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CHAGUNDA VILLAGE  
07:30 am

I went to Dasiyo where I chatted with 5 people of which 3 were men and 2 women.

I asked them if there were relief items or food since last year of this year.

They said that they have been receiving relief food since October last year:-

They said that people have been receiving food times since end of last year 2005 like this:-

But their [they] did not disclose the name of the NGO.

Each beneficially [beneficiary] was receiving a 50Kg bag of maize.

2 litres of cooking oil  
2 kilogrammes of beans

I asked also the way how the distribution went on?

They said that all food distribution were done at the primary school at Mphula trading centre: all chiefs and the people around the community were receiving the maize at the school in a good way, they were calling names according to each village accordingly without favours.

They said that they have been receiving the food items since November up to February this year for 4 months.

I asked also if any CBO distributed or assisted people in anyway within the area?

They said that no CBO came with food times but there is Mphula Youth Club which brought 2 footballs to the area for the youth to be doing some sporting activity instead of going upside down they should keep themselves busy with sports.

So that they can prevent the kachilombo when they go up and down.

And they said that this CBO also conducts dramas of which contains AIDS messages they move in all villages around Mphula Area.

They said that its only NGO and Government which distribute food items CBO do just assist in kind and through messages by performing dramas for the people to change behaviour particularly sexual behaviour change.

I thanked the people and left for Vingula. Still on the way by the chiefs compound I found young boys playing ball made from condoms which is a common and popular in the whole area is a tendency throughout.

I called the boys and asked them where they get the condoms?

These they buy them from the shops within the area.

I asked them where they get the money of which they buy the condoms?

The boys said that they fetch for left over of cotton in gardens and sell them to the farmers so they get K20 some get K10 so after this they go and buy the condoms.

I asked them that for those who do not access the funds where do they get the condoms?

They said that they all go for casual work carrying bricks any sort of casual work as long as they get cash.

One young boy said that then do not buy condoms in the area it is very rare to see a man buying its only boys who are buying them currently even the shops owners majority are boys who buy them for playing as balls only boys are promoting the business men do buy but very scarce.

Then I thanked the boys and left for Mitochi village, just next to the village

10:00

NYANGA VILLAGE

23-07-2006  
SUNDAY

10:05 – 11:00 HOURS.

I went to Mitochi just next to the other village where I was coming I met some men at the grocery and there is a market near the chief residence.

I bought cooked maize and started chatting with the men under the trees.

They knew that I was part of the *Let's Chat* team hence I was in the black *Let's Chat* T/shirt.

I asked them if they have been receiving food aids last 12 months or beyond that period they said that it is true last year was a year of starvation the whole area was in problem all households were running out of food but people were saved because of the MASAF programme Food for work.

I probed then what they meant for food for work.

One of the men said that (MASAF) Malawi Social Action Fund made a programme to assist the people in the rural masses by working within a specific period and get food stuffs by the end of the month.

So the MASAF was providing a bag of 50Kg of maize to an individual per 4 weeks so this programme a lot of people over a hundred people benefited from this programme since last year.

This programme took about 3 months since September up to November last year 2005 and soon after this programme the Government started another programme of food relief where by those who were registered to be given were given like this:-

An individual - orphans aged [elderly] and some normal people - were given a 50Kg bag of maize each.  
1 litre of cooking oil each.  
5Kg of beans each.

There was a limited number of beneficiaries who were given this relief food 50 people were given in Mitochi village.

The people said that the distribution was done at the nearest primary school that is Mphula primary school and the distribution was done in a fair manner.

He one of the men said that there was one religious organization which was sub-contracted to do the relief distribution throughout Balaka District.

I probed for the name of the relief religious organization but he said he and her [his] friends did not know the NGO.

But one of the men of about 30 years said that he knows only one NGO which was giving the aged [elderly] and the orphans flour, maize flour each orphans and aged person was given a 20Kg of flour for only once and this was in February this year.

I asked how this NGO was distributing the relief food.

He said that this NGO was World Food Programme. WFP was distributing the food nicely and accordingly they first registered the names of Orphans and names the enumerator came in the area and wrote all names corresponding to the criteria and on the day the truck came and the WFP enumerators were calling names one by one very organized until they finished but the chiefs were also given a bag of maize flour all chiefs within the area.

Then I asked if any community based organization assisted people in the area?

One of the men said that there is no club or CBO from the area which has been assisted in relief from this only the drama clubs which send messages of kachilombo through dramas that's the only assistance which the CBOs of this area so [do].

He said that the CBO early this year called on people that shortly they will start assisting orphans life said that this is Mphula Orphan Care the T/A Luka conducted a community meeting at Mphula informing the people that Mphula CBO is successful shortly this CBO will be funded the proposal has been successful so it has targeted all the villages around Mphula and Mitochi village of the beneficiaries.

When I was going back to Mphula I met 2 young men of about 22 years old it seemed that one of the young man was on sample of LETS CHAT respondent.

When I was crossing near his household he said that is not good to give gifts to respondents like the sugar and soap which is given he said that it is better to give people money because the sugar and soap is worth about k150 a person from the village if he / she can be given k150 he / she can appreciate more than giving her / him a packet of sugar and soap.

