

# MANAD NEWSLETTER

MALAWI NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

Published with support from Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland and Finnish Association of the Deaf



**MID-YEAR  
HIGHLIGHTS  
FOR THE 2024**

# WORDS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I feel greatly humbled and honored to present to you our mid-year 2024 newsletter.

This newsletter is enables us to reflect on our work in many ways. It also provide you our valuable stakeholders, readers and supporters an opportunity to suggest ways in which we can serve the deaf population better.

As you can see through the articles in this publication we work like race where winning is more important than finishing. Winning entails see things before our view point to bring change through meaningful and effective participation of our members in all social activities and protecting their rights. It is my hope many people from disbeliefs into action and from action into better action.

My sincerely thanks should goes to all MANAD project staff and board members for working tirelessly towards achieving our goals.

Vote of the thanks should also go to the Published with support from Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA) and Finnish Association of the Deaf (FAD) for their funding through the sign language dictionary project that has made possible the publication of this mid-year newsletter.

Our other developing partners save the children, the government of Malawi, FEDOMA, MA-CODA , world vision international and the media all deserves a pat at the back for their unwavering support that has enabled us to make a difference in the lives of many deaf people throughout Malawi.

Hope this newsletter will enrich and strength our connections with you all.

»» Byson Chimenya

## OPDs EMPOWERED ON GIRLS AND WOMEN RIGHTS

MANAD participated in the human rights and gender disability meeting held at Grace Bandawe Conference Center in Blantyre, the meeting was scheduled for 2 days 11 and 12 March 2023.

During the day 1 of the meeting the MANAD Women and youth coordinator shared a brief overview of deaf and deafness. In her presentation she outlined some of the major issues that causes a person to become deaf where as others are born deaf and others acquire the disability through accidents, diseases etc she also included the major chal-

lenges deaf people face in their everyday life such as communication challenges. The discussions further proceeded into gender and disability where issues of gender equality and equal participation of women and girls with disabilities towards all opportunities was concerned.

Women and girls with disabilities lag behind when comes to issues of gender based violence hence there is a need for the OPDs to empower women and girls with disabilities to speak up whenever they face dis-

crimination of any kind.

Day 2 in session where as the OPDs are discussing the conventions of the rights of the people with disabilities whereas major issues such as attitudes, communication, accessibility and policy are some of the major barriers that the people with disability face everyday.

## WORLD HEARING DAY

MANAD took part in the World Hearing Day 2024 event at Mulunguzi Secondary School in Zomba on 1st March 2024. World Hearing Day is observed every year on 3rd March, which is a public holiday in



Malawi. This year, the theme was "Changing Mindsets:

Let's Make Ear and Hearing Care a Reality for All!" At the event, both Deaf and hearing people showcased various activities. MANAD provided information

about the Malawian Sign Language Dictionary and other digital books.

## Save the Children conducted training sessions in Mangochi



wish for her daughter to receive support with hearing gadgets, which would further enhance her communication abilities.

Zakeyu Mwase, the coordinator of Save the Children's Strengthening Disability

Save the Children recognizes the importance of parental involvement in a child's life and acknowledges the communication difficulties faced by parents of deaf children. To address this issue, Save the Children is conducting training sessions for 250 parents/guardians of deaf children and both special needs and mainstream teachers in basic Malawian sign language in Mangochi, Ntcheu, Neno, Dedza and Zomba.

This week, the training sessions are being held in the Mangochi district, targeting parents, guardians, and special needs teachers.

One participant, Suzen Sululu, a 32-year-old mother of a 15-year-

old deaf girl, expressed her appreciation for the initiative. She shared that understanding her daughter, who is both deaf and unable to speak, had been extremely challenging. Previously, when her daughter returned from school, she would attempt to convey what she had learned, but Suzen couldn't comprehend. However, after just two days of joining the training, their communication has significantly improved, bringing her immense joy.

Suzen also expressed her

Inclusive project, emphasized that the deaf awareness and sign language training will not only enhance deaf children's participation in family life and school communities but also contribute to their academic achievements. The ultimate goal is to empower deaf children to lead successful, independent lives as they grow older.°

## MANAD MANY THANKS SCI



abilities, particularly the deaf community.

