONGOMA members shall be managed or controlled by traceable committee members, Board Members or Trustees who may either be natural persons or legal persons or a combination of natural and legal persons whose names shall be entered into a register kept by the Organisation"

Notwithstanding the foregoing, CONGOMA will contribute to engage all NGOs on the Charter every step of the way. Apart from engaging NGOs the secretariat is raising funds for the implementation of the Charter. In this regard it has been advertised for a part time Data Manager who is expected to put in place a framework for implementation of the charter. NGOs should therefore expect a questionnaire by early May to fill in their current context as far as the elements of the Charter are concerned.

Vocational Training for a Brighter Future- By There is Hope

There is Hope held Vocational Training Courses in Tailoring, Carpentry and Bricklaying which targeted a total of 56 men and women. The course which took them through the theory and practice of starting a business in their chosen vocations over a period of six months was attended by refugees and Malawians alike.

With the aim of improving the participants likelihoods of generating an income to feed their families, many thanks should to God's Economy Baltimore; International Teams USA and lots of faithful individual supporters who always make this initiative possible.



Computers going at only MK90,000 a set



Al-Haqq Islamic Trust in the field– photo by Maulana Silaji



Reaching The Un-Reached Project 2016

By: Al-Haqq Islamic Trust

Al-Haqq Islamic Trust in its efforts to ensure that the needy afford a smile has embarked on a project called “Reaching the un-reached” in the year 2016. The journey started on 2nd January 2016 by visiting the needy in Ndechele Village, a remote area to the East of Namadzi in T/A Kuntumanji, Zomba.

Through the rough dusty roads to reach the people who are hardly reached by most stakeholders in development, the organization’s team took with them blankets, mosquito nets, maize flour, laundry soap and assorted snacks were shared among the elderly and orphaned children. The activity reached out to 500 families among which were also child-headed orphaned families.

Reaching the Un-reached –Cont’

The idea came about after frequent visits as the Trust also runs an orphan home in the area. Not only is the orphan home worth noticing, the Organisation has also drilled a borehole which benefits all people in the village and other surrounding villages as there hasn’t been any source of portable water within the area. In the past, people used to walk long distances to fetch water from a farm pond which was constructed for irrigation of tobacco fields owned by Greek Farmers.

With the desire to do more, the Organisation intends to construct a health clinic in the area since there is no such facility within walking distance. People travel long distances to a Health Centre at Namadzi Trading Centre which costs them more than MK1000 for travel on a Bicycle. Addition to the Health Center the Organisation also intends to fund irrigation farming in the area which will ensure availability of food all year round.

Power of Collaboration: Focus on John C. Thomas Children's Foundation

By: Lena Eunice Lungu

John C Thomas Children's Foundation is working to build and empower the poor, vulnerable and marginalized groups within the rural areas in Lilongwe, Nsanje and Mangochi. The foundation which believes that communities need programmes that reflect the beneficiaries realities and empowers them to build their life skills, negotiation skills, self-confidence and decision making, has programs in Lilongwe in T/As Chitukula, Njewa, Kabudula, Chimutu, M'bang'ombe and Mtema ; and Nsanje in T/As Tengani and Mbenje; while in Mangochi they are in T/A Nankumba.

The foundation among other remarkable achievements offers programs in Early Child Development; Feeding and nutrition programme; Growth monitoring; Primary Education; Child rights and Protection; HIV prevention; Good governance; Conservation Agriculture and food security; Advocacy pertain to women and girls rights; Water and sanitation; Community empowerment through IGAs; Village savings loan and capacity building; Climate change and soil conservation through agroforestry.

As the adage goes, 'In Unity, there is Strength', working together has proved very fruitful and beneficial in John C. Children's foundation work. All achievements are attributed to the continued support financially as well as technically of Mission Salvation Africa-USA; Evangelical Assemblies of God SOA Paulo-Brazil; and Friends of John. C. ; UNFPA; NAC through Lilongwe District Council; ActionAid; Feed the Children; Theater for a Change; Ministry of Education and Ministry of Gender.



Pupils in a class at St John C. Thomas Primary school



Fruits gardens at household level for nutrition purposes especially those infected by HIV & AIDS



JOHN C THOMAS PRIMARY SCHOOL



Rabbits for house hold pass on programme



One of the 4 boreholes drilled by JCTF

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