Healthwise
Transforming Lives

STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Healthwise Organization Newsletter: Issue 3 & 4 - 1st and 2nd Quarter



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	01
Strengthening Governance for Suitable Growth	02
Embracing Digital Transformation :HW Conducts ERO Training for HRs & Accounts Staff	03
Healthwise Participates in the CHOICE Project needs Assessment	04
From Data to decisions; Strengthening Meal and Financial management Capacity	05
Maphunziro Mbambande Quiz Competition: A tool for Hard-work and Academic Excellency	06
Building Partnership for Sustainable Impact at Umunthu Social Impact Forum	07
Strengthening Staff Capacity for Greater Impact	08
Turning Silence into Action: Crafting Messages that Advance Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights	09
Healthwise Strengthens Advocacy Capacity Through CHOICE Training	10
Maphunziro Mbambande premieres on ZBS TV & Online	11
Healthwise Strengthens Advocacy Capacity Through CHOICE Training	12
Healthwise Equips 243 Young People with Comprehensive Sexuality Education	13
From Average Performer to National Secondary School: Anastanzia's Inspiring Journey	14
Alespecious Breaks a Two-Decade Barrier at Mingu Primary School	15
Tilitonse foundation learning visit strengthes service delivery	16
2026 NGO DAY	17
Chikale Primary School Crowned Nkhata Bay District Maphunziro Mbambande Quiz Champions	18
Healthwise Expands Maphunziro Mbambande Quiz Competition to Four CDSSs in Mpamba	19
Letter for Appreciation	20



Healthwise founder and executive director Tendai Chidzero

FOREWORD

Welcome to this edition of the **Healthwise Organization Newsletter,** where we share key milestones, partnerships, and capacity-building initiatives that continue to strengthen our mission of improving the well-being of communities across Malawi.

This edition highlights our journey of organizational growth through the **Shifting the Power Programme,** including Board Governance and Oversight Training, ERP implementation, staff policy orientation, project management, MEAL and Financial Management capacity building, and participation in the Umunthu Social Impact Forum. These initiatives reflect our commitment to building a resilient, accountable, and sustainable organization capable of delivering high-quality services.

We also celebrate our expanding programme portfolio through our partnership with the **CHOICE Project,** which will advance Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Early Childhood Development, while showcasing the continued success of the **Maphunziro Mbambande Quiz Competition,** now reaching wider audiences through Zodiak TV and Zodiak Online. Additionally, we share our participation in the 2026 EMEA Leadership Academy and our contribution to developing innovative communication messages that promote Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

As we look ahead, we remain committed to strengthening partnerships, investing in leadership and staff development, embracing innovation, and delivering evidence-driven programmes that create lasting, positive change in the lives of the communities we serve. We hope you enjoy reading this edition and thank you for your continued partnership and support in advancing our shared vision of healthier, empowered, and resilient communities.



Healthwise board members captured after strengthening governance training

STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Healthwise Organization conducted a three-day **Board Governance and Oversight Training from 13–15 April 2026** at Malawi Sun Hotel under the theme, **"Governance, Risk and Strategic Stewardship."** The training aimed to strengthen the Board's capacity to provide effective strategic leadership, oversight, and accountability as the organization continues to grow

Board members enhanced their understanding of governance principles, risk management, safeguarding, and their oversight responsibilities. A key highlight was the presentation of the **Healthwise Strategic Plan 2026–2031,** which outlines the organization's strategic priorities and long-term vision for sustainable impact.

Speaking during the meeting, **Vice Board Chair Peter Pangani** said the training provided board members with a valuable opportunity to build stronger relationships and deepen their understanding of the organization.

> *"The training gave us an opportunity to get to know one another as Board members, something we had not previously had the chance to do. That limited our interaction and engagement. It also strengthened our understanding of Healthwise Organization's strategic direction, policies, programmes, and our respective governance roles. The knowledge gained will enable us to provide more effective oversight and strategic leadership as we work together to advance the organization's mission."*
> Said Pangani.

The training also led to the establishment of Board committees that will strengthen governance structures, support management, and improve oversight. Board members further reviewed organizational policies and reinforced their commitment to safeguarding, ethical leadership, and compliance with good corporate governance practices.

By investing in strong governance, Healthwise Organization continues to build a resilient institution capable of delivering accountable, transparent, and sustainable programmes that improve the lives of communities across Malawi.

> *"The Board Governance and Oversight Training was both an eye-opener and a valuable refresher to us. It strengthened our capacity to provide effective strategic oversight and led to the establishment of Board committees that are supporting management, driving key governance actions, and ensuring Healthwise Organization operates with accountability, integrity, and in full compliance with applicable laws and regulations."*
>
> *HWO board vice chair.*







HR Malumbo Mvula, Finance & Administration Marcel Phiri and HW Executive Director Tendai Chidzero received the certificates of attendance after ERP training

EMBRACING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: HEALTHWISE CONDUCTS ERP TRAINING FOR HUMAN RESOURCES AND ACCOUNTS STAFF

Many organizations continue to rely on manual systems and fragmented processes for managing human resources and financial operations. These traditional approaches often result in inefficiencies, delays in accessing information, increased risk of errors, and difficulties in generating timely reports for decision-making. In an era where technology is rapidly transforming workplaces, organizations must continuously invest in digital solutions and staff capacity development to remain efficient, accountable, and responsive.

Recognizing this need, Healthwise Organization is taking deliberate steps to strengthen its institutional systems through the adoption of modern technology

Building Capacity for Digital Transformation

Healthwise Organization conducted an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Training in Area 47 on 20-22 April. The training aimed at equipping staff from the Human Resources and Accounts Departments with the knowledge and skills required to effectively utilize the organization's ERP system.

The training focused on software installation, configuration, and practical use of the ERP platform to streamline organizational processes and improve operational efficiency. Participants are being guided through the various functionalities of the system and how it can support integrated management of human resources, finance, and organizational data.

