

Seibo Activity Report: April 2016

Seibo – a Not-For-Profit Organization registered in both Japan and Malawi has with your help since February 11th 2016 been providing a hot meal of “*likuni phala*” to under-6-year olds every day at school. What follows is a summary of our operations in Malawi in the month of April. It’s still early days and we have had to make a few small adjustments on the ground to get things right but from the feedback we can confidently say that your donations are really starting to make a very positive impact on children lives each and every day. Thank you!

April however will be remembered as the month that the President of Malawi, Peter Mutharika, announced a state of emergency due to food shortages. Your help is needed now as much as ever.



April Overview:

An additional 6 nursery schools were added in the Chilomoni area bringing the total number of children reached by your donations to **867** children.

April was also the month when Seibo attended the handover ceremony for a school feeding for an 800- children strong Primary School in Kazomba, Mzimba in northern Malawi. The school feeding which originally begun with donated rice flour from the Japanese Overseas Cooperative Association will now continue with your assistance as a Seibo school.

2 x new additional staff were hired in Malawi for the purposes of data collection and monitoring to ensure progress is mapped.

And of course most importantly over **1,900 kgs** of food was delivered in the month of April.

In addition to food your donations were used to purchase the following items since school feeding began on the 11th of February;

- **22 rocket stoves:** MK 75,725 each
- **1030 plates:** MK165 each
- **44 buckets with tap:** MK 1,800 each
- **50 buckets without tap:** MK 1,350 each
- **959 plastic cups:** MK 120 each
- **32 cooking sticks:** MK1,200 each
- **925 spoons:** MK 799 each
- **22 basins:** MK 800 each
- **44 serving pots:** MK 200 each.



**MK stands for Malawian Kwacha*



Nursery Group 3

In April an additional 226 children began to receive school meals at the following nurseries; Tilitonse CBCC, Grace Playgroup, Freedom, Dedoma, Little Angels and Limbikani CBCC.

As was the case with all earlier nurseries an MoU was signed with Seibo outlining the terms of food provision and the nurseries participation in monitoring child enrolment, child registration and growth.

The nurseries were then provided with firewood, utensils, a 50 litre rocket stove and food!

Mrs Mamtchichi at Limbikani CBCC: *We are very happy that the programme has reached us. An increased number of children are already coming to enroll with us and it's the first month!*

Mrs Joice Phiri at Little Angels: *It (Seibo) is great because we see some children coming from poor families having less or no food with them for snacks. Now such children are at an advantage and get nutritious food.*

Sponsored Nursery Places:

In April a meeting took place between Seibo, 24 representatives from local churches, the Police and the Health Service to help identify the most- needy children in the community.



Asira Nursery School already has 3 children availing of a sponsored nursery place. All thanks to you!

Featured here are Fatima and Mphatso recent additions to Asira Nursery!



Lessons Learned, Improvements Made;

Having experienced some initial issues with safe storage of food at local nurseries we requested assistance from the company providing the food. The food known in Malawi as “likuni phala” ,a fortified blend of maize and soya flour, had originally been delivered in 20 Kg bags but will now be delivered in 4 smaller polythene plastic packs of 5 Kgs each. This small improvement helps the caregivers, cooks and Seibo monitors to check the quality of the “phala” as well as to measure amounts given to children attending school.

Also, thanks to training offered by our food provider we now provide each nursery with a separate bucket to store used food bags to reduce the risk of contamination

Feeding Programme Handover

Location: Kazomba Primary School- Mzimba, Northern Malawi

Date: 27th April 2016

On this day Seibo in Malawi attended a handover ceremony for school feeding at the Kazomba Primary School. With over 800 students the school is a fantastic example of how donors can supplement the incredible work taking place at community level in Malawi.

The community own the school feeding and contribute 50kgs of maize monthly from each village to ensure its sustainability. In this sense Seibo, who will replace the role played by JOCA prior, are

merely supporting the community in their efforts to ensure students get a hot meal at school each day.

The ceremony was attended by representatives from JOCA, Seibo, Group Village Heads as well as representation from the Malawian Ministry of Education.

Our team were highly impressed with the organisation of the school feeding noting the children all lined up to wash their hands before collecting their meal which they ate together in the large outdoor area in front of their classrooms.

The Ministry of Education's representative Mrs Victoria Kachigunda later said that "JOCA, and now Seibo, is providing a model that we must emulate throughout Malawi", "School feeding only happens in 40% of schools presently - this needs to increase".

We look forward to bringing you regular updates from Kazomba to show how your donation is making a difference. Thank you again from all of us at Seibo in Japan.

