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The flag carriers for the Malawian under-12 tennis team to Mozambique.



Vanessa, MATCH Foundation's beneficiary poses with fellow youths in Morocco

## COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER

1. **Tadala abc Primary School Clocks 1 Year in September**
2. **MATCH Foundation to Host National Fundraising Tennis Tournament**
3. **MATCH Foundation Welcomes Funders from Germany**

## **PARTNERSHIP BRINGS MEALS AND HOPE TO TADALA abc PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Long at last, the students at Tadala abc Primary School will be among thousands of students that eat a nutritious porridge to start their school days with a full stomach. On August 19, 2024, Mary's Meals approved our school proposal to construct a kitchen for a feeding program aimed at addressing hunger and malnutrition. This new partnership is expected to have a profound impact on the children's academic performance and overall well-being.



Mary's Meals Feeding Manager discussing the details of the upcoming feeding program with the school community

The school feeding manager and school feeding officer for Mary's Meals expressed their excitement about the partnership, emphasizing the positive influence nutritious meals can have on school attendance and overall health. The daily porridge provided by Mary's Meals will not only feed the students but also create a conducive learning environment.

The collaboration between MATCH Foundation, Tadala Primary School, and Mary's Meals is a testament to the power of partnership in addressing pressing social issues. By providing a daily meal, the organizations are helping to break the cycle of hunger and malnutrition, enabling children to focus on their studies and reach their full potential.

MATCH Foundation hopes to extend the morning porridge to afternoon meals in order to cater for all students who participate in the after-school activities. Through this new feeding program, there will be 1,600 plates of porridge each week, a projected total of 59,200 plates of porridge for the entire academic year. While the lunch meals once it commences, is projecting 960 meals/week covering the 3 days of the after-school activities and a projected total of 35,520 meals per year.

## **MATCH FOUNDATION U12 GIRLS MAKE A PROMISING PRESENTATION IN MOZAMBIQUE**



Under-12 national tennis team dressed all white with the Zimbabwean team

The Malawian U12 national tennis team, comprised of 2 players from the MATCH Foundation, 2 from Play Malawi, and 2 from Blantyre Youth Center. The team recently competed at the Southern African Junior Tennis Team Championships in Mozambique. Led by team captain Faith Nkholoma (from MATCH Foundation), the team showcased exceptional sportsmanship and determination, narrowly missing the qualification for African Junior Championship after finishing third out of six in their group.

An outstanding highlight of the tournament was Malawi's victory over the host nation, Mozambique, demonstrating the team's competitive spirit and potential for future success. This marked Malawi's return to the International Tennis Federation juniors' competition after a four-year absence, signifying the growth and development of tennis within the country.

The experience gained from this tournament will undoubtedly benefit the young athletes as they continue to improve their skills and strive for greater achievements. The two girls from MATCH Foundation, Faith and Promise are beneficiaries of the foundation's Play and Stay Project which is the backbone of the organization's interventions. It provides high performance talent identification and training to the less privileged to play and thrive in sports while nurturing their academic performance and positive character development. Currently, there are 489 beneficiaries under this project.



**Vanessa and her Moroccan friend during a town tour during her visit.**

On 14th August 2024, our girl Vanessa Pheluwa, a promising Malawian student-athlete, embarked on a life-altering cultural exchange journey to Morocco. A 15-year-old adolescent girl whose dream to travel abroad was far-reaching was over the moon as she set her foot at the airport. Selected by the National Youth Council after a rigorous application process, her participation in the program was a testament to her dedication, academic excellence and unwavering leadership skills.

Morocco, with its rich history and vibrant culture, had long captivated Vanessa's imagination. The cultural exchange provided her with a unique opportunity to engage herself in a completely different way of life, exploring Moroccan customs, traditions, and values. Beyond sightseeing, the program aimed to foster intercultural understanding through interactions with local youths.

Aside from exploring busy cities, ancient ruins, and breathtaking landscapes, enjoying the delicious flavours of Moroccan cuisine and experiencing traditional music and customs, Vanessa's life-changing lesson is that the Moroccan government passed a law to protect all girls from getting married before 18 and that all girls are also protected from dropping out of school. "I want to be the first person in my family to go to college and I will plan to utilize the scholarships which the Moroccan government provides to Malawians," she explained. "My sisters didn't even make it to secondary school because they failed exams and later got pregnant but with the scholarship and opportunities I get from MATCH Foundation, I want to be different than my sisters, I have been encouraged seeing other girls like me from poor backgrounds going to college" she added.

Vanessa's experience in Morocco was transformative, not only enriching her life but also contributing to the broader goal of fostering cultural understanding between Malawi and Morocco. As she returned home, she carried with her a newfound appreciation for diversity and a desire to encourage fellow girls and setting higher goals for college and a better life for her future.