



MALAWIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS
CHANGING THEIR LIVES.





Introduction to Photo Exhibition

By **Rosamond Bennett** (CEO, Christian Aid), Chair, Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence

THE IRISH CONSORTIUM ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (ICGBV) is an Irish based alliance of international human rights, humanitarian and development organisations, including International NGOs, Irish Aid and The Irish Defence Forces. Established in 2005 as a response to reports of ongoing and systematic sexual violence in the Darfur Region of Sudan, we work together to increase knowledge and understanding of gender-based violence and ensure high quality programming and policy responses across humanitarian and development contexts. We also build leadership to support our shared vision of a world free from gender-based violence.

Gender-based violence is a human rights violation and a serious obstacle to sustainable development. We know that around the world, 1 in 3 women have experienced physical or sexual violence, mostly by an intimate partner. In Malawi, 55% of women report being raped or coerced into sex¹. We also see that many girls drop out of school as a result of forced marriages, it is estimated that 28% of Malawian girls aged 15-19 are married². As long as we are faced with these statistics we will strive to end this violation of women's and girls' human rights.

Gender-based violence is directed in the first instance at women and girls. However, its consequences ripple outwards affecting all levels of society including family, community and nation state. At individual level survivors can face long term physical, sexual, reproductive,

emotional and psychological impacts, as well as economic impacts. At family level the impacts can create psychological, emotional and health issues often resulting in the breakdown of the family unit, leading to the isolation and stigmatisation of women and children, and increasing poverty. At community level the impacts can result in high levels of fear, stigmatisation and the loss of productive members of community, all creating an increased vulnerability and decreased resilience. Finally at the level of the nation state, the impacts are felt across, economic, political, and legislative spheres.

These stories and images from Malawi show us the strength, courage and resilience of those affected by gender based-violence. They demonstrate the hard work of our colleagues in Malawi to support their communities to address issues of gender based-violence across all areas of their work including HIV, food security, education and climate change. It is truly an honour to support this exhibition to take place in Ireland.

Rosamond Bennett

Chairperson 2015, Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence. CEO, Christian Aid Ireland.

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¹ MoH Malawi (2012) "Guidelines for provision of comprehensive services for survivors of physical and sexual violence at health facilities in Malawi"

² Malawi Gov, UNICEF et al (2014) "MDG Endline Survey, Key Findings"



Ideas Chimala, Malitaka Village, Chiradzulu



MALAWIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS CHANGING THEIR LIVES.

THIS EXHIBITION OFFERS A glimpse of some of the gender work of five Irish International Organisations based in Malawi: Concern Worldwide, Goal, Trócaire, Gorta Self Help Africa and Action Aid. All five organisations are members of the Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence.

In this exhibition we meet girls and women from all over Malawi and learn ways in which they have been affected by these issues simply because they are female. These women and girls have bravely shared their life stories of humility, courage, perseverance and strength. These experiences are representative of the untold stories of millions of women and girls globally. We hope by taking the time to read these stories you will demonstrate your solidarity with women and girls around the world who struggle on a daily basis to live lives free from hunger and illness, free from abuse and fear – for both themselves and their children.

This Gallery Exhibition was first displayed to commemorate the visit of the President of the Republic of Ireland, His Excellency Michael D Higgins to Malawi in November 2014, and later to coincide with the launch of the 16 Days of Activism against GBV on November the 25th, 2014.

Note: Some of the names of the women and girls portrayed in this exhibition have been changed.
Pictures taken by: Chipiliro Khonje unless otherwise stated.



KATRINA SHAKO

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KATRINA SHAKO IS AN ambitious girl who completed primary school in Blantyre. In 2014, she returned home to live with her parents in Nsanje where she is currently doing Standard Seven. Her father Vito explains, "The moment I saw her, I told my wife that the time had come for Katrina to be married. She had grown into a beautiful young woman and I knew that we were going to be troubled with worries about her getting pregnant before marriage because of her looks.

"Girls who fall pregnant before marriage in Nsanje are subjected to a ritual known as "*kupitadz Wade*". The pregnant girl is forced to have sex with an older man during the course of her pregnancy or after giving birth. To avoid this, many families in Nsanje arrange marriages while their daughters are still young.

In 2014, Vito joined a Fathers' Group launched by the organisation Friends in AIDS Support Trust (FAST) with support from Concern Worldwide. These groups advocate for and support children to stay in school. Radio broadcasts, developed and aired by Theatre for a Change, provide discussion topics at each meeting.