He continued to say that it is better to have an option whether one prefers cash or the gift it can be fine hence one can have a freedom of choice.

Then I left for Mphula and went for lunch at the lunch hour within Mphula trading centre.

13:00 hours  
Sunday

Date: 23-07-06  
Village: Mopa  
TA: Luka.

I went down, down Mopa village and stopped by the school called Efeti Primary School give them any Food assistance.

One of the men responded that indeed they have been receiving food Aid since last year for 5 times the government vehicles came with maize beans and cooking oil.

I asked how the relief food was distributed?

He said that all the food items were dropped by the primary school and all people who were registered in the villages around Mopa went to the primary school and they were orphans the aged and few middle aged people about 50 beneficiaries.

Each person was given a bag of 50Kg maize.

Each person was given a litre of cooking oil.

Each person was also given 3kg of beans

I asked them how the distribution went on fair or bad?

They said it was very fair security people were there 2 policemen were in control, chiefs and a religious organization was sub contracted to distributed to conduct the relief food distribution by the government of Malawi.

He continued to say that there was peace throughout the distribution for the whole of the 5 months for 5 times when they received the relief items.

I asked if the area has a CBO which is assisting the orphans or aged in the village?

One of the ladies said that there is no any CBO in the area which assisted anybody at Mopa village it is only a club at Efeti school these boys and girls do perform dramas and songs which contain kachilombo messages its an assistance which help the people through these channels but for a local CBO to assist the people a relief food never.

She also said that the MASAF Food for work programme has also assisted the people of the area and a lot of people have benefited from the programme a lot of road in the village have been mentioned and paved.

She said programme started last year in September 2005 since September to November the people who ere working in this area were receiving a bag of 50Kg of maize each month for 3 months.

She continued to say that this area when there are food distributions from the NGOs or Government things go normal there is no corruption everything goes well.

Then around 14:30 hours I left the Mopa place and returned back to Mwantaya where I reached around 15 hours but on the way I met some young men stood by the grocery, he talked to one of the men whom I was talking to, they discussed for a while then this man said that this area at Luka traditional authority the current maize production is poor people have no[t] enough food.

He continued to say that hence there are 2 community based organizations there is hope that these two CBOs shall assist the vulnerable group with no doubt.

Then I went straight to Mwantaya village.

Around 15:10 hours.

15:20 Hours

Village: Mwantaya

Date: 23-07-06

Sunday

T/A: Luka.

I went up Mwantaya when I was coming from Mopa. I saw young boys and women near the tap opposite Mwantaya Mosque.

I then asked then about the relief food items if they happen to receive.

One of the women of about 40 years said that this year and end of last year 2005 was a good year for the people for the area.

Government tried its best by distributing maize, beans and cooking oil for several times.

I asked how it was distributed and the quantity.

She said that people registered first about 60 beneficiaries were registered this include orphans, the aged and some few elders both men and women.

She said that each received a bag of 50Kg of maize.

A litre of cooking oil and she said the tins were written in blue USA, Aid then I said Eee! She laughed yes USA.

And also each person among the registered beneficiaries received a 3Kg of beans each

She said that all these food items were received for 6 times for 6 different months since October this year.

She continued to say that after I asked where they were receiving these (Food Aids) she said that they were receiving these at the nearest school primary school near Mphula.

And the distribution was fair and there was peace [peach], she said that there were 2 police men who were there up [until] the whole distribution ended for 2 days.

No one worried about it there was justification and there was peace and tight security during the distribution.

I asked that apart from the Government which assisted is there any CBO in the area which also assisted in any way?

One of the women said ever since there is no any other CBO in the area which assisted with any relief food its only the Government and Non-governmental organizations.

She continued to say that its only advocacy on kachilombo issues they only educate the rural masses on ways how the people can prevent the kachilombo and ways how the kachilombo is spread.

I asked them which CBO is this?

She said they are 2 CBO one from Vingula and the other one is Mphula Untied Youth Club these help the people by educating them on behaviour change and she said also that these CBOs encourage people to go for kachilombo testing voluntary.

One of the men said that these CBOs conduct and perform drama, poem and traditional dances which are composed of kachilombo messages in them so they go in all the villages around traditional authority Luka.

I asked then since they said that people are encouraged to go for VCT with the CBOs do they go?

The woman answered that the turn up is very low as compared there are more women who go for the VCT than the men.

I also asked why she thinks more women go than the men?

She said that: Men do fear to go for the VCT because majority of the men in the households are not faithful they go for other sexual partners so with that situation men fear hence they think that they may be found positive to the kachilombo.

All the people laughed and commented that yes! Its true.

She said that some fear that if they can go and found that they are positive to its they automatically know that some of them can be chased by the spouses marriage can end right away they can be divorced so they also fear to lose spouses.

She talked about the 2 options above.

Lastly around 17:00 hours after having chatted with the people I thanked them for being with me for almost an hour and a half.

Then I left Mwantaya village for Mphula I hired a bicycle until I reached Vingula at around 18:30 hours where is started now writing the reports immediately while the brain was still fresh.

THE END.