

# COPRED 2022 ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Report Covering Period:  
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## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ADC	Area Development Committee
COPRED	Community Partnership for Relief and Development
CLTS	Community Led Total Sanitation
DADO	District Agriculture Development Office
DAEC	District Agriculture Extension Committee
DEC	District Executive Committee
DSWO	District Social Welfare Office
ECD	Early Childhood Development
GVH	Group Village Headman
HCT/HTC	HIV Counselling and Testing/HIV Testing and Counselling
HIV	Human Immune Virus
MGDS	Malawi Growth and Development Strategy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
ODF	Open Defecation free
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
PSS	Psychosocial Support Services
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
T/A	Traditional Authority
VDC	Village Development Committee
VCT	Voluntary Counselling and Testing
VIP	Ventilated improve Pit latrine
VSL	Village Savings and Loan
WASH	Water, sanitation and Hygiene

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

On behalf of Community Partnership for Relief and Development, I would like to acknowledge the support that COPRED received from Board members for technical and legal support, District Councils and all the Community in the catchment areas, Chiefs and Volunteers. Without their participation, COPRED wouldn't have achieved any significant

results. I am also happy to report that COPRED continues to make a huge impact on sustainable livelihoods development programme.

This report also benefitted from financial and technical support from Blood-Water Mission, and Egmont Trust. These partners pumped in their resources to COPRED to implement various projects.

Finally, I wanted to thank all the staff members of COPRED, who, on a day-to-day basis, have been putting in their energies, suggestions, comments and working towards ensuring that the services have been delivered to the maximum potential to the targeted beneficiaries in Blantyre, Mwanza and Neno Districts.

Thanks to each one of you for your contributions. May God richly bless you for your efforts.

Jimmy Katuma.

**COPRED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**

## **1.0 EXECUTIVE REPORT SUMMARY**

Over last year, COPRED stakeholders provided exceptional support, dedication of the organization staff and the targeted communities in embarking whole heartedly in self-help in response to needs for the targeted communities. The successes achieved in 2022 as contained in this report could not have been realized if it was not for the generous financial support received from Blood water Mission and Egmont Trust who jointly contributed to 2022 COPRED Development Budget and Technical and material support received from The Malawi Government through Mwanza, Neno, Blantyre city and district councils.

Many thanks should go to the above listed development partners for committing their scarce financial resources to COPRED despite hard financial environment that has hit the world. COPRED is very grateful and hopeful that this partnership will continue. Thanks also goes to the Malawi Government through District and City council and level Ministry Departments such as The Office of The District Commissioner for Blantyre, Mwanza and Neno District councils, District Health Offices of Blantyre, Mwanza and Neno, District Social Welfare Office, District Community Development office, District Agriculture Office, District Forestry Office, District Water Office and other government offices for providing materials and technical support that enabled the implementation of the partnership agreements possible.

### **1.1. COPRED-Blood: Water Partnership.**

With funding from Blood Water Mission, Community Partnership for Relief and Development (COPRED) has been providing services to the communities based in Mwanza and Blantyre district council and city. In Mwanza district, the project is specifically implemented in nine villages namely Hau, Masokosa 1, Masokosa 2, Fiyiti, Nthache, Chithumbwi, Donkeni and Kamdende in T/As Kanduku; in Blantyre district, it is being implemented in Mpingwe Township (peri-urban) specifically in areas of Sakaza, Block 7, Block K, Block 9 and Block 11 under village head Nkhukuteni and in rural covered 10 villages of GVH Malunga namely Gwaladi, Daniel, Malunga, Kaliati. Mwazanga, Makwerani, Ching'ombe, Masajiri, Solobala and Chiumbulu in T/A Machinjiri under WASH integrated nutrition support for Child and Family Development project.

#### **Water sources, accessibility and treatment**

During the reporting period, COPRED drilled 2 boreholes at Kamdende and Faiti villages in T.As Kanduku and Nthache in Mwanza District and also rehabilitated 6 boreholes in Chilaweni area under GVH Malunga in T.A Machinjiri, Blantyre District. All the surrounding households have been trained in water treatment to reduce water borne diseases. The boreholes drilled are providing safe and clean water to 551 households and 2 early childhood development centres. Additionally COPRED planted 1000 banana suckers, 4000 forest tree seedlings and 700 fruit tree seedlings for planting around water points and water catchments to promote water conservation in the catchment areas. These seedlings have been distributed to 791 participating households for planting around their homestead to support food security, nutrition and income generation after fruits sales

#### **Sanitation**

When closing the year, COPRED constructed 14 VIP latrines aiming at reducing the ratio of pupils to latrines in the school both in ECD centers and Primary schools only and facilitated construction of self-help simple latrine at household levels. When closing the year 1159 simple pit latrines with hand washing facilities were constructed and are in use. 7,073 (2,998m and 4,075f) individuals have access to these latrines.

