



EKARI Foundation
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Phalombe, Malawi, Africa

Wulkow Foundation
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Dear Dieter & Bettina Wulkow,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Wulkow Foundation for the receipt of EKARI Foundation's grant for our Health Education & HIV/AIDS Programs which includes the Linguni Hope for the Youth cooperation. We have now come to the end of our first quarter of visiting twelve (12) primary schools with the funding we received from your Charitable Foundation.

In this quarter of May to July, we have visited 12 primary schools and remain with 13 which we shall visit after opening of the new school session in the months of September and October 2017 (2 of the 12 schools were covered with funds from your grant. The remaining 13 schools for 2017 will be covered completely with your funds and we will still carry over funds to the next fiscal year to continue this program). Most community members in these areas have appreciated very much the program. At the same time, so many other schools have complained for not being visited.

Below are the names of schools that we have visited:

Mpata primary school
Mpoto primary school
Mbembembe primary school
Namikango primary school
Nalingula primary school
Nambazo primary school
Bona primary school
Mwanga primary school
Linguni primary school
Namasoko primary school
Dzenje primary school
Dzanjo primary school

School calendar in Malawi in 2016-2017 school session closed on 28th July 2017 and new school session opened on 18th September 2017. Dissemination of information on Health Education & HIV/AIDS Program in primary schools has really been taken very serious by local leaders as they used to encourage people in every meeting to go for testing of HIV/AIDS and encouraging parents to be very careful with the movements of their children after knocking off from school or when they come for holidays.

See below for more information and find attached photos of the schools visited. Let me know what questions you may have and if there is any further information that you need.

All the best,



Elias Makina
EKARI Foundation In-Country Director & Co-founder

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON HEALTH EDUCATION & HIV/AIDS PROGRAM FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

1. **Primary schools visited in May, June and July 2017:** Linguni, Mwanga, Mpata, Mpoto, Namasoko, Namikango, Djenje, Dzanjo, Nambazo, Bona, Nalingula and Mbembembe.
2. **Time:** 11:00am - 2:00pm
3. **Total participants (12 schools)**
 - The Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Honourable Anna Namathanga Kachikho (Member of Parliament for Phalombe North Constituency); Guest of Honour at Bona Primary school
 - 19092 Primary school learners
 - 198 teachers
 - 106 School Management Committee (SMC) members
 - 8 Village Development Committee (VDC) members
 - 48 Local village chiefs
 - 72 Mother Group Committee members
 - 871 parents
 - 12 Primary Education Advisors
 - 1 Nurse/Clinician
 - 2 Staffs from Ekari Foundation
 - 15 Linguni Hope for the Youth Organization drama group
 - Media from different media stations (television, radio and newspaper)

4. Aim and topics trained

The purpose of the visits was to civic educate learners and parents on the dangers of teenage pregnancies, early marriages, gender based violence, peer pressure, sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS, and any other practices that can hinder the progress of their education. Learners were encouraged to work hard at school, avoid peer pressure and that they should have goals in life. These messages were successfully disseminated through drama and speeches.

5. Introduction

The visited schools, which are all located within the Phalombe district, have higher population of pupils and many cases of school drop outs because of early marriages, early pregnancies, poverty

and HIV/AIDS. In all the schools, our partner Linguni Youth Organization played 3 drama plays/skits per school which were followed by the speeches from the nurse, Primary Education Advisor, school head-teacher, village chief and EKARI staff.

6. Linguni Hope for the Youth Organization dramas

The performances comprised different messages which were informative, entertaining and educative. This being so, the plays aroused curiosity to all people who watched the Linguni especially learners. The plays carried the following messages:

- How HIV/AIDS and other Sexually Transmitted Infections are spread and their adverse effects on the development of the individual, community and the nation.
- Tendency of some teachers who fall in love with little girls by giving them food and money and at last impregnating the girl which result into the spread of HIV/AIDS, poverty and school drop out of the girl and punishment to the teacher involved.
- The consequences of the early pregnancy by the child which include complications during birth which might lead to the death of the little mother and/or the born baby.
- Forcing of younger girls who are at school into marriages as a way of getting rid of some problems at home was also discouraged through the dramas.
 - How children with disabilities are being ill-treated in various schools and all through the drama were advised not to ill-treat students with disabilities because they have a right to education as any other students and they were told that disability is not inability.
 - Consequences of child labor which is defined as the use of students to work in farms or any other place without actually paying them or with little pay as this lead to drop out of school by those students.
 - The use of drugs and substances through peer pressure within the students was also discouraged in the dramas as this leads into impaired judgment, poor decisions and many more.

7. Speeches

Through the speeches, learners were encouraged to work hard in school as education is the only key to the development of their lives, families, community and the nation at large. They were also properly advised on how they can overcome some of the challenges that may hinder them from reaching their goals. Parents and local leaders were advised on their role of taking control of their children to make sure that they grow and become responsible citizens in their community and country. At Bona primary school, The Guest Speaker Honourable Anna Kachikho stressed on the need for parents to send their children to school. She also encouraged girls to work extra hard to achieve their ambitions.

8. What went well?

- The use of the Public Address (PA) system attracted more learners. It also eased communication between the guest speakers and the listeners.
- Participation of Ekari's role models was an encouragement to learners.

9. Challenges faced during the campaign

- Collision of programs. In some cases, parents were supposed to attend village meetings organized by other NGOs while at the same time they were required to attend Ekari's meetings. This led to poor turn up of parents at some schools.

10. Way forward

- 13 more primary schools will be visited from September to October, 2017.
- Ekari will intensify on sensitization campaigns so that the remaining 13 schools to be visited in September and October, 2017 should be patronized by more learners and parents.
- Ekari will be checking with other NGO programs to avoid collisions.
- Ekari Foundation will be communicating directly with the school heads and not through the Primary Education Advisers (the PEAs didn't always disseminate the information properly).

11. Reference

- a. See attached pictures