"MANAD initiated its interventions three decades ago, we are currently in all districts however, some in-

After a successful four-day training session organized by Save the Children in partnership with MANAD, both the parents/guardians of deaf children and special needs teachers received sign language dictionaries from Save the Children. A total of 400 dictionaries, valued at 6.2 Million Kwacha, were printed and distributed across various dis-

trictss including Neno, Mangochi, Zomba, Ntcheu, and Dedza.

During the training, Malonje Phiri, who is deaf and serves as the Acting Programs Officer for the Malawi National Association of the Deaf (MANAD), lauded Save the Children's efforts through the Strengthening Disability Inclusive Project in supporting individuals with dis-

interventions such as these training are not in all districts. We have always aimed to extend our reach to more districts, but due to financial challenges we have always failed. It was until 2023 that we began working with Save the Children. Despite working with them for a short period, we've already expanded our reach (training the parents/guardians and special needs teachers) to five districts," remarked Phiri.

"Save the Children has proven to be an exceptional partner, and we aspire to extend our assistance to the entirety of Malawi. However, to achieve this goal, we require continued support. We express our gratitude to Save the Children for providing these invaluable dictionaries," Phiri concluded.

## MANAD HELD MID-TERM REVIEW DELIBERATIONS



MANAD review facilitated internal assessment of the MANAD-Finish Association of the Deaf (FAD) project “Supporting Malawi National Association of the Deaf (MANAD) Organizational, Advocacy and Sign Language Work Capacities Phase II” was held in Salima from 28th-30th June 2024.

## MANAD TRAINED ON FRAUD AND CORRUPTION SAFEGUARDING



MANAD participated in a Training on fraud and corruption safeguarding.

This was organized by Save the Children for all its Partners. The training focused

on how organization can safeguard resources against misuse and how to report Fraudulent activities that leads to abuse of organization resources that may lead to loss of trust from donors amongst

others..

There were 9 partner organizations that work with Save The Children International and MANAD is one of them.

# BT POLICE TRAINS DEAF MEMBERS

On Saturday, 13th April 2024 Blantyre

Police Station conducted a training session for the Malawi National Association of the Deaf of Blantyre MANAD Dis-

trict regarding Gender Based Violence, held at HHI Primary School. The event was facilitated by Sergeant Zion Lapani and Sergeant Chifundo Namanja.

During the training, the facilitators emphasized the



importance of promptly reporting cases of Gender Based Violence encountered in the workplace, families, or in a psychological context to the nearest police station. They explained that immediate reporting can

help ensure that human rights violations are addressed and that victims receive the necessary assistance.

Sergeant Lapani encouraged all Deaf members to report any incidents of violence and to do so promptly at their nearest police station.

Rodrnick Kapatuka, a member who attended the training, expressed his gratitude for the efforts of the Blantyre Police Station officers. He stated, "I and

my friends are very happy with this training. We have learned a lot about Gender Based Violence and understand that if we face any violence, we should report it to the police station without hesitation."

# CHITIPA EQUIPED WITH LEADERSHIP SKILLS

The MANAD Secretariat and board chairperson finalized their tour in Chitipa where they sensitized the Chitipa deaf community and equipped them with leadership

skills. During the meeting, the information of Sign Language Dictionary was disseminated and at the end of the meeting the branch hosted their elections and elected the new

branch committee. The meeting was held in Chitipa on 6



## FAD AND MANAD HELD 2024 ANNUAL NEGOTIATION MEETING

Malawi National Association of the Deaf (MANAD) held their annual negotiation meeting with the Finish Association of the Deaf (FAD) from 4 March to 8 March 2024 in Blantyre at the MANAD Secretariat Office. During the meeting, FAD project manager Ossi Oinonen shared and discussed with Secretariat and the board the implementation of the action plan for the FAD project.



## KARONGA DEM RECEIVES MSL DICTIONARY

As a way of promoting Sign Language, The secretariat and the board chairperson also disseminated 4 copies of the MSL Dictionary to Chitipa District Education Manager's office (DEM) and through the DEM office the dictionaries set to support stu-

dents and the whole community in bridging the communication gap that is there.