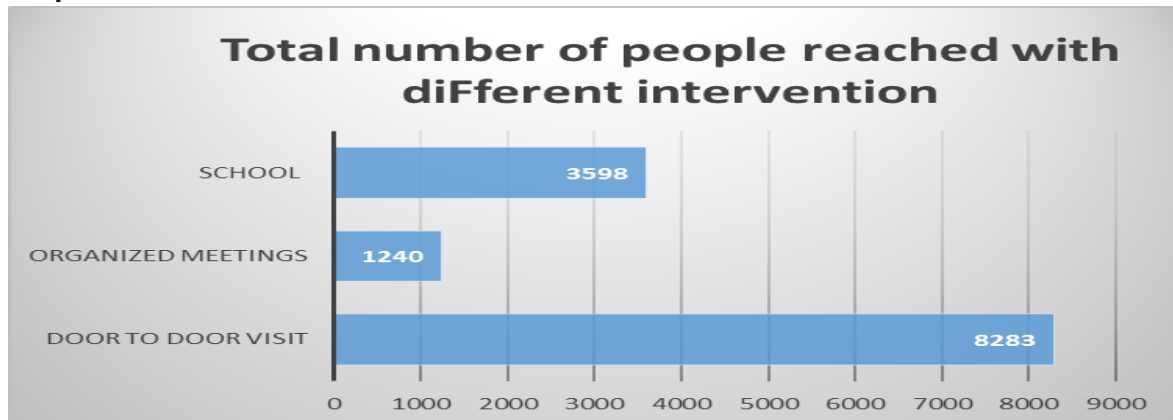
#### **Hygiene and nutrition**

COPRED conducted awareness meetings on the importance of good home and body hygiene in the targeted community through the trained wash committee members with close

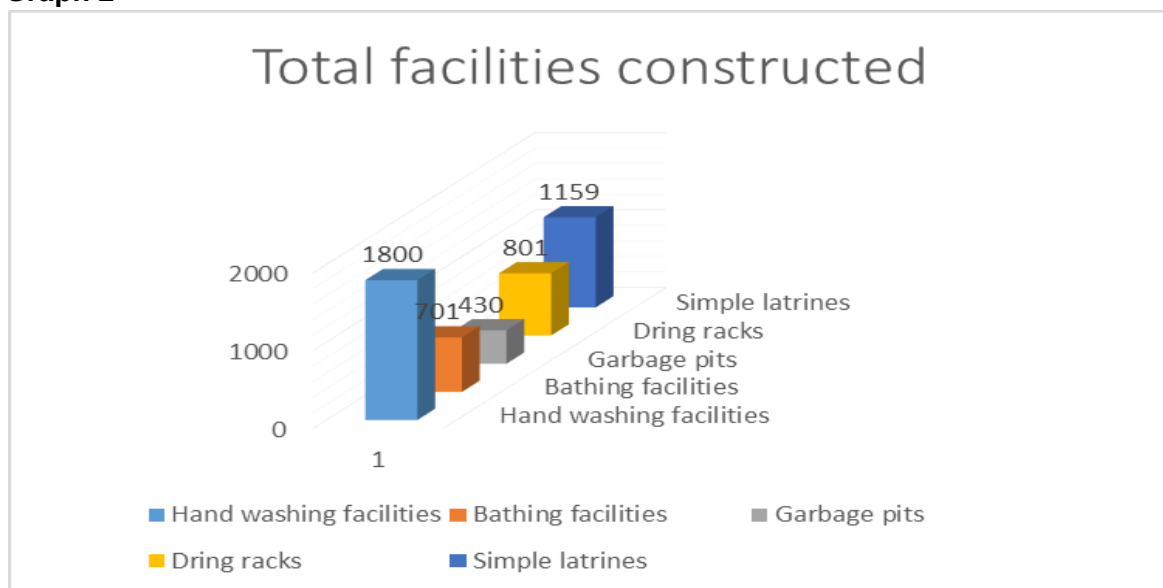
supervision of COPRED staff in conjunction with HSAs. The meetings were done through one on one, small groups and self-organize gatherings. The groups have been reached with different messages on hygiene and sanitation and prevention of WASH related disease which includes Cholera outbreak and COVID-19 prevention measures. The project has proven that the community grabs the messages and are able to practise them by constructing self-help hygiene facilities within their reach.

The graph below shows the number of people reached per intervention and types hygiene facilities constructed as a result of the sessions;

Graph 1



Graph 2



This graph implies that, one on one intervention is good strategy for behaviour and attitude change towards hygiene and sanitation and also it always give the sound data which can be traced over a period.

COPRED procured and distributed COVID-19 PPEs to staff and volunteers that included ECD caregivers as part of their job Aid. This was done in Mwanza and Blantyre Districts. This was to ensure that all COVID-19 and Cholera preventive measures are in place when carrying out activities to the targeted communities. The COVID-19 PPEs distributed were 500 face masks/shield, 3,000 tablets of soap for staff and community volunteers, 200 bottles

of hand sanitizer for staff and community volunteers, 200 tapped water containers and 200 kilograms of disinfectant (chlorine) for vulnerable households. COPRED also supported 754 girls with sanitary kits comprising of sanitary-pads and 4 tablets of laundry soap. Pain killer tablets were also included to manage menstrual pain. This support was to assist the girls to sufficiently manage their menstrual hygiene while in schools as they are increasing their self-esteem, school attendance and good performance.

On top that, COPRED supported 12 ECD centers with food materials targeting 1580 center-based children with gender distribution of 738 boys and 842 girls. The support relieved the children during the lean period as most of the ECD centers run out of food stock due to poor harvest of 2021-2022 cropping season due to cyclone Ana. This prevented center-based children from malnutrition. Additionally, 21 females on ART treatment and 56 malnourished children received nutrition supplement food basket comprising of maize, pulses, super cereal and vegetable oil as their nutrition supplement for drug adherence and good health. On top of that, COPRED facilitated low cost cooking nutrition sessions through 60 cooking clubs which act as platform for sharing knowledge on good nutrition practices and skills about preparation of varied food recipes by using local food available materials.

