

## **LITERACY LEADERS PROJECT MID-YEAR REPORT FOR 2023**

### **BACKGROUND**

Literacy Leaders is a Starfish-funded literacy development project implemented within the Ngolowindo Zone of Salima District. The project seeks to impart teachers with skills in vocabulary, grammar, phonics, pedagogy and classroom management in order to improve their service delivery and hoping to see an improvement in learners' performance at both National and School exams.

Five primary schools are the targets within the zone, namely: Lifuwu, Mikute, Ngolowindo, Demera, and Maganga. LLs project initially focused on 15 teachers (3 from each school) who have gone on to act as lead teachers of the project, which now engages many more teachers. The lead teachers prepare plans for sessions in liaison with the Literacy Leaders coordinator, who provides overall guidance and coordination for the delivery of sessions.

### **PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT**

The Literacy Leaders project moved from conducting sessions and activities at the Ngolowindo Teacher Development Centre to purely in-school activities. The purpose of this arrangement was to allow more teachers to join the project and the numbers have continued to rise. Head Teachers have encouraged their colleagues to participate in the project upon seeing that the skills learned are beneficial to them as individuals and for learners too.

Attendance at Demera has increased from 12 to 20 teachers, Mikute from 15 to 25, Lifuwu has 10 and Maganga, which had problems re-organising after the pandemic then flooding etc last year has started this term on a high with 20 teachers attending. Teachers meet for fortnightly sessions within their own schools. Demera and Mikute Literacy Leaders proposed an arrangement for exchange visits where at times sessions should be done at one school jointly. Demera teachers have so far visited Mikute twice and vice versa.



*Inter-school session in progress for Mikute and Demera school*

## RESOURCE PROVISION

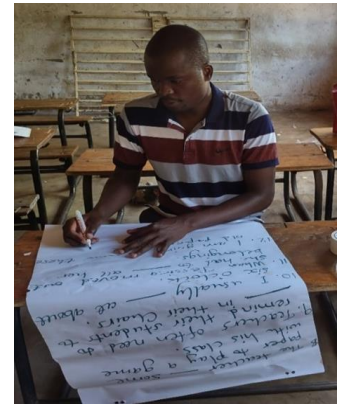
Starfish has been providing resources for the implementation of the project. These range from writing pads and pens, flip charts, markers, masking tapes, plain papers for printing, ink cartridges, chalk, and more. Additional resources provided include funds for transport for both the coordinator and inter-school visits, airtime for session planning and communication, and refreshments for all Literacy Leaders attending session.

## WHAT DIFFERENCE ARE WE MAKING?

### GIFT'S STORY

**Gift Chilamba** is a teacher at Ngolowindo Primary school who has been a literacy leader since the inception of the project. He has been teaching the senior section at the school. He enjoys facilitating sessions attended by his colleagues and encourages more peer-to-peer interaction.

The project has seen him develop his leadership skills and his confidence. He is able to manage his classes well with the skills which he has gained and his teaching style has become more interactive. In addition to this, the project has improved his command of the English Language, in that he is more eloquent and able to express himself....



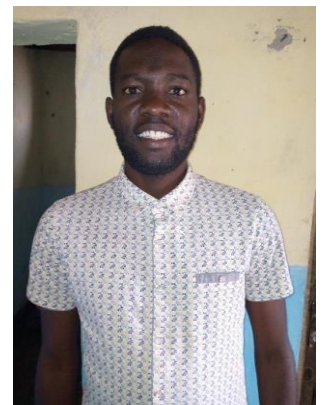
*Gift says "My English has improved tremendously. I am able to express myself in meetings without being conscious about my grammar or vocabulary. This has ultimately boosted my self-esteem as my Head Teacher is also able to send me to represent him in vital meetings. Not only that, learners are now able to approach me more, ask questions and seek clarifications on subjects they did not understand during lessons. This has made it easy for my engagement with learners and new techniques for learning are employed,"*

he said. The improved interaction has resulted in improved results and the school now shines in the National Examinations.

### DALITSO'S STORY

**Dalitso Kandulu** is a teacher at Maganga Primary School in Salima. He is one of the 15 original teachers who were trained by the Literacy Leader project in vocabulary, grammar, phonics, and pedagogy.

Dalitso since went back to school to secure grades that would enable him to upgrade his studies. He is now pursuing a Bachelor of Education (Languages) Degree at Mzuzu University and is in his 2<sup>nd</sup> year. He says "The Literacy Leaders project helped me to improve my skills in English grammar, vocabulary and other teaching abilities.



From the project, we learnt about games and activities that enhance learning in sessions, which I am now ably applying during the lessons that I deliver to learners. As a result, learners in my class are able to comprehend the subjects well - hence passing exams with flying colours!"