Vito has now reversed his decision about forcing his daughter into early marriage. He is an active member of his local Fathers' Group, encouraging other parents to send their children to school. "He is on the top of the list of people who are encouraging girls in the village to go to school and work hard at it," says the local Village Headman Kalumbi. The family plans to send Katrina to attend secondary school.



MAFULESI MATENGAMBIRI

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MAFULESI MATENGAMBIRI is 62 years old and lives in Galafa village in Nsanje. She is the mother of three children, aged twenty, seventeen and fifteen. Mafulesi spent years married to a man who abused her both physically and emotionally, leaving her powerless in her own home. Her husband took total control of household decision making, using their joint earnings for his own personal enjoyment. 'I couldn't participate in decision making, even if I earned my own money from piece work. If I contributed my own thoughts that would result in a beating', says Mafulesi.

In 2011 her husband abandoned her. She has since been solely responsible for the well-being of her household and children. To raise money or to get food to feed her children, she undertook ganyu work (manual labour), neglecting her own fields.

"After working on other people's farms I would feel tired and spent less time on my own farm."

In November 2013, Mafulesi participated in Concern Worldwide's Conservation Agriculture (CA) project. She was given a small amount of seed and fertilizer, and trained in techniques to improve her yields and prevent poor harvests in drought years. She was also provided with two goats; when these reproduced, she passed on the kids on to another vulnerable household. A major breakthrough came when she joined a Village Savings and Loan (VS&L) group, which enabled her to start up a small business selling tomatoes. Through her VS&L, she has already saved MK 16,200 (approx €30) which she plans to use to expand her business.



NYARAYI GAUZENI



IN MALAWI MANY GIRLS drop out of school as a result of forced marriages. Twenty three percent of girls aged fifteen to nineteen are married. Forced and early marriage is a form of gender based violence which is rooted in gender inequality, which permeates the lives of many women and girls in Malawi.

Rather than looking at schools in isolation, Concern has taken a holistic approach, broadening out to entire communities and the traditional authority structures of village chiefs and group village heads. These community members have significant social and cultural influence over what happens in their communities. They are important agents of change.

Nyarayi is one such figure, who is a group village head, with five male chiefs working under her. She lives in Mgone village where Concern works on education, and has developed a close working relationship with her. Nyarayi has now made education her top priority. 'It's important for we women to be educated' she stresses, 'so that we can help ourselves and not rely on others'.

Every morning she goes around the village to see if any children have not gone to school and 'When I find a girl nursing an infant for her family, I tell her to give the child back to the mother and go to school. I say 'this child is not your responsibility'. Given Nyarayi's position within the community is extremely influential and a critical ally for the enrolment and retention of children in schools, especially girls. In addition to sensitising communities about the importance of education, she has also been lobbying the chiefs as well.

Concern has also helped inspire Nyarayi and other leaders by sending them on observation trips to the high performing district of Mulanje. 'There I learned that the chiefs forbid people to marry off their girls', she says explaining that they fine transgressors. 'When I returned', she adds, 'I told the community that anyone who marries off a girl will similarly be fined'. Nyarayi continues to be a strong advocate of education and especially for girls.



OLIVE GUNYAIS



OLIVE GUNYAIS IS AGED 15 and is from Malasa village in Nkhotakota District. She does not know her father. Her mother married another man and moved away from her children five years ago. Olive was raised in her grandparents' home.

In 2013 Olive joined her mother and stepfather in Blantyre, where her step-brother was given preferential treatment. "My step brother is sent to a private school where school fees are MK10,000 (€18.66) per term, while my sister and I go to a government school where there is no fee paid. My stepfather says that boys are more intelligent and can finish school but girls may get married and waste his money." She adds: "My stepbrother does not do any house chores, he gets up in the morning, has a bath and eats breakfast and goes to school while us girls

have to light fires, wash plates, fetch water from a public water tap and prepare breakfast for the family before going to school."

Rejected and worried about her future, Olive returned to her grandmother's home in Nkhotakota. There, her aunt introduced Olive to the Skillz Girl Initiative. The initiative uses funinteractive methods to provide life skills and gender education, through a partnership between Concern Worldwide and Grassroot Soccer. Olive attended a one-week camp where she learned about gender, sex, and HIV and AIDS in a safe and welcoming environment. "In a girls-only session I am able to freely discuss life issues unlike in school where girls were mixed with boys" Olive says.