## MANAD TRAIN DISTRICT LEADERS ON PSEAH

MANAD, with the financial and technical support from Finnish Association of the Deaf (FAD) is conducting Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment (PSEAH) training to 23 members of MANAD. Members come from 12 districts, mostly southern region. Most of them are youths and women. The training started on Saturday, 22nd



and will conclude on Monday, 24th June. Facilitators are from various professional backgrounds. An officer from Machinga District Hospital covered youth behav-

ior, teen pregnancy and reproductive health; another officer from Community Development within the District Council office taught members small business skill and village banking. Third facilitator was the police officer from Victim Support Unit. He taught members about gender based violence that is prevalent in communities and families. The Persons with Disabilities Act was unpacked and explained by the MANAD Programmes Officer. The final facilitator unpacked MANADs newly developed PSEAH Policy. This enabled members understand its contents ready to teach others members in their respective branches.



## **KA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF RECEIVED MORALE BOOSTER**

The secretariat and the board chairperson paid a surprise visit to Karonga School for the Deaf where they interacted with the deaf students and disseminated two copies of Malawian Sign Language Dictionary to the school. The team also motivated the students to pursue their studies regardless in order to have a better future.



## **KARONGA DISTRICT MEMBERS TRAINED ON LEADERSHIP**

The MANAD Secretariat and board chairperson with the financial support from Finish Association of the Deaf (FAD), had a meeting with the Karonga deaf community where they received the training on leadership and capacity strengthening. During the meeting, the information of Sign Language Dictionary was disseminated and at the end of the meeting the branch hosted their elections and elected the new branch committee.



## **RUMPHI DISTRICT ELECTS NEW OFFICE BEARERS**

The MANAD Secretariat and board chairperson with the financial support from Finish Association of the Deaf (FAD), had a meeting with the Rumphu branch members where they disseminated the information of the Sign Language Dictionary to the deaf community of Rumphu. During the meeting the members were trained on leadership skills at the end of the meeting the members casted their vote and elected the new branch and youth committees

**MZIMBA DISTRICT MEMBERS RECEIVED MSL DICTIONARY AND CAPACITY BUILDING TIPS**



MANAD Secretariat and board leaders with the financial support from Finish Association of the Deaf (FAD), proceeded and interact-

ed with the Mzimba branch members where they disseminated the information of the Sign Language Dictionary to the deaf community of Mzimba. During the

meeting the members were trained on leadership skills and capacity building and also conducted elections where the new Mzimba branch committee was elected.

**KASUNGU DISTRICT RECEIVE MSL DICTIONARY**



MANAD Secretariat

and board leaders interacted with the Kasungu branch

members. With financial support from the Finnish Association of the Deaf (FAD), MANAD is disseminating information on the Malawian Sign Language Dictionary among the deaf community and training district leaders in 5 more districts. In addition to dissemination, leadership training and capacity strengthening of the branch committee have also been provided to the Kasungu branch members

## **DOWA DISTRICT SHARED MSL DICTIONARY**

Secretariat, The board chairperson

and vice chairperson interacted with

the deaf members of Dowa branch.



During the meeting, the branch was trained in leadership legitimate skills and elections were conducted where the new committee was elected.

Secretariat also disseminated the MSL Dictionary to Dowa members.

## **ADVOCACY COMMITTEE IN 2024 IDSL PREPS**

In preparation of the 2024 advocacy work, the MANAD advocacy committee held their meeting today at Salima where the discussion of 2024 International week of Deaf people and International Day for Sign Languages was raised as a major topic.

During the meeting, the committee focused on the challenges and successes of the previous IDW and ISLD commemoration and the way forward, efforts will be made to ensure the 2024 commemoration is a success.



The meeting was held on 18 May 2024 with the funding

from Finish Association of the Deaf (FAD)

## MANAD CONDUCT ICT LITERACY TRAINING

MANAD conducted a two days training in ICT literacy in Liwonde from 24-25 May, 2024. This training provided an opportunity for the Deaf members to acquire more knowledge on how they can use internet and technology for communication.