Marcel Phiri heads the Finance and Administration department, he explains how crucial the ERP training is to his department, "ERP system has transformed finance department by saving time through automation, reducing errors with built-in validations, generating reports effortlessly tracking expenses against budgets in real time, and providing secure access from anywhere, so ERP is a smarter way to manage finances and Payroll," he said.

As organizations increasingly embrace digital solutions, Healthwise recognizes the importance of ensuring that its staff are adequately prepared to adapt to technological advancements and changing workplace demands. The ERP system is expected to enhance data management, improve reporting processes, strengthen accountability, and support evidence-based decision-making across the organization.

Through hands-on learning sessions, participants are gaining practical experience in configuring and operating the software, enabling them to maximize its benefits within their respective departments. The training also provides an opportunity for staff to address implementation challenges and develop strategies for effective system adoption.

This initiative forms part of Healthwise Organization's broader commitment to strengthening institutional capacity and improving organizational effectiveness through innovation and technology. As the world continues to evolve through digital transformation, Healthwise remains committed to embracing innovative solutions that enhance efficiency, accountability, and organizational growth.



Capacity Need Assessment at Oxfam in Malawi, partners posing for a group photo after the session

HEALTHWISE PARTICIPATES IN THE CHOICE PROJECT CAPACITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Healthwise Organization participated in the Capacity Needs Assessment and partner orientation under the **Comprehensive Health Options through Innovative Community Engagement (CHOICE) Project** a consortium of organizations, marking an important step in strengthening institutional capacity and collaborative programme implementation.

The meeting took place on 9th May, 2026 at the Oxfam Malawi Head Office Area 13, in Lilongwe, the orientation brought together implementing partners to deepen their understanding of the project's objectives, implementation approaches, partnership arrangements, and safeguarding standards. The team also took part in a Capacity Needs Assessment that identified organizational strengths and areas for growth, helping shape future capacity-building support.

The project is implemented by Oxfam Malawi with funding from Global Affairs Canada, the seven-year CHOICE Project aims to improve health outcomes and strengthen community engagement in Lilongwe and Balaka districts through inclusive and community-led approaches.

Through this partnership, Healthwise Organization is well positioned to strengthen its institutional capacity, promote safe and accountable programming, and contribute to sustainable health and development outcomes for vulnerable communities. Healthwise Organization looks forward to leveraging this partnership to promote innovative community engagement, strengthen local systems, and improve the well-being of communities.

The CHOICE Project is being implemented in Lilongwe District under Traditional Authorities Chimutu and Malili and in Balaka District under Traditional Authorities Amidu and Kalembo. Through community-centered interventions, the project is expected to contribute to improved health outcomes, strengthened community participation, and increased resilience among vulnerable populations

> *"The CHOICE partnership is more than a collaboration it is an opportunity to strengthen our institutional capacity learn from like-minded organizations, and work collectively to improve health outcomes and empower communities through sustainable, locally led solutions."*
>
> **Tendai Chidzero**
> *Founder and Executive Director, Healthwise Organization*









FROM DATA TO DECISIONS; STRENGTHENING MEAL AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

Quality programmes are built on strong evidence and sound financial management. To enhance its organizational effectiveness,
Healthwise Organization conducted a capacity-building training for staff on Monitoring,
Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) and Financial Management.

The MEAL sessions strengthened participants' skills in Logframe Development, Performance Indicator Reference Sheets (PIRS), Theory of Change, and Collaborating, Learning and Adapting (CLA), enabling staff to collect quality data, measure results, and make evidence-based decisions that improve programme performance.

The financial management sessions focused on financial thinking, interpreting financial statements, accounting principles, budgeting and budget control, performance analysis, and Malawi domestic tax compliance.

These topics equipped staff with practical skills to manage resources responsibly, strengthen accountability, and support organizational sustainability.

By investing in continuous learning, Healthwise Organization is building a skilled workforce capable of delivering transparent, accountable, and high-impact programmes that improve the lives of the communities it serves.

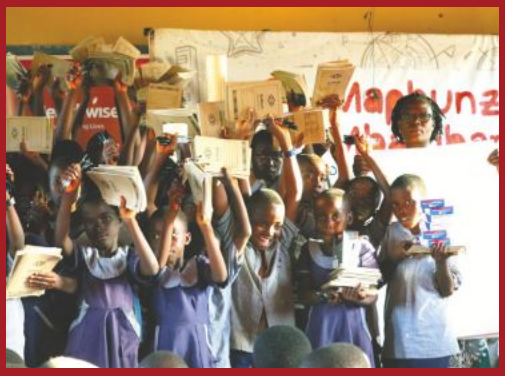
> *"Good decisions begin with reliable data, and sustainable impact depends on sound financial management. By strengthening our MEAL and financial management capacity, we are enhancing accountability, improving programme quality, and ensuring every resource delivers greater value for the communities we serve."*
>
> **Malumbo Mvula**
> *Human Resource and Procurement Officer*



Mwanadindi learner responding to a question during Maphunziro Mbambande Quiz Competition in Kasungu District



HW Executive Director Tendai Chidzero presenting prizes to Chulu primary school learners the champions





MAPHUNZIRO MBAMBANDE QUIZ COMPETITION: A TOOL FOR HARD WORK AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Many learners in rural primary schools struggle to reach their full academic potential due to limited opportunities to challenge themselves beyond the classroom. This often affects their confidence, public speaking skills, and motivation to excel academically.

Through the Tiwerenge 365 project, Healthwise Organization is changing this narrative by using the Maphunziro Mbambande (MM) Quiz Competition as a platform that inspires learners to study harder, think critically, and believe in their abilities.

In the 2026 competition, the initiative reached 4,463 learners in Mutchenda Area Programme, including 2,204 boys and 2,259 girls. In Kasangadzi Area Programme in Dowa District, another 2,912 learners participated, comprising 1,449 boys and 1,463 girls. Thousands of learners embraced the competition as an opportunity to sharpen their knowledge and improve their academic performance.

