

As we are finding our feet during these uncertain times- organisations including the Social Impact Incubator- Accelerator 2020 Graduates Badilika Foundation and Centre for Alternatives for Victimized Women and Children (CAWWOC), found themselves rethinking what they need to do to more adequately support their female students.

In recent times we have seen an upsurge of the unthinkable- more gender-based violence towards young girls and women fill Malawian communities. Some have proposed a connection between changing financial times, heightened tensions within homes, and more gender-based violence- however, these organisations also challenge us to face up to the reality that a lack of collective voice among Malawian citizens is just as damaging.

Forbes Msiska- executive director of the Badilika Foundation calls on all of us to take action. "We must all say no to gender-based violence together- we must become a unified community that promotes the health, safety, and human rights of especially the most vulnerable people in our communities". Msiska reflects that the Social Impact Incubator- Accelerate program was well-positioned, particularly this year posing the question- what type of community do you want to build?

"For us at Badilika Foundation, the answer is communities where girls are empowered through equal access to education, oppor-

How Building Community collaboration is keeping girls safer



Girls who have been supported by Badilika to enrol and complete secondary school education

tunities, and can freely exercise their choices. The choice to say yes to good quality education, and no to violence from within the communities where they should instead be protected".

Since 2016, the Badilika Foundation has provided girls education support to 900 adolescent girls and young women through scholarships in Zomba district. Msiska widened the program impact by also providing the Badilika beneficiary community with supplementary sexual reproductive health services- including a specific focus on HIV/AIDS and STI prevention knowledge. Msiska notes that "being in the same cohort with the likes of CAVWOC meant that we as Badilika could expedite our learning, and really start thinking about what collaborating as one community with other relevant social



CAWWOC: Karate training with the girls and boys from T/A Lundu and Ngabu with our project coordinator Judith Pangani in the front row



Youths kick back project, CAVWOC in partnership with SIMAVI with funding from UEFA focused on empowerment of girls through fun and sports.

service providers could look like?" CAVWOC has over 23 years of experience- building community agency and action against gender-based violence. They have also led the charge to create localised governance systems to address the lack of victim

support and services to rehabilitate survivors of violence. In recent times, their work has attracted the attention of the Minister of Gender, who participated in the CAVWOC 2020 Ending Violence against women campaign in the Balaka district- reach-

ing out to more than 4500 people during the 2020 16 days of activism against gender-based violence. CAVWOC voices that their community, together with the participation of local government authorities significantly influenced CAVWOC's ability to uplift lives over the years.

Like Badilika Foundation, CAVWOC has also built strong partnerships with ministries of Education, Health, and Gender- involving representatives at every level and all stages of program development, ensuring all activities are conducted with full consultation. Tamara Chipoka, MEAL and Communications officer- is excited about the future of the sector and the role CAVWOC will be playing. "Cases of gender-based violence, especially sexual gender-based violence- have risen greatly within this pandemic period. We've seen a 58% rise in cases from September 2019 to July 2020 alone. Teen pregnancies, early and teen marriages have increased as well, especially in rural areas. There is a great need for our sector to receive more support and increase efforts of engagement and awareness-raising, collaboration, and knowledge building." Join the SII Network partners as they say no to gender-based violence together. Follow @CAWWOCMalawi #Enough to learn more, and do more. @SIMalawi- you also can learn more about SII-Accelerate 2020 graduates.

Meet more of SII- Accelerates 2020 Graduates this week by following us @SIMalawi.