

MANAD NEWSLETTER

MALAWI NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

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**MID YEAR
ACTIVITY
REPORT**



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This MANAD Newsletter is published twice a year. This is published by the Malawi National Association of the Deaf.

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WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I feel greatly humbled and honored to present to you our first edition 2024 newsletter.

This newsletter enables us to reflect on our work in many ways. It also provides 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 seeing things before our viewpoint 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 move from disbelief into action and from action into better action.

My sincere thanks should

go to all MANAD project staff and board members for working tirelessly towards achieving our goals.

Vote of thanks should also go to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA) and Finnish Association of the Deaf (FAD) for their funding that has made possible the publication of this first edition of the newsletter.

Our other developing partners save the children, the government of Malawi, FEDOMA, MACODA, World Vision International and the media all

deserve a pat on the back for their unwavering support that has enabled us to make a difference in the lives of many deaf people throughout Malawi.

It is my sincere hope this newsletter will enrich and strengthen our connections with us 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 on 11th and 12th March 2024. the workshop facilitated by Fedoma.

MANAD was represented by the Women and Youth Coordinator, Ms. Margret D avid. During 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 deaf later in life. she also explained the major challenges deaf people face in their everyday life such as communication

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 is a challenge.

Women and girls with disabilities are having their rights violated, therefore,

women and girls with disabilities have to empowered to speak up whenever they face discrimination of any kind.

The meeting also discussed the conventions of the rights of the people with disabilities whereas major issues such as attitudes, communication, accessibility and policy were discussed

MANAD participate in 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, the event had to take place on 1st March instead.

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 presented the Malawian Sign Language Dictionary and other digital books that are being developed.

MANAD trains parents of deaf children and teachers in basic sign language 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 and Save the Children partnership is growing stronger



ficier for MANAD thanked Save the Children's efforts through the Strengthening Disability Inclusive Project in supporting deaf community. "MANAD initiated its interventions three decades

After a successful four-day training session organized by Save the Children in partnership with MANAD in Dedza, both the parents of deaf children and teachers received sign language dictionaries from Save the Children. A total of 45 sign language dictionaries were distributed to the participants. These are part of 400 sign language dictionaries that were printed by

the Save the Children.

The initiative is following similar activities that took place in Blantyre and Phalombe under Finnish Association of the Deaf (FAD) funded project. The Save the Children ones took place in Neno, Mangochi, Zomba, Ntcheu, and Dedza – but the work is still continuing

During the training, Malonje Phiri, the Acting Programs Of-

ago, we are currently in all districts however, some interventions such like these training are not fully covered in all districts. We are yet to reach all districts in Malawi, but with financial assistance from Save the Children and FAD, we will get there."

Apart from training parents of deaf children and teachers in basic sign language, Save the Children is also funding deaf leadership capacity training in same districts. During these trainings, sign language dictionaries are being distributed to deaf people.

Despite working with Save the Children for a short period, MANAD has already expanded its work. Save the Children has proven to be an exceptional partner.

MANAD review internal assessment project



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.

MANAD was represented by the board chair, Robert Mben-

dera, deputy youth chair, Kettie Mwamvani and Thyolo district branch chair Martin Jeremiah.

The training took place at old Annie’s Lodge in Liwonde.

BT police trains Deaf members in GBV

Blantyre Police Station conducted a Gender Based Violence (GBV) training session for the MA-NAD members in Blantyre district. The training was held on Saturday, 13th April 2024 at

HHI Primary School. The event was facilitated by Sergeants Zione Lapani and Chifundo Namanja.

During the training, the facilitators emphasized the importance of reporting cases of GBV in the workplace, to 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 violent incidents and do so promptly at their nearest police station. Rodrick Kapatuka, a MANAD member who attended the training,

through a sign language interpreter expressed his gratitude for the efforts of the Blantyre Police Station officers. He stated, "I and my friends are thrilled 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."

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) representative Ossi Oinonen, who is FAD project manager. The meeting took place from 4 to 8 March 2024 in Blantyre at the MANAD Secretariat Office. During the meeting, previous year activities were discussed, challenges and achievements were shared. 2024 activity plan and budget were presented.



