Early Childhood Development

Ntchisi and Nkhatabay Districts
Malawi
EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION OF MALAWI

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WHO WE ARE

The Evangelical Association of Malawi is a Christian umbrella organization for evangelical churches and Christian organizations that seeks to mobilize, unite and equip them for the holistic proclamation of the love of God, in Christ.

WHAT WE DO

Mission
Evangelism
Discipleship

Gender equality

Food security
Livelihood

Democracy
Human rights
Good governance

Child rights
Health

Education
Life skills

Crisis response
Disaster response
Family planning

IMPROVING ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE

The Evangelical Association of Malawi (EAM) is convinced that every human being has a right to have access to quality health care. The lack of good health care negatively affects Malawi, communities, families and individuals, especially women and children. Therefore EAM launched a 3 year project with financial and technical assistance from Norwegian Church Aid to improve access to quality community health care in the Ntchisi and Nkhotakota districts. Psychosocial and integrated early childhood development and healthcare practices are provided for women, youth and children as primary beneficiaries.

EAM used a consortium of local churches to implement the project, because it is efficient and effective to mobilize church and community leaders to change cultural and religious behaviour that have a negative impact on access to good health care.

The key strategies to improve health care and psychosocial support were service delivery, construction and rehabilitation of Community Based Child Care Centres (CBCC), advocacy and capacity building trainings, such as the International Child Development Programme (ICDP).

The main focus of this brochure will be on the ICDP approach.
Project

Improving access to quality health care in the communities of Nkhatabay and Ntchisi districts

Project country

Malawi

Project area

Northern Region
District: Nkhatabay
T/A: Malengamzoma Fukamalaza

Central Region
District: Ntchisi
T/A: Malenga Kalumo

Project period

1st January 2013 to 31st December 2015

Supporting partner

Norwegian Church Aid Malawi

Achievements (selection)

- Rehabilitation of 4 Community Based Child Care Centres (CBCC):
  - Ntchisi: 2; Nkhatabay: 2
- Construction of 3 Community Based Child Care Centres (CBCC):
  - Ntchisi: 1; Nkhatabay: 2
- Constructing a Youth Centre Hall in Nkhatabay district.
- Establishment of 16 Children Corners (CC):
  - Ntchisi: 10; Nkhatabay: 6
  - Children participating in the CCs: 1,576 boys; 1,863 girls
  - Volunteers trained in CC concepts: 86 men; 73 women
- Volunteers trained as Early Childhood Development (ECD) caregivers:
  - 48 men; 102 women
- Volunteers trained in psychosocial support:
  - 88 men; 80 women
- Procurement/distribution of farm goods:
  - Fertilizer: 6,110 kg; maize seeds: 430 kg
  - Beneficiaries: 16 CBCCs
- Procurement/distribution of material for CCs conducted
- Provision of 10 mobile HTC (HIV Testing and Counselling) services
- Volunteers trained in STAR circle concept:
  - 59 men; 71 women
- Establishment of 22 new STAR circles:
  - Ntchisi: 15; Nkhatabay: 7
- Volunteers trained in International Child Development Programme (ICDP):
  - Ntchisi: 3 men; 19 women
  - Nkhatabay: 37 men; 32 women
  - 26 out of the 91 volunteers were trained as ICDP community facilitators
  - Beneficiaries: 17 CBCCs; 17 CCs; 17 STAR circles
- Conducting 13 community awareness meetings on ICDP:
  - Ntchisi: 7; Nkhatabay: 6
  - People reached: 932 men; 1,525 women
THE CORE OF ICDP

The core of ICDP is a simple and very effective programme of human care directed towards children’s caregivers. The idea is that long-term effects can only be achieved and sustained through supporting the children’s permanent network of care, which are primarily parents or staff in institutions where children stay. The programme and training provided is comprised of the following components:

The caregiver’s conception of the child: In order to promote a child’s positive development the caregivers’ perception of the child will be essential. If this is negative or stigmatizing, it needs to be changed and therefore efforts to influence caregivers’ conceptions of their children, through exercises of re-definition constitute a major effort in the programme. The interaction and the relationship between caregiver(s) and child(ren) is the key to a child’s development. In ICDP this is articulated as the three dialogues of human development: emotional dialogue, meaning dialogue and regulative dialogue (see page 5).

