

**ERKLÄRUNG ÜBER DIE TEILNAHME EINES MITGLIEDS AN
VON DRITTEN ORGANISIERTEN VERANSTALTUNGEN AUF
EINLADUNG**

GEMÄSS ARTIKEL 5 ABSATZ 3 DER ANLAGE I DER GESCHÄFTSORDNUNG DES EUROPÄISCHEN PARLAMENTS
BETREFFEND DEN VERHALTENSKODEX FÜR DIE MITGLIEDER DES EUROPÄISCHEN PARLAMENTS IM BEREICH
FINANZIELLE INTERESSEN UND INTERESSENKONFLIKTE

Name: NOICHL

Vorname: Maria



Ich, der/die Unterzeichnete, erkläre hiermit ehrenwörtlich und in voller Kenntnis der Geschäftsordnung des Europäischen Parlaments, insbesondere der Anlage I betreffend den Verhaltenskodex für die Mitglieder, gemäß Artikel 5 Absatz 3 des Verhaltenskodexes sowie gemäß Präsidiumsbeschluss vom 15. April, dass ich – auf Einladung und in Ausübung meines Mandats als Mitglied des Europäischen Parlaments – an folgenden von Dritten organisierten Veranstaltungen teilgenommen habe, wobei meine Reise-, Unterkunfts- oder Aufenthaltskosten von Dritten beglichen oder übernommen wurden:

Datum: 25.01.2017

**DIE ANGABEN IN DIESER ERKLÄRUNG ERFOLGEN UNTER DER ALLEINIGEN
PERSÖNLICHEN VERANTWORTUNG DES MITGLIEDS UND MÜSSEN GEMÄSS
PRÄSIDIUMSBESCHLUSS VOM 15. APRIL 2013 SPÄTESTENS AM LETZTEN TAG DES
MONATS, DER AUF DEN TAG FOLGT, AN DEM DIE TEILNAHME DES MITGLIEDS AN
DER VERANSTALTUNG ENDET, ÜBERMITTELT WERDEN.**

Diese Erklärung wird auf der Internetseite des Parlaments veröffentlicht.

PER E-MAIL AN: Administration-Deputes@europarl.europa.eu

**DAS UNTERSCHRIEBENE ORIGINAL SOLLTE DANN AN FOLGENDE ADRESSE
GESCHICKT WERDEN:**

EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT

Referat Verwaltung der Mitglieder¹

rue Wiertz, 60

PHS 07B019

B-1047 BRÜSSEL

¹ Rechtlicher Hinweis: Das Referat Verwaltung der Mitglieder ist der für die Datenverarbeitung Verantwortliche im Sinne der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 45/2001 des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates vom 18. Dezember 2000 zum Schutz natürlicher Personen bei der Verarbeitung personenbezogener Daten durch die Organe und Einrichtungen der Gemeinschaft und zum freien Datenverkehr (ABl. L 8 vom 12.1.2001, S. 1) und des Präsidiumsbeschlusses vom 22. Juni 2005 mit Durchführungsbestimmungen in Bezug auf diese Verordnung (ABl. C 308 vom 6.12.2005, S. 1).

VERPFLICHTENDE ANGABEN		
	ERFORDERLICHE ANGABEN	ENTSPRECHEND AUSZUFÜLLEN
Dritte	Name, Funktion und Anschrift des Dritten, der die Kosten des Mitglieds erstattete oder beglich ²	CARE International, Rue du Trone 12, 1000 Brüssel
ART DER ÜBERNOMMENEN KOSTEN	Reise: München-Lilongwe (Malawi); Blantyre (Malawi)-Frankfurt	Ja Art (z.B. Flug, Bahn): Flug Klasse (z.B. Economy, Business): Economy
	Unterkunft:	Ja Name des Hotels: Sunbird Capital Hotel, Chilembwe Road, Lilongwe Anzahl der Übernachtungen ³ : 1 Name des Hotels: Victoria Hotel, Off Victoria Avenue, Blantyre Anzahl der Übernachtungen ⁴ : 2
	Aufenthaltskosten:	Ja, Mahlzeiten und dortiger Transport
	Termin (und Dauer) der Teilnahme des Mitglieds an der Veranstaltung:	21.08.2016 bis 25.08.2016 (Abflug am 21. August um 21:35 Uhr von München, Ankunft am 22. August um 12:44 Uhr, Rückflug am 25. August um 15:27 Uhr und Ankunft in Frankfurt am 26. August um 05:10 Uhr)
EINZELHEITEN ZUR BETREFFENDEN VERANSTALTUNG	Art der Veranstaltung (kann deren Programm nicht beigefügt werden, Erläuterungen bitte unter „Bemerkungen“ weiter unten eintragen):	Study Tour: Building resilience and sustainable future for women, men, girls and boys.
	Ort (Land, Stadt):	Lilongwe und Blantyre (siehe Programm)
FREIWILLIGE ANGABEN		
Bemerkungen	<p>gister verzeichnet, kann darauf verwiesen werden.</p> <p>ht erforderlich.</p> <p>ht erforderlich.</p>	

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

CARE MEP Study Tour, Malawi

21-25 August 2016



The following pages provide you with the most important practical information on our journey.

Flight connection

Arrival in Lilongwe

22.08.2016, 12h44

Ethiopian Airlines #ET877

Departure from Blantyre

25.08.2016, 15h27

Ethiopian Airlines #ET866

>> The delegation of MEPs will be welcomed by CARE staff at their arrival in Lilongwe, and accompanied to the airport in Blantyre for departure.

Hotels in Malawi

Lilongwe

Sunbird Capital Hotel

Chilembwe Road, Lilongwe 3, Malawi

<http://www.sunbirdmalawi.com/index.php/capital>

T: +265 1 773 388

Blantyre

Victoria Hotel

Off Victoria Avenue, Blantyre, Malawi

<http://www.hotelvictoriamw.com/index.php>

T: +265 1 823 500 / 1 825 058

Time difference

Belgium - Malawi

No time difference, during summer time

Country code - Phone

+265

Security

The security of our participants is our highest priority. This is why we work in close collaboration with the EU Delegation, CARE's security departments as well as external consultants. Upon arrival in Lilongwe, all participants will receive a specific security introduction.

