



starfish malawi

MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

GATEWAY

December 2015

AIM: To empower girls and women in disadvantaged communities by practically enabling them to fully participate in school, work or family life through the provision of reusable sanitary hygiene kits.

In order to increase the sustainability of the Gateway programme, an initiative was made to have the hygiene packs to be produced in 4 centres in Salima and 2 in Kasungu to supply multiple schools on our linking programme.

By bringing people from different communities together to make the packs we hope to increase the distribution and impact of the project. This document will report on the progress of the established centres, in terms of production, training and materials.

Resources

The table below shows the status of resources at each centre:

CENTRE	MATERIALS AVAILABLE	MATERIALS NEEDED
GTOC (Salima)	14 sewing Machines, Waterproof cloth (enough to start with), Sewing kit, towels for liners	More cloth for shields and bags, Machine oil
Chitiwiri (Salima)	13 sewing Machines, Waterproof cloth (enough to start with), sewing kit, towels for liners.	Machine oil, cloth for shield and bags
Kaputu (Salima)	2 sewing machines, sewing kit	More machines, template for shields, waterproof cloth, machine oil, cloth for shields and bags
Katitima (Salima)	7 sewing machines, waterproof, sewing kit, towels for liners,	Cloth for shield and bags, machine oil,
Kajendere (Kasungu)	2 sewing machines	Sewing kits, waterproof, cloth for shield and bags, towels for liners, machine oil, more machines
Jereman Shonga (Kasungu)	10 sewing machines, waterproof cloth (enough to start with), sewing kit, towels for liners, one bottle of machine oil, few cloth for shields	More cloth for shield, additional bottle of machine oil

For Chitiwiri and GTOC centres in Salima, the programme is already established because they have been producing the hygiene packs on their own for their girls in school.

As a result they already have some stock of materials and sewing machines. However, there was a need for them to re-organise, and be trained to meet the new quality standards, especially in making the shields.

Training and Production

The table below shows progress in production and training:

CENTRE	PROGRESS	TRAINER
GTOC	Well established, training of old members done, training for new members in progress	Lenia
Chitiwiri	Well established, training of old members in progress	Clarah
Kaputu	Not yet started, but will start training after Christmas.	Lenia
Katitima	Not yet started, but training will start after Christmas.	Lenia
Kajendere	Not yet started, training to start first week of December	Colleta
Jereman Shonga	Established, training of both old and new members to start second week of December	Colleta

We identified three ladies, Colleta, Lena and Clarah as trainers for the six centres. So far, training already started at GTOC and Chitiwiri centres. The pictures below were taken at GTOC during one of the sessions:



Above: Eluby Kulaso (GTOC Key worker) sewing shields



Above right: Lenia Chiweyo helping new members



Above: The sewing group at GTOC

Katitima Project Launch

The ladies at Katitima had an introductory meeting with Starfish staff to discuss the project on December 1st 2015. There is a great amount of enthusiasm in the group and they are looking forward to officially launching in the New Year.

The next step for the group will be to visit the Gateway group at Glad Tidings Orphan Care to see the project in action before receiving their training.

Lenia Chiweyo gave them a basic introduction on how to use sewing machines and provided a practical demonstration. She will be responsible for training the group in January.

Above Right: Chim Dzindiwo explains the project to members at Katitima. **Below:** The group are introduced to using a sewing machine.



Resource Management

To ensure care for the sewing machine and all the materials provided in the sewing centres, there are shared responsibilities between Starfish and the sewing groups. The sewing groups are responsible for regular maintenance of the sewing machine, i.e. removing dust and frequent oiling of the machines. Together with Starfish, the sewing groups are also responsible to make sure the provided sewing materials are not ill-used. Starfish will always make sure needed materials are provided and monitor the progress of the project.

Days for Girls

Outside the Starfish GATEWAY programme, we are also assisting a sewing group at All Angels Primary School in Senga Bay after their coordinator, Jones, sought help. They needed help in planning and organising the group and its activities to ensure good management, recording and reporting of the project. This project is funded by 'Days for Girls'

Conclusion

As of now, two centres are fully functioning, with needed training for new members only. These are Chitiwiri and GTOC where they are currently training existing members, to ensure that they meet the new standards of quality, and providing training for new members. Kaputu and Katitima Centres are equipped, and training is set to begin in the New Year. We hope to have all the four centres in Salima fully set up early next year, and begin distributing kits before Easter. We also aim to have the centres in Kasungu fully set up by February 2016.



Above: The mother group at All Angels School

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