ICDP applies a facilitative methodology based on supporting the positive capacities that are already available in the caregiver. In this way the caregiver (or trainee) will feel empowered instead of humiliated through the sensitization training (see page 5). This sensitive facilitative approach is important because it means that there is no imposition or instruction of any caring skills and practices alien or in conflict with the caregiver’s basic values of human care.
EMOTIONAL DIALOGUE
1. How do you express love to your child?
2. How do you follow and respond to your child’s initiatives?
3. How do you establish close communication with and without words?
4. How do you show appreciation and praise your child’s efforts and achievements?

MEANING DIALOGUE
5. How do you help your child to focus on things around them?
6. How do you share meaning and explain about things? How do you do it with enthusiasm?
7. How do you enrich and expand your child’s understanding and experiences about the world?

REGULATIVE DIALOGUE
8a. How do you help your child learn rules, limits and values?
8b. How do you help your child to plan and carry out activities and projects, step by step?

SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF SENSITIZING
The training of caregivers and facilitators is based on seven principles of sensitizing.

- Establishing a contract of trust with the caregivers.

- Positive redefinition of the child to see the child as a person:
  - Pointing out to caregiver the positive qualities in their child.
  - Re-labelling positively what appear to be negative features of a child.
  - Reactivating past good memories in caregiver-child relationship.
  - Using exercises for caregivers to discover positive features in their children.

- Activating caregivers in relation to the theme/guideline that was discussed by:
  - Asking caregivers to make self-assessments of personal interactions with their child based on the eight guidelines of good interaction.
  - Exemplification: asking caregivers to produce examples of their interactions with the children.

- Giving caregivers observational tasks in relation to their children.
- Tasks for caregivers to test out new ways of communicating and interacting with their children.

- Confirming the caregivers’ competence by pointing out that which is already positive in their existing interaction with the child.

- Using an inquiring approach to guide caregivers’ discussions about what is good interaction.

- Encouraging sharing and attentive listening among caregivers in group meetings, so as to learn from each others’ experiences.

- Using two styles of communication in relation to caregivers:
  - A personalised style of explanation, with personal examples.
  - An empathic interpretative style, i.e. describing how the child experiences the situation; comparing the experience of the child with similar adult situations.
The support of Tasiyana Chiundira by ICDP trained members of the Chenje CBCC changed a family and a community.

Eunice Chiundira went back to her home in Chafuwa village (Traditional Authority Kalumo in Ntchisi) with her four children after divorcing her husband. They had no possessions and lived in a kitchen style shack between the houses of her relatives.

“My children had no cloths and no food, so I could not send them to school,” said Eunice. She and her children used to spend most of their time on other people’s farms for piece work.

Tasiyana, one of her children, stayed in the shack most of the time, waiting for her mother to return. The girl got used to not really having friends, being hungry and dirty, while her mother was trying hard to get some food for the family.

A CHANGED LIFE
When members from the Chenje Community Based Child Care Centre (CBCC) interviewed Tasiyana, they decided to support her. Tasiyana started attending the CBCC where she learned to mingle with friends and ate porridge every day. “Her life changed tremendously. She became a happy child after joining the CBCC,” said her mother. Members of the CBCC, trained in the ICDP
approach, continued to visit the mother and advised her on how she could take care of her children including Tasiyana. “She started bathing the girl every morning before anything else and learned to escort her to the CBCC. She is very happy that the girl is not miserable as she used to be in the past. Tasiyana has developed interest in the CBCC where she has several friends to chat with,” said Devison Banda, a member of Chenje ICDP. Despite her poverty the mother is now able to understand the importance of giving her children the motherly care that they deserve.