For any further questions and inquiries, please do not hesitate to get in touch with

In Malawi

Paola Trevisan, EU Parliamentary Officer, +32(0) 492 39 78 51; +265 (0) 99 5275 721

Petra Beer, Programme Assistant, +32(0) 495 123 169

EU Delegation in Lilongwe, Malawi +265(0)1 773-199

In Brussels

CARE in Brussels +32 (0) 2289 00 18

Please note that for the case of an emergency only, we always have a satellite phone available, which also works in remote areas of the country: +88 21668135 497.

Preliminary programme

Monday, 22 August – Lilongwe (Overnight: Sunbird Capital hotel, Lilongwe)

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 12:44 | Arrival in Lilongwe |
| 16:00 | Welcome and security briefing |
| 16:30 | Scene setter with CARE Malawi, FAO, UN Women, Oxfam |
| 18:30 | Reception at EU Ambassador in Malawi, Mr. Marchel Gerrmann |

Tuesday, 23 August – Lilongwe and Blantyre (Overnight: Victoria hotel, Blantyre)

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 08:00 | Breakfast with young women leaders |
| 10:00 | Project visit: Green Innovation Centre, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources |
| 11:30 | Meetings with representatives of the Parliament of the Republic of Malawi |
| 13:00 | Lunch |
| 14:30 | Meeting with the EU delegation in Malawi and other EU donors |
| 18:00 | Flight to Blantyre (Southern region) |
| 20:00 | Dinner with Chief Authority Kachindamoto |

Wednesday, 24 August – Blantyre (Overnight: Victoria hotel, Blantyre)

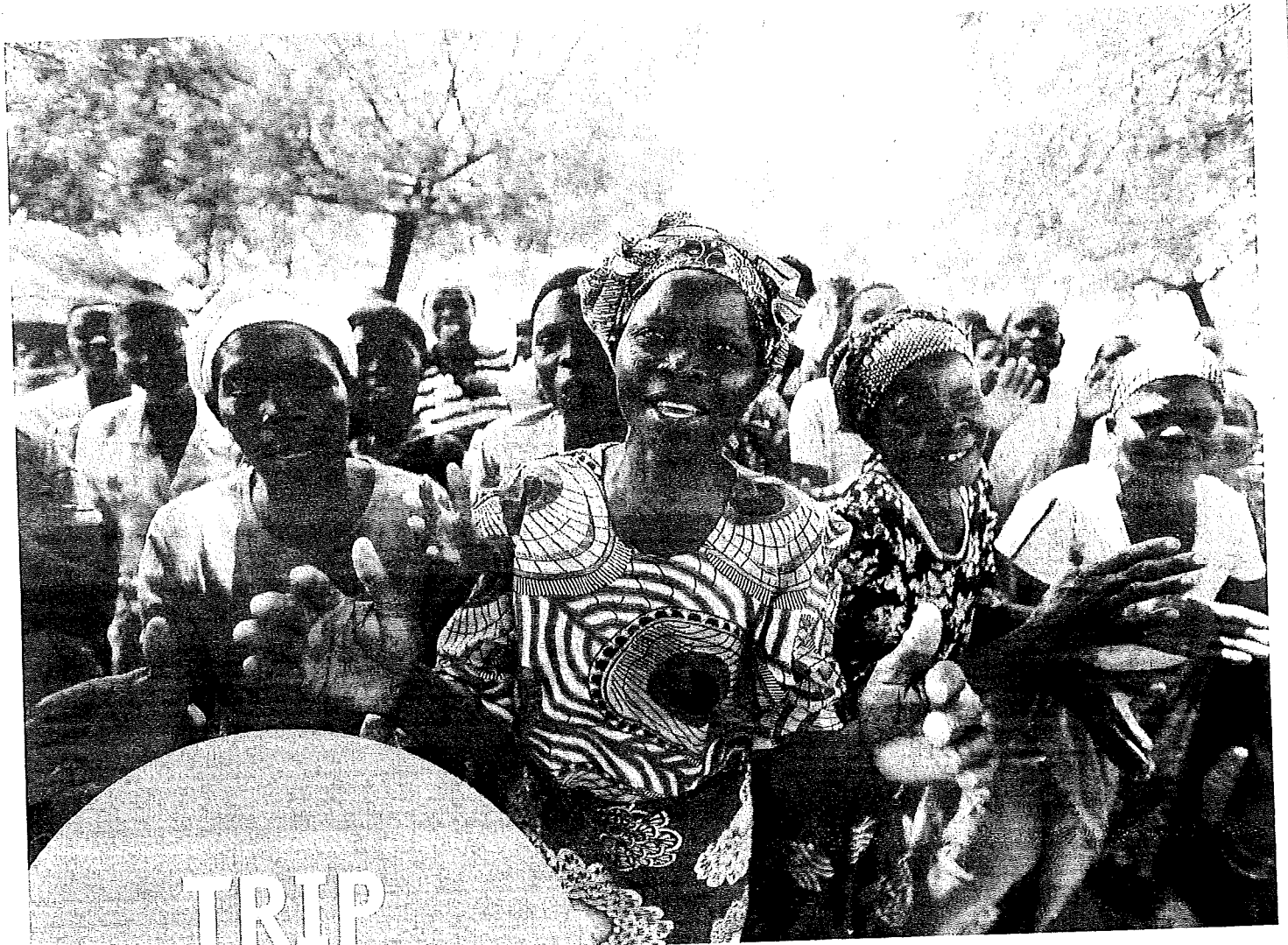
- | | |
|-------|---|
| 07:00 | Transfer to Nsanje district |
| 09:30 | Project visit: CARE Malawi |
| 11:30 | Project visit: GOAL/ DISCOVER consortium |
| 15:00 | Project visit: Concern Universal and Agricare |
| 16:30 | Transfer to Blantyre |
| 19:15 | Closing dinner |

Thursday, 25 August

- | | |
|-------|--------------------------|
| 09:00 | Project visit: CARE VSLA |
| 10:45 | Project visit: tbc |
| 12:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00 | Transfer to the airport |
| 15:27 | Departure from Blantyre |