"I am happy that everyone was interested to learn IT and use effectively as a productive tool that would transform their wellbeing. Although training was short we managed to cover most essential topic that have laid foundation for more advanced knowledge in ICT" said Lloyd Chilongo.

Training was facilitated by MANAD ICT specialist Lloyd Chilongo.

The participants were from 13 Districts namely: Blantyre, Mulanje, Thyolo, Dedza, Mangochi, Neno Lilongwe, Kasungu Mchinji, Nkhotakota Rumphu, Mzuzu and Chitipa.



## MANAD AND SCI SMILED WITH POSITIVE RESULTS

The Malawi National Association of the Deaf (MANAD) has expressed satisfaction with the positive results of its Strengthening Disability Inclusive project in Ntcheu and Zomba.

Its Project Manager Malonje Phiri made

the remarks in Zomba after monitoring the project implementation in the two districts..

Meanwhile, Save the Children Project coordinator Zakeyu Mwase has committed to work closely with MANAD to ensure children hear-



ing impairments are fully supported.

MANAD is implementing the project in Ntcheu, Zomba and Lilongwe with financial support from Save the Children.

## K-2 transformers company recruited Deaf youths

Discrimination of the persons in any form is prohibited and all persons are under law, guaranteed and equal and effective protection against discrimination on grounds of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, nationality, ethnic, origin, disability, property or other status.

However the situation on the ground points to a different conclusion. Discrimination of the Persons with the Deafness remains the order of the day in Malawi irrespective of the law.

Five deaf youths in Lilongwe testifies that the deaf in Malawi community remains one of the most vulnerable and discriminated against society.

These youth beat the society's expectations of the deaf people to secure a place at K-2 Transformers Company in Lilongwe.

Lilongwe branch's chairperson Blessings Kaimilira praises the company for recruiting deaf youths at their company and others should take an example.

"I wish to commend the company for the step it is taking towards correcting



these gaps. We need to closely work together to address challenges are facing in the country," Kaimilira said.

K-2 Transformers Company are experts in making transformers, repairing transformers, beer and food. Is based in Lilongwe District.

# BWAILA HOSPITAL HEALTH WORKERS TRAINS DEAF MEMBERS IN LL DISTRICT

Lilongwe Branch deaf members, as well as the whole branch and together with the students of MANAD SL classes' level 1, 2 received training on health and self-defense for the deaf by Bwaila hospital health workers in Lilongwe.

Members trained in various areas namely Family planning, cancer, pep, prep, HIV/AIDS

## PEP (Post-Exposure Prophylaxis)

Members taught about the emergency prevention of HIV infections after breastfeeding, highlighting the need for urgent treatment within 72 hours.

## HIV

Members taught Educating members about HIV transmissions, preventions, and management, emphasizing the importance of regular testing and safe practices.

## Cancer

Deaf members taught about awareness of the risk of cancer, early detection methods, and the importance of regular screening and healthy lifestyle choices to reduce risk.

## PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis)

Nurses from Bwaila Hospital taught members

that people are at high risk of HIV infection on HIV prevention strategies, emphasizing the importance of adherence to medication regimens. Good fertility.

The overall goal is to empower patients with the knowledge to make healthy health decisions, prevent disease, and better manage any health condition they have.



# GOVTs COMMITTEMENT TO INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

Secretary for Education, Associate Prof. Mangani Katundu has opened the Education Technology for Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) workshop on 19th March, 2024, at the Sigelege Hotel, in Lilongwe, facilitated by the Edtech Hub.

He highlighted Government's commitment to inclusive development (Malawi 2063), encapsulated in the goal of equitable access to quality educa-

tion and improved governance in the NESIP (2020-2030). Dr. Mangani also sampled key initiatives that are revolutionizing inclusive education, such as the sign language Dictionary by MANAD, the lip-synced digital teacher in One-Tab under the BEFIT national scale, Ekitab's SEND digital content, and technologies under development by innovators and academia in collaboration with DSTI and Inclusive Education.

He called upon Notting-

ham University, UK, and local ones, Montfort College, USAID, FCDO, Save the Children, Imagine Worldwide, JBJ foundation, OneBillion, Fount for Nations and parents to innovate more and for all.