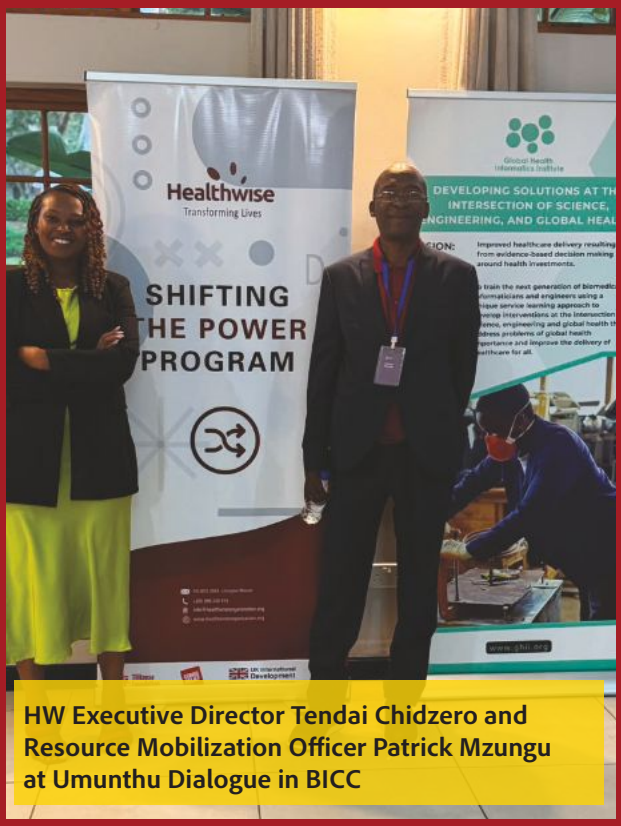
The competition culminated in exciting victories, with Chambidzi Primary School emerging as the 2026 Maphunziro Mbambande Quiz Competition champions in Dowa District, while Chulu Primary School claimed the championship in Kasungu District.

For Anastasia Banda, 12, a Standard 8 learner from Chulu Primary School, says the competition has been life-changing. As part of the winning team for the second consecutive year, she attributes their success to discipline, teamwork, and consistent preparation.

"I used to be an average learner in class. Since joining the quiz competition, I now rank first or position. I have gained confidence, I can speak in public, and I am focused on my future. I am determined to earn a place at a national secondary school after this year's Primary School Leaving Certificate of Education (PSLCE)," she says.

Anastasia's story reflects the true impact of the Maphunziro Mbambande Quiz Competition. Beyond testing knowledge, the competition nurtures confidence, strengthens study habits, develops leadership, and motivates learners to dream bigger.

The real victory is not only the trophies won but the transformation seen in thousands of learners who now work harder, perform better, and believe that education can unlock a brighter future



HW Executive Director Tendai Chidzero and Resource Mobilization Officer Patrick Mzungu at Umunthu Dialogue in BICC



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE IMPACT AT THE UMUNTHU SOCIAL IMPACT FORUM

Strong partnerships are the foundation of sustainable community development. To strengthen its resource mobilization efforts and expand strategic collaborations, Healthwise Organization's Resource Mobilization Department participated in the two-day Umunthu Social Impact Forum held at Ufulu Gardens in Lilongwe on 2nd and 3rd June, 2026.

The forum convened key decision-makers from government, the private sector, development partners, civil society organizations, investors, and NGO's to discuss Malawi's development priorities and explore innovative, locally led solutions for sustainable impact.

The event was graced by the Minister of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare Mary Navitcha;
In her remarks, the Minister underscored a shared reality: global development financing is shifting, and Malawi's social impact sector must respond with stronger local ownership, resilient institutions, and solutions that do not depend solely on donor support.

The event provided Healthwise Organization with an invaluable opportunity to showcase its work, engage with potential partners and donors, and establish new relationships that will support future collaboration and resource mobilization. During the forum, the team connected with several organizations and collected valuable contacts that will contribute to building strategic partnerships in the years ahead.

> *"Every meaningful partnership begins with a conversation. By connecting with like-minded organizations and embracing innovative ideas, we create new opportunities to mobilize resources, strengthen our impact, and build a more sustainable future for the communities we serve."*
>
> Healthwise Resource Mobilization Officer **Patrick Mzungu**.



Beyond networking, the discussions offered important insights into emerging development priorities, innovative financing mechanisms, and partnership models. These lessons will help Healthwise Organization strengthen its programming, align interventions with national and global development priorities, and continue delivering meaningful change to the communities it serves.
The Dialogue was organized by Thrive Afrika under the theme; "Strengthening Malawi's Social Impact Ecosystem for a Resilient and Self-Sustaining Future"
By investing in partnerships today, Healthwise Organization is laying the foundation for greater impact, stronger collaborations, and sustainable development tomorrow.



Strengthening staff capacity

STRENGTHENING STAFF CAPACITY FOR GREATER IMPACT

Healthwise Organization conducted a five-day staff capacity-building programme at its Lilongwe office on 5–6, 8-10 June, 2026, reinforcing the knowledge and skills needed to deliver quality programmes and strengthen institutional excellence.

The orientation equipped staff with a deeper understanding of the Healthwise Strategic Plan, Code of Conduct, Human Resources Policy, Performance Management, Financial Integrity, ICT and Knowledge Management, Partnerships, Communication and Visibility, and Child and Adult Safeguarding.

These sessions reinforced professionalism, accountability, ethical conduct, and the organization's commitment to creating safe and inclusive environments for the communities it serves.

Staff also participated in a project management capacity-building session covering communication and knowledge management, public speaking, HR and procurement compliance, Gender, Disability and Social Inclusion (GDSI), mentorship and coaching, safeguarding, and case management.

The training enhanced staff capacity to implement programmes effectively while maintaining the highest standards of compliance and service delivery.

By continuously investing in its people, Healthwise Organization is building a competent, ethical, and resilient workforce committed to delivering sustainable impact across Malawi.