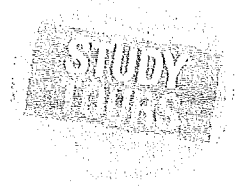
CARE STUDY TOUR MALAWI

**Building resilience and a sustainable future
for women, men, girls and boys.**



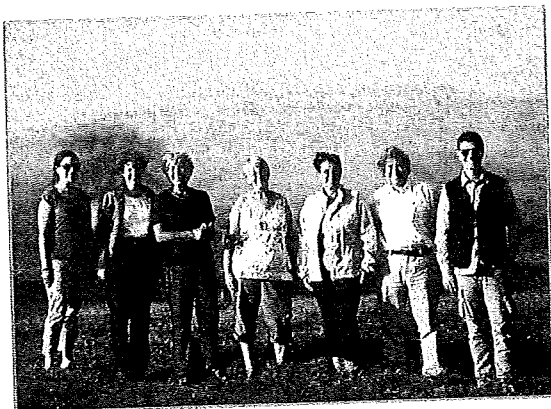
TRIP REPORT

22-25 August 2016



DELEGATION

1. Margrete Auken, MEP
2. Ignazio Corrao, MEP
3. Maria Noichl, MEP
4. Maria Heubuch, MEP
5. Ricardo Serrão Santos, MEP
6. Julie Ward, MEP
7. Céline Mias, EU Representative, CARE International



From left to right: Céline Mias, MEP Heubuch, MEP Auken, MEP Ward, MEP Noichl, MEP Serrão Santos, MEP Corrao

INTRODUCTION

From 22-25 August 2016, a cross-party delegation of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) travelled to Malawi on a Study Tour focussing on the topic **"Building resilience and a sustainable future for women, men, girls and boys"**.

Through meetings with international NGOs, grass-root level organisations, members of the Malawian parliament and Government representatives, the EU Delegation and other EU donors, as well as through project visits and interaction with local communities and activists, the delegation explored the issue of resilience-building efforts to break the cycle of poverty.

During the visit, MEPs saw the impacts of climate change and other factors that exacerbate poverty and fragility. Malawi is both one of the poorest countries in the world and prone to natural disasters such as drought

and heavy rainfall, leaving the country in need of substantial food aid every year. The country is currently in the throes of an intense drought, caused by the strongest El Niño-related events in 50 years; especially in affected areas in the southern regions of Malawi, where ensuring food and nutrition security (FNS) is extremely challenging.

The population of Malawi also suffers from a high burden of disease, high rates of malnutrition, maternal, infant and child mortality, HIV and malaria. During the visit, the delegation witnessed vulnerabilities that aggravate the chronic effects of poverty and saw first-hand to which extent the high population growth due to social norms and limited access to family planning, intensifies the already remarkable strain on the health system.

During the delegation's project visits, it became clear that investing in long-term resilience-building programmes is key to achieving a sustainable future for women, men, girls and boys. By enhancing community resilience, it is possible to break the cycle of poverty, food insecurity, vulnerability and fragility. Development partners in Malawi and elsewhere, both governmental and non-governmental, agreed that investing in multi-sectoral resilience programmes that empower local communities and enhance local governance is the right thing to do.

With a tight schedule the study visit brought the MEP delegation both to the capital of Malawi and to rural areas in the southern regions, where they could experience first-hand the effects of El Niño and the impact of community resilience efforts. This allowed trip participants to get a more comprehensive overview of the country and offered time and space to engage with communities as well as with policy makers.

DAY 1 - UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT

On the first day in Malawi's capital Lilongwe, MEPs had the opportunity to become familiarized with the general country context and main challenges.

To begin with, representatives from CARE, FAO, Oxfam and UN Women provided an overview on the situation in Malawi.

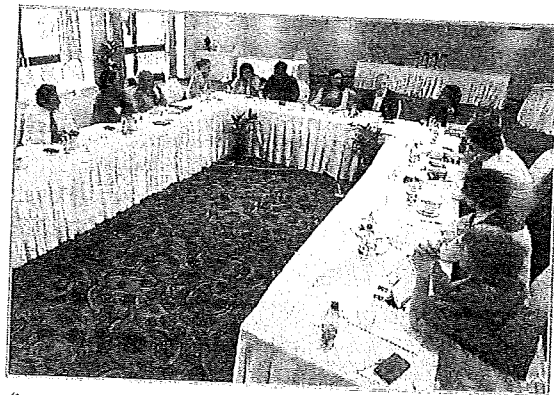
In his presentation, **CARE Malawi** Country Director Michael Rewald focussed on the Nsanje district in the south of the country, which MEPs visited later in the week. He stressed that food insecurity is a serious crisis in Malawi, yet is not receiving adequate attention from international donors because of other crises in other regions of the world. Over 40% of children are stunting in Malawi and according to the Malawian Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, through the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC), 40% of the population - 6.5 million people - will be food insecure in the 2016-2017 consumption cycle.

However, the situation is not chronic everywhere; the southern district of Nsanje had been particularly heavily affected. As such, it was the first district to receive food aid both in cash and in-kind. Here, CARE Malawi has implemented an ECHO funded project to respond to the food insecurity crisis and improve the adaptive capacity of populations vulnerable to El Niño impacts.

The lack of good governance in Malawi, as well as poor family planning services and implementation, are also considered critical issues and causes of fragility and vulnerability. Malawi's population is expected to double from 13 million in 2010 to 26 million by 2030, increasing pressure on a depleting natural resource base and stressed agricultural sector, responsible for one third of the country's GDP.

UN Women National Programme Officer Ms. Pamela Mkwamba explained the situation of women in Malawi. Most women live in rural areas, where they perform between 50-70% of

all agricultural tasks. Yet, women still have limited access to production resources and assets, including inputs, land, credit and extension services, making it difficult for women smallholder farmers to benefit from agricultural productivity and growth. To address women's inequality in agriculture and land tenure, UN Women had partnered with FAO and the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development of Malawi to implement programmes to fill the gender gap in agriculture and increase productivity for rural women.



Scene setter with representatives from CARE, FAO, Oxfam and UN Women

The issue of violence against women and girls was raised as a serious problem in Malawi. According to the National Survey on Gender Based Violence (2013), at least 40% of women experience sexual violence in their lifetime (30% physical violence, and 44% psycho-social violence). In addition, according to UNFPA, Malawi is ranked 8th among the highest levels of child marriage and early pregnancies in the world. With the adoption of legislative and policy frameworks (i.e. Prevention of Domestic Violence Act and Gender Equality Act), the issue of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Malawi has moved from being considered a private issue to becoming the Government's responsibility. But implementation is still challenging, with only 3% of the government's budget going to the Ministry of Gender.