Ministry of Gender, Association for People with Albinism in Malawi and Civil Society Education Coalition (CSEC) are also in participation.

**“Education Is Key”**

## SCI IN COLLABORATION WITH MANAD TRAINS SPECIAL NEEDS TEACHERS IN NENO

Save the Children Malawi in collaboration with National Association of the Deaf Malawi National Association of the Deaf - MANAD

trains basic sign language skills to parents and Special Needs Teachers of Deaf children in Neno at Chikonde TDC. The participants have been drawn

from different- primary schools, health workers and other stakeholders.

Neno District Primary Education Advisor Queen Sagawa thanked MANAD and Save the Children for the successful training they had as they learned lots of basic sign languages that will ease the communication



gap between the hearing and Deaf people. Training funded by Save the Children and it took four days

# DEAF CULTURE

Are you one of the people that persistently wonder and ask themselves: How do deaf people manage their everyday life?

Don't worry for you are not alone in this dilemma. There is no denying that deaf people face challenges, particularly when communicating with those without hearing problems.

However, with the coming and institution of sign language, life is becoming more and more flexible and enjoyable.

Do not think that they are giving you raw deal or that they are being cheeky when they do not greet you in the same way the hearing people do.

In deaf culture, there are no formal greetings. Deaf people are just into conversation they may just say hello to you whether you are a boss or chief.

This is part of their culture.

When they get to their deaf friends, homes, deaf people stay for a long time.

Do not get surprised or think that something is wrong. Deaf people like to network,

And when in a workshop or inside meeting, the sitting arrangement for the deaf persons should be in a circle facing each other.

When a deaf person is invited with his/her interpreter, make sure they sit at a clear view. Do not obscure them because deaf people use visuals to communicate and disseminate important messages and information amongst themselves.

Deaf people always wave to get attention. Do not think they are careless for that is their form of calling.

In class of 10 deaf people, you may think these are few students and easy to teach. Nay!

A class of 10 deaf people may translate into 100 hearing students in a normal class!

A teacher of deaf students needs to be patient and persevering enough.

For a deaf mother with a baby, you may ask how she handles the baby since she is deaf and cannot hear it cry.

A deaf mother with a baby always stays close to her child. In all the house or she does, the baby is always by her side.

During the night, she sleeps very close to it and when it cries during the night, she feels the baby legs or arms kicking her.

And when she feels that,



she knows the baby is awake and crying.

When you visit a deaf person's home, you may wonder how the deaf person will know that you knocking outside his/her door.

Deaf people are always attentive, always alert with our environment.

When you get to a deaf persons home don't bother knocking. Simply take a paper and press it under the door.

And when she/he sees that, they will know that you are behind their door and

wanting to meet her/him.

Have you arrived there during the night and you find them sleeping?

Just go outside their bedroom and if you have a torch flash it at window or if it has a switch press on and off outside to make them aware of your presence.

Sometimes use vibrations in any form be it flashes from mobile phones or anything striking to alert the deaf person at home.

You may see a deaf person that you know, going at a distance, and you may want to call him/her to come back most people give up on them, which is not right.

There are ways you can stop the deaf person. You can run to that person and gently tap on their shoulder.

Or, you can just take a small stone and throw it just beside them and when the deaf person sees that they can turn back to see what is going on, and you should get a chance to call them.

Sometimes, the hearing people take deaf people as difficult and hard.

This is not the case! Sign language is simple and anyone can sign.

Hearing people think sign language is useless and something that makes them shy to do when they meet deaf people. Deaf people are just such; they are capable of doing all that the hearing people can do.

What the deaf people needed is give them a chance and acceptance in society.



## MALAWI NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF INVITING YOU TO JULY 2024 INTAKE

We offer Sign Language Lessons in Classes across the mentioned districts  
We do Online Classes

We also do a special tailor made sign language training Programs for and suit Organisations interested to get their staff trained.