#### **Major project achievements/ accomplishments.**

- Two (2) boreholes drilled in Faiti and Kamdende villages in in T.As Kanduku and Nthache in Mwanza District.
- Six (6) boreholes rehabilitated in in Chilaweni Area under GVH Malunga in T.A Machinjiri, Blantyre District.
- Twelve (12) double doors VIP latrines constructed in primary schools and ECD centers respectively serving a total of 964 children.
- 3732 WASH facilities have been constructed that includes hand washing stations, bathing facilities dry rackets and garbage pits.
- 588 individuals accessed sanitation facilities.
- 1159 simple pit-latrines have been constructed and functional to enhance sanitation among the targeted households and 6109 individuals are now having access to improved sanitation facilities.
- 1000 banana sackers and 4000 forest tree seedlings and 700 fruit tree seedlings for planting around water points and water catchments to promote conservation.
- 791 participating households benefited and planted fruit trees around their homestead to support food security, nutrition and income generation after fruits sales
- 77 individuals which are on ART treatment got nutrition supplementary food basket comprising of maize, pulses, super cereal and vegetable oil.
- 12 ECD centers supported with food materials targeting 1580 center-based children with gender distribution of 738 boys and 842 girls.
- 994 households established backyard gardens.
- 758 girls supported with menstrual kits.

#### **Project impact/outcomes**

- Increased knowledge and awareness to school children and adults from households surrounding the ECD centers in health and hygiene related information (food, water, environment, HIV/AIDS, COVID-19 and Cholera outbreak) and that leading to adaptation of good hygiene practices at the household and community levels.
- Increased access to safe, clean and adequate water for domestic use by drilled 2 boreholes and rehabilitated 6 boreholes and trained surrounding communities in water treatment.

- Increased availability, access and use of hygiene and sanitation facilities by constructing 12 sponsored double doors VIP toilets, refuse pits, dish racks and hand washing systems in order to prevent life-threatening opportunistic infections that are caused by exposure to unsafe drinking water, inadequate sanitation, and poor hygiene for the targeted ECD centers, primary schools and vulnerable households surrounding ECD centers.
- Reduced malnutrition among center-based ECD children, 21 females on ART treatment and 56 malnourished children through provision of nutrition supplement food baskets

#### **Project challenges.**

- Difficulties to access other areas due to poor road network due to road cuts as well as washed away of stone on the drifts.
- Unstable prices of goods and services at the market
- The flash floods and water lodging, causes massive damage of WASH facilities, ECD centre infrastructures and damaged food and feeding utensils.
- The devaluation of Kwacha has contributed to price hike of commodities and other essential services.
- Reduced harvest due to inadequate rainfall and the impact of cyclone Anna destroyed available sources of livelihoods resulting in rendering the households destitute with no assets which they can easily convert and increased weight loss due to inadequate uptake of balanced food required for increased ART drug absorption.
- Inadequate food mostly in households headed by women and children that are taking ART, some pregnant and breastfeeding due to low harvest and inadequate sources of income is preventing them continue with ART/TB treatment.
- High cost of farm inputs is also a contributing factor which will be leading malnutrition as most of the targeted beneficiaries are unable to buy the farm-inputs for application in their various gardens in order to be food secured.

#### **Project recommendations**

- There is need for the community members to be embarked on irrigation farming to fighting for malnutrition as the rain-fed cropping are affected by climate change

#### **Lesson learnt**

- Provision of psychosocial support enables affected families to gain confidence and resumed to their daily activities and willingly to re-install damaged WASH facilities
- Availability of food at individual household level is a key to drug adherence as this was revealed during distribution of supplementary food to people on ART/TB treatment.
- When providing menstrual kit to girl child, for girls to sufficiently manage their menstrual hygiene while in school pain killers must be included as most of girls excused themselves from classes to due menstrual pain.

### **1.2. COPRED – Egmont Trust Fund partnership.**

With funding from Egmont Trust COPRED has been providing services to the communities based in Mwanza, Blantyre and Neno districts under the project titled OVC Support and Household Safety-net Strengthening Scale-Up Project the project is being implemented in villages of group village head (GVH) Masokosa and Ziyaya in Mwanza and Nkhukuteni village situated under GVH Mwamadi in Mpingwe peri-urban and GVH Malunga namely Gwaladi, Daniel, Malunga, Kaliati. Mwazanga, Makwerani, Ching'ombe, Masajiri, Solobala and Chiumbulu in T/A Machinjiri in Blantyre city and council. The project aims at improving

the quality of life for 2080 individuals (1165f and 915m) by providing them with responsive care services delivered through home-based and family centred approach. It also encourages families to send their children to ECD centres to access services for improving early learning and stimulation. The project strengthened household economic situation by engaging households in small scale businesses using VSL as a model for generating capital for business set up.

COPRED facilitated the rehabilitation of OVC homes, at the end of the year and 21 houses have been rehabilitated. 63 (26 boys and 37 girls) OVCs in secondary schools were supported with school fees and uniform. COPRED trained 132 mentor mothers to support adolescent girls on how to produce reusable menstrual pads for managing menstrual hygiene. The trained mentor mothers produced 1826 reusable sanitary pads which were produced and distributed to 344 adolescent girls.

