



# SCOPE Malawi Newsletter 2020

*“Empowering young people today for a brighter tomorrow”*

## *Redefining work through a pandemic...*

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2020 was a challenging year all over the world. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the way people work and live across the world. Due to closed schools and social distance measures we were forced to adapt our field work plan. This created an opportunity for **intensive online sessions with teachers** using platforms like Whatsapp. Together with the teachers we covered topics such as soap making, ointments and different bio fertilizers (lactic acid bacteria, bocash, native microbes, ash brew and sulphur brew).

But as we love being in the field, working closely together with our partners, students, teachers and communities we couldn't wait to start visiting our schools again.

And here is how we did it:

- ◆ Mask up
- ◆ Wash hands
- ◆ Follow social distancing measures
- ◆ Reduce the number of people during training sessions
- ◆ Lunch boxes or shorter training sessions without lunch break
- ◆ Soap making as part of the training (learn how to make soap yourself p. 5)

Following those measures we were able to implement activities related to our two main projects, the **Seed and Knowledge Initiative Project and Strengthening Resilient School Communities project.**

COVID-19 is real, stay safe!



*Learn how to make soap in our next newsletter !*



*Be safe, wear a mask!*

## The Seed and Knowledge Initiative

The Seed and Knowledge Initiative (SKI) project is a 4-year project which started in March 2019. Together with our partners Landirani Trust, CERFHT and Emmanuel Teacher Training College we target two communities in Lilongwe. The project focuses on strengthening agroecology practices by working closely together with students, teachers and parents (farmers). Agroecology is farming which centers on food production that makes the best use of nature's goods and services

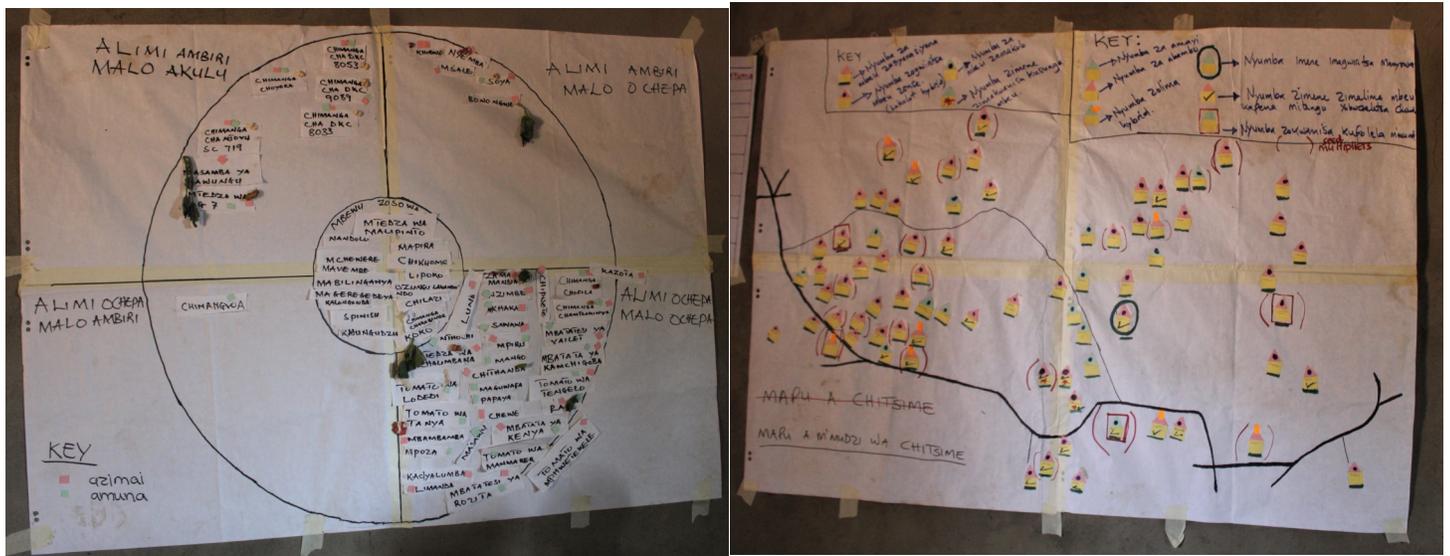
while not damaging these resources. To understand the individual needs and wishes of the community we started off with community mapping.

