



# FOL Newsletter

Fountain of Life

## IASC PSEA MISSION, LAUNCH AND TRAINING IN COMMUNITY-BASED COMPLAINT MECHANISMS

ISSUE 15

Malawi hosted the Inter-Agency Standing Committee for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (IASC PSEA) mission, launch and training from 22– 26th May 2017.

This included meetings with the PS of Gender, with the Protection Cluster, with the civil society ( IN-GO, local NGOs, CBO and FBOs), with Government Stakeholders, visit to Police Victim Support Unit in Kanengo, meeting with the United Nations Country Team, holding a lessons learned event on complaints and feedback mechanisms implemented during the 2016-2017 humanitarian response, official opening of the Inter-Agency Community Based Complaints Mechanism training and launch of the PSEA In-Country Network by the Hon. Minister of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare.

Two (2) FOL staff members attended the two-and half day training since FOL is one of the NGOs implementing activities on sexual exploitation and abuse in the One Stop Centers.



PIC ABOVE: The minister posing for a launch picture with IASC PSEA mission team showing unity and the training in progress

### Did You Know?

- Over 30 organizations had representatives trained on PSEA complaint mechanisms.
- FOL can carry out an awareness on sexual assault training or workshop wherever FOL is requested to go. Contact us.
- FOL asks for consent from clients before sharing the OSC stories in the newsletter. Names and location are altered.
- Newsletter comes out four times a year.

### FOL ON YONECO FM RADIO

FOL was featured on a special program on YONECO FM on Thursday 29th June 2017 from 15:20- 15-40. YONECO which stands for Youth Net and Counselling is a non-governmental organization that is committed to empowering the youth, women and children; promoting good health, human rights and democracy; has a wide range of listeners and is a great tool for awareness as such FOL went on air to inform the audience about the services it offers. The radio program was in Chichewa and can be found on:

[https://youtu.be/jZz\\_ZmkXdyQ](https://youtu.be/jZz_ZmkXdyQ)

### ANIMATION AWARENESS VIDEOS OUT!!!



In the previous newsletter we informed you that FOL is developing animation videos to be used for awareness campaigns. The animation videos are now OUT and are in three languages; English, Tumbuka and Chichewa. One version is a thorough twenty minute video and the other version is for ninety seconds that can be shared via WhatsApp and other social media platforms. The shorter versions can be found on our YouTube page: [Fountain of Life \(Malawi\) ltd](#) and we will keep you informed of how the longer will be used for awareness. If you are interested in the long version of the videos, contact us.

### Inside this issue:

IASC PSEA Mission launch and training in community-based complaint mechanisms	1
FOL ON YONECO FM Radio	1
Animation awareness videos out!!!	1
One Stop Center Story	2
Meet our new member of staff	2
Lilongwe OSC update	
Contact Information	2

## ONE STOP CENTER STORY

A 15 year old girl was living with her mother and step-father somewhere out of town. One day while her mother was at work, her step-father walked in her room and raped her. This happened not once, but twice. Even though she screamed for help on both occasions people around the neighborhood did nothing to help her because they were scared of the step-father for he had a reputation of being violent. Her mother, who eventually was fully aware of what had been happening in their home decided to keep quiet purportedly afraid of the man and to save her marriage from ruin.

It was after the second episode that the girl decided to go and visit her father and the rest of the other family who happened to be living in another city that her step-mother noticed some peculiar features in her. She looked weak and always tired and at times completely withdrawn. Concerned, the parents decided to take her to a local hospital for a check-up and possible medical help. It was then that she revealed to the hospital authorities that she felt traumatized because her step-father raped her.

The local hospital referred her to the One Stop Centre for counseling and it was during those sessions that she narrated her whole ordeal and admitted that she was scared to tell anyone because her step-father had warned her that if she ever revealed it to anyone he was going to beat her severely and since her mother decided to keep quiet about it she had no option but to suffer in silence. Through counseling sessions, she felt relieved and was able to finally share what she had gone through, how much emotional pain she had at all times. She said she was badly hurt and scared. The counseling helped remove her bitterness towards her step-father and deep down she knew she was free at last.

Incidentally, her father was very upset with the situation and could not understand how her mother ignored such an enormous problem in the home and explained never to let her go there again. He pointed out that he always wants the best for his daughter and he will do anything to keep her safe. During our follow up (phone call), her father said the daughter is coping very well and that now she is back to school. He also added to say she is now able to talk about any issue that is bothering her and confides in her step-mother which is a big improvement for her. The step-father is reportedly at large and the police are looking for him to press charges.

## MEET OUR NEW MEMBER OF STAFF



FOL would like to welcome a new employee; Agatha Malunda, who is the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer. She will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating initiatives, programs and projects for FOL, provide accountability, ensure efficiency and success. She will Oversee regular project progress reports and will collaborate with Program Officers to prepare monthly, quarterly and final narrative and financial donor reports, working closely with Programs as well as with the Finance department.

One of our directors Steve Bowler will be out of office and Malawi for a year (till next year, 2018) and will be replaced by acting director Sylvia Namakhwa. Steve can still be reached on his email.



Fountain of Life

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### LILONGWE ONE STOP CENTER UP- DATE

As we are in the second half of the year, the Lilongwe One Stop Center at Kamuzu Central Hospital is still not yet opened and no word yet as to when it will be open though construction was completed.

**"HELPING THE VICTIMS OF SEXUAL  
ASSAULT RE-BUILD THEIR LIVES"**