Deputy Director, Reproductive Health Services - Adolescents Youth, SRHR and Fistula prevention Hans Katengeza, the youth now can make informed decisions on SRHR

TURNING SILENCE INTO ACTION: CRAFTING MESSAGES THAT ADVANCE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS

Access to accurate, inclusive, and engaging information on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) remains a challenge for many youths in the communities. Without clear and culturally appropriate messages, misconceptions persist, limiting access to life-saving health information and services.

To address this challenge, Oxfam, together with consortium partners, convened a creative design workshop in Mponera from 15th-19th June, 2026; under the Comprehensive Health Options through Innovative Community Engagement **(CHOICE)** Project. The workshop brought together Government Line Ministries, communication specialists to develop creative, audience-centered communication materials that will strengthen SRHR awareness and community engagement.

The **CHOICE** Project seeks to increase bodily autonomy, agency, and enjoyment of SRHR by those experiencing poverty, marginalization and vulnerability particularly women, girls, adolescents and people of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions and sex characteristics (SOGIESC). By developing communication products that resonate with diverse audiences, the project is helping to ensure that no one is left behind in accessing critical SRHR information and services.

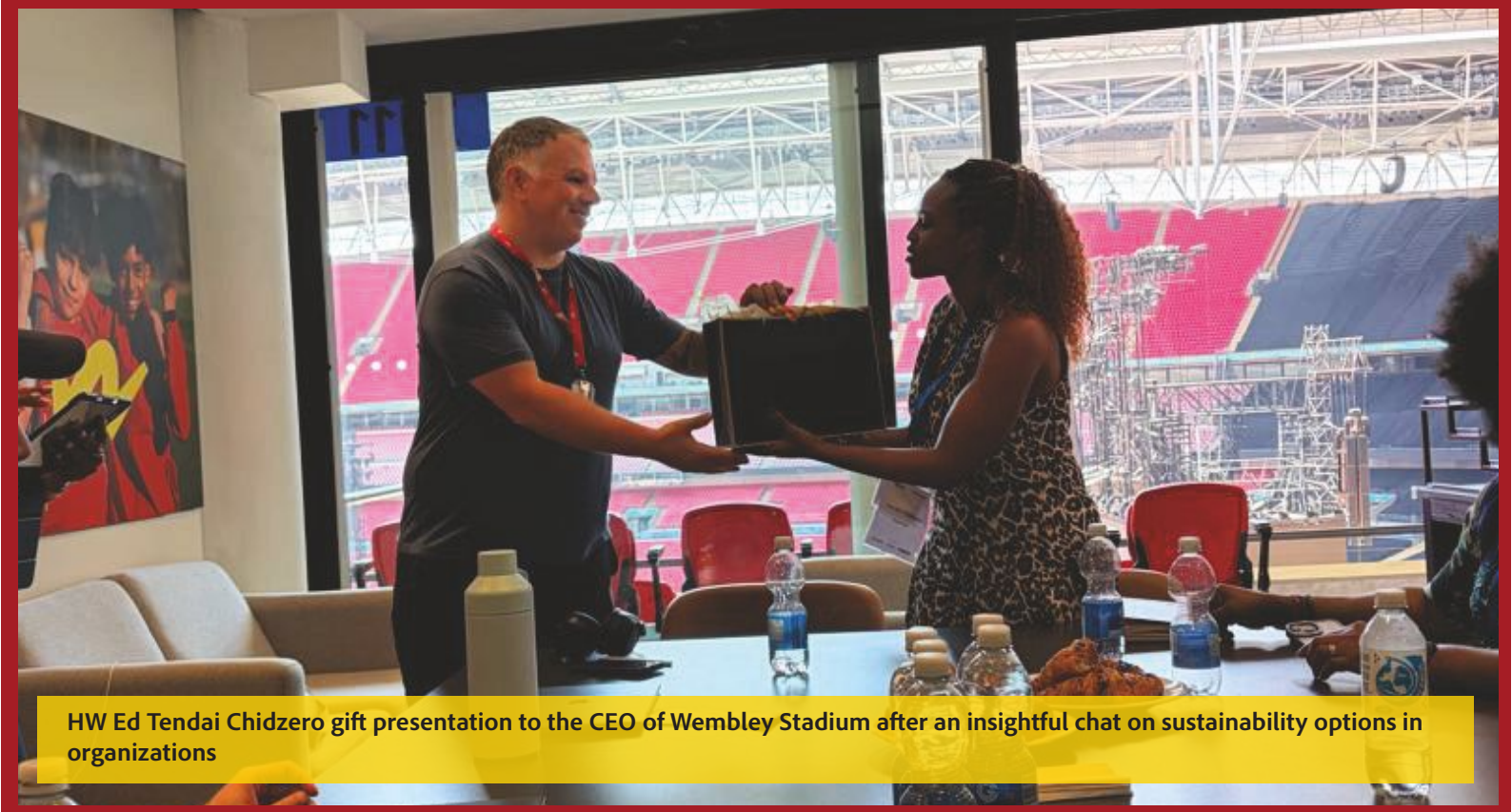
The Deputy Director, Reproductive Health Services – Adolescents, Youth SRHR & Fistula Prevention Hans Katengeza graced the event, the Deputy Director said that for years, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights has faced setbacks. Myths, silence, stigma, and misinformation have stood in the way of young people accessing the right information and services they need to make safe and informed choices.

"And today, we see a shift. Through creative design and targeted messaging, we are turning complex SRHR information into something young people can understand, relate with, and act on. Messages that speak their language. Messages that meet them where they are, be it in schools, on phones, and in their communities," said Katengeza.

Representing Healthwise Organization, our Communication and Visibility Officer actively participated in the session, contributing to the development of: Prototypes for CHOICE poster scripts. Creative, Facebook message scripts, a radio programme matrix. Chipatala cha Phone scripts., translation of key SRHR messages into clear, creative, and audience-appropriate communication materials.

