



# STARFISH MALAWI

making a world of difference

## CHILDREN'S CLUBS

August 2015



### Investing in young people

There are **8 centres** in total and **27 Children's leaders** who lead the clubs. **The work is aimed at presenting the Christian message and developing the ability to make good lifestyle and behaviour choices, aimed at children and teens in local communities.** Furthermore, to also encourage the club leaders themselves to be good Christian role models within their communities.

### New Resources

**The volunteers recently received 16 Bibles** - 2 for each centre; plus **8 footballs** - 1 for each centre. A children's work book, '**Children's Work, Fun and Creative Programmes for Children**' written by **Monica Cook**, has been translated so we were able to also give copies of this to the leaders. Such resources provided by Starfish really do help to encourage the leaders and inspire the club sessions to be more fun and make the sessions 'really count' in the lives of the children. **Over the years our clubs have been significantly impacted by Monica's personal involvement in training and resources.**

### Challenges

Recently, the most significant challenge has been the **loss of 3 leaders** – some move community, some find jobs, others simply feel discouraged. As the leader of the programme, **Pastor Bornwell is attempting to regularly visit all the clubs to help lift and encourage all the members.** He himself knows well the challenges of remaining faithful to this work, having been a volunteer himself for some time before being employed full-time with Starfish.

Furthermore, we are well aware the leaders give of their time 'for free' so we are very happy to at least reimburse their transport allowance (just increased from MK400 to MK1,500) to attend our monthly training sessions.

## Impact

**We are finding that other local churches that had not previously run any form of children's ministry have now started their own programmes, thanks to the model of our clubs.** Such ministries welcome all children whether they attend the church or not, including children from Muslim communities.



**Finally, we are so encouraged when we witness how children who attend our clubs are slowly transformed in their behaviour and spiritual development.**

One particular young man, **Dumisani Jere**, (left - who's name means 'give praise') attends the club held on Saturday mornings at GTOC. He said that he did not know how to pray, but now he is growing in confidence in this area.

He also tended to be aggressive and "fond of fighting"; however, this too has changed. **As you can see the children's clubs really impacts children and young people of all ages.**

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