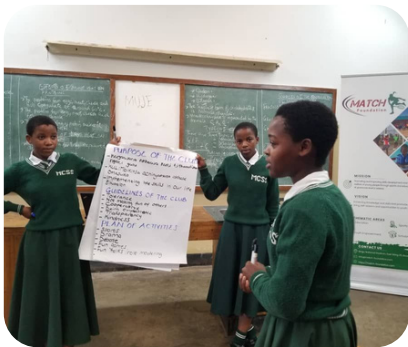




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Students presenting their mental health club's implementation strategies.



Shoulder to shoulder with giants, MATCH Foundation and Segal Family Foundation teams



Our E.D. and the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs at the National Budget Consultations

COMING UP IN MARCH

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MATCH Foundation Attends National Pre-Budget Consultation

In the grand theatre of national planning, a single voice can change everything. On February 7th, 2025, at Lilongwe's Bingu International Convention Centre, MATCH Foundation's Executive Director, Tadala Ngosi became that voice—an inspiration of youth potential reshaping Malawi's economic destiny. Representing her generation at the Ministerial Pre-Budget Consultations, Tadala transformed a routine meeting into a turning point moment. Her strategic vision centered on four transformative priorities: increased allocation to education sectors to focus inclusive quality education, sports commercialization, youth graduate internship, and fiscal resilience and austerity measures.

"A nation that invests in its youth reaps a harvest of innovation," she declared, championing agricultural engineering and skills development from primary school level. She envisioned Malawi as a hub for international sports tournaments by utilizing state of art sports facilities which are underutilized to bring foreign exchange. She also recommended for an increased allocation to youth graduate internship program. Her final focus was fiscal self-sufficiency, advocating for enhanced tax compliance to increase revenue and savings as a country.

Tadala's practical and bold approach ignited the attention of the minister of finance who was present in the room. He immediately accorded her the invitation to attend the 2025/2026 budget statement presentation led by the Minister of Finance which took place on 28 February, 2025. Tadala's contributions have been incorporated in this year's budget statement where graduate internship allowance has been increased from K80,000/month to K150,000/month. Allocation of K1.3 trillion to education ministry and an increased allocated to sports council of K2.35 billion. This opportunity was made possible with coordination from the National Youth Council of Malawi.

MATCH Foundation Hosts Segal Family Foundation

February 3rd, 2025, marked a pivotal day for our organization, as the Segal Family Foundation's visit transcended a typical site inspection. It became a powerful testament to our partnership built on trust and aligned vision and collaborative strength. This wasn't a scripted event; it was a deep dive into our partnership's core, showcasing the real impact we are making on children and youth.

Our discussions went beyond strategic planning, highlighting the significant transformations achieved through our initiatives. We discussed our care for children through safeguarding, addressed how best to articulate our impact through new trends such as podcasts, and shared our plans for growth. The SFF team experienced our programs firsthand, witnessing the lively after-school activities that bridge theory and reality.

Their fresh perspective energized our team. Every appreciative gesture and insightful question underscored the importance of human connection in driving change. This was more than a professional exchange; it affirmed the bonds that fuel our dedication.

We are grateful for the Segal Family Foundation's unwavering support, a guiding light to build more collaborations. Looking ahead, we are eager to take our collaboration to new heights. This visit wasn't just a milestone; it was a launchpad for the next chapter of our shared mission, where we'll continue to strive for those we serve.

Bridging the Mental Health Gap for Malawi's Youth in Mchinji District

In the silent classrooms of Lilongwe, a hidden struggle was unfolding. Young people were wrestling with anxiety, depression, and emotional distress, often feeling isolated and unsupported. Recognizing this critical need, our team launched Achinyamata Ojaka (wise youth) –a groundbreaking project designed to empower youth to build resilience, provide positive examples for effective stress coping mechanisms and reducing stigma on mental health issues.

After successfully reaching over 1700 students in Lilongwe, the initiative has expanded to Mchinji district, targeting two secondary schools this quarter. The impact was immediate and transformative. "It was as if a dam had burst," remarked a teacher at Mchinji Mission CDSS. The program provided students with crucial tools to understand and manage their emotional well-being.

Students responded with remarkable openness. "Before these sessions, I didn't really understand what mental health was," one student shared. "Now I know it's just as important as physical health, and it's okay to talk about my feelings when I'm stressed or sad."

This youth-driven approach offers more than just support—it represents a fundamental shift in how mental health is perceived. In a country with limited mental health resources, Achinyamata Ojaka presents a scalable model of emotional care. By empowering young people to understand, discuss, and address their mental health, the project lays groundwork for a more empathetic, resilient society.

The foundation hopes to reach 3000 students in 3 districts by June 2026. This program's impact is made possible with funding from the Segal Family Foundation.

Tadala abc Primary School Goes Green

On February 4th, 2025, Tadala abc Primary School became the centerpiece with the launch of the Lilongwe District Council's tree planting season. With the theme "Restore Forests and Land to Secure Food Production," the school committed to planting 1,000 trees including fruit-bearing trees, transforming its campus into an ecological asset.

Community leaders, DIC Board Chairperson, DC, Council Chair and other distinguished guests, gathered to support the initiative, embodying the local wisdom that "wisdom is like a baobab tree; no one individual can embrace it."

Students played a crucial role in the ceremony, actively participating in planting the saplings. The school grounds became a "living laboratory" where students could directly observe agricultural and scientific principles. By engaging in this hands-on environmental project, students learned about ecological processes and conservation.

The initiative went beyond mere tree planting. It represented a deeper commitment to environmental education and sustainable development. As the trees take root, they symbolize hope, education, and a commitment to preserving the environment for future generations. The initiative was supported by the Lilongwe District Council, with funding from Deposit Insurance Corporation, and One Acre Fund.



Lilongwe District Commissioner, Dr. Palani (right) at the tree planting ceremony