During the period, COPRED supported 30 ECD centres with play, teaching and learning materials. COPRED facilitated the development of play learning and teaching materials for play-based learning that promotes early stimulation and early learning for school readiness to 30 ECD centers, with the enrollment of 1,625 children (774 boys and 851girls) and by age categories of 963 (411m and 552f) are children aged 3 – 3.9 years, 358 (173m and 185f) are children aged 4 – 5years and 304 (148m and 156) are children aged 5 - 6 years in Blantyre, Neno and Mwanza districts.

Furthermore, the project established 30 children corners from which psychosocial support and memory work related activities delivered. During the period, 30 children corners were strengthened and are championing in provision of psychosocial support at children meetings at the ECD centers after classes as they are working hard in schools and their behavior have changed both at home and school like respecting elders and working hard at school. At the reporting period, 548 OVC in primary school have been supported with scholastic materials and these has reduced stigma and discrimination as the materials brought equity among children because the spirit of being minority in the schools has been eradicated due to the uniforms provided. On top of that, COPRED strengthened 20 child protection committees, one in each targeted village to oversee child protection and safeguarding issues.

COPRED realises that good nutrition is imperative for optimal mental and physical development, learning and school performance. In response, the project provided 83 OVCs with monthly food basket.

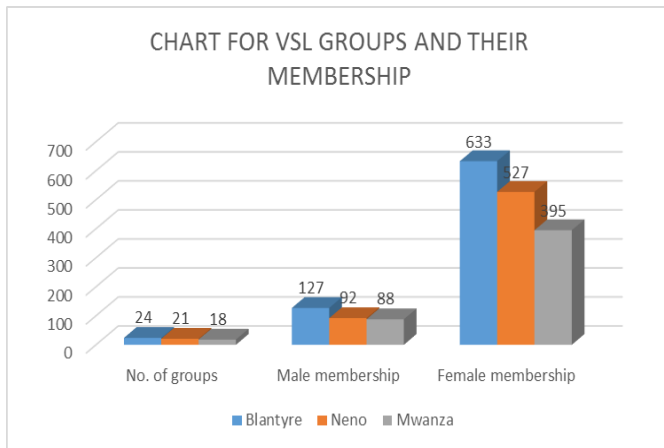
On top of that; the project supported 278 households to establish backyard gardens using low cost crop production by providing them with OFSP variety, Banana sackers and Moringa tree seedlings and they have been equipped in water harvesting technologies in order for them to maintain household nutrition status. They have also been linked to established 18 cooking clubs to continue learning family nutrition through cooking demonstration using the locally available food materials. Above all COPRED supported 5 ECD centres, with farm-inputs comprising 50kgs urea, 50kgs 23:21:0+4S fertilizers, 10kgs of maize seeds for them to plant in order to support children which are on the feeding program.

COPRED mobilized willing community members and formed Village Saving and Loan (VSL) groups. The group's membership ranges from twenty to twenty-five people per group and each group have elected its leadership committee headed by the chairperson and other members of the committee such as secretary, treasure and three cashiers responsible for counting money when members are buying shares and repaying loans during their meetings.

## **Household economic strengthening through Village Savings and Loan schemes**



When closing the period, the project registered and served 1862 people (307m and 1555f), drawn from 64 business groups situated in Blantyre, Neno and Mwanza districts. The project established 24 groups in Blantyre with 760 registered members (127 male and 633 female), in Neno there are 21 groups with a membership of 619 people (92 male and 527 female).and in Mwanza there are 18 groups with a membership of 483 people (88male and 395female).



To serve the targeted beneficiaries, COPRED undertook the following main activities:

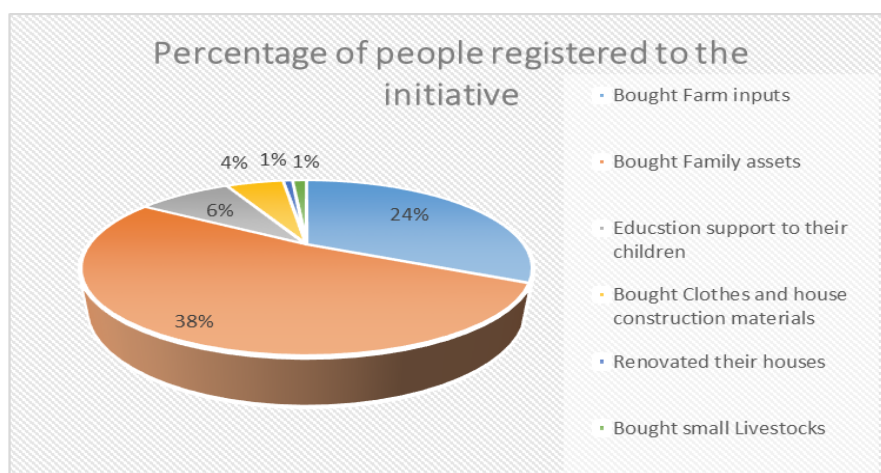
- Hold mobilization meeting to introduce village-based economic empowerment using VSL.
- 90 VSL members (25m and 65f) were trained in financial and business literacy, finance management and investment planning of which 14 were VSL promoters and 76 were chairpersons and treasures of VSL groups.
- Assisting VSL groups to produce rules, regulations and procedures for managing their VSL groups.
- Training VSL members (chairperson, secretaries and committee members) in governance and group dynamics.
- Train VSL promoters in basic financial literacy, finance management and investment planning.
- Support participating groups to establishing small business.
- Conducting field supervisory and mentorship visits to all 63 VSL groups.
- Members of VSL group of who benefited start-up capital through revolving loan fund to strengthen their capacity to competitively engage in profitable businesses and are able to support their families have improved their monthly share from Mk2,000.00 (US\$1.94) to Mk6,000.00 (US\$5.83)

In the year, 1052 VSL members are running small scale business which enable them to support their families to acquire food, kitchen utensils, buying school uniform for their children, paying school fees for their children and investing into farming.