The workshop reaffirmed the importance of using innovative and accessible communication platforms to ensure that communities receive accurate information, make informed decisions, and confidently access SRHR services. Organizations agreed that together, they can break barriers to information and champion clear, inclusive, and impactful communication that empowers every individual to know, claim, and exercise their sexual and reproductive health rights.

Every message matters and every voice can inspire change. This project is being implemented in a consortium led by Oxfam in Malawi funded by Global Affairs Canada in Balaka TA Amidu and Kalembo while in Lilongwe TA Chimutu and Malili.



HW Ed Tendai Chidzero gift presentation to the CEO of Wembley Stadium after an insightful chat on sustainability options in organizations







HEALTHWISE ORGANIZATION STRENGTHENS LEADERSHIP AT THE 2026 EMEA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Strong leadership is essential for creating lasting community impact. To strengthen its leadership capacity, Healthwise Organization's Founder and Executive Director, Tendai Chidzero, participated in the **2026 American Express Leadership Academy (EMEA),** held in London, United Kingdom, from **22–26 June 2026.**

The Academy, delivered by Common Purpose, brought together 79 nonprofit leaders from 18 countries across Europe, the Middle East, and Africa to exchange experiences, build strategic networks, and explore innovative approaches to leadership and sustainable social impact.
On her part Healthwise Organization Founder and Executive director **Tendai Chidzero** said organzations need to stand strong by not agreeing to any decision.

> *"Leadership is not about saying yes to every opportunity; it is about making strategic choices that protect the organization's mission while embracing innovation, technology, and partnerships that create lasting change."*

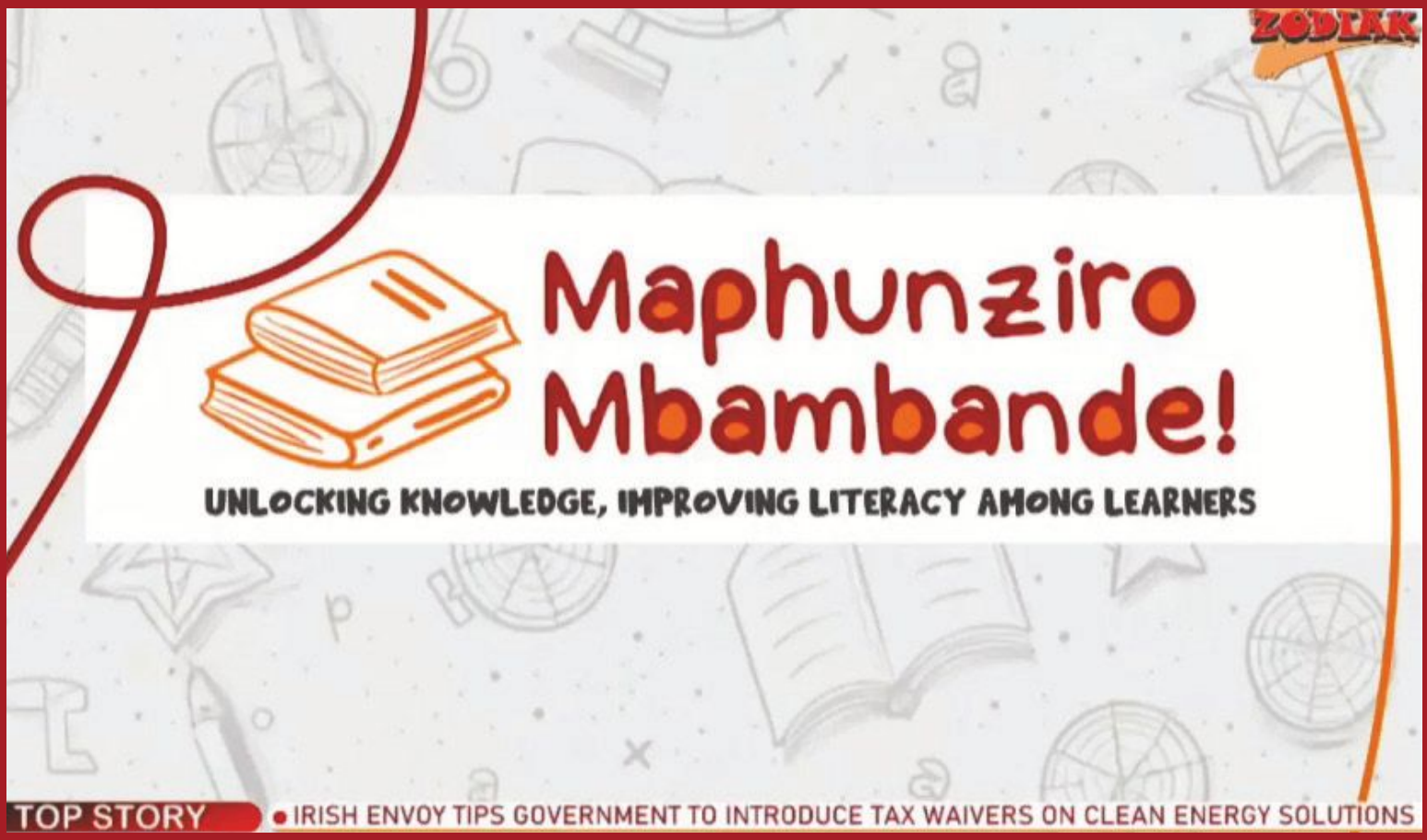
Tendai Chidzero, Founder & Executive Director, HWO

Throughout the programme, participants strengthened their skills in self-aware leadership, innovation, communication, storytelling, strategic decision-making, and the practical use of emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, to advance nonprofit missions.