Ms. Florence Rolle, Country Director for **FAO** in Malawi discussed the complexity of the issue of agriculture and how to build climate

resilient sustainable agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture receives the main share of the national budget (around 70-90%), yet agriculture growth rate is only at 2.8%. There are different factors impeding agriculture to flourish and contribute to the development of other economic sectors.

First, donors had stopped financing through government (providing budget support) following a loss of confidence and concerns around widespread corruption in Malawi. Second, governmental programmes to support smallholder farmers, such as the FISP (Farm Input Subsidy Programme), had not been successful nor efficient leading to a considerable waste of resources. Third, risks in the agricultural sector are very high, thus resources tend to go to address losses and provide aid instead of strengthening mitigation and adaptation. FAO suggests future investments should focus on extension and research, irrigation, roads, collective action and finance, in order to reach and support both productive farmers and commercial farmers.

Finally, Ms. Lingalireni Mihowa, Oxfam Deputy Country Director, informed participants about activities in the area of good governance and active citizenship. According to a recent report by UNDP, Malawians understand their human rights, but lack the capacity to claim them. Media, academia, trade unions and NGOs play a key role in supporting and defending democratic institutions.

NGOs are very active in Malawi and perform a two-fold role: On the one hand, NGOs collaborate with the government on some key issues; on the other hand, they challenge the government when people's rights are not respected. In this vein, NGOs play a critical role in reviewing how the government uses and allocates the national budget. Institutions which can support active citizenship are weak and space for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) is shrinking.

"For us as Members of the European Parliament this is a great opportunity to see with our own eyes what the problems are, so that once we are back in Brussels in our parliamentary work, we can try to work on them from the European side."

Ignazio Corrao, MEP

In the evening, the delegation attended a reception hosted jointly by CARE and the **EU Ambassador in Malawi, Marchel Germann**, at his residence. Here, delegates had the opportunity to interact with representatives from the EU Delegation, international and local NGOs, UN agencies, embassies and development partners of EU Member States, and Norway, as well as the private sector.



From left: MEP Corrao, MEP Heubuch, EU Ambassador Marchel Germann, MEP Ward, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hon. Francis Katsaila, MEP Noicht, MEP Serrão Santos, MEP Aiken

In addition, Members of the Parliament of Malawi and representatives of the national government were present. The delegation was honoured by the presence of **Hon. Francis Katsaila, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**, who delivered the keynote speech. Hon. Katsaila welcomed the Delegation to Malawi, *the warm heart of Africa*.

MEP Heubuch addressed the audience on behalf of the MEP delegation, and handed over a CARE Package, which this year celebrates its 70th anniversary, to thank the EU Ambassador and the Minister.

DAY 2 - BUILDING RESILIENCE IN AGRICULTURE

The second day of the visit started with a breakfast meeting with three young women leaders from Malawi: **Rose Sakala**, recipient of the Star Prize Winner for Future African Leaders Awards 2015 and of the Woman of Distinction Award from the Government of Malawi; **Pilirani Khoza**, researcher on food security and climate change and founder of the Bunda Female Students Association, and **Catherine Mloza Banda**, Agricultural Value Chain Officer at Farm Radio Malawi. All of them have studied at Lilongwe University of Agricultural and Natural Resources (LUANAR) and have previously been invited as young leaders to the European Development Days.

During her presentation Rose put the focus on her studies in agribusiness management. "As somebody studying agribusiness, I thought there was a need to give back to the community, so I took the initiative and established the LUANAR Students Entrepreneurship Led Initiative (LUSELI), which aims at identifying young graduates in Malawi, who have business ideas, but lack resources". In Malawi loans come with 43% interest, a very high rate, especially for young people. This is why Rose partnered with the private sector to create a partnership with young entrepreneurs and share the interest. Through this model, she has been able to reduce the interest rate to 20%, allowing young people to access loans and start their own business.

Rose also engages with NGOs like Save the Children to provide nutrition training and economic opportunities for children and women, and working with teenage mothers, who dropped out of school due to early pregnancy. "It just gives me joy to see young women being able to access education and discover their potentials to achieve what they are able to do". In Malawi, one in three girls

gives birth before the age of 18 and of the 60% of girls who access school, only 30% complete secondary education.

Catherine, a science communicator reported that in Malawi, there was one extension worker (who provides agriculture basic services) for every 3,000 farmers. "So if every extension worker decided to visit each farmer for every single day in a year, he would need about ten years to actually finish visiting every farmer!" Her organization, Farm Radio Malawi, came in to address this problem and uses radio and ICT to provide farmers with easy access to information. Access to radio is widespread, so they designed agriculture radio programmes that allow farmers to access information as if they received it from an extension worker. Farm Radio Malawi promotes alternatives to maize and all kinds of products that are profitable, but that farmers do not know how to grow. They also integrated mobile phones, so that people can have conversations with experts. If even only one person has a mobile phone or a radio, this allows farmers to share the information with their peers. Finally, Catherine established an *agricultural call centre* and so far they have had about 70,000 farmers calling in to ask questions about agriculture. ICT is opening boundaries for Africa and might be the new theme for the years to come and the sector to invest in.



Pilirani Khoza

Pilirani introduced her work as Forestry Research Assistant and Gender Programme Coordinator at LUANAR. She is also the founder

of the Bunda Female Students Association, which works to empower female students to get academically involved in the field of science and agriculture by providing scholarships and sending sponsored students to rural communities to train rural women on climate smart technologies. In terms of raising funding for the scholarships, the association relies on students to organize fundraising events.

Regarding the Gender Programme at LUANAR, Pilirani explained "in 2013, a survey conducted at LUANAR revealed that there were inequalities between female and male students, and issues between female students and lecturers; violence and harassment against women was high and this called for a gender policy for the University".

The so called "sexual transmitted grades" is a practice where lecturers promise high grades to women students in exchange of sex. The gender policy established at LUANAR aims at minimising and finally eliminating this kind of gender-based violence in university.

The three young women underlined how former female President of Malawi Joyce Banda helped improve gender equality in the country. She not only promoted access to science for women, but also acted as a mediator with the Ministry of Gender and the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure access to work in agriculture for female graduates.