Karonga DEM receives MSL dictionary

Since publication of Malawian Sign Language dictionary in 2022, many institutions and individuals have received sign language dictionaries. This is one way of promoting sign language as means of communication in deaf and hearing community. In the picture, member of the secretariat and the board chairperson presented dictionary to Karonga District Education Manager's office (DEM).



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 behavior,

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.



MANAD visits Karonga School for the Deaf

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



Rumphi MANAD 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 Rumphi branch members where they disseminated the information of the Sign Language Dictionary to the deaf community of Rumphi. 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

Community intervention in sign language is bearing fruits

Following numerous sign language trainings that were offered to parents of deaf children and teachers, MANAD, and program funder, Save the Children conducted monitoring exercises. A monitoring exercise was performed in the Ntcheu and Zomba districts. This was done to assess and evaluate the effectiveness of the training previously provided by MANAD to parents, caregivers, and teachers of Deaf children, to find out whether deaf children can articulate in their language in class and to find out whether members of the community were able to include deaf child in community activities like playing with peers.

The results were encouraging. Many parents were able to accommodate and interact with their Deaf children. However, the challenge was that the four-day training that they received



to find out whether deaf children can articulate in their language in class and to find out whether members of the community were able to include deaf child in community activities like playing with peers.

The results were encouraging.

Project coordinator Zakeyu Mwase has said that Save the Children is committed to working closely with MANAD to ensure that children grow up to become responsible citizens in the community and the nation.

MANAD 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 com-

mittee 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. Training was facilitated by MANAD ICT specialist Lloyd Chilongo who is a deaf degree graduate in IT from the Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS).

One of the beneficiary of the training, Kettie Mwamvani said that learning IT shaped them and help them effectively contribute to the human development in the Deaf society. “this is a productive tool that would transform the wellbeing of Deaf people” she said.

Although training was short we managed to cover most essential topic that have laid foundation for more advanced knowledge in ICT.

The participants were from 13 Districts namely: Blantyre, Mulanje, Thyolo, Dedza, Mangochi, Neno Lilongwe, Kasungu Mchinji, Nkhotakota Rumphu, Mzuzu and Chitipa. This is the first cohort of learners. Next year, other deaf people will be trained in same programme.



A company recruited Deaf youths

For many years MANAD has been conducting deaf awareness meetings in various forums including public and private companies. One of the issues raised is the prohibition of discrimination against people based on hearing status. The Malawi constitution and Persons with Disabilities Act, 2024, guarantee equal and effective protection against discrimination on grounds of disability. However, discrimination against deaf people still prevails.

MANAD youths approached K-2 Transformers Compa-

ny, based in Lilongwe. This is a manufacturing company K-2 Transformers Company is expert in making transformers, repairing transformers, beer, and food. Is based in Lilongwe District. Lilongwe branch's chairperson Blessings Kaimilira, who also happens to be MANAD national youth chair had an

interactive session with K-2 company, where he asked the company to consider employing energetic and effective deaf people. The company was satisfied with the presentation made by the MANAD youth chair and managed to recruit five deaf youths.

Upon hearing the news that five deaf youths were recruited, Kaimilira was in a jovial mood. "I wish to commend the company for the steps it is taking towards correcting these gaps. We need to closely work together to address challenges are facing in the country," Kaimilira said.



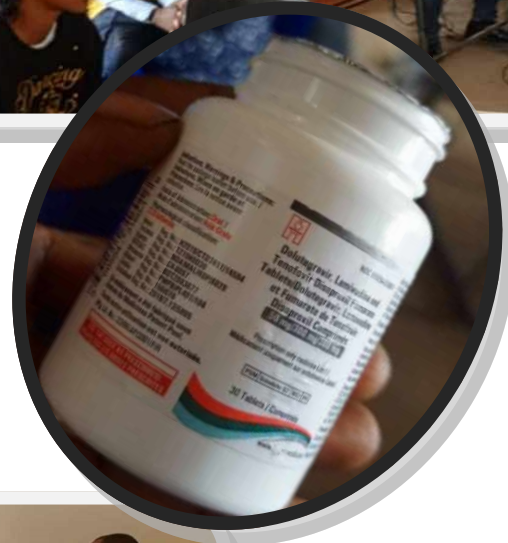
Bwaila hospital health workers trains deaf members on preventive health

Lilongwe Branch deaf members together with the hearing sign language students received training on preventive health. The training was facilitated by Bwaila Hospital health workers. Members were trained in cancer treatment, HIV/ AIDS prevention and care.