EDRINA KENAMU



EDRINA KENAMU IS 28, and chief of Kandusiwa Village, in Salima District. She has three children, all girls, and is educated to primary school level. People in her village respect and like her and it's easy to understand why. Her smile is contagious and she speaks with the confidence of a leader.

Edrina married at 19 but her relationship was not harmonious. "When I married my husband was going out every day. I knew he was cheating on me. I was scared because our family was at risk of HIV infection. We stopped having sex. I felt bad and I felt unloved. I wondered if I should leave, I almost started an affair with another man."

Her husband explains their violent home life. "I was beating her and I believed I had that right because I am a man. I was wrong. She took the

beatings but in turn beat our children, perhaps she had learned this from me." After nine years of this, things changed dramatically when Edrina's husband joined MIAA (the Malawi Interfaith AIDS Association) and Trócaire Tiyeni Tisinthe program in Salima. Edrina says "It was the best thing that happened to me, to us. My husband stopped going out, and staying away and he started to help me at our home. I never thought that was possible. I am living in a dream. We sit together and we discuss everything, even sex. We trust each other now. There is no more violence in our home and we teach our children they too must live this way."



DUNIYA M'BWANA

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DUNIYA M'BWANA LIVES IN Nysanguzu village, in the Salima district. She is unsure of her age, her mother died on the same day she was born. She is married with five children and one grandchild. Duniya is a subsistence farmer. She married in 1998 but her husband never cared or supported her. She struggled financially to provide food for her children.

Duniya tells us that her relationship with her husband was difficult, "we worked together in the fields, but the only noise was the birds singing and the sound of our hoes tilling the earth". He would come home, and eat his own food whilst I ate with my children in another room. We were together but living separate lives." Duniya's husband twice left his family for South Africa to have a better life, and earn money; both times he returned with no money,

or gifts for his children. She was very disappointed but could not speak out as she was afraid of him. In 2012 Duniya's husband participated in MIAA (the Malawi Interfaith AIDS Association) and Trócaire Tiyeni Tisinthe project which offered training on Gender and HIV. As a result Duniya says he "learned to be a husband and father, he has apologized for treating me badly, he talks to me and shares his feelings. In turn I do the same. Now, my children are happy because they see their parents happy. Now, he takes care of me and our children. I feel I have someone. I know I am not alone in the world."



EZINTA MZOZE



EZINTA MZOZE LIVES IN Mpopela in the Salima District. She is unsure when she was born. Ezinta is a farmer with four children, two girls and two boys. She never attended school.

Ezinta married her husband Grevinson in 1989 but immediately experienced problems. She says: "My husband preferred beer to me most of the time." Rather than financially supporting his family, he spent all their money getting drunk. He was extremely violent, frequently beating Ezinta. In 2013 Grevinson was invited to take part in a program called 'Let's Change Together' implemented in Salima District by Malawi Interfaith AIDS Association with Trócaire support. The program trains men to conduct peer outreach education on gender and HIV; Grevinson is now a male motivator promoting the rights of women and girls in the surrounding

areas. Ezinta says "I'm proud of him. He's changed completely. He has stopped beating me, he's stopped drinking: We now grow our crops together, he gives me money to buy all the things I need for the house."

During her last pregnancy Grevinson accompanied her on all her pre natal visits and they found out their HIV status. They now both counsel and support others to live positively with HIV. Ezinta says " I want to continue to walk side by side with my husband this makes me happy. I want more people to benefit from this intervention, many women live in hell as I did, but their lives can too change for the better."



DUNIYA MIKE



DUNIYA MIKE IS 25 years and lives in Chindungwa village in the Salima District. She has three children, one boy and two girls aged between six months and seven years. She married her husband Mike in 2007. Duniya describes that period as one of the hardest moments in her life: "He was hitting me, and when he had money he spent that money on other ladies. During my first pregnancy, I told him we should go to the hospital together for a HIV test but he refused and was very angry with me."