“We will keep on tracking how Tasiyana performs at the centre; we want the girl to develop like any other child in that particular society. Poverty should not be an issue of concern to her. Mixing with friends will reduce all her psychological problems and will help her to grow,” said Banda.

LOVE IN ACTION
When the District Social Welfare Office (DSWO) organized a meeting of the members of the Early Childhood Development (ECD) network, the story of Eunice and her children was shared. It touched many hearts and they agreed to collect second hand clothes to support the woman and her children and other vulnerable children in the area.

The distribution of the clothes left Eunice speechless and was witnessed by local leaders and the community. At the very end of the function the chief of the area said in his closing remarks that the community under his leadership will also support the family by constructing a good and well thatched house. He thanked the volunteers of the CBCC because the ICDP approach was an eye opener for the community.
Enjoying the new clothes

The new house, built by the community of Chauwa village

Distribution of second hand clothes to vulnerable children

ICDP GUIDELINES USED

EMOTIONAL DIALOGUE

How do you express love to your child?

How do you follow and respond to your child’s initiatives?
The ICDP trained members of the Chitala CBCC teach a mother how to take care of her daughter Alinafe Paulos suffering from a neurological disorder.

Alinafe Paulos is a young girl suffering from epilepsy. Several times she has fallen into fire or water. Her life was in constant danger, especially since her mother left her alone quite often to do the necessary work in the household. And many days Alinafe’s mother was kilometers away to cultivate her garden. There were times Alinafe had episodes of sensory disturbance, loss of consciousness and convulsion without her mother being around. She felt bad and burdened but did not know how to handle Alinafe’s neurological disorder.

THE DAY THAT CHANGED A FAMILY’S LIFE FOREVER

One day ICDP trained volunteers of the Chitala Community Based Child Care Centre (CBCC) in Traditional Authority Kalummo in Ntchisi visited the family to have a chat on the condition of Alinafe after observing how negligent her mother was.

Biston Kaesa, a member of the Chitala CBCC, said that the “10 year old girl used to face many problems due to her condition. She could be involved in accidents right at her home because she was always alone. We found this to be risky to her life. So we thought of coming in to help with some advice on how the girl could be looked after.”

For the first time in her life Alinafe’s mother heard that her daughter’s condition should not be regarded as a curse but a blessing from God and that she should accept it positively. “I was told to be closer to my daughter all the time and to love her throughout her life,” said the mother.

She was encouraged to bond with her daughter and love her more and more. “The visiting group had changed my mindset and attitude towards my daughter. Since I am always there for her now, no accident has ever happened to her. Each time she has an episode I am there to take care of her.”

THE BOND OF LOVE

ICDP GUIDELINES USED

EMOTIONAL DIALOGUE

➔ How do you express love to your child?
➔ How do you follow and respond to your child’s initiatives?

MEANING DIALOGUE

➔ How do you share meaning and explain about things? How do you do it with enthusiasm?
➔ How do you enrich and expand your child’s understanding and experiences about the world?
ICDP caregivers advise parents on the importance of sending their twins Alex and Felix Patrick to the Ntchisi CBCC despite all their hardship.

Joice Patrick of Bwaduka village in Traditional Authority Kalumo, Ntchisi, has seven children. Her family lacks almost everything required for life. Her husband does not have regular work and spends most of his time doing piece work around the Ntchisi Trading centre.

As a result of their poverty, the children were not going to school. Even the two youngest children, the twins Alex and Felix, were not attending the local Community Based Child Care Centre (CBCC) although they were of the right age. “It’s my wish that they should attend the classes at the CBCC but they don’t have clothes. We also cannot send them to school hungry because each morning we have nothing to provide for breakfast,” said the mother. “I am always worried about Alex and Felix. What we are going through affects their future. The problem is with us parents because we didn’t plan on how many children to have in our family. And now they are paying for the parent’s mistakes,” concludes Joice.