The young leaders further explained that in terms of women's access to land, traditional chiefs are entitled to distribute land, and women are not given priority. Thus, it is important to work with traditional leaders in order to educate and convince them about the importance of providing women with access to land. Through the conversation, it emerged the key role played by CSOs in this regard.

After breakfast, the delegation visited the **Green Innovation Centre for the Agriculture and Food Sector** at the Natural Resources College of Lilongwe University of Agriculture

and Natural Resources. Green Innovation Centres for the Agriculture and Food Sector are part of a global programme implemented by the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)* and are part of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)'s special initiative "One World, No Hunger" promoting rural development and agriculture. This programme aims to use innovation in the agricultural and food sector to boost the incomes of smallholders, create more employment opportunities (particularly in food processing), and to increase regional food supplies in the project's rural target areas.

The green innovation centres also promote support services such as knowledge development and dissemination by providing advice and training, as well as access to loans. They work closely with existing knowledge centres such as research institutions and agricultural colleges. The green innovation centres are supporting activities in 13 selected partner countries, including Malawi.



Visit at the Green innovation Centre, Lilongwe

An important aspect of this centre is that it aims at widening its learning environment by collecting knowledge from the farmers and bridging academia and rural communities. The different components of the programme are mechanised agriculture, irrigation technology, solar energy, drying technology, nutrition and food technology, ICT in agriculture and outreach.

"Ensuring healthy food and good nutrition for everyone is a challenge that we all face now on the planet. At the Green Innovation Centre I saw how they try to tackle these issues. This is a big effort - an effort that should be highly supported by the European Union, by the international community."

Ricardo Serrão Santos, MEP

After the visit to the Green Innovation Centre, the delegation met with **representatives of the Parliament of Malawi**. The meeting was facilitated by CARE and the so called Civil Society Organizations Nutrition Alliance (CSONA). CSONA includes Malawian CSOs as well as INGOs and was founded to support and advocate for improved nutrition in Malawi. The alliance has been engaging with Malawian MPs to create "nutrition champions" in the parliament, targeting MPs from different political parties and parliamentary committees. In collaboration with CSONA, 45 MPs actively participate in budget analysis dissemination meetings, fact finding missions and promotion of nutrition and food security.

The Parliamentarians exchanged views on the situation in Malawi, the challenges and opportunities of MPs' role, the impact of international cooperation, and the synergies that could be created with European colleagues. As nutrition champions, MPs explained how they were able to promote the establishment of Nutrition Units in different Ministries, making nutrition a cross-cutting issue across different policies. It became evident that nutrition is a key policy in Malawi; before it was housed under the President's Cabinet, while now it goes under the Ministry of Health. Gender is mainstreamed into nutrition policy and programming, and an upcoming Nutrition Bill to be passed in November by the parliament will further promote this approach. It will also promote the inclusion of women and children in discussions on nutrition, since they are the main targets of nutrition policy and

programming, yet they are not involved in discussions to shape them.

With regard to the budget, MPs remarked that CSONA played a fundamental role in training them in budget analysis and tracking. In addition, the parliament carries out public budget consultations so that Malawians can be consulted on how the budget should be used. MPs mentioned that an important step towards improving transparency would be translating legislation from English into Chichewa.



Meeting with Members of the Malawian Parliament

Before heading to Blantyre in the south of the country, the delegation had a meeting with the **EU Delegation in Malawi and EU donors** with presence in-country, including Germany, Ireland, UK, and the Government of Flanders. The EU Ambassador explained that the opposition was weak and that CSOs were weaker than in the past. The human rights situation is stable, but albinism and LGBTI rights are still an issue. On a good note, media are an important asset as they are quite vocal and free. Agriculture, as the country's main economic sector, has been heavily struck by the floods and droughts of the last two years. Moreover, high inflation and interest rates limit people's access to business opportunities. The EU Ambassador stressed that corruption and mismanagement of public resources are still urgent problems which impede the country to progress and advance.

EU donors added that the country is going through a public sector reform, but that it has not yet achieved great impact. Furthermore,

they explained that while the 2015 floods had received extensive media coverage and the government had led the response, the 2016 food nutrition crisis, which it is expected to leave 6.5 people in need of food, has not received much global coverage or clear leadership by the government.

The private sector is considered key to boost the country's economic development, but Malawi is not an attractive setting for foreign investors. They elaborated further on the lack of a business-enabling environment.

Overall, the sentiment of the meeting was that there remains much to be done to address Malawi's development challenges, with good governance as a central concern.



Meeting with EU donors at the EU Delegation

"All the different EU agreements with different regions, with a lot of overlap build a really difficult working basis. Now I know it even better than before: we must really work on policy coherence, and it's not about being coherent in our development policies, we need to look at what's happening in agriculture, trade, economy, etc. to make our work a joint effort."

Maria Heubuch, MEP

On their arrival in Blantyre, the delegation listened to the testimony of **Senior Chief Kachindamoto**, a traditional leader who became known for her fight to end child marriages (involving both girls and boys), ban sexual initiation of girls, and send the children back to school.

Senior Chief Kachindamoto has turned into an international figure. She is named "the

terminator of child marriages" as so far she has been able to abolish 850 child marriages and has convinced other traditional leaders to follow her example. In addition, she was one of the main advocates to convince the Parliament to change the civil code to ban early marriage.

When she went back to her district to become chief, she was shocked by the number of teenage mothers and fathers (as of 13 years old). She confronted their families: "I am not here to see these vicious things and from today I end these marriages." She then sent both girls and boys back to school, while their families had to help raise the new-borns until the young parents could finish the school cycle. Senior Chief Khachindamoto also ordered chiefs under her jurisdiction to follow her example and terminate child marriages; otherwise, they would have been dismissed. She explained that sometimes the parents refused to obey her stating that they had "rights over their children". But Senior Chief replied "I have authority over your children as your and their traditional leader".



Senior Chief Kachindamoto

Moreover, she was able to convince the parents that educated girls and boys can better support their families and parents in the future. Change of abusive cultural practices, for both women and men, starts with education. Senior Chief Khachindamoto has banned sexually abusive traditions such as the "cleansing" process called 'kusasa fumbi' in her constituency and together with other leaders is trying to also raise awareness among parents to respect their girls' rights and put an end to this harmful practice.