In 2011, MIAA (Malawi Interfaith AIDS Association) with Trócaire support, implemented a program called "Tiyeni Tisinthe, Together Let's Change", in Salima. The programme aims to reduce women's vulnerability to HIV infection through gender transformative interventions and the

elimination and modification of harmful cultural practices. Mike was approached in 2012 to participate in training on gender and HIV. Within a few months of his attendance, Duniya began to notice real changes. "When he came from the training, he shared with me what he had learnt there. He doesn't hit me anymore, he is a different man. Before, he would spend all the money with other girls but now he brings the money home and we sit together to make a proper budget. "Nowadays, I am a happy woman. He helps me at home because with three children is not easy. I feel he is the man I fall in love. I have him back, thanks to MIAA."



MALITA CHIKHOSI



BORN FORTY ONE YEARS ago Malita Chikhosi is happily married to Village Head man Funsani. They have three sons and live in Dowa district.

Life before chicken production was difficult for Malita as she could not access money from her husband, who was the sole provider of the home. Due to cultural norms they never realised it was possible for husband and wives to sit together and plan for the family.

Self Help Africa initiated a programme specifically to uplift lives of women economically, Malita joined a group of ten women benefiting from two hundred chickens. The group managed to keep them all alive and now they are selling cocks. The group was supported by men who were involved in

constructing kholas as a way of reinforcing families to work together and in the process there were discussions on gender equality.

Currently the women are selling the chickens at an average price of MK3,000 (€5.90) and managed to share MK19,000 (€37.38) from cockerel sales over four weeks. They are hoping to get MK300,000 (€590) from the egg sales with which they will buy fertiliser for the maize gardens and pay school fees for their children. This has increased Malita's confidence in decision-making as she is able to plan together with her husband, in a way teaching her husband the goodness of planning together. She was quoted as saying "If all goes according to plan we will construct a house with iron sheets'.



LUCIA KANYOZA



LUCIA KANYOZA AND HER HUSBAND from Chibvala Extension Planning Area in Dowa district, planted amaranth seed on three standard beds in their garden and they were amazed by the income they realised from the sales. With little effort, they managed to harvest twice a week in a period of five weeks. Every time Lucia takes her vegetable to the market for sale, she brings home between MK3,500 and MK3,700 (approx €7.00). This is a much higher profit compared to earnings from the same volume of other vegetables she also sells. The money is used to buy food and other basic necessities for the household. Since the activities were done as a family, it has helped Lucia to have access and control over the household resources.

Lucia was quoted as saying '*taphunzira kugwira ntchito limodzi ngati banja,*' meaning 'Me and my husband have realised the goodness of planning together. We have greater harmony, and well being in the family.'

The family of Mr and Mrs Kanyoza are now a role model in the fight against gender and domestic violence in their community because of the benefits they have realised from the access and control of the resources they experience from farming together.



MARTHA HIWA



MARTHA HIWA IS A physically challenged woman from Kalembo village in Balaka District. She did not finish Primary School. She is married in a polygamous marriage and spends most of her time on her own, as she says her husband prefers his other wife. In the past, Martha was food insecure and lacked basic household essentials. She was excluded from development programmes on the basis of her being physically challenged. Martha received three goats (two does and one buck) after the Village Development Committee had undertaken gender training and understood the importance of empowering women to enable them make joint decisions with their husbands thus creating greater harmony and reducing the incidence of GBV in the home.

To date she has six goats of her own, something she never envisioned she would possess. She has been able to construct a good house and user-friendly toilet as she could not access the traditional toilets due to walking difficulties.

She was quoted as saying "I did not know that I can own my own livestock in this life, thanks to Self Help Africa". She is now a role model in her village, proving to the community that 'disability is not inability'.



NELLIE MHANGO



NELLIE IS SIXTY ONE years old and lives in Karonga district. She is single and physically challenged and lives with her two grandsons. Nellie has never owned livestock and lacked knowledge on climate resilience as her education levels are those of a primary school leaver. This made her extremely vulnerable to long periods of hunger, particularly in times of drought. Under DISCOVER Project, Nellie received two pigs which are acting as a source of manure and a source of protein. This conserves moisture needed for proper crop growth in case the area experiences erratic rains. She also benefited from 1,000 tubes of *Faidherbia albida* (Nsangu), *Acacia lebbeck* (Mtangatanga) for her tree nursery, which will act as a shield in times of strong winds. She also owns a solar panel and

Chitetezo Stove, which uses less firewood compared to the conventional three stone fire.