A NEW MINDSET
One day a member of the ICDP at the Ntchisi CBCC noticed how the family was struggling with the children. “I went to find out why the two boys were not attending the CBCC. I learnt that the family had more problems that made them fail to send the boys to the centre. One of the problems was the lack of clothes,” said Aness Chisi. She advised the parents to send the boys to the centre despite all their challenges. The mother was informed that the centre is for everyone, rich and poor. “The mother said she thought the centre was for the rich only and had no idea of the importance of sending the children to the centre,” said Aness.

Since then, the family is fighting hard to make sure that the two children can start attending classes at the centre. The mother of Alex and Felix commented, “I learned that children need to be taken care of properly especially when it comes to their education. We have agreed to fight hard to solicit funds for our family and make sure that we provide for them what is required for them to be at the CBCC.”

ICDP GUIDELINES USED

EMOTIONAL DIALOGUE
● How do you express love to your child?
● How do you establish close communication with and without words?
Four year old Paul George had a tough childhood. He does not know his father, and his mentally ill single parent mother was repeatedly sexually abused by men, taking advantage of her mental problem. Paul knows all about being neglected, isolated and lonely, but nothing about parental care and mingling with other friends. “His growth has been pathetic in the sense that he was always alone with nobody to take care of him. His mother did not even bother bathing him as she was busy nursing another kid she had just born,” said the chair lady of the Mayala Community Based Child Care Centre (CBCC) in Traditional Authority Malenga in Ntchisi.

BREAKING DOWN THE WALLS OF ISOLATION
When ICDP trained volunteers of the CBCC discovered the state of the child, they visited the boy’s home. They talked to his mother about raising a child and the importance of Paul meeting friends. But due to her mental illness she was unable to understand what she had heard. So the CBCC members took it upon themselves to care for the boy, including taking him to the CBCC. After a few weeks the bonds of isolation started to break.

It took very few weeks to notice a big change in the boy. He began to flourish and participated in all activities the CBCC offered like climbing ladders. Paul loves to romp around with his new friends, and “there’s hope that as George will be starting standard 1 in primary school he will be well prepared,” said a CBBC member.
BEING A CHILD AGAIN

Paul George
Under the loving care of ICDP volunteers from the Mtengowambalame CBCC, Aipsa Lobe flourishes.

The first time Aipsa Lobe, aged five, came to the Mtengowambalame Community Based Child Care Centre (CBCC) in Ntchisi, she could not eat the porridge that was prepared at the centre(160,758),(625,996). She could not sit close to anyone nor play around as others did. She was an isolated girl at the centre. Her major problem was that she had never mixed with friends in her childhood. Aipsa grew up with her single parent mother thinking that she had congenital mental issues, because she was always quiet, and when some of her friends visited her at home, she sometimes ran away to her mother, not willing to play. The girl was always dirty, suffering from malnutrition, and spent most her day sleeping.

**ENJOYING LIFE**

When members of the ICDP at Mtengowambalame CBCC saw how Aipsa lived, they visited her home and had a chat with her mother about the well-being of the girl. Aipsa’s mother told them that she is so busy working in her garden and providing for her family that she has no time to bring Aipsa to a CBCC.

The ICDP members told her that the CBCC emphasizes the importance of taking care of the girl. They told her that she had the responsibility to make sure that the girl enjoys her life like any other child in her neighbourhood. “We asked her to start bathing the girl in the morning and that we would be taking the girl to the centre. One of the members of the CBCC was sent every morning to collect the girl,” said one of the ICDP volunteers.

Within a short period of time, Aipsa got used to going to the centre and started playing with friends. She became active and participated in many sporting activities. If you watch her running around, you see a happy girl enjoying her life.
Usually the birth of a baby brings joy and happiness to the family. But sometimes this gift of life comes with agony, sorrow, hopelessness and desperation. And what about the anger, because all the agony could have been prevented?

