

**REPORT ON TRAINING OF SPECIAL NEEDS TEACHERS IN LOW VISION AT
MPONDA TDC IN ZOMBA;**

***PROVISION OF EYE GLASSES AND LOW VISION SERVICES TO CHILDREN IN SOUTH EAST ZONE OF
MALAWI PROJECT***



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Abbreviations/Acronyms

BICO	Blantyre Institute for Community Ophthalmology
CBR	Community Based Rehabilitation
OCO	Optometry Clinical Officer
SEZ	South East Zone
TDC	Teacher Development Centre

1.0 Executive summary

This is a report on training of some selected special needs teachers in Low Vision that was organized by Blantyre Institute for Community Ophthalmology under the Provision of Eye glasses and low vision services to children in the South East Zone of Malawi Project. With support from USAID and Wilder and Ganzen BICO is implanting this project in the south East Zone of Malawi. The objectives of the project are to:

- Establish basic refractive and low vision services for children at Zomba eye hospital
- Offer refractive & low vision services to children at the eye unit and in resource centers in Zomba.
- Identify and refer children with vision problems from schools and community in south west zone to Zomba eye unit on a regular basis.
- Increase uptake of cataract surgery for children in Blantyre by establishing referral mechanisms between Zomba and Blantyre eye units and also establishing linkages with education and rehabilitation for follow up and examination of children in resource/rehabilitation centers.
- Build capacity of BICO to manage/offer refractive and low vision services for children.

2.0 Introduction

This training was for three days, 31st August 2015 to 2nd September 2015 at Mponda TDC. The training was facilitated by BICO staff and OCOs from Zomba and Queen Elizabeth Central Hospitals. Participants were selected special needs teachers from both primary and secondary schools around Zomba Urban. See appendix 1 for the list of participants. Appendix 2 is a training timetable.

3.0 Facilitators

Main

- Bruno Chimaliro Low Vision Coordinator, BICO
- Ruda Manda Senior OCO, Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital (Eye Hospital)
- Elizabeth Phili Optometry Technician, Zomba Central (Eye Hospital)
- Ignasio Wachepa Senior Projects and Administrative Officer, BICO

4.0 Training objectives

- To illustrate the definition of low vision
- To discuss the stages in a comprehensive low vision services
- To describe the role of ophthalmic staff, regular classroom teachers, specialist teachers, the clients themselves, CBR workers and family members in low vision care
- To describe daily problems associated with a low vision client
- To List main causes of low vision in the region
- To illustrate functional implications of different causes of low vision
- To discuss elements of clinical low vision examination and functional visual assessment
- To assess near and distance vision using variety of assessment materials
- To discuss the need for a thorough refraction and accurate prescription as a priority

- To assess contrast sensitivity and lighting needs with emphasis on functional methods
- To list uses, advantages and disadvantages of different types of optical devices available
- To explain principles and formulae for magnification, the optics of magnifying devices and practical implications in prescription of devices
- To advise on and prescribe non optical devices in relation to diagnosis, visual function, and magnification
- To discuss need for organizing networks with education and rehabilitation programmes
- To discuss on how to use clinical LV assessment forms, advice forms, follow up forms and referral forms.
- Present plans for low vision work in clinics, outreach and schools around Zomba

5.0 Teaching methods

The following training methods were used:

- Lectures
- Discussions
- Role play

6.0 Deliverables

It was expected that after the training participants would be able to do the following;

- Be able to do basic Visual Acuity
- Be able to classify a child with low vision and refractive error

7.0 Training expectations

Participants mentioned the following as their expectations for the training

- Gain skills on how to do identify children with low vision
- To learn more about low vision



Picture above shows participants practicing on doing Visual acuity

9.0 Outputs of this training

- Participants were able to demonstrate skills in doing Visual acuity
- Participants were able to categorize refractive error and low vision children

10.0 Training evaluation

After the presentations, participants were asked to evaluate the training. Below is a summary of emerging issues;

- There was good facilitation during the training
- The session on VA was very helpful as they will be able to identify children with low vision and refractive errors

11.0 Way Forward

- Participants made a commitment to start actual identification when schools open on 7th September 2015
- Other teachers who already had a list of learners with visual impairment promised to update the existing list when schools open and submit to the Urban Special needs coordinator
- Participants also requested to be given E charts for them to be able to do VA
- Participants also requested to be given certificates of attendance

