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PROMOTING AWARENESS ON THE DANGERS OF EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGES (INITIATIVE COVID-19)

Tipologia dell'ente/Kind of organization: NGO

Nome dell'ente che lo ha realizzato/Organization-institute presenting the project: ANNPCAN - African Network for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

Paese/ Country: Malawi

Città/City: Blantyre

Descrizione del progetto/Describe the project : The Covid-19 global pandemic has adversely affected various developments almost in all spheres of the world. In the context of the Prevention against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) project, aimed at ensuring inclusive quality education service for all children, in 2019, the Malawi Government imposed restrictions in which schools were closed, public gatherings were banned including religious events. This led to schools led to the spate of teenage pregnancies and child marriages. A reputable organization called Oxfamuncovered that in Malawi, a girl is impregnated in Mangochi. This challenge rocked even the government. Statistical findings raised concerns on the long-term consequences of teenage pregnancies and child marriages. Through Economic and Social Development with high illiteracy levels more especially among the young population less productive thus slowing down the country's growth. Concerned with such prospects ANPPCAN crafted a project to support mothers who happens to be Covid-19 victims to go back to school. The project involves holding focus group discussions with victims (teen mothers), teachers, Parents as well as community members to create an environment for such girls to resume their studies. In addition, it involves various students such as Students living with various disabilities, Albinism, girls and boys with the aim of fighting stigma and discrimination that can impinge continuation of schools by teen mothers. Furthermore, ANPPCAN through the project engages community members in their communities to ensure that parents with teen mothers encourage their children send their young ones back to school failing which they will be doing service tasks. This has led to the increase of teen mothers returning to school. Again, the project facilitated minded set of activities for physically challenged learners. In these sessions tea

trained to create special classes for teen mothers and physically challenged students aside from normal classes with the aim of preparing these disadvantaged students psychologically to focus on their education not their physical status. This initiatives have seen teen mothers and physically challenged learners being best performers in some of the targeted schools.

Categoria del progetto/Project category : Educazione fino ai 18 anni/Up to 18 years

Uso delle tecnologie / Use of technologies: In order to ensure the smooth progress of the project ANPPCAN created WhatsApp forums for various stakeholders to be aware of the challenges of adolescent and teenage pregnancies and the problems they are experiencing in their areas. WhatsApp has been elected as the main platform for communication as it is a cheaper, commonly and friendly used tool of communication in both urban and rural settings. Again, WhatsApp can be used by both literate and illiterate people through Voice Notes (VN) by those who are challenged intellectually and Short Message Service (SMS) to complement the WhatsApp platform.

Indicare gli elementi di innovazione del progetto / What are the innovative aspects of the project?: ANPPCAN is the best performing organization in Malawi to various social indicators and best in treating adolescent pregnancies.

Con quanti utenti interagisce il progetto?/How many users does the project interact with? : The project interacts with 550 teen mothers and 1000 adolescents in the districts conducive environment to engage various stakeholders. Students living in the rural areas aim of fighting adolescent pregnancies in schools by teaching them.

Di quali mezzi o canali si avvale il progetto?/Which media or channels does the project use?: Main channels are radio, TV, NGO's websites and social media. WhatsApp has been elected as the main platform for communication.

Il progetto è già stato replicato? /Has the project already been replicated? : Yes, the project has been replicated in 10 districts and 1000 villages in the territories covered.

Quali sono le aspettative future?/What are future expectations?: ANPPCAN expect to create a platform for communication through Face book and Whatsapp to eliminate early and forced marriages.

Allegati/Attachments:  [project_photo.pdf](#) ^[1]

Durata progetto/project duration: 1 year (December 2020 - December 2021)

Risultati ottenuti/Results: Results so Far (14/01/2021): -Partnership with the District Assemblies in the form of by-laws -350 young mother re-admitted in 70 primary Schools across Malawi and 1000 adolescents trained on good parenting

Cognome del coordinatore del progetto/project coordinator surname : Mhango

Nome del coordinatore del progetto/project coordinator name : Kenwilliams

Il Progetto ha contribuito ad affrontare la pandemia da Covid-19? / Has the project helped facing the emergency of Covid-19? : In Malawi just before the start of the school year from 12th October to 12th October, the project was in the graduating classes and the project was in the classes remain in the schools were closed. It was reported that in the project was in the pregnancies by the project was in the between 10 and 12 marriages as a result of the hour a girl child was born.

Mzimba 400 and in Nsanje 324 girls are pregnant due to the Covid-19 mandatory holiday. 82 pregnancies have been registered compared to Nchinji 58, Kasungu 20 and Blantyre 64. Blantyre police has reported 4 arrest 1 woman and 3 men involved in child marriage related cases. Amendment in by Parliament in 2017 provides for 18 years as marriage age and removed 14 years as consent age hence all the cases involving girls less than 18 years are prosecutable. It is against this background that ANPPCAN Malawi Chapter is running a project to promote awareness on the dangers of early child and forced marriages that have occurred during the Covid-19 mandatory holiday in Malawi. Moreover, in efforts to improve access of quality education service delivery amid Covid-19 global pandemic, ANPPCAN through this project distributed Covid-19 personal protective equipment (PPE), soap, sanitizers and water buckets in various schools. Therefore strictly adhering to covid-19 prevention measures are awarded thereby incentivizing the Covid-19 prevention process as both students and learners are protected from the global pandemic their ensuring equal access to quality education.

Fondazione Mondo Digitale

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[1] https://gjc.it/en/system/files/project_photo.pdf