Chawezi Mkandawire, a beautiful young girl at the age of four, has a damaged brain, caused by the negligence of a nurse during delivery. What had happened? On 26th December 2012 Mrs. Mkandawire experienced signs of labour and was rushed to Bwaila hospital in Lilongwe to seek medical attention and deliver her first baby. The nurse on duty was supposed to take care of her. But even when it was obvious that she would deliver in a few moments she was left alone. Mrs. Mkandawire cried for help because the labour pain started to become unbearable. “I stood up from the bed I was told to rest on and struggled into the labour ward myself, where I continued for the third time to call for help,” said the woman.

Fortunately enough there was another nurse who heard her cry and when she went in to see, she found that Mkandawire had already delivered on her own but complications caused brain damage.

After seven months, the woman took the baby to the same hospital to complain to the doctor about the bad experience she had gone through at the hospital. The doctor was touched and he conducted his medical examination which revealed that the baby’s thinking capabilities are retarded.

As the baby grew up, it could not use its limbs properly. The mother had to stop going to work as she spent most of her time taking care of the girl.

**BIG IMPROVEMENTS**
Currently Chawezi attends the Community Based Child Centre (CBCC) in Ntchisi run by the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP). The ICDP trained caregivers are a big help. The love and physiotherapy that she gets, have enabled her to interact and play with her friends. The girl is now able to utter some words correctly and do some exercises that help to strengthen her limbs. According to the ICDP caregivers there is hope that Chawezi will make further progress.

**ICDP GUIDELINES USED**

**EMOTIONAL DIALOGUE**
- How do you express love to your child?

**REGULATIVE DIALOGUE**
- How do you help your child to plan and carry out activities and projects, step by step?
The Children’s Corner at the Chitala CBCC transforms the Life of Blessings Mazoni.

For a boy of twelve, there are more interesting things to do than to go to school. So Blessings Mazoni spent a lot of his time working on farms to earn some money. His parents tried to convince him of the importance of education. Without success. Blessings continued ignoring his parents advice.

A TRANSFORMED LIFE

But one day his life changed. He was on his way back from work, when he saw boys and girls of his age playing games at Chitala Children’s Corner Centre (CC). Mesmerized he watched. One of the volunteers working at the CC, Leonard Nguluwe, talked to him about the Children’s Corner and enticed him to go back to school.

Blessings was so miserable that he decided to do something about it. The next day he was on his way to Chorwe primary school. He also started going to the Children’s Corner at Chitala’s Community Based Child Care Centre (CBCC) in the afternoons to play games, learn traditional dances, discuss topics like HIV and AIDS and learn some simple vocational skills. These times with his friends at the CC transformed his life. “Blessings has become a good boy, he is back in school and is an active member of the Children’s Corner at our CBCC. We also do follow ups to make sure that he performs well in school,” said Nguluwe.
Members of the Mten-gowambalame CBCC save the twins Thandiwe and Thandizo from a live of gross neglect.

The two years old twins Thandiwe and Thandizo were home alone each day, because their mother went to work while they were still asleep. After waking up they wandered around hungry, naked and in desperate need of motherly care. When they could not find their mother they would go back into the house to lie down together on a dirty, old, tattered, empty fertilizer sack.

SHOWING LOVE
The suffering of the twins attracted the attention of members of the ICDP at the Mtengowambalame Community Based Child Care Centre (CBCC). They approached the mother to talk to her. "The mother told us that she is unable to take care of the twins because she is too poor. She needs to go out every morning to work and that she can’t carry the twins with her," said Sevelina Bizalie, a member of Mtengowambalame ICDP caregivers. They decided to take the twins into the ICDP.

They started attending the CBCC and were provided with clothes and so on. This care changed their life completely.

