

# EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT TRACK RECORD



## Early Childhood Development: our vision

Providing children with the opportunity to learn from an early age is vital for their future development. This requires the involvement of the entire family and community. Therefore Help a Child Malawi builds the capacity of managers and caregivers of Community Based Childcare Centers (CBCCs), parents, teachers and other stakeholders to make sure that children have access to early childhood development services from a young age.

## Early Childhood Development: our expertise

Help a Child is experienced in empowering and mobilizing (rural) communities around schools and Early Childhood Development centers. Through awareness raising, training and coaching, lobbying, and supporting various community structures, we improve the capacity and quality of early childhood services in a holistic and sustainable way.

#Parenting | #ECD Centers | #Teacher Training | #Nutrition |  
#Child Protection | #Inclusion | #Hygiene | #Advocacy

Want to know more about our ECD programme? Contact me!

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In Malawi, in the last 2 years  
we invested

**155,000 euros**

in Early Childhood Development

With this amount, we helped

**> 5,000**

young children (0-7 years)

Children 0-7 supported



Malawi | **5,035**

CBCCs capacitized



Malawi | **44**

Primary schools strengthened



Malawi | **16**

Parents trained



Malawi | **2,058**

Our scope | **2018**

## The Parenting Challenge

Parents and caregivers are the most essential key players in improving the wellbeing of young children. In our project areas parents face a lot of challenges. This is why Help a Child developed the Parenting Challenge, a

method to improve the knowledge, attitude and skills of mothers and fathers in different subjects. In 2017 a pilot was conducted in two of our project areas (Edingeni and Zilakoma) as well as in Arua, Uganda. The

first results under 160 participants were promising and in 2018 Help a Child was invited to the first **African Early Childhood Conference in Nairobi** to share the results.

### Pilot areas in 2017

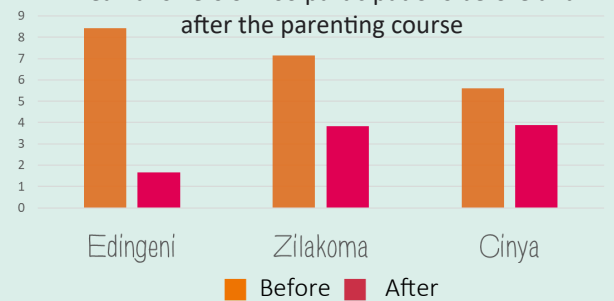
- 1) Cinya in Arua, Uganda
- 2) Edingeni in Mzimba, Malawi
- 3) Zilakoma in Mzimba, Malawi



### 'I find parenting hard'

1 = I totally disagree | 10 = I totally agree

Mean answers of 160 participations before and after the parenting course



### Remarks of participants

"We used to send our children to school without washing or feeding them. Now we take good care of them."

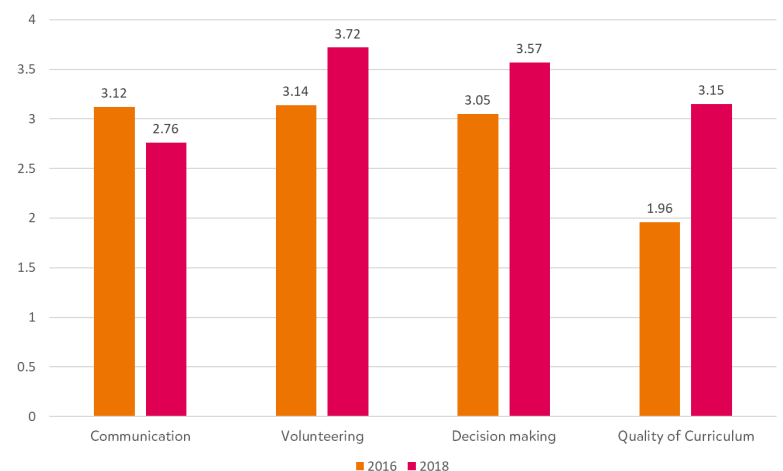
"I have now stopped beating my children and I just talk to them anytime they have done something wrong."

The full research report of the Parenting Challenge can be found at [www.helpachild.org/ecd-malawi](http://www.helpachild.org/ecd-malawi)



## Quality of CBCCs

Below scores are the result of a self-assessment of parent management committees in Malawi in 2016 and 2018. The score per question ranges from 1-4.



Since 2016, we use a scorecard to monitor the quality of CBCCs in our project areas. Results show that between 2016 and 2018, despite some challenges, the quality of CBCCs has clearly improved in terms of community involvement, the capacity of management committees and the quality of curriculum delivery.





*Nine-year-old Hilda\* between her schoolmates at the Community Based Child Center (CBCC) in Chakwantha village, Zilakoma.*

*\* Not her real name*

## Inclusive ECD

Only a few years ago, the enrolment of children with disabilities, like Hilda, was inconceivable due to long walking distances and the lack of encouragement by parents and caretakers. But now this all has changed.

Supported by Help a Child and Livingstonia Synod AIDS Program (LISAP), the community of Chakwantha is collectively ensuring that no child is left behind on education despite his or her physical conditions.



## Community involvement

“This place used to be empty, but now there is a child development center. I am grateful that the people of this community have learned to work side by side. Together they support the needs of our children. I never have seen this before and it makes me very proud.”

*Chakwantha–village head man  
Chakwantha village*

“I am always proud of our CBCC, because of the impact it is having in our village. Most of the children we have sent to primary school, are doing very well. They look more interactive and clever, and they are mixing very well with others.”

*Sam Mphande, CBCC caregiver*



In collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social welfare, Help a Child trains caregivers and mentors to ensure that quality ECD service delivery includes early identification of and interventions for children with special needs. In 2018, **80** caregivers in Mzimba and Nkhatabay participated in the ECD training. To create a long-lasting effect, **20** well-performing caregivers have been selected as mentors to support their colleagues.