Nellie was quoted saying '*pakhomo pano ndi pamwana alirenji, zakudya ndi zosasowa' zikomo DISCOVER Project*', meaning "this home never lacks anything, food is available at all times. Thanks to the DISCOVER Project." And continued with, '*Nzeru ndi mphamvu' ndiyesetsa kuti anthu ambiri adziwe za kusintha kwa nyengo ndi kuphela kwacha*', meaning "knowledge is power, will ensure more people learn on climate change and mitigate the impact".



JOYCE NDICHE

actionaid
ireland

JOYCE NDICHE HAILS FROM TA Chinyama in Salima district. She is 41 years old and has seven children. She has recently been rescued from an abusive household. She has been victimized by her husband ever since she has been married. Her husband was a heavy drinker and used to beat her up every time he came back from a drinking spree.

She did not think this was a problem and thought it was part of marriage. But all this changed with the coming in of the ActionAid Malawi Women's Rights Programme that enlightened her on her rights and she picked up that domestic violence was not normal and she has to make the change herself. She reported the abuse to the local Women's Forum (established by ActionAid but community led) which

counselled herself and her husband until he agreed with what was written in the law. Joyce has a different story now "I now know my rights and I know where to report to get justice unlike before when I did not know. My family is now a happy home and he does not beat me anymore. Through the skills learnt at the Resource Centre, we support each other and have a happy home".

Joyce's story is one of many that are reaping benefits of the Irish-Aid funded programme on Women's Rights locally known as Ufulu Wa Amayi-UWAMA.



IDESS CHIMALA

act:onaid
ireland

IDESS CHIMALA IS 33 years old and she comes from Malika Village, TA Mpama in Chiradzulu. She has four children. Idess has never had peace in her home as she had no skill to contribute towards her family's income. This led to constant abuse from her husband both emotionally and physically. She had been experiencing a lot of abuse resulting in difficulties giving birth to her last child.

One day, she reported her situation to the Women's Forum after one of their awareness campaigns. She was enlightened on her rights and she reported her husband to the Women's Forum, after which they solved their issues and resolved that she will be attending ActionAid's *Reflect Circle* meetings where issues are discussed and resolved. After receiving further

training from AA Malawi she eventually started saving and now she has a small vegetable business and is contributing to household income. Her husband now is happy as the burden of the house costs are being split and also they are able to talk and he has also started attending the *Reflect Circle* meetings.

"Through the economic empowerment initiative, GBV cases have gone low as it seems the poorer and resource constrained a household is the more violence takes place in that household", reports Idess.



GIFT CHIWAWA

act:onaid
ireland

GIFT CHIWAWA IS A 54 year old man, married with five children. He comes from Balakasi Village, TA Ntchemba, in Chiradzulu. He is one of the men that belong to the *Amuna-amuna* group which literally means real men. He joined the group after being convinced by Community Based Educators in one of their meetings (sponsored by Actionaid through the Women's Forum).

He is now an active member of the group and recently was spearheading the process of rescuing a girl who was married off by her parents who were not willing to send the girl back to school. Gift with his friends, enlightened the parents on the law and now the girl is back in school and the father of the girl is slowly picking up the concepts of rights. Gift is one of the many men that is a beneficiary of the IrishAid funded programme on women's rights.



LLOYD MATOPE

LLOYD HAILS FROM MALIKA VILLAGE, TA Mpama, Chiradzulu. He is 62 years old. Lloyd never believed women had rights. In his time, women were treated as second class citizens and when the women's rights program was introduced, he swore never to take part or allow his wife to be part of the group as he thought was full of women teaching other women how to disrespect their husbands.

All changed when he attended awareness meetings in the community and he followed up with reading page by page the rights of women using ActionAid's literature. He became intrigued and he says "The more I read the book, the more I became aware of human rights, women's rights, and the more my chauvinistic side began to dwindle".

Now he is part of the Real Men's Group which is making changes in the community especially having direct dialogue with the men that are potential perpetrators. Apart from dealing with perpetrators, he also is involved in community development through the ActionAid Reflect Circles and he and other members of the community are advocating to the government to have a health facility close by for the sexual and reproductive rights of women.



ROSE IMAWO



ROSE SIMAWO TRAVELLED ON a canoe from T/A Nyachikadza, Mpambachulu village to Ndamera village to meet the GOAL team regarding the 16 days of Activism against Violence Campaign. The Nyachikadza area is well known for flooding. Rose is 32 years old, married and has three sons aged fifteen, twelve and eight.