**The following are remarkable results achieved from VSL member's businesses:**

- 439 VSL members have been investing into farming through farm-inputs which enable them feeding their families.
- 714 VSL members have accumulated family assets
- 119 VSL members are investing into the education of their children
- 73 VSL members have bought clothes, iron sheets and mold bricks in readiness of constructing houses.
- 12 VSL members renovated their houses
- 18 VSL members have purchased livestock.

- VSL members have developed a saving culture.



This graph implies that the initiative enables members to accumulate family assets as it represents 38% of beneficiaries registered to the initiative and farm input to ensure that their household have food sufficient for feeding their families. However, there is need to invest much on asset creation like raising of small livestock's which they can easier be converted in times of need.

#### Challenges encountered

- High prices of commodities due to inflation of Malawi Kwacha as the prices are not stable at the market affects their businesses which are leading to a loss which may resulted in low share in to their groups and the figure of businesses might drop
- Low community participation in OVC homes rehabilitation as they were busy rehabilitating their houses destroyed by the cyclone Ana.
- Only few mother group members have the skill on how to use sawing machine to produce quality sanitary pad
- Unsustainable way of food support to ECD centres, affects centres based ECD activities.

#### LESSON LEARNT

Availability and utilization of WASH facilities is a key in prevention of WASH related diseases as this was proven during cholera outbreak.

## 2.0. ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### 2.1. About the Organization

Community Partnership for Relief and Development - COPRED is a local Malawian NGO, focused in its efforts to complement Government policy of poverty eradication and mitigation against HIV/AIDS pandemic. The organization was founded in August 2000 and got registered as *The Registered Trustee of Community Partnership for Relief and Development* (COPRED) under the registered Trustee Incorporations Act 5:03 of the Laws of Malawi (Registration #: TR/INC/1591) as an NGO in April 2003. The organization is also a registered member of Malawi Network of AIDS Service Organizations (MANASO); Network for Organization caring for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (NOVOC); Palliative Care Association of Malawi (PACAM) and The Permaculture Association of Malawi additionally, COPRED is an active member of District Development Executive Committee (DEC) of Blantyre District and City councils, Mwanza and Neno District councils.

### **Mission Statement**

To sustainably improve the livelihoods of the societies most disadvantaged groups especially women and children.

### **Vision Statement**

Towards creating a knowledgeable and empowered community that is able to identify, plan and solve own problems and actively and tirelessly contribute to national development through the on-going community development cycles.

## **2.2. Development Program Areas of Concentration**

COPRED's development-aid delivery strategy is by way of integration and is guided by the mission and vision statements as provided below. Since 2004, COPRED has been implementing community development programme contained in a development package entitled Sustainable Livelihoods Development Program (SLDP) that has six (6) program sectors (components) which are as follows;

1. HIV prevention, care and support
2. Early Childhood Development (ECD)
3. Food and Nutrition Security (production and relief)
4. Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (Integrated in the three above)
5. Agri-Enterprise development using VSL approach
6. Natural resources Management for Climate Adaptation and Mitigation
7. Social Accountability through public resource utilization and service delivery tracking

Therefore, the organizational goal and mission presents a direct commitment by the organization as it continues to support and complement the efforts of the Government of Malawi for it to realize its vision of improving the quality of life and livelihoods of its citizens. This vision can be achieved if; the citizens are able to produce enough food for consumption and sale, have assets as a back-up future safety-net, have access to clean water, are able to read and write and are free from diseases including HIV/AIDS. This program's activities are carefully designed to directly contribute to achievements of National HIV/AIDS Frameworks, National OVC Policy, National Policy on Agriculture, National Environmental Policy, National Food and Nutrition Policy and above all the Malawi Growth Development Strategy (MGDS).

## **2.3. Development Objectives**

COPRED is guided by the following five (5) overarching development objectives;

1. To increase knowledge on SRHR in prevention and behaviour change targeting 95% of the sexually active aged 10 to 60 years through provision of interactive HIV infection prevention activities, HTC services, correct and consistent use of condoms, consistent uptake of ART and other integrated support services in the targeted catchments.
2. To contribute towards the promotion of early childhood development by creating safe and child-friendly environment as a requirement for enhancing their physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive development and protection from all forms of abuse and neglect targeting 95% of children aged 0 to 8 years in the targeted catchments.
3. Increase availability and access to safe, clean and adequate water for domestic use by increasing and improving water points through rehabilitation of existing and drilling/sinking new water points while promoting availability and use hygiene and sanitation facilities and practices to 95% of household in the targeted catchments.
4. To attain food, economic and nutrition security status of 95% of the targeted households by enhancing their participation in the sustainable management of natural resources and

the environment through community-led climate change mitigation and adaptation self-help initiatives as a basis for creating sustainable livelihoods.

5. To facilitate processes leading to elimination of traditional and bureaucratic barriers, all forms of gender-based violence and imbalances that undermine active participation and contribution of women and men to individual and community development.

