



A family receiving HTC results in Lirangwe

HTC

Overall this quarter, 193 people were tested. 23 of these were found positive and 170 were negative.

Four follow-up visits were carried out, with two of the four taking Anti-Retro Viral medication. The other two are not taking the medication due to fear of what their husband or boss would do if they found out.

Support groups

One new support group has been established in Kumwembe, bringing the total number of support groups to 30. Overall this quarter, 27 support groups were visited. They were often given review sessions, which showed the women’s retention of knowledge to be very good.

MASYAP was also made aware of the way in which many support groups helped members and the wider community. Often a weekly contribution is made, and in Soche this money is used to help three families in need: one woman whose house is falling down, an orphan, and a widow with four children.



Support group coordinator with member of Kumwembe support group

Members’ deaths

We were saddened to hear that in December, Patuma Wilard, 53, of Kuwembe support group died leaving a husband and seven children.

Microfinance

On our regular visits, we found that many women on the microfinance scheme have been struggling to save. Much of this is due to the time of year; households are spending money on fertiliser as it is time to plant and grow crops. Moreover, the price of food rises as people wait for the harvest. However, the loans still make life easier for many women, for example by ensuring they can pay school fees.



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Women performing at the MASYAP world AIDS day event

World AIDS day

In celebration of World AIDS day (held internationally on 1st December), MASYAP had its own event with stakeholders, press and 360 MASYAP members in attendance.

MASYAP women and youth members enjoyed presenting poems, drama performances and songs to the other attendees, as well as some women speaking about their experiences of living with HIV.

The importance of HIV testing was emphasised by all, and the MASYAP HTC and Youth Coordinator provided testing at the event.

Mai Aisha rallies women and girls in Aids fight

MASYAP in the news

AS part of world AIDS day, MASYAP was also featured in *The Daily Times* newspaper in an article explaining the work MASYAP does.

Youth

Three more youth workshops were run on HIV/AIDS with over 70 girls in attendance.