"We even went further to counsel the mother on how she can take care of the kids. We advised her to prepare the children for the CBCC every day before she departs for work. We are glad, she is taking our words seriously," said Bizalie, the ICDP caregiver.
ALONE
BUT
NOT
LEFT
ALONE
ICDP trained members of the Thavite CBCC help four siblings to live a normal life without their runaway parents.

Life’s circumstances turned the fifteen year old Mziwenji Nyamulani into a “mother” of three children. When she was still in school (standard 4) her mother ran off never to come back. Since her father left the family a long time ago for Madisi in the Dowa district, Mziwenji was left alone with her three younger siblings.

To survive the girl has to work in other people’s gardens day after day. “Like today, I went to harvest beans in people’s gardens so that we get food for the day. We normally leave home without breakfast and lunch, reserving the little food that I get for supper every day,” said the girl. The three siblings that Mziwenji raises were not going to school. They used to remain at home all the time waiting for their sister to return with food to fill their empty stomach.

GIVING HOPE
As soon as members of the Thavite Community Based Child Care Centre (CBCC) members heard of the four siblings they wasted no time. “We went to see them and found that even her youngest sister who is two years old was affected by the family’s hunger. We immediately enrolled her into our CBCC,” said one of the CBCC’s caregivers. The member mentioned that the young girl has been coming to the centre to play with friends and learn different things in class.

The ICDP members at Thavite CBCC continue visiting the children to make sure that they are encouraged and have something to eat. They also support them psychologically to make sure that they are fine.

ICDP GUIDELINES USED

EMOTIONAL DIALOGUE
→ How do you express love to your child?

MEANING DIALOGUE
→ How do you help your child to focus on things around?
The early education provided by trained caregivers at CBCCs improves the probability of being successful in primary education.

Children who graduate from Kaphwiti Community Based Child Centres (CBCC) are proving to be stars after entering standard 1 class in primary schools. According to Margret Lazaro, who is Secretary of the Kaphwiti CBCC, statistics at the nearby Mkwalawanjovu primary school show that almost all children who come from the CBCC perform better in class than those who didn’t go through the CBCC. “This is very encouraging especially to us caregivers who work on a voluntary basis. We feel encouraged despite facing challenges,” said Lazaro.

ADVANTAGES OF EARLY EDUCATION
Many children that go to primary school for standard 1 are not able to mix with friends or speak properly, not to mention the inability to take orders. These challenges vanish into thin air with the early education in life’s basics provided by the trained caregivers at the CBCCs.

R. Buwa, head teacher at Mkwalawanjovu school, emphasizes this by saying that the basics that the CBCCs teach are very important for the children who expect to start standard 1. He therefore “urges parents to take CBCCs seriously so that children are prepared well before they enter class 1 in primary schools.” He also expects that if all communities had their own CBCCs the dropout rate would decline significantly.
An ICDP trained volunteer of the Tiyanjane Childrens Corner saves the teenage girl Elicy Ngwira from working in Tanzania.

Elicy Ngwira, a 15 year old girl from Msuli Village in Sub Traditional Authority Fuka-malaza in Nkhotakota, was supposed to move to Tanzania to earn some money for her mother Ulemu Uluku, a 32 year old mother of five children, each from different fathers.

The trip was scheduled for November 2014 but was cancelled due to lack of money for transport. So it was postponed to December. Many villagers felt sorry for the girl but they could not do anything, because both the girl and the mother had already made up their minds.

But when Sam Bruce Mhone, a volunteer at Tiyanjane Childrens Corner (CC) who is also trained in ICDP, heard the story he decided to help wherever possible. When he met Ulemu she confirmed that she wanted Elicy to work in Tanzania so she could get her iron sheets and clothes. Sam tried to bring them to their senses and discussed on various occasions the implications of their decision, such as violating the girls right for education.

Sam had to use two ICDP guidelines (emotionally dialogue and the meaning dialogue [details below]) to convince mother and daughter not to proceed with the preparations for the trip. They also agreed that members of the extended family should keep an eye on them.