On HIV infections members learned about transmission, prevention, and management, emphasizing the importance of regular testing, adherence to medication regimens, and safe practices.

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

The overall goal is to empower deaf people with the knowledge to better manage any health condition they may have.



GOVTs commitment to inclusive education

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”

MANAD leaders equipped in leadership skills

The MANAD Secretariat and board chairperson visited 6 districts meeting its MANAD members and leaders. The districts that were visited were Dowa, Kasungu, Mzimba, Rumphi, Karonga, and Chitipa. The purpose of the visits was to train members in human rights and organiza-

tional management and leadership. In Dowa, Mzimba, Rumphi, Karonga,

and Chitipa, they also held district branch committee elections where

new officebearers were elected. Apart from leadership training, they also disseminated and distributed MSL dictionaries.



MANAD opens new sign language training centres



Due to high demand for sign language training among hearing people, MANAD decided to open additional sign language training centres.

Many have wondered where they can acquire basic Malawi sign language in Malawi. The early training centres were Blantyre , Lilongwe, Mzuzu, Zomba, Phalombe and Salima. The

following have been opened in January , 2024. these are; Thyolo, Mangochi, Mchinji, Nkhotakota, Dedza and Rumphhi.

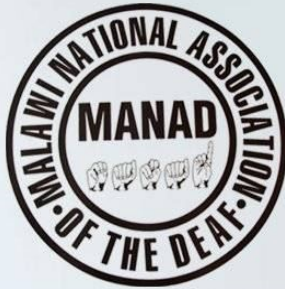
However Blantyre and Lilongwe have two centres each. This is due to the size and population of these cities.

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, the also offer sign language classes to parents of the Deaf and hard of hearing children. This initiative increases family and social bonding between deaf child and members of the family.

Advertisement



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.

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BLANTYRE MZUZU LILONGWE	LEE	+265 996 38 18 02	HHI & LIMBE CDSS
	EFFIE MKINGA	+265 994 85 46 67	ST ANDREWS CCAP PRIMARY SCHOOL
	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 PHALOMBE THYOLO MANGOCHI	STANFORD	+265 999 83 83 74	MPONDA PRIMARY SCHOOL
	MANEYA	+265 991 11 12 64	MIGOWI PRIMARY SCHOOL
	JEREMIA	+265 884 40 15 10	MPINJI CDSS
	M. CHRISTOPHER	+265 882 55 04 40	ST LOUIS PRIMARY SCHOOL ST AUGUSTINE 3 PRIMARY SCHOOL.
MCHINJI NKHOTAKOTA DEDZA RUMPHI	R. MBENDERA	+265 999 20 99 05	KAMUZU PRIMARY SCHOOL
	BERTHA HARA	+265 884 92 24 22	NKHOTAKOTA CCAP PRIMARY SCHOOL
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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

MANAD youth engage in farming

During the 2024 planning meeting conducted by the youths. The resolutions made were shared among youths in all districts through WhatsApp platforms. One of the ideas at the planning meeting was farming activity.

Agriculture is one of the main sources of income for the majority of households and agricultural

companies. This practice reduces poverty and enhances food security. But according to recent statistics, youth unemployment stands at 27.5% for those aged 15-24 years.

Nkhatabay youths started sweet potato farming. This is not only Nkhata Bay doing farming. Ntchisi and Chiradzulu branches do the

same. The Ntchisi branch harvested Irish potatoes while



Ntchisi Deaf Women in village bank and savings drive

Following the formation of the women's group in Ntchisi district, women's village bank. In Malawi, a village bank is a (sometimes informal) self-help support group of 20-30 members, predominantly female heads-of-household or as a joint account per household. The main purpose of setting up these banks is to develop the habit of saving among the Deaf women members and to give loans to themselves to boost their personal business and production in one or the other way.



However, sometimes, they meet and discuss issues about their sexual reproductive health, and gender-based violence among others.