

SPONSORSHIP MID YEAR REPORT JULY 2023

BACKGROUND

The programme was introduced in 2005 in Salima and Kasungu districts, and it has been of great importance to many girls and boys who are orphans and those that come from vulnerable homes where the parents or guardians cannot manage to pay school fees for the children. Many have been helped with secondary education and others in tertiary education.

The programme has increased the number of sponsored students who are now in secondary as well as tertiary education, and we wish to express our deepest gratitude to all our sponsors for their steadfast support and generosity.

UPDATE ON PROGRESS

Currently we have 155 students in different secondary schools and 35 of our former secondary students are now at University, College or in Vocational Training throughout the country. Each year we are delighted to see some of our students graduate from college.

Many of our past sponsored students are now working in Government Departments and Non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Some are now qualified teachers, some nurses and even doctors, who have received support from their sponsor during the years of training. We have many that have started their own business too.

Students in secondary schools are given pens, notebooks pocket money and transport to school at the beginning of every term. They are also provided with a mosquito net, a torch, a scientific calculator, and an English dictionary, just to mention a few. Girls are also given reusable sanitary pads and knickers in order to reduce absenteeism when menstruating.

In May 2023, the UK team visited Malawi and many activities happened during the visit. One of them was the students meeting which was held on 27th May at Msalura Primary School in Salima where students had a chance to interact with the UK team. Students were advised, encouraged and motivated to work hard in school in order to achieve their goals.

There were speakers from both Malawi and UK and the students were given a chance to ask questions and to get clarification on different issues. In attendance were secondary school students and a few students from different Universities.

One of the tertiary students shared his education journey to encourage secondary school students that it is possible to make it through hard work and good behaviour.

At the end of the meeting some students received gifts from their sponsors and girls also received reusable sanitary kits and knickers.

SUCCESS STORIES

SAUDA JUWAWO

“After writing my standard 8 exams, I was selected to Lilongwe Girls Secondary School. At that point I was so worried because I thought it was the end of the road for my education because my parents could not afford to pay my school fees. But everything changed as Starfish introduced me to my sponsors who paid my school fees,” explained Sauda Juwawo.

After finishing her education, Sauda was selected to Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), where Starfish continued to help her with pocket money.

Sauda also shared,

“In October last year, I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and I am now working as an intern at Salima District Council. Now I am able to provide for my family and pay fees for my younger siblings. Thank you to my wonderful sponsors and to Starfish.”



GODFREY CHIPOJOLA

Godfrey Chipojola, who is one of the beneficiaries of the programme, expressed his gratitude to Starfish and to his sponsors for sponsoring him through his studies.

“I would like to express great appreciation on behalf of all those lucky students that are sponsored by Starfish as it is said, ‘No appreciation is enough for great kindness’.

But here I still want to thank you all for your kindness, which has provided us with hope and courage to live a better life. Starfish held my hand since Form 1 until now. I am in my final year at college. I am now only one step to achieving my dreams, all thanks to my wonderful sponsors and to Starfish,”

expressed Godfrey.

Godfrey Chipojola, a final year student at Malawi University of Business and Applied Science (MUBAS)



A Final word from **Widris Banda**, Head Teacher at Chipoka Secondary School,

"I am glad to express my heartfelt gratitude to Starfish and its esteemed sponsors for generously sponsoring 51 students at our school. We are grateful as a school because you are the only organisation that sponsors such large number of students.

Your contribution is vital in shaping the future of these students as they cannot succeed without the generosity of supporters like you. You can be sure that we are doing our best to help them use this opportunity correctly, study hard and stay focussed in order for them to achieve their future goals or dreams."



CONCLUSION

Starfish Sponsors are making a great difference in the lives of young people who are unable to complete their education in secondary as well as tertiary schools in Malawi because they have no one to pay for their school fees and other needs.

The testimonies of students and teachers confirm the significant difference sponsorship has made. Sponsors also confirm that sponsorship has made a difference in their lives too. We at Starfish give them our heartfelt thanks. They are truly making a difference.