The knowledge and global connections gained will help Healthwise Organization strengthen its leadership, enhance organizational sustainability, and continue delivering impactful, community-driven programmes across Malawi

Executive Director, Tendai Chidzero

> *"Effective leadership begins with self-awareness, courage, and a clear sense of purpose.*
> *The Academy has strengthened my commitment to leading Healthwise Organization with innovation, integrity, and a sharper focus on creating sustainable impact for the communities we serve."*



MAPHUNZIRO MBAMBANDE PREMIERES ON ZBS TV & ONLINE

Exciting News!
The **Maphunziro Mbambande Quiz** Competition under **Tiwerenge 365** is now premiering on Zodiak TV and Zodiak Online,
bringing the spirit of learning and academic excellence to audiences across Malawi.

The premiere kicked off on **30th June with Kasungu District's Mutchenda Area Program** under **Traditional Authority Chulu,** featuring the first three exciting episodes for **Standards 3–5.**

Watch every week:
Premiere: Monday at **5:00 PM**
Repeat: Wednesday at **3:30 PM** and Friday at **5:30 PM**

Our viewers don't miss the action as learners showcase their knowledge, confidence, and passion for education!
Courtesy of Healthwise Organization, World Vision Malawi, and Zodiak TV & Online.

LOOKING FORWARD

Healthwise Organization remains committed to expanding its impact and reaching more communities across Malawi through innovative, community-driven programmes and strategic partnerships. Building on the progress made this year, the organization plans to extend its operations into additional districts, bringing quality health, education, and development interventions to more vulnerable populations.

The **Maphunziro Mbambande Quiz Competition** continues to grow in reach and influence following its successful broadcast on **Zodiak TV** and **Zodiak Online.** By reaching audiences beyond participating schools, the programme is expected to inspire a culture of reading, critical thinking, and academic excellence among learners while encouraging greater community involvement in education.

Healthwise Organization is also excited to begin implementing the **CHOICE Project** in **Traditional Authority Malili, Lilongwe District,** focusing on **Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)** and **Early Childhood Development (ECD) with funding from Tilitonse, Comic Relief and UK Aid.** Through community engagement, awareness campaigns, and collaboration with local stakeholders, the programme will promote improved health outcomes, empower young people and families with essential knowledge and services, and support children to achieve a healthy start in life.

As the organization continues to invest in strong partnerships, staff development, and organizational systems, Healthwise Organization remains dedicated to delivering sustainable, evidence-driven programmes that transform lives and strengthen resilient communities across Malawi.



HEALTHWISE STRENGTHENS ADVOCACY CAPACITY THROUGH CHOICE TRAINING

From 10th -14th August, Healthwise Organization strengthened its capacity to influence policies and advocate for improved Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Malawi following its participation in a five-day Policy Analysis and Advocacy Training under the Canada's International Development Global Affairs Canada-funded CHOICE Project at Linde hotel in Lilongwe.

The training brought together Women's Rights Organizations (WROs), Youth-Led Organizations (YLOs), and SOGIESC organizations working to advance SRHR. Participants gained practical skills in policy analysis, evidence-based advocacy, strategic influencing, and engagement with decision-makers at district and national levels.

For Healthwise, the training provided an opportunity to strengthen its advocacy approaches and explore how evidence and community voices can be used to influence policies affecting access to SRHR information and services.

The training equipped Healthwise with tools to identify policy gaps, develop evidence-based advocacy messages, engage decision-makers strategically, and bring community experiences into policy discussions. It also reinforced the importance of partnerships and collective advocacy among civil society organizations.

Speaking on behalf of participants, Healthwise Executive Director Tendai Chidzero described the training as a game changer.

"We are not leaving the same way we came. The knowledge and skills gained during this training will strengthen our work by making our advocacy more community-driven, inclusive, and sustainable. We are better equipped to drive meaningful change and amplify the voices of the communities we serve," said Chidzero.

The skills gained will particularly support Healthwise in advocating for improved access to comprehensive SRHR information and services for young people, while strengthening engagement with communities, government and other stakeholders.

Taking the Learning Forward

Oxfam's Gender Policy and Programme Manager, Sarah Chisanje Kambilinya, reaffirmed Oxfam's commitment to supporting organizations working to advance young people's rights, including SRHR.

She emphasized the importance of continued collaboration among civil society actors in strengthening collective advocacy and promoting equitable access to SRHR information and services.

For Healthwise, the training marks a strengthened advocacy journey—equipping the organization with the knowledge, partnerships and confidence to turn community evidence into advocacy and advocacy into meaningful policy change.



HEALTHWISE EQUIPS 243 YOUNG PEOPLE WITH COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION

Healthwise, in collaboration with the National Youth Council of Malawi, Oxfam in Malawi and the Family Planning Association of Malawi (FPAM), reached 243 adolescents and young people with Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) during a session held at Kuliyani Community Ground in Lilongwe.

The session brought together 62 females and 181 males, providing a safe space for young people to access accurate information, ask questions and discuss issues affecting their sexual and reproductive health, relationships and future.

Participants aged 12-15 explored puberty, body awareness, personal safety, boundaries and consent, peer pressure, HIV, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and pregnancy. Those aged 16–25 discussed Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), healthy relationships, consent, pregnancy prevention, contraception, HIV and STI prevention, gender and power, sexual violence, digital safety and future planning.

The sessions aimed to go beyond information by building young people's knowledge, confidence and life skills to make informed decisions and plan for their future.

Representing the youth, 23-year-old Thomas Chasowa emphasized the importance of having the right information to make responsible decisions.

"Every decision we make today can shape the opportunities we have tomorrow. As young people, we need the right information to make choices that protect our health in order to focus on our future."

The initiative also connected young people to practical services, with FPAM providing family planning information and services. This link between knowledge, life skills and access to services is helping young people make healthier and more informed choices.





FROM AVERAGE PERFORMER TO NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL: ANASTANZIA'S INSPIRING JOURNEY

For 12-year-old Anastanzia Banda, the journey from being an average performer to securing a place at a national secondary school is a story of determination, confidence and the transformative power of learning.

Anastanzia is a former learner at Chulu Primary School in the Mutchenda Area Programme in Kasungu District. Like many learners, she once considered herself an average performer. However, her participation in the Maphunziro Mbambande Quiz Competition, implemented by Healthwise in partnership with World Vision Malawi and Zodiak Broadcasting Station, began to change her academic journey.