Rose is most proud of: "my happy life, friends, family and my healthy life". She continues, "for women and girls lives to improve they need not be stamped on". Rose has attended GOAL Malawi's training on early warning systems through the DipECHO III and Irish Aid funded programme and recounts what she learned at the training i.e. "that the red flag means danger and a green flag means things are ok... the

training has taught us to prepare beforehand...a place where we can settle when floods hit, therefore we come to the camp". The camp that Rose speaks of is Bitilinyu evacuation centre built by GOAL in Ndamera, Nsanje. She describes the camp as "... safe, we have separate toilets for men and women". She compares her present situation to the one before: "we would meet so many challenges, crocodiles...our property would be destroyed, other people would go to classrooms, and other people would be destitute". Rose appreciates the safe space available for her community including women and girls during times of flood.



RUTH JULIUS



RUTH JULIUS IS 38, married with five children, two boys and three girls. Ruth lives in Kamphata Village, T/A Chimombo, Nsanje District and participates in the DFID, Norwegian Government and Irish Aid funded DISCOVER (Developing Innovative Solutions with Communities to Overcome Vulnerability through Enhanced Resilience) project with GOAL. Ruth is a member of the VSL and Chitetezo Mbaula (energy efficient stove) initiative. She is also the chairperson of the Village Civil Protection Committee (VCPC).

Ruth recognizes the value of education to ensure a bright future for her children. She cites sending her children to school as the primary reason she joined the local Village Savings and Loans (VSL) scheme. Ruth highlights her improved

purchasing power as a result of the scheme: "I have been able to buy a lot of things, iron sheets, a goat and food for the children. This time I am going to buy school uniform for all my children...this way they can't be sent back from school". The Chitetezo Mbaula and the VSL groups have made a huge difference to her life: "I get money from selling the Mbaula, and I then save it with the group...this money helps us a lot as a family...I am able to buy things with it...if I didn't have this money I am afraid my girls could have chosen to get married because as a parent I would have failed them". Ruth notes that poverty often contributes to early marriage among young girls in her community.



VERONICA OBED



VERONICA OBED IS 43 and lives in Chazuka Village T/A Tengani in Nsanje District. Veronica is married and has seven children, four boys and three girls. Veronica participates in the DFID, Norwegian Government and Irish Aid funded DISCOVER project (Developing Innovative Solutions with Communities to Overcome Vulnerability through Enhanced Resilience) with GOAL.

Veronica spoke of how joining the Chitetezo Mbula (energy efficient stove) group has reduced the need for firewood. Veronica notes that the reduced time spent travelling long distances for firewood has minimised the risk of gender based violence. "We had to travel long distances waking up at 4am...we would meet nasty men who would want to take advantage of us, at times we were caught in traps set for wild

animals, which was risky and painful". Veronica also spoke of the difference the Chitetezo Mbula has made to her life. "...using the Mbula our firewood lasts for some time, for at least 2 weeks. With the Mbula we can even use bean stalks to light the fire". The Mbula has made a huge difference to Veronica and other women's lives in that they no-longer have to frequently travel to the forest to fetch firewood. In addition Veronica says the Mbula has impacted positively on the overall wellbeing of her and her family in terms of increasing income generating opportunities integral to women's self-empowerment. "We sell the Mbula we make in the group and buy household stuff and we get that money and use for VSL" (Village savings and Loans).



GRACE PETROS



GRACE PETROS WAS BORN in 1958, she is married and has six children, five boys and one girl. Grace comes from Mlemba Village, T/A Nyachikadza, Nsanje District. Grace described the situation for women and girls in times of flooding prior to GOAL's intervention under the DipECHO III and Irish Aid funded programme. "I once came to live on the camps when floods and disaster struck...at first we used to rent houses but there was a challenge because people used to steal our property and the rented spaces were not always safe places for women and girls. The mensometimes go to rent houses and leave us to stay on the camp".

Grace acknowledges the impact of the GOAL established Bitilinyu evacuation centre in protecting women and girls from Nyachikadza Village during times of disaster. When asked what her biggest hopes and fears for her one daughter are, she said: "I would like her to finish school and find a good job, she needs to save herself so that she doesn't contract diseases, these days the world is no longer the same". Grace is proud of her keen farming abilities which support her and her family.



The Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence comprises Irish human rights, humanitarian and development organisations, Irish Aid and the Defence Forces, all working together to address gender based violence.

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