The community mapping process helps to engage the community to determine the community status on issues such as use of traditional seeds for food security and their practice of agroecological principles. The process also identifies key areas where the community would like to focus in the following year. They

also elected themselves 20 community members to participate in the training. Both trainings took place this year.

The SKI principles are:

- ◆ Respect for all members of the community
- ◆ Integrity
- ◆ Acknowledging the wisdom in the community



Results after the community mapping exercise in Chitsime community

## Strengthening Resilient School Communities Project

This 5 year project started in October 2019 and is funded by Bread for the World. We target **40 schools** in different districts of Malawi, as well as **400 households and communities**. Its' main goal is to contribute to improving the nutritional situation and protecting the

resources in Malawian schools and communities. Together with our **20 partners**, as well as representatives of the local government, we want to achieve a more diversified nutrition in vulnerable households. To do so, we have already started conducting our

**Integrated Land Use Design (ILUD)** Trainings and we will continue with training sessions on **Hygiene, Sanitation, Value Addition** and **Disability Mainstreaming**. See next page for some of the workshops we conducted .





*Maize is only one out of many crops that can be grown in Malawi.*



*Sorghum seeds are rich in vitamins and minerals. They are also an amazing source of fiber, protein and antioxidants. Sorghum is an indigenous grain in Malawi. Sorghum flour for example, can be used to cook nsima.*

*Teachers in the southern region making bocash (or bokashi) a bio fertilizer during an ILUD refresher course. It can be made from scratch and be ready to use within 15 days.*

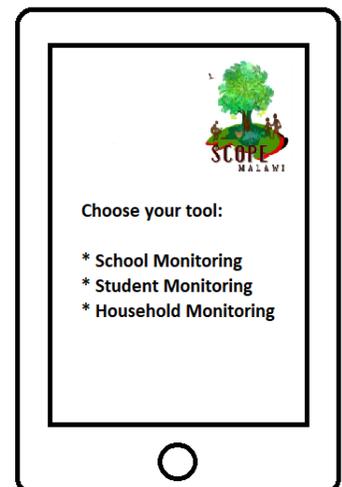


*SCOPE Malawi together with our 20 partners ready to test the new M&E tools in the field.*

## *Monitoring and Evaluation Training*

After a year full of social distancing and closed schools, we thankfully had the chance to meet our partners for a Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) training. The week started off with two intensive days of M&E Trainings. Questions such as, what is an indicator and how can I collect data with a tablet, were answered. On the third day everybody was excited to finally test the new tool and interview teachers, students and households at one of

our partnering schools within Lilongwe. “At first I was anxious about the tablets, as I belong to an older generation. But after the three day training, and especially the practical session, I realized how much easier those little boxes will make our life. Thank you for giving me the confidence to work with a tablet for data collection.” Friday Kamanga, Malawi Schools Permaculture Club (MSPC)



SCOPE Malawi goes digital .....

## Partners Meeting

There was a spirit of change in the room, after going through the 5 year activity plan targeting all 20 partners of SCOPE. “I wish we could implement all the activities of the 5 year plan within the next couple of weeks. I cannot wait to see the change and the joy those changes will bring for the students.” Was Olgas comment, one of our partners working with a primary school in Kauma Lilongwe. Trainings on waste manage-

ment, menstrual hygiene, disability structures and water harvesting will be part of next year’s activities. Together with our partners we are hoping to bring change, not only for this generation but also for

*“I see Malawi changing, let’s hold hands as partners and make this change possible“*  
 Clara Mkandawire (left), Emmanuel Teachers Training



*Inspecting the site and taking pictures is part of the new M&E tool. In this picture you can see one of our partners in a future backyard garden at our partnering school.*



## Hear their voices

Our partners meeting also gave us the chance to share perspectives and find out about how 2020 has been treating our partners.