DISTRICT	NAME	CONTACT	VENUE
BLANTYRE	LEE	+265 996 38 18 02	HHI & LIMBE CDSS
MZUZU	EFFIE MKINGA	+265 994 85 46 67	ST ANDREWS CCAP PRIMARY SCHOOL
LILONGWE	SEKA	+265 999 42 48 14	LILONGWE TECHNICAL COLLEGE & LILONGWE LEA PRIMARY SCHOOL
SALIMA	MICHAEL	+265 887 19 11 28	FAVOURED KIDS FOUNDATION, OPPOSITE SALIMA COMMUNITY HALL
ZOMBA	STANFORD	+265 999 83 83 74	MPONDA PRIMARY SCHOOL
PHALOMBE	MANEYA	+265 991 11 12 64	MIGOWI PRIMARY SCHOOL
THYOLO	JEREMIA	+265 884 40 15 10	MPINJI CDSS
MANGOCHI	M. CHRISTOPHER	+265 882 55 04 40	ST LOUIS PRIMARY SCHOOL
MCHINJI	R. MBENDERA	+265 999 20 99 05	ST AUGUSTINE 3 PRIMARY SCHOOL.
NKHOTAKOTA	BERTHA HARA	+265 884 92 24 22	KAMUZU PRIMARY SCHOOL
DEDZA	C. CHIDZANJA	+265 884 47 61 86	NKHOTAKOTA CCAP PRIMARY SCHOOL
RUMPHI	ELISY	+265 985 32 33 77	DEDZA GOVT PRIMARY SCHOOL BUMBA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Apply by texting or WhatsApp the above numbers

We're Now <b>REGISTERING</b> @ *10,000	Opening Date <b>6<sup>TH</sup> JULY</b> <b>2024</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL CENTERS TO BE ESTABLISHED SOON</b>
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### BENEFITS OF LEARNING MALAWIAN SIGNLANGUAGE:

- Ability to know MSL as additional language apart from other language.
- Ability to talk and interact with Deaf communities and individuals directly without using sign language interpreters.
- To perform duties with ease having an additional knowledge, able to deal and communicate with Deaf clients e.g Deaf teachers, Social worker, Police and researchers.
- Those with MANAD sign language certificate will have an added advantage to enroll for the professional sign language interpreter training course.

Further inquiries and special SL trainings: Contact at [info@manadmw.org](mailto:info@manadmw.org)

## BASIC MALAWI SIGN LANGUAGE TRAINING

Many have wondered where they can acquire basic Malawi sign language in Malawi.

In Malawi, Malawi sign language is taught by Malawi National Association of the Deaf currently in Blantyre, Lilongwe, Mzuzu, Salima, Zomba, Phalombe, Thyolo, Mangochi, Mchinji, Nkhotakota, Dedza and Rumphhi.

According to Mr. Lee

Khwalala who is one of the sign language teachers based in Blantyre said MANAD teaches sign language through classroom instructions and practical signing as well as signing interaction with deaf people.

MANAD is only an organization in Malawi with qualified sign language teachers trained by the Finnish Association of the Deaf (FAD) and Deaf Action of Scotland.

According to Andrew Chinthunzi a sign language teacher based in Lilongwe there are many advantages of learning basic sign language to parents of the Deaf and hard of hearing children as having basic skills in sign language can increase family and social bonding as the parent can communicate with the children thereby removing communication barriers.

## NKHATABAY YOUTHS IN SWEET POTATO FARMING

Agriculture has the potential to create millions of jobs, reduce poverty, enhance food security, and boost export earnings. But according to recent statistics, youth unemployment stands at 27.5% for those aged 15-24 years and 23% for those aged 15 to 34 years, compared to the overall unemployment rate of 20.4%.

Nkhatabay youths started sweet potato farming for sustenance of the club and its members.

Moreover this project will encourage hard work among youth and discourage them from staying idle and indulge in disorderly behaviors.



## NTCHISI WOMEN FORMED A GROUP

Ntchisi women group encouraged formation of deaf women group. The deaf women group part of their activities formed village banks. However they discuss issues pertaining to their sexual reproductive health and among them which includes cancer screening and other issues.



# OTHER MATTERS

Please note that in order for more information do not hesitate by contacting the following details:

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