Through participating in the quizzes alongside her friends, Anastanzia developed a stronger reading culture and became more confident in her abilities. The experience encouraged her to read more, participate actively and challenge herself academically.

Her efforts soon began to show results. The learner who once described herself as an average performer became a high-performing learner, nurturing a dream of being selected to a national secondary school.

During a Healthwise visit to Kasungu for the Maphunziro Mbambande quizzes, Anastanzia confidently shared her ambition with the team.

"I told the Healthwise team that I would be selected to a national secondary school, and I worked hard to make it happen."

Anastanzia did not simply speak about her dream she worked towards it.

Following the Primary School Leaving Certificate of Education (PSLCE) examinations, her hard work paid off. She has been selected to Providence Girls Secondary School in Mulanje, marking an important milestone in her educational journey.

Her story demonstrates how creating opportunities for learners to read, compete, participate and build confidence can inspire them to aim higher and believe in their potential.

From an average performer to a national secondary school student, Anastanzia's journey is a powerful reminder that every learner has the potential to excel when given the right encouragement and opportunities.

Anastanzia's message is simple: Keep believing. Keep reading. Keep competing. Your story can change too.





ALESPECIOUS BREAKS A TWO-DECADE BARRIER AT MINGU PRIMARY SCHOOL

For more than two decades, Mingu Primary School in Ntchisi's Mphelele Area Programme had not sent a learner to a boarding secondary school through the Primary School Leaving Certificate of Education (PSLCE) examinations.

The last time a learner from the school achieved such a feat was in 2002, that long-standing narrative has now changed.

Meet 13-year-old Alespecious Cosmass Madzi, a former learner at Mingu Primary School who has become the first learner in more than 20 years from the school to earn a place at a boarding secondary school. His achievement is more than just a personal success. It represents a new sense of possibility for learners, teachers and the wider school community.

Alespecious' journey is also linked to the growing impact of the Maphunziro Mbambande Quiz Competition, which uses academic competitions to encourage learners to read, learn and develop confidence while creating a culture of healthy competition in schools.

According to Yusuf Ahmed, a teacher at Mingu Primary School, the introduction of quizzes helped change the attitude of both learners and teachers towards academic performance.

"There was little competition among learners, and a lack of seriousness from some teachers contributed to poor academic performance. However, the introduction of quizzes served as a wake-up call for both learners and teachers. It motivated everyone to work harder, focus on their studies, and strive for better results," he said.

For Mingu Primary School, Alespecious' achievement is a reminder that with the right motivation, support and learning environment, learners can break barriers that once seemed impossible to overcome.

His story is not simply about being selected to a boarding school. It is about what can happen when a learner is given a reason to believe that their future can be different.

Through Maphunziro Mbambande, Healthwise and its partners continue to use education-focused initiatives to inspire learners, promote a culture of reading and academic excellence, and open new possibilities for children across Malawi.

Alespecious has broken the barrier. His story is now an inspiration for the learners coming behind him.



TILITONSE FOUNDATION LEARNING VISIT STRENGTHES SERVICE DELIVERY

On 4th September 2026, Healthwise Organization hosted a learning visit by Tilitonse Foundation, its grant partner, as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen organizational capacity, sustainability and effective implementation of the Civil Society Strengthening Fund (CSSF) and Capacity Development Fund.

The learning visit provided an opportunity for Tilitonse Foundation to engage with Healthwise staff, appreciate the progress made through the support provided, assess how the funding has contributed to organisational strengthening, and identify areas requiring further improvement.

Purpose of the Learning Visit

The visit aimed to provide Tilitonse Foundation with a practical understanding of how Healthwise is utilizing the grant support to strengthen its organizational systems, structures and capacity.

It also provided a platform for reflection, learning and constructive feedback between the grant partner and Healthwise.

The visit was particularly important in demonstrating how investments in organizational development can contribute to building a stronger, more resilient and locally driven civil society organization

Key Areas of Learning

During the visit, Tilitonse Foundation appreciated the progress made by Healthwise through the CSSF and Capacity Development Fund.

The support has contributed to strengthening areas such as organizational systems, staff capacity, governance, financial management, human resources, monitoring and evaluation, communication and overall institutional development.

The engagement also created an opportunity for Healthwise to openly reflect on its achievements, challenges and areas where additional improvement is required. Tilitonse Foundation provided constructive feedback and highlighted specific areas that Healthwise needs to improve in order to strengthen its effectiveness, accountability and sustainability.

The feedback from the grant partner was valuable because it provided an external perspective on Healthwise's organizational development journey. It will help the organization identify gaps, improve internal practices and ensure that the investments made through the grants result in sustainable institutional change.



2026 NGO DAY

Healthwise Organization joined fellow Civil Society Organizations, Government representatives, development partners, private sector players and other sector at this year's National NGO Day, held at Bingu International Convection Centre (BICC) in Lilongwe.

Convened under the theme "Doing More with Less: Partnerships, Innovation and Efficiency for Inclusive Development," the event provided a platform for stakeholders to reflect on the contribution of the NGO sector, share experiences and explore practical approaches to strengthening locally led development in Malawi.

The Guest of Honour and UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rebecca Adda-Dontoh, emphasized the importance of stronger collaboration among NGOs and coordinating institutions. She highlighted the critical role of NGOs in connecting communities with development opportunities and driving initiatives that respond to local needs.

Ms. Adda-Dontoh further noted that strengthened collaboration between the Council for Non-Governmental Organisations of Malawi (CONGOMA) and the NGO Regulatory Authority (NGORA) can contribute to improving coordination, strengthening the NGO sector and scaling up the impact of development initiatives.

The event also recognised outstanding contributions within the NGO sector. Honourable Mary Navicha, Minister of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, presented the awards to this year's nominees. Tilitonse Foundation, a key grant partner supporting Healthwise Organization, received the Governance and Accountability Award, recognizing its contribution to strengthening good governance and accountability within the sector.