#### 2.4. Geographical and Beneficiaries Coverage

COPRED development work is being done in 51 villages under twenty three (6) group village headmen (GVH) namely Kanduku, Ziyaya, Nthache Mwamadi, Malunga and Chikalema falling under the four (4) traditional authorities (T/As) Dambe in Neno District, Kanduku and Nthache in Mwanza district and Machinjiri in Blantyre District.

#### 3.0. ANNUAL RESULTS AGAINST PLANNED PROGRAM TARGETS BY COMPONENT.

- 3.1 To increase knowledge on SRHR in prevention and behaviour change targeting 95% of the sexually active aged 10 to 60 years through provision of interactive HIV infection prevention activities, HTC services, correct and consistent use of condoms, consistent uptake of ART and other integrated support services in the targeted catchments.

##### 3.1.1. HIV Prevention Education

During the period COPRED is being working with 4 HIV testing centres in 4 health facilities and recruited 72 expert clients to facilitate client tracing and support re-engagement to bring back to treatment care of those that stopped treatment. Additionally, 77 individuals on ART treatment; 21 females and 56 malnourished children received nutrition supplement food basket comprising of maize, pulses, super cereal and vegetable oil as their nutrition supplement. This package helped the infected individuals to have proper drug absorption and at the same time have their healthy improved which in turn lead to developed and healthy families. On top of that, project beneficiaries have continuously been sensitized on the benefits of HIV testing and locations where HIV testing services are available. Promoting couple testing as a vital tool for improved family relations and family planning and care; the message highlighted many advantages that goes along with it; some of which were: understanding of HIV test results, reduced blame, domestic violence and stigma when one tested positive, as the couple is provided with first-hand information from the counsellors.

Gender based violence (GBV) messages were also emphasized to address triggers of gender-based violence which occurring in many families more especially women. It is against this background that COPRED embarked on family tolerance advocacy through focus groups and model fathers' groups. The project is therefore encouraging project beneficiaries to jointly plan with their spouses and budget together money raised from VSL being a venture into their small businesses and sales of their produce.

- 3.2 **To contribute towards the promotion of early childhood development by creating safe and child-friendly environment as a requirement for enhancing their physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive development and protection from all forms of abuse and neglect targeting 95% of children aged 0 to 8 years in the targeted catchments.**

### 3.2.1 Early Childhood Development – (ECD)

When closing the period, COPRED supported 30 ECD centres with play, teaching and learning materials. COPRED facilitated the development of play learning and teaching materials for play-based learning that promotes early stimulation and early learning for school readiness to 30 ECD centers with the enrollment of 1,625 children (774 boys and 851 girls) and by age categories of 963 (411m and 552f) are children aged 3 – 3.9 years, 358 (173m and 185f) are children aged 4 – 5 years and 304 (148m and 156) are children aged 5 - 6 years in Blantyre, Neno and Mwanza districts. Out of the figure 1580 center-based children with gender distribution of 738 boys and 842 girls. Benefited through ECD center-based feeding program.



Furthermore, the project established 30 children corners from which psychosocial support and memory work related activities delivered. During the period, 30 children corners were strengthened and are championing in provision of psychosocial support at children meetings at the ECD centers after classes as they are working hard in schools and their behavior have changed both at home and school like respecting elders and working hard at school.

At the reporting period, 548 OVC in primary school have been supported with scholastic materials and these has reduced stigma and discrimination as the materials brought equity among children because the spirit of being minority in schools has been eradicated due to the uniforms provided and 28 (11 boys and 17 girls) secondary school most needy OVC with fees, uniform, scholastic materials, and menstrual hygiene kits for most needy girls. Above all, COPRED strengthened 20 child protection committees, one in each targeted village to oversee child protection and safeguarding issues.



### 3.3 Increase availability and access to safe, clean and adequate water for domestic use by increasing and improving water points through rehabilitation of existing and drilling/sinking new water points while promoting availability and use hygiene and sanitation facilities and practices to 95% of household in the targeted catchments.

#### 3.3.1 Water, Hygiene and Sanitation

During the reporting period, COPRED drilled 2 boreholes at Kamdende and Faiti villages in T.As Kanduku and Nthache in Mwanza District and also rehabilitated 6 boreholes in Chilaweni area under GVH Malunga in T.A Machinjiri, Blantyre District. All the surrounding households have been trained in water treatment to reduce water borne diseases. The boreholes drilled are providing safe and clean water to 551 households and 2 early childhood development centres. Additionally COPRED planted 1000 banana suckers, 4000 forest tree seedlings and 700 fruit tree seedlings for planting around water points and water catchments to promote water conservation in the catchment areas. These seedlings have been distributed to 791 participating households for planting around their homestead to support food security, nutrition and income generation after fruit sales



Improved access to clean water through drilling and rehabilitation of boreholes Kamdende Village in Mwanza

### Sanitation and Hygiene

During last year, COPRED constructed 14 VIP latrines aiming at reducing the ratio of pupils to latrines in the school both in ECD centers and Primary schools only and facilitated construction of self-help simple latrine at household levels. When closing the year 1159 simple pit latrines with hand washing facilities were constructed and are in use. 7,073 (2,998m and 4,075f) individuals have access to these latrines.



COPRED also supported 754 girls with sanitary kit comprising of sanitary-pads and 4 tablets of laundry soap. Pain killer tablets were also included to manage menstrual pain. This support was simply provided to assist the girls to sufficiently manage their menstrual hygiene while in schools as they are increasing their self-esteem, school attendance and good performance.



