

Association advocates for more ECD services



Association of Early Childhood Development in Malawi (AECDM) disclosed on Friday 15th February, 2013 that it would advocate for the country to spend at least 1 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on early childhood services in early childhood care and education by 2015.

AECDM Program Manager, Jaynet Kuyeli said this in an interview in Nkhata Bay after briefing the District Executive Committee (DEC) on Early Childhood Care and Education for All, a project supported by Tilitonse Fund. Currently, the country spends as little as 0.005 per cent of its GDP on early childhood services.

Kuyeli noted that early childhood services do not receive a lot of support from Government and the private sector hence the coming in of this two year project will assist in addressing this gap. The project will be implemented in six districts of the country namely: Neno, Nkhata Bay, Rumphi, Mchinji, Mwanza, and Ntcheu.

“The project goal is to enhance access and quality of Early Childhood Development Care and Education (ECCE) services at community level, taking all measures to overcome all forms of discrimination and reduce inequalities in access to and quality of ECCE,” Kuyeli said.

She said that some of the specific objectives of the project are to strengthen the capacity of Early Childhood Development practitioners and stakeholders to effectively deliver quality ECD programs by December 2015 and to create regional ECD networking and encourage partnership building for multi-sectoral implementation of ECD services.

Kuyeli further said that activities will include organizing lobbying meetings with parliamentary committees in relation to budgetary allocations for ECD services.

“We are going to advocate for local and district governance structures to be functional to support ECD through Local Development Fund and Constituency Development Fund,” she said.

Association of Early Childhood Development in Malawi is a local non-governmental organization and has the mandate to promote Early Childhood Development activities in Malawi.