Appendix 1 List of Participants

NAME	ORGANIZATION	TITLE	CONTACT DETAILS
Henry Macheso	Likangala Secondary School	Specialist Teacher	0999196825
Dinesi Walter	Bwaila Primary School	Specialist Teacher	0884528775
Raphael Mulaphe	Likangala TDC	PEA	0999472806
Cathreen Ndiwo	Mponda TDC	PEA	0999680635
Noah Zembeni	Likangala Secondary School	Specialist Teacher	0999676717
Charles Charlie	Masongola Secondary School	Specialist Teacher	0999313387
Joan Namagowa	Likangala TDC	PEA	0999646300
Annie Kasambala	Chikanveka Primary school	Specialist Teacher	0996637807
Joyce Phiri	Chikowi primary School	Specialist Teacher	0888510998
Mirriam Kajawo	Likangala Secondary School	Specialist Teacher	0999402879
Lincy Nkhambule	Mulunguzi Secondary school	Specialist Teacher	0888862160
Brenda Nkoloma	Masongola Secondary School	Specialist Teacher	0999317240
James Kumbani	Zomba Urban (Division)	Coordinator Special needs/PEA	0992816270
Smart Ganiza	Zomba Urban (Division)	Coordinator Special needs	0881531015
Sithandizire Ziba	Masongola Secondary School	Specialist Teacher	0993577404
Elizabeth Phili	Zomba Central Hospital	Optometry Technician	0881962984
Chimwemwe Vavala	Zomba District Hospital	Ophthalmic Clinical Officer	0881146525
Ruda Manda	Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital	Senior Ophthalmic Clinical Officer	0995507654
Bruno Chimaliro	BICO	Low Vision Coordinator	0996274230

Appendix 2: Training Timetable

DAY 1	TIME	SESSION OUTLINE	FACILITATOR
	8:00 to 8:20am	Introduction	Mr. Sungani
	8:20 to 8:30am	Welcome remarks	Mr. Sungani
	8:30 to 9:00am	Overview of BICO	Ignasio
	9:00 to 9:40am	Overview of Low Vision Project and training objectives	Bruno
	9:40 to 10:00am	Learning Expectation	Elizabeth
	10:00 to 10:20	TEA BREAK	
	10:20 to 11:00	Simulating glasses	Bruno
	11:00 to 11:30am	Discuss problems associated with low vision	Bruno
	11:30 to 12:00am	Myths and facts about use of vision	Elizabeth
	12:00 to 1:30pm	LUNCH BREAK	
	1:30pm to 2:00pm	Introduction to basic low	Bruno
	2:00pm to 2:40	-Definition of Low Vision	Bruno
	2:40 pm to 3:10pm	Blindness, low vision, normal vision	Bruno
	3:10pm to 3:30	TEA BREAK	
	3:30pm to 4:00pm	referral protocol and its importance	Ruda
	4:00pm to 4:30pm	Steps in Visual Acuity measurement	Ruda

Day 2	TIME	SESSION OUTLINE	FACILITATOR
	8.30 am-9:30am	Assessment of Low Vision Learners	Bruno
	9:30 to 10:00am	Practice Visual Acuity measurement	Bruno
	10:00 to 10:20am	TEA BREAK	
	10:20 to 11:00am	Childhood blindness	Ruda
	11:00 to 12:00am	How to Recognize Child With Low Vision	Bruno
	12:00 to 1:30	LUNCH BREAK	
	1:30pm to 2:30pm	Low Vision Devices(optical/Non Optical)	Elizabeth
	2:30pm to 3:10	Teach/Use of Optical Devices	Elizabeth
	3:10pm to 3:30	TEA BREAK	
	3:30pm to 4:00pm	Advise on Non Optical Devices	Elizabeth
Day 3	TIME	SESSION OUTLINE	FACILITATOR
	8.30 am-9:00am	Linking eye care & education/rehabilitation	Ruda
	9:00 to 9:20am	Role of teachers/guardians in low vision care	Bruno
	9:20 am to 10:00am	Low vision data collection tools & reporting	Ignasio
	10:00am to 10:30	TEA BREAK	
	10:30 to 11:30	Post test and evaluation	Bruno
	11:30 to 12:00	Closing	Sungani