S. Greffin Harawa  
 LUKWE  
 Livingstonia district  
 Working with SCOPE since 2017

### Biggest challenge in 2020?

The outbreak of Corona, combined with the closing of schools.

### How has this challenge been solved?

“I was sitting down with our teachers and students from higher standards like 6 and 7. We created a schedule, to make sure the school garden was taken care of. So every day there was somebody to water the fruit trees and vegetables. This was also a good way to see which students are really motivated and have understood the principles of permaculture.

### What was your biggest success in 2020?

“Even though there was Corona, the school garden could be maintained, because of the personal effort put by the students and teachers.”

### Goals for 2021

“I am sure, things will change. We have gained more experience and because of the hardship Corona has put us through, we now have an open mind to work even harder and focus on the positive things.”



*Greffin (left) trying his new tablet during the M&E training and later on in the field with a student.*



**Biggest challenge in 2020?**

“Due to low rains in 2019, our boreholes ran dry way too early this year. On top of that, because of Corona, schools were closed. As we do not allow any extra activities beyond classes right now, students can no longer take care of the school gardens. Unfortunately this means that part of the school gardens have dried up.”

**How has this issue been solved?**

“We were fortunate enough to have Water for people drill a deeper borehole at our secondary school.”

**Biggest success in 2020?**

Our biggest success was that we started doing value addition. We now supply remedies to different people such as herbal supplies. We have also started a fundraising committee to raise money for a hostel for our girls. Like that our female students can stay on campus. We hope to prevent teenage pregnancies and child marriage through this.”

**Your biggest goal for 2021?**

“This upcoming year we are planning to replace the dry trees from this year with new seedlings. We also want to diversify the cropping system in our school garden and start making our own compost.”

Mc Justice Betha  
MAWO  
Chikwawa District  
Working with SCOPE since 2012



### *Welcome to the SCOPE Malawi family!*



#### *MacDonald (Monitoring and Evaluation Officer)*

I am MacDonald Matalala, the SCOPE MW Monitoring and Evaluation Officer. I am from Zomba, Malawi. I am holding a Bachelor of Social Science Degree from the University of Malawi, Chancellor College. I will be involved in the monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of various project interventions. I am super excited to be part of the amazing SCOPE team, being part of every stage in making school communities resilient and protecting our environment. “Feed the Future, Grow a Garden!”

#### *Nathalie (Communications and Advocacy Officer)*

My name is Nathalie Beschedsnick and I will support SCOPE Malawi in their communications and advocacy work. I’m originally from Germany but I’ve made Malawi my new home. I am an anthropologist by profession with a minor degree in communication. My garden is my own permaculture demo plot, where I try my luck with onions, paprika, salad, carrots, different fruits trees and other vegetables. I am excited to share with you more about the amazing work SCOPE Malawi is doing.

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We are on the web!

[www.scopemalawi.com](http://www.scopemalawi.com)

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**Feed The Future  
Grow A Garden**

*SCOPE Malawi works with schools to engage and educate the youth in sustainable development initiatives. We focus on Agroecology, Natural Resources Management, Environmental Education, Sustainable Agriculture, Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, School Health and Nutrition.*

*Together with our partner network we work closely together with schools and colleges to promote permaculture. We want to design healthy environments that meet the educational, nutritional and other basic needs of the students, teachers and partners/farmers.*

*“Give me food and I’ll eat for a day, teach me how to grow my own food and I’ll eat for a lifetime.”*

SCOPE Malawi is there to inspire and empower young people to end hunger and care for the Earth.

Are you an organisation/institution that would like to become one of our Implementing Partners ?

**Or**

Are you an organisation/institution/individual who would like to support/donate/contribute to our programming with funds/resources?

Please write us on the contacts below.

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