### COVID-19

COPRED procured and distributed COVID-19 PPEs to staff and volunteers that includes ECD caregivers as part of their job Aid. This was done in Mwanza and Blantyre Districts just to ensure that all COVID-19 and Cholera preventive measures are in place when carrying out activities to the targeted communities. The COVID-19 PPEs distributed were 500 face

masks/shield, 3,000 tablets of soap for staff and community volunteers, 200 bottles of hand sanitizer for staff and community volunteers, 200 tapped water containers and 200 kilograms of disinfectant (chlorine) for vulnerable households. 1306 households received chlorine sanitizer in prevention of COVID-19 and Cholera translating to 6418 individuals with gender distribution of 4791 females and 1627 males have using treated water sanitizer in prevention of COVID-19 and Cholera

**3.4 To attain food, economic and nutrition security status of 95% of the targeted households by enhancing their participation in the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment through community-led climate change mitigation and adaptation self-help initiatives as a basis for creating sustainable livelihoods.**

Additionally, 77 individuals on ART treatment; 21 females and 56 malnourished children received nutrition supplement food basket comprising of maize, pulses, super cereal and vegetable oil as their nutrition supplement. This package helped the infected individuals to have proper drug absorption and at the same time have their healthy improved which in turn lead to developed and healthy families.

COPRED also realises that good nutrition is imperative for optimal mental and physical development, learning and school performance. In response, the project provided 83 OVC with monthly food basket. The support to the most vulnerable PLIHV OVC households enabled them to fight the abuse and exploitation due to hunger in the lean season and their nutrition wealth status has been maintained and increased productivity in jobs requiring manual labour.



On top of that; the project supported 278 households to establish backyard gardens using low cost crop production by providing them with OFSP variety, Banana sackers and Moringa tree seedlings and equipped in water harvesting technologies in order to maintain household members nutrition status; additionally, they are also linked to established 18 cooking clubs to continue learning family nutrition through cooking demonstration using the locally available food materials. Above all COPRED supported 5 ECD centres, with farm-inputs comprising 50kgs urea, 50kgs 23:21:0+4S fertilizers, 10kgs maize for planting to support children under the support with feeding program

COPRED facilitated the establishment of backyard gardens to 994 households. COPRED also conducted cooking demonstration through its established cooking groups by using easy-to-find high nutritive food materials and easy to make recipes and when closing the year total of 91 cooking demonstration sessions were conducted.



COPRED also in conjunction with the communities planted 1000 banana suckers, 4000 forest tree seedlings and 700 fruit tree seedlings for planting around water points and water catchments to promote soil and water conservation in the catchment areas. These seedlings have been distributed to 791 participating households for planting around their homestead to support food security, nutrition and income generation after fruit sales.

When closing the period, the project registered and served 1862 people (307m and 1555f), drawn from 64 business groups situated in Blantyre, Neno and Mwanza districts. The project established 24 groups in Blantyre with 760 registered members (127 male and 633 female), in Neno there are 21 groups with a membership of 619 people (92 male and 527 female).and in Mwanza there are 18 groups with a membership of 483 people (88male and 395female).

To serve the targeted beneficiaries, COPRED undertaken the following main activities:

- Hold mobilization meetings to introduce village-based economic empowerment using VSL.
- 90 VSL members (25m and 65f) were trained in financial and business literacy, finance management and investment planning of which 14 were VSL promoters and 76 were chairpersons and treasures of VSL groups.
- Assisting VSL groups to produce rules, regulations and procedures for managing their VSL groups.
- Training VSL members (chairperson, secretaries and committee members) in governance and group dynamics.
- Train VSL promoters in basic financial literacy, finance management and investment planning.
- Support participating groups to establishing small business.
- Conducting field supervisory and mentorship visits to all 63 VSL groups.
- Members of VSL group who benefited start-up capital through revolving loan fund to strengthen their capacity to competitively engage in profitable businesses and are able to support their families have improved their monthly share from Mk2,000.00 (US\$1.94) to Mk6,000.00 (US\$5.83)

In the year, 1052 VSL members are running small scale business which enable them to support their families to acquire food, kitchen utensils, buying school uniform for their children, paying school fees for their children and investing into farming.

**The following are remarkable results achieved from VSL member's businesses:**

- 439 VSL members have been investing into farming through farm-inputs which enable them feeding their families.
- 714 VSL members have accumulated family assets



- 119 VSL members are investing into the education of their children
- 73 VSL members have bought clothes, iron sheets and mold bricks in readiness of constructing houses.
- 12 VSL members renovated their houses
- 18 VSL members have purchased livestock.
- VSL members have developed a saving culture.

COPRED registered and served 1862 people (307m and 1555f), drawn from 64 business groups situated in Blantyre, Neno and Mwanza districts. The project established 24 groups in Blantyre with 760 registered members (127 male and 633 female), in Neno there are 21 groups with a membership of 619 people (92 male and 527 female).and in Mwanza there are 18 groups with a membership of 483 people (88male and 395female).

### **3.5 To facilitate processes leading to elimination of traditional and bureaucratic barriers, all forms of gender-based violence and imbalances that undermine active participation and contribution of women and men to individual and community development.**

Gender based violence (GBV) messages were also emphasized to address triggers of gender-based violence which occurring in many families more especially women. It is against this background that COPRED embarked on family tolerance advocacy through focus groups and model fathers' groups. The project is therefore sensitizing project beneficiaries to report GBV cases Police or NGOs that provide legal services.