Elicy went back to school (standard 7) and joined the CC where she is being encouraged by both volunteers and fellow children. The CC contributed some gifts in cash and in kind to support the girl and her mother. And although Ulemu finds it hard to provide for her children, she still thinks her daughter should stay in school.

**EMOTIONAL DIALOGUE**

- How do you express love to your child?

**MEANING DIALOGUE**

- How do you help your child to focus on things around them?
- How do you share meaning and explain about things? How do you do it with enthusiasm?
In the village Phetela (Traditional Authority Fuka-
malaza in Nkhatabay) lives a 16 year old girl Chim-
wemwe Mwale together with her five brothers and
her parents. She dropped out of school when she was
in standard 5, because her teacher was harassing the
whole class by letting everyone fail the exam at the end
of the term except his child. According to Chimwem-
we she counted all results together and did not fail.
She was so frustrated that she decided not to go
back to school. Her mother Nellie tried to persuade
her to attend school again, without success. One day
Emily Mzumala, a Community Based Child Care Cen-
tre (CBCC) volunteer trained in ICDP, talked to the girl
and lovingly encouraged her to go back to school. But
Chimwemwe refused to do so. Finally Emily called the
father, who was working in South Africa to discuss
the future of his daughter. He talked to his daughter
and Chimwemwe agreed to attend school again on
one condition: a change of school. He gave her the go-
ahead and commented, “As a parent, I was hurt to hear
that my daughter has decided to drop out of school.
I failed to continue with my education but I went to
South Africa to make sure my children are well pro-
vided for and that they can continue with their stud-
ies. I am happy with efforts of the volunteer and that
her efforts have yielded a good result.”
With the help of an ICDP trained volunteer Faidas Banda, a mother of six children, becomes a caring mother.

Faidas Banda, a 43 year old mother of six children living in the Traditional Authority Malengamzoma in Nkhatabay, suffered the loss of her first husband in 2011. As a housewife she had been financially dependent on her late husband. Faidas struggled to provide the basic needs for her children. The situation was too much for her.

As a result her first born daughter dropped out of school to earn some money. Faidas thought a remarriage would solve her problems – a fallacy. The problems did not end. Therefore Faidas had to do piece work on other people’s fields. During those times one of her children had to babysit her last-born and was not allowed to go to school. For years people tried to convince Faidas to send her kids to school. But she ignored their right to education. At one point Winnie Chakwinda, an ICDP trained volunteer approached the mother to reason with her. But Faidas was not listening. Winnie did not give up. Her persistence paid off. Finally Faidas understood the need of sending children to school and was encouraged to send her children to school.
A mother, trained in ICDP, rescues her 14 year old pregnant daughter, Oliver Nkhoma, from a teenage marriage arranged by relatives.

Oliver Nkhoma, a girl from the Traditional Authority Malengamzoma in Nkhotakota district, got pregnant when she was 14 years old. When she realized that she was pregnant her uncles and grandmother decided that Oliver had to marry the 26 year old father of the child. Oliver’s mother, Winnie Chakwinda, was against the marriage but had not enough influence to prevent it. Fate took its course and her daughter was married off.

Oliver’s mother, trained in ICDP, talked to her friends, to find a way to rescue her daughter from the teenage marriage. Her friends, also trained in ICDP, tried to help but failed. So Winne overcame her fear of arguing with her relatives and talked to them applying the ICDP concept. And finally she was able to get her daughter back.

Oliver is now living with her mother. When interviewed, Oliver told us, “I got in a relationship with this man when I was in standard 7. One day he asked me to escort him to his place. He then asked me to sleep with him. I refused but in the end I gave in. When I did not have my period for two months, I decided to let him know. When my family discovered I was pregnant, they immediately took me to the man’s house to get married. And so it happened that I got married. My mother was not happy to see me married at a tender age so she did all she could to withdraw me from marriage and I am back now.”