DAY 3 – BREAKING THE CYCLE

On days three and four, MEPs visited projects implemented by various actors in Nsanje and Chikwawa districts, which are among the poorest of the 28 districts of Malawi. In particular, Nsanje was heavily affected by the 2015 flooding and the 2016 drought and thousands of families were displaced from their homes as a consequence.

The first project visited was the **CARE ECHO-funded project on “Food security support to El Niño affected communities in Malawi”**, the primary objective of which is to respond to the food insecurity crisis and improve adaptive capacity of populations vulnerable to El Niño impacts in Malawi. This project is implemented in Nsanje district for a period of 12 months (March 2016 - February 2017) targeting 5.440 households.

The delegation had the opportunity to interact with the local population that had lost everything due to floods in 2015 and then again droughts in 2016. With support and capacity-building by CARE Malawi, local representatives described how they are able to fulfil immediate food and water requirements, enhance their capacities to withstand and recover from El Niño related shocks, and strengthen their preparedness to respond to emergencies. For example, the community set up a Civil Protection Committee, headed by Ms. Magret Zongoloti, to deal with natural hazards, coordinate response when an emergency situation occurs, and monitor changes in the environment for early warning.



Ms. Magret Zongoloti – CARE-ECHO project

The committee has elaborated contingency plans based on local knowledge and *hazards maps* to mark dangerous sites. An important component of this project is the establishment of **Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs)**. The cash component was linked to this action to train people on financial literacy, including saving and investing small amounts of money and improving basic business and marketing skills.

“For me, there are three very important aspects we need to work on, especially for the women living here: education, birth control and corruption. It’s our responsibility to support organisations like CARE working in countries like Malawi, and we need to work together to ensure good development cooperation.”

Maria Noichl, MEP

The main take away from this project visit was that recovery is not an event, but a process. This is why it is critical and important to strengthen communities’ resilience and link humanitarian response with long-term sustainable development.



CARE VSLA in Nsanje district, Malawi

The second project visited, the **Enhancing Community Resilience Programme (ECRP)** funded jointly by DFID, Irish Aid and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, includes integrated interventions and technologies on climate smart agriculture, disaster risk reduction and climate change to bring about a tangible and significant increase in the resilience of the most vulnerable communities.

ECRP is implemented by two NGO consortia in almost all districts of Malawi. The delegation visited projects implemented by the **DISCOVER consortium** (Developing Innovative Solutions with Communities to Overcome Vulnerability through Enhanced Resilience), which is led by Concern Universal and includes Self Help Africa, GOAL and COOPI as implementing partners, and Solidaridad, CUMO, Clioma and CEPA as technical partners. Specifically, the delegation visited a community where **GOAL** is working. In this community the programme supports 330 households through integrated and transformative interventions such as conservation agriculture, crop diversification with drought/flood tolerant crops, irrigation, agroforestry, post-harvest management, village savings and loans, livestock, energy efficient stoves and micro-solar lights. GOAL is working closely with local authorities and traditional leaders to ensure sustainability and ownership. The delegation saw how different components of the project are integrated to increase the community's resilience and empower people. In particular, the delegation experienced the link between climate-resilient agriculture, food security and nutrition. The community has implemented innovative agricultural techniques that have allowed them to increase agricultural productivity and diversify production, improving their food security. Linking this to the community's needs, the community established a Nutrition Committee, which focuses on mothers' and newborns' nutritional status to ensure they have access to adequate nutrients in order to live healthy and active lives.

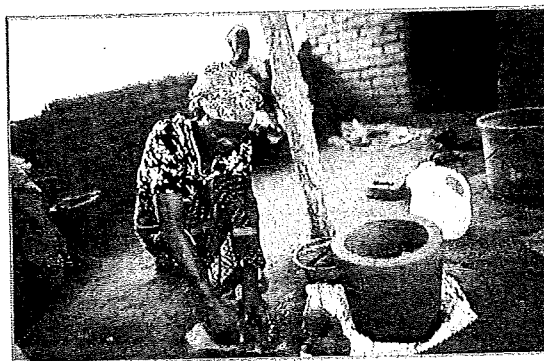
Women are now able to prepare nutritious food for their children and families. Moreover, committee members have been trained to monitor and track the growth and development of children.

Community members have also started the production of processed foods, thanks to enhanced capacity to access the local market.



GOAL nutrition committee

This has increased their revenues allowing them to invest in livestock and other activities such as the production of energy efficient stoves. The improved cooking stoves have had numerous positive benefits to the community by reducing the demand for timber/fuel and providing incomes for women, who have set up cooperatives to produce and sell the stoves.



GOAL stove committee

The results delivered by an integrated and multi-sectorial approach to community resilience were impressive. Activities to increase resilience in agriculture were complemented by activities to support practical, locally-owned and entrepreneurial activities at community level, promoting behavioural change, improved health and nutrition and gender equality as cross-cutting issues as well as specific targets.

"Being here, you really understand the synergies between the different organisations - there are a number of partners, who work together and are doing it in a fantastic way, the cooperation is really good."

Julie Ward, MEP

After GOAL's project, the delegation moved on to Chickwawa district to visit a project, which is part of a large programme in Malawi funded by the EU to improve livelihoods for sugar out-grower schemes. The project is managed jointly by **Concern Universal and Agricane in cooperation with Phata**, a cooperative of small-farmers. It specifically aims to improve the livelihoods and well-being of Phata sugar out-growers as well as their ability to influence the future of the sector.

Phata includes 240 male and 160 female members. They approached Agricane for training and support to increase their production and management skills in the sugar cane sector in order to access medium/large-scale markets. The grant started in 2012 with the preparation of the land, and now they are completing the 4th year of production. 40% of their profit goes into savings for future investments, allowing Phata to invest in other activities such as diversification in agriculture and aquaculture. The project also includes behavioural change trainings that have been managed by Concern Universal, including strengthening women in economic and political leadership, supporting farmer literacy and adult education; mainstreaming of nutrition; facilitating community-level discussions on HIV and sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) issues, and challenging gender-based violence.

An important aspect of this project is that all objectives, targets and activities have been jointly designed and decided with farmers. Phata farmers decided to invest in sugar cane production because they assessed it was the most reliable market for that area. Thanks to the revenues from sugar cane, farmers have also been able to invest in improving facilities

for their communities such as building a health clinic and providing houses with electrical power.



