

LIYO YOUTH EMPOWERED WITH ENVIRONMENTAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP SKILLS

Climate change, even though a daunting Challenge for our time, presents a rare entrepreneurial opportunity. Taking advantage of climate change as an entrepreneurial opportunity was one of the main topics under discussion when LIYO youth were grilled with Entrepreneurship skills under the Link to Educate Environmental Social Entrepreneurship Project which is being partly funded by World Connect USA.

During the training which took place at LIYO office in Zomba, 25 youths were in attendance. The Facilitator, Mr. Philip Gama, a Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) Regional Leadership Centre, Southern Africa alumni and Former Malawi Alumni Chapter coordinator, spent time to introduce the youths to Business concepts and how they can take advantage of the challenges brought by climate change as a rare business opportunity.



Figure 1: Some of the participants in a group discussion during the training

The facilitator explained the nexus of climate change, food and water as well as how climate change is a rare social entrepreneurship opportunity. He said, every problem or challenge comes with it opportunities for business or to serve.

The participants had various activities including a tour around the LIYO offices to understand and explore the various opportunities available within the community of Likhubula.

The participants are now engaged in a tree nursery production business where they will raise Moringa trees, and fruit tree seedlings for sale. Under the project, these youths intend to plant and sale up to 200 Moringa tree seedlings and 5000 mango trees which will be grafted.

The Executive Director of LIYO Youth, Mr William Luwemba, hailed the training and said it will assist these youths greatly as they have been made to understand what climate change is as well as how they can start and run a Business, a social enterprise that contributes to curbing the effects of climate change.



Figure 2: Participants during an activity on business focus

"Capacity building is the way to go. Especially capacity building that focuses on the practical aspects of business and Climate change is important especially in our time. It is important to our youth to be exposed to this kind of knowledge to spur patriotism and an entrepreneurial spirit", He

said.

Ms. Maggie Limbalo did not mince words in expressing her gratitude in having participated in the training. *"I have really benefited from the pool of knowledge share in this training. As youth at Likhubula we will do whatever we can to grow this environmental Entrepreneurship Business that we have agreed to engage in. I will start looking at challenges with another eye to identify an opportunity it brings with it."* She said.

Link to educate Environmental social Entrepreneurship is a 1 year project which is partially funded by World Connect. The project, seeks to empower the community members, Women, girls and the youth with Social entrepreneurship trainings in the environmental sector to ensure that they are engaged in afforestation and Natural resource conservation activities in the community while they generate benefit.

World Connect is a U.S.-based non-profit organization that partners with communities and grassroots organizations across the Global South to advance locally-led development. World Connect believes that development must be authentic to be effective, it must come from local ideas, action and leadership, and we believe that capacity exists in every community, in every country where we work. Since 2005, World Connect has supported 1,200+ grassroots projects in 30+ countries. Visit World Connect at www.worldconnect-us.org to learn more about the long-lasting and transformational impact of its programs.