## **4.0. DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS MANAGEMENT**

### **4.1. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**

#### **4.1.1. Projects Planning**

It is COPRED's policy to involve key community representatives in the annual planning of all organizational development projects which is done at the end or the beginning of each year. At this meeting communities present their desired project plans that are developed at their respective communities, the plans are later consolidated to form COPRED annual work plan for budgeting and submission to the organizations' development partners for funding. Some of the good example of community participation is where selected village and community action committee members and their village chiefs actively participated at the organizational capacity assessment workshop and where COPRED transferred the responsibility to organize and implementation of community AIDS commemoration celebrations and selection of most needy beneficiary to receive seed goat and farm inputs.

#### **4.1.2. Projects Implementation**

Since communities fully participate in the project planning and formulation processes at all program levels, implementation becomes easier for them as they are in control of the implementation plans and are aware of the available finances allocated to each planned project activity as contained in the annual and quarterly work plans. The communities are required to report on monthly basis to COPRED on the activities implemented, this helps the beneficiaries to take lead in implementation and monitoring of the results.

#### **4.1.3. Projects Monitoring and evaluation**

Monitoring and Evaluation is an on-going activity that is done on weekly, monthly and quarterly basis. This is jointly conducted with the elected leadership in the targeted communities and is done through field visits, monthly progress review meetings, quarterly

stakeholders' meetings, exhibitions and field learning visits. The implementation of development activities always start with annual planning meeting at which projects are presented and agreed by all community representatives, because of this involvement and participation in planning project monitoring becomes a responsibility of all involved parties and therefore improves the programming as resulting from constant feedback that the organization receive at the M&E meetings. The M&E meetings are target group focused or general group focused depending on the available issues or topics to be discussed.

## **5.0 MAJOR CHALLENGES/CONSTRAINTS AND SOLUTIONS FOUND**

### **5.1 Data Quality Issues**

In adequate understanding on issues of data quality among staff, especially documenting relevant data and tracking data sources compromises the organizations' ability to maintain verifiable data and develop credible reports. Main data quality challenges encountered included the following;

- Poor filling by the community management committee
- Inconsistence of volunteer data review meetings due to inadequate resources.

## **6.0 BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNT**

### **6.1 Best Practices**

Project volunteers are equipped in all project aspects such as one volunteer can be trained on WASH, ECD, VSL or mentor mother and lead composite manure facilitator.

### **6.2 Lessons Learnt**

Availability of food at individual household level is a key to drug adherence as this was revealed during distribution of supplementary food to people on ART/TB treatment.

When providing menstrual kit to girl child, for girls to sufficiently manage their menstrual hygiene while in school pain killers must be included as most of girls excused themselves from classes to due menstrual pain.

### **6.3 Future Plans**

- To mobilize more resources for geographical coverage expansion.

## **7.0 MONITORING AND DOCUMENTATION**

COPRED M&E plan include monthly staff planning meetings which are preceded by weekly field supervisory visits, monthly progress review meetings, and establishment of demonstration sites and learning field visits to other similar project areas. During implementation of field visits, information is collected to be used for:

- Providing continuous feedback on project implementation and identify potential successes and problems as early as possible to allow for timely adjustments to project operations;
- Evaluating the effectiveness (outcomes) of the project;
- Achieving accountability with targeted community and district stakeholders to facilitate reporting on progress towards achieving expected results to all development partners;
- Documenting and disseminate success stories;

### **7.1 Data Management and Reporting**

Data management and reporting is the direct responsibility of COPRED's program Coordinator who work jointly with program staff and the staff leads in conducting meetings to solicit community views for program design and remind them of their roles on the existing program strategies and implementation modalities to ensure compliance with the signed agreements and attainment of their development needs. COPRED uses standardized data

collection tools that were pre-tested using participatory review processes, and accordingly modified based on feedback from the pre-testing exercise. The M&E tools consist of:

- Register guides
- Home visit and supervisory checklists
- Monthly and quarterly statistical report forms.
- Participation registration forms

## **7.2 Information Sharing and Feedback**

COPRED still continue through progress review meetings to disseminate information with its stakeholders to share comparative progress news, lessons learned and best practices for replication. This is done at monthly community meetings, quarterly stakeholders' progress review meetings and DEC meetings to assess progress of the project and also to share experiences on achievements, challenges/constraints and lessons learned. Participants also review meetings in areas of beneficiary representatives, community leaders, key relevant government departments and other organizations that are operating within the catchment areas where COPRED is implementing its developmental programs.

## **8.0 ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **8.1 Organizational Capacity Development**

COPRED is enjoying continued and fruitful partnership with Egmont Trust and Blood Water organizations which are financially supporting COPRED's various project activities in the catchment areas. These partnerships have benefited the organization quite a lot and helped it to realize its vision with ease and pride. COPRED redo self-assessment on organisation strengthening and redeveloped Institutional Development Framework (IDF) organized by Blood Water Mission.

### **8.2 Staffing**

COPRED has 13 employees on its payroll 9 program and 4 administrative staff. There are 8 male and 5 female employees by gender. In order for the staff to effectively deliver quality services, COPRED partners provided support that enabled the organization to send its staff to various trainings that exposed them to new knowledge, new skills, new thinking that resulted in improved service delivery, improved management practice and ability to work as a team.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE of Community Partnership for Relief and Development (COPRED)**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