Visit at Phata farm

Phata female members reported that women in leadership positions within the cooperative increased from 9% to 29% and women also started a Women's Action Group to discuss their own strategies and issues.

With the support of Agricane, Phata's production has been certified as Fair Trade. They consider this a sustainable and long-term alternative to generalised schemes of preferences that the EU has provided so far to ACP countries to access EU markets through reduced tariffs. This is also important in the context that the EU Sugar Protocol with ACP countries will end in 2017. In this regard, local people asked the delegation to raise awareness in Europe about and help increase demand for Fair Trade products, to ensure markets for initiatives such as this one, that provide socio-economic development to farming communities in Africa.

DAY 4 – MAKING CHANGE: WOMEN'S HEALTH & EMPOWERMENT

The last project visited by the delegation was **"Maternal, Newborn & Child Health"** implemented by **Save the Children** in the rural communities of Blantyre. Save the Children currently supports several health sector initiatives in Malawi, focussing on addressing the health and survival needs of women and children under the age of five years, living in rural and peri-urban communities. The delegation visited a health centre and met with the community health workers (CHWs), who work in the most remote communities in the area, serving 27.000 people.

The programme supports the Ministry of Health and its partners to improve facility and community-based maternal and newborn care interventions. It also aims to increase community knowledge and practices in family planning, sexual and reproductive health and rights and HIV behaviours, as well as increasing demand for health care. The maternal and newborn interventions include focused antenatal care, delivery assisted by a skilled attendant, and early post-natal care for mother and newborn.



Community health workers, Save the Children

The delegation had the opportunity to interact with both the community health workers and women supported by the health centre.

The health workers provided practical examples of how they conduct training and communicate about these issues in order to increase the

adoption of healthy SRH behaviours among couples. Although contraception is available free of cost, the reality is that women continue to face challenges in accessing it due to obstructive social norms. To address this issue, health workers also promote community mobilisation to address myths and misinformation about family planning. Some common misinformation in Malawi includes that injectables and implants are unsafe and can cause miscarriage, that these methods are only suitable for second pregnancy onwards, that they can lead to men's sexual impotence or provoke cancer (to both women and their partners).



MEP Noichi at the health clinic, Blantyre

Malawian women lack household decision-making power and often have to secure their husband's approval to use family planning. Health workers visit households in order to meet with both husband and wife in order to ensure that the couple discusses family planning to make conscious decisions on when to conceive and on the family size.

In the clinic, the delegation met with a group of women, who had recently given birth, and who had been provided with information on and access to family planning.

"The trip has been very inspiring and encouraging – seeing these people living under such tough circumstances with disasters behind them, not giving up hope. To me, it got clear that besides providing humanitarian assistance, through capacity building, we can create hope and a future."

Margrete Auken, MEP

FINAL REMARKS

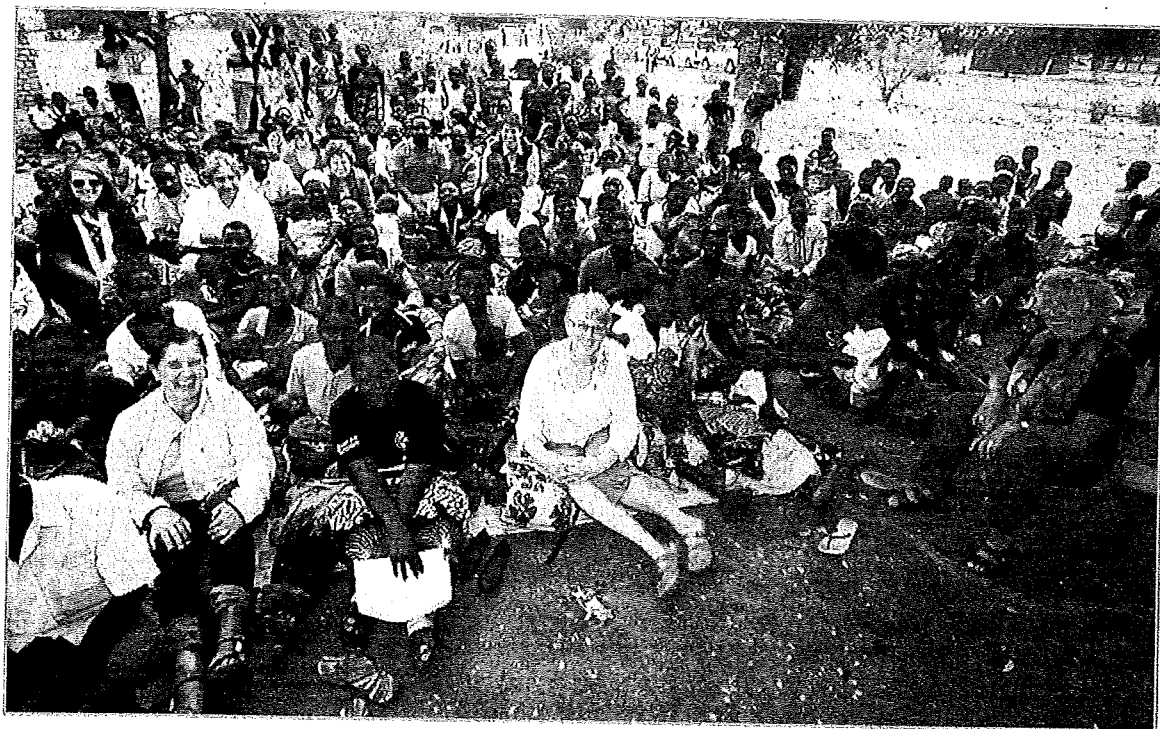
The MEP Study Tour in Malawi seemed to be very much appreciated by both participants and partners in country. With the year 2016 marking 40 years in EU-Malawi partnership since the ratification of the Lomé Convention in 1976, it also was a timely visit.

Through the project visits in Malawi, MEPs were able to witness best practice initiatives in moving from disaster relief to sustainable development and long-term adaptation and resilience. The Study Tour focussed on building household and community resilience to withstand, adapt to and recover quickly from stresses and shocks, ensuring that gender dimensions are addressed in all programmes, as women, men, girls and boys may be affected differently by disaster and have diverse ways of coping with risk. Furthermore, MEPs learned about the importance of enhancing community resilience to climate change and increased agricultural production, as well as agricultural

diversification. In all programmes, the nutritional aspect played a key role as a decisive factor linked to food security, health, and longer-term development.