Healthwise Organization also hosted a pavilion at the event, providing an opportunity to showcase its work and share experiences from impactful initiatives being implemented with the support of its partners, including Tilitonse Foundation.

Through the pavilion, Healthwise engaged stakeholders and highlighted its commitment to strengthening community participation, partnerships, accountability and locally led development.

The National NGO Day was organized by CONGOMA in collaboration with NGORA, the Local NGO Forum and the International NGO Forum. The gathering reinforced the importance of partnerships, innovation and efficient use of resources in advancing inclusive and sustainable development.

For Healthwise Organization, participation in the National NGO Day reaffirmed the organisation's commitment to building meaningful partnerships, amplifying community voices and contributing to a stronger, more accountable and locally led civil society sector in Malawi.



CHIKALE PRIMARY SCHOOL CROWNED NKHATA BAY DISTRICT MAPHUNZIRO MBAMBANDE QUIZ CHAMPIONS

Nkhata Bay, Malawi Chikale Primary School has been crowned the district champion of the Maphunziro Mbambande Quiz Competition after defeating Kachere Primary School 59-37 points in an exciting final held at Chiomba Primary School in Kande-Kachere Area Programme (AP), Nkhata Bay District.

The competition, implemented by Healthwise Organization in partnership with World Vision Malawi, is part of ongoing efforts to improve literacy, promote a reading culture and enhance academic performance among primary school learners across Malawi.

The road to the district finals began in the two Area Programmes, where 15 and 13 schools competed in each programme. In Sanga AP, Chikale Primary School emerged victorious after defeating Chilambwe Primary School, while in Kande-Kachere AP, Kachere Primary School secured its place in the finals by overcoming Kande Catholic Primary School.

The district finals brought together the two Area Programme champions, with Kachere representing Kande-Kachere AP and Chikale representing Sanga AP. In a contest marked by knowledge, teamwork and determination, Chikale proved stronger, scoring 59 points against Kachere's 37 to claim the district title.

Beyond the competition, the initiative continues to provide learners with opportunities to strengthen their knowledge, build confidence, improve teamwork and develop a lasting interest in reading and learning.

Across the two Area Programmes, the competition reached 4,841 learners, comprising 2,383 boys and 2,458 girls, demonstrating the initiative's commitment to engaging both boys and girls in educational activities that support literacy and academic excellence.

And this represents 49.22% for boys (2,383), while 50.78% for girls (2,458). This demonstrates balanced participation, with girls representing a slightly higher proportion of learners reached than boys.

Through the Maphunziro Mbambande Quiz Competition, Healthwise Organization and World Vision Malawi continue to champion education by creating platforms that inspire learners to read more, learn together and strive for academic success.



HEALTHWISE EXPANDS MAPHUNZIRO MBAMBANDE QUIZ COMPETITION TO FOUR CDSSS IN MPAMBA

Nkhata Bay, Malawi Healthwise Organization has expanded its Maphunziro Mbambande Quiz Competition to four Community Day Secondary Schools (CDSSs) in Mpamba Constituency, Nkhata Bay District, in a move aimed at strengthening academic performance among secondary school learners.

The four schools Pundu, Lwazi, Chisala and Mpamba CDSSs have joined the initiative, which Healthwise has been implementing in primary schools to promote a strong reading culture, knowledge sharing and academic excellence.

The development follows a strategic implementation partnership between Healthwise and Mpamba Constituency Member of Parliament Jacob Mtambalika, formalised at Mpamba CDSS.

Speaking after the partnership, Healthwise Executive Director Tendai Chidzero said the organisation remains committed to advancing quality education and creating opportunities that empower learners to improve their academic performance.

"We are committed to advancing quality education and empowering students through initiatives such as the Maphunziro Mbambande Quiz Competition," said Chidzero.

The partnership has also received significant support from Mtambalika, who has committed K10 million towards the implementation of the programme in the constituency.

Mtambalika said the investment forms part of his commitment to transforming education and improving learning outcomes for young people in Mpamba Constituency.

He expressed optimism that the partnership with Healthwise will contribute to better academic results among learners in the participating schools
Meanwhile, Gertrude Phiri, Head Teacher at Mpamba CDSS, welcomed the initiative, describing the partnership as a source of hope for the schools.

She said the programme would motivate learners, strengthen their academic engagement and contribute towards producing better results.

The expansion of Maphunziro Mbambande to secondary schools marks another milestone in Healthwise's efforts to use innovative learning initiatives to promote academic excellence and improve educational outcomes among learners in Malawi.If you want, I can also make this more emotional and storytelling-focused for a Healthwise annual newsletter, with a stronger opening and a closing impact statement.

Healthwise
Transforming Lives

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

On behalf of everyone at Healthwise, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to you our partners and supporters who continue to make our work possible.

We are deeply thankful to **World Vision, Tilitonse Foundation, Comic Relief,** and **UKAID** for their generous support, trust, and commitment. Your partnership plays a vital role in strengthening our programs and enabling us to create meaningful, lasting impacts in the communities we serve.

We would also like to express our heartfelt appreciation to our community partners, whose collaboration, dedication, and local leadership are at the heart of our success. Your continued engagement ensures that our initiatives remain responsive, inclusive, and grounded in the real needs of the communities.

Together, we are making progress toward positive change, and we are truly grateful to walk this journey with you.

Thank you for your continued partnership and belief in our shared Mission.

With appreciation,

Healthwise Organization Team.

Tendai Chidzero
The Executive Director
+265 (0) 887 36 14 21 | +265 (0) 999 249 916
tendaic@healthwiseorganization.org
healthwise829@gmail.com

Healthwise
Upland house,
Opposite Maula Mall

Healthwise

Transforming Lives

healthwiseorganization.org

#MaphunziroMbambande | #TransformingLives | #Healthwisemw

:@healthwise_mw | :healthwisemw/Healthwisemw | :healthwise