

SCOPE SUCCESS STORY

MALAWI



Kampangile Village School envisioned and constructed by Chimwanjobvu Faith Network.

USAID/World Relief: Photo by Joseph Kayange, TA Masumbankhunda Project Supervisor

NAME AND ROLE

Chimwanjobvu Faith Network

LOCATION

TA Masumbankhunda, Lilongwe South, Malawi

SUMMARY

SCOPE's approach of working with faith leaders has spurred development projects in TA Masumbankhunda.

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IMPACT OF TRAINING FAITH LEADERS

Every development project aims to leave a lasting impact in a community: meaningful and tangible impact changes people's lives for the better. For this to happen, local communities must own and sustain projects in every stage of a project's life cycle to achieve sustainability. In cases where projects do not provide material or financial incentives to people, sustaining continual engagement is a challenge.

In Masumbankhunda, Malawi a network of faith leaders from different faith institutions have overcome some of these common challenges and constructed a school—started and completed, all in just three months. All this has with no financial grants or materials, but simply training from the SCOPE project.

Funded by USAID in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the SCOPE project has a well-outlined approach to improving health seeking behavior by engaging local faith leaders. Faith leaders are key actors in development, supporting, initiating and translating development projects. They often command a large following and are some of the most trusted voices in Malawi. This is why SCOPE is engaging faith leaders through Making Communities Better, a faith

SCOPE FAITH LEADERS TRAININGS: A CATALYST FOR CHANGE AT TA MASUMBANKHUNDA

Traditional Authority Masumbankhunda is a community in the capital city of Lilongwe South, with one of the highest populations in Malawi with 142,750 people. On record, the area has a current population of 12,400 primary school-going children. Like all other Traditional Authorities, TA Masumbankhunda is made up of many tiny villages scattered from each other, including Kampangire Village.

Due to the terrain of the land and lack of infrastructure development, schools are few and have long distances between them. The nearest school to Kampangile is six kilometers away. Because of these distances, most students drop out of school. It is reported that approximately 43% of students (64 of 146 students) drop out of school each year in Kampangile Village alone.

Tired of this problem, the Chimwanjobvu Faith Network mobilized to construct a school in their community. This initiative began as a seed project pledged at a SCOPE training where faith leaders were taught how to draft project workplans, task sharing and resource mobilization. Soon construction started: leaders molded bricks and contributed money for cement and other project equipment.

The Kampangile Village school construction is expected to reduce primary school dropout rates significantly, and the school project has received active support from Kampangile's village headman. "I come here every day to work. I cannot afford to contribute financially, so I come here to contribute my manual labor," shared Kampangile's village headman.

As a result of faith leaders mobilizing resources internally as a local community, the school is now operational, and the first class of students began learning in January 2022. Since then, the Chamwanjobvu Faith Network began construction of a village clinic which will be handed over to the government upon completion.

FOLLOWING UP ON PROJECT PLEDGES IS A RECIPE FOR DELIVERY

Unity and collaboration are key to this faith network's success. SCOPE has also consistently followed up, met and engaged faith leaders to ensure they follow through with their pledged projects. According to Deliya Bauleni, the chairman of Chimwanjobvu Faith Network, "It is a huge problem here; children do just drop out of school. At first we just looked, waited and waited on the government, but the government

is a big entity. It has too many things to look after. We could wait forever for our turn." He went on to thank SCOPE for teaching "us transformation development, that we could mobilize and start with whatever we have to bring change. All they gave us was education and books. Today, all we can say is thank you SCOPE project, thank you for constantly following up on our project pledges."

"You have to be consistent. Behavior change takes time, but when you are consistent like the way we have been in teaching and training, results like these do come."

- Joseph Kayange, TA
Masumbankhunda Project
Supervisor

FAITH COMMUNITIES ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS

As critical leaders in their communities, SCOPE engages faith leaders to improve reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health (RMNCH) and family planning behaviors. SCOPE works with faith communities through a multi-layered approach: *Making Our Communities Better*, a community mobilization methodology, *Family Life Education*, a curriculum helping faith leaders engage their congregations on challenging RMNCH issues, and *Families for Life*, a couples' strengthening intervention promoting gender equality, couples' communication and intolerance for gender-based violence. By the end of 2024, SCOPE will engage nearly 4,000 faith leaders and their spouses on critical RMNCH and family planning issues affecting their communities.

This story is written by Charles Fwataki, SCOPE Malawi Project Coordinator, Joseph Kayange, TA Masumbankhunda Project Supervisor and Elizabeth Cooper, SCOPE Communications Intern.