We hope that this trip convinced the delegation of MEPs of the importance of investing in longer-term development programming, and that discussions started in Malawi will continue on European level. Moving forward, we strongly encourage trip participants and their colleagues in the EP to make sure that the EU and its Member States fully implement and integrate the SDGs into their policy and programming, taking gender considerations into account.

CARE International looks forward to continuing our joint efforts towards resilience and a sustainable future for women, men, boys and girls worldwide, in close collaboration with the EU and partners.



RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The year 2016 presents a number of important opportunities to renew the EU's commitment towards the most in need, such as the implementation of the SDGs; the adoption of the Paris Climate Agreement; the follow-up to the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS); the UN Refugee Summit; the EU High-Representative's Global Strategy for the EU's Foreign And Security Policy; the revision of the European Consensus for Development; the first year of the implementation of the EU Gender Action Plan II (GAP II); as well as the Mid-Term Review of the Multi-annual Financial Framework in 2017.

- The EP should ask the EU and its Member States to **fully implement and integrate the SDGs into their policy and programming**, while promoting the empowerment of women and girls through the three-pronged approach of including gender equality in bilateral dialogue, mainstreaming, standalone programming.
- The EP should **defend and preserve the development cooperation and humanitarian elements of Heading 4 of the EU budget – EU as a Global Player**. Development budgets should focus on eradicating poverty as enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty, rather than being re-oriented towards security, border control and stopping migration at all cost.
- We encourage the EP to **ask the European Council for an increase of investments in external action** including for resilience programmes, adaptation to climate change, food and nutrition security, health, financial inclusion, and resources for civil society actors, as well as ensuring gender-responsive budgeting across all sectors.
- The EP should monitor Member States meet their target making **0.7% of their Gross National Income available for Official Development Assistance**, and request explanations to those that are not meeting this target.
- In line with the Council Conclusions on the Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 and the Guidance note on the EU GAP 2016-2020 for DEVCO and EU Delegation operational staff, the EP should **monitor the EU budget for development and humanitarian assistance to ensure it takes into account gender considerations** and contributes to the achievement of specific gender equality objectives throughout the programme cycle. In this regard, the EP should ask questions to the European Commission (especially to DG DEVCO, DG ECHO, and DG NEAR) and to the EEAS (including EU Delegations) about progress on this matter and about the **capability of implementing partners, including the private sector, of contributing to the attainment of gender equality**.
- The EP should monitor and ensure that the **EU and its Member States increase efforts to limit warming to below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels**, as committed to at the Paris climate summit. This would contribute to sustainable development for all, avoiding or substantially limiting risks such as extreme weather events and increasing food security.
- The EP should call on the EC, especially on ECHO, for the **Five Gender Core Commitments of the WHS to become standard principles of humanitarian planning and action**.
- The EP can play a critical role in advocating for SRHR to be protected and included in relevant development programmes as well as policy. **SRHR programmes are a critical entry point for reaching women and girls**, helping them exercise not only their rights to reproductive health and life free from violence, but also their **rights to adequate food and nutrition, a secure livelihood**.

LIST OF ATTENDEES

DAY 1: UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT

Scene setter

- Michael Rewald, Country Director, CARE Malawi
- Florence Rolle, Country Director, FAO
- Lingalireni Mihowa, Deputy Country Director, Oxfam
- Pamela Mkwamba Matumbi, National Programme Officer, UN Women

DAY 2: BUILDING RELATIONSHIP AND NETWORKS

Breakfast with young women leaders

- Rose Sakala
- Pilirani Khoza
- Catherine Mloza Banda

Project visit: Green Innovation Centre for the Agriculture and Food Sector

Natural Resources College, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Dr. Timothy Gondwe, Green Innovation Centre
- Mr. Florian Bernhardt, GIZ
- Ms. Christine de Barros Said, German Embassy in Malawi

Meeting with Representatives of the Parliament of the Republic of Malawi

- Hon. Ralph Jooma, Deputy Minister of Health and Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Budget and Finance;
- Hon. Dr. Jessie Kabwila-Kapasula, Chairwoman of the Parliament's Women Caucus;
- Hon. Deus Gumba Banda, Chairperson of the Parliament Committee of HIV-AIDS and Nutrition;
- Hon. Chimwendo Banda, Chairperson of the Social & Community Affairs Committee;
- Hon. Esther Jolobala, Vice Chairperson of the committee and Member of Parliament for Machinga East;
- Hon. Chihaula Shaba, Member of the Parliament Committee of HIV-AIDS and Nutrition.

CSONA representatives

- Ms. Tisu Zimpita
- Mr. Joseph Gausi

Meeting with the EU Delegation in Malawi and other EU Donors

EU Delegation

- Ms. Aine Hearn, Ambassador of Ireland in Malawi
- Mr. Philip Smith, Head of DFID Malawi
- Mr. Nikolas Bosscher, Deputy General Representative of the Government of Flanders
- Mr. Thomas Staiger, Head of Cooperation of the German Embassy in Malawi

Dinner with Senior Chief Kachindamoto

DAY 3: BUILDING THE CASE

Project visit: "Food security support to El Niño affected communities in Malawi"

Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA)

CARE Malawi (Nsanje)

- Led by Mr. Andrew Khumalo, CARE Malawi

Project visit: "Enhancing Community Resilience Programme (ECRP)"
DISCOVER consortium / GOAL (Nsanje)

- Led by Mr. Hetherwick Mandere, GOAL

Projects visit: "Capacity Building for Sugar Outgrowers in Malawi"

Phata Sugarcane Outgrowers Cooperative

Concern Universal/Agricane (Chikwawa)

- Led by Mr. Humphrey Nxumalo and Mr. Bouke Bijl

DAY 22 - MAKING ADVANCE WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Project visit: "Maternal, Newborn and Child Health"

Save the Children

- Led by Mr. Steve Macheso



CARE would like to thank everyone, who contributed to making this Study Tour a success.

We express our special thanks to our partners in country for their willingness and availability to invest time and work in the preparations and execution of the visit.

In addition, we would like to kindly thank the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for their generous financial support.

Photos by Josh Estey/CARE.

For any questions, suggestions or interest in future Study Tours, please contact

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