



*innovative project on HIV/AIDS prevention among the Malawi youths*



## Zione in schools



**Project and its aim:** Changing the careless sexual behavior of the youths, decreasing the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing a platform for open discussion about love and relationships through showing the film **Zione** at primary and secondary schools in Malawi.

**What is Zione:** A 32-minute film about a 17-year old Malawian girl who starts to support herself and her family through prostitution. It was made in a way to be attractive for the Malawi youths and, besides teenage prostitution, also addresses issues of school dropouts, peer pressure and preventive measures. The film is using a vivid but realistic story and the shock value of Zione's and her baby's death will promote behavior change amongst the youth.

**Detailed description of the film:** Zione is only 17 years when her father dies of AIDS related complications and her life suddenly changes. She must give up her dream of becoming a teacher, leave the secondary school and start earning money to support her chronically ill mother and younger brothers. To find a job is impossible and the little money she gets for working in other people's gardens is not enough. Desperate Zione sees no other solution than selling her body. The once shy girl soon becomes a prostitute. In the beginning she is very strict about using condoms but gradually she becomes careless. Deep inside she still hopes for a proper family life and a husband. When Gona, one of her steady customers, proposes to marry her, Zione sees her chance and is ready to give up prostitution. But things are not that easy. Zione is already pregnant and HIV positive .....

**Background of the project:** Over 14% of Malawians are living with HIV. The youth are one of the most endangered groups, the risk of HIV contraction being five times higher in girls than in boys. Condoms, that could save many lives, are often not used. The Malawi syllabi (both at primary and secondary schools) contain lessons on HIV/AIDS but apparently don't have a major impact on the change of the sexual behavior.

**Realization of the project:** A team of two people (the realization team) travels by car to primary and secondary schools to show the movie during the school hours. After, they talk with the students about the film and in cooperation with the teachers initiate further activities connected with the film (essay writing, role plays, engagement of the local HIV/AIDS clubs ....). In the afternoons the film is shown to the community.

**Phase of the project:** The film *Zione* was finalized. It is in *Chichewa*, available with English subtitles. A trial was made and the film was shown at the Nankumba primary and secondary schools. The youths were very impressed and the film awoke a lot of discussions. They agreed that the movie made them realize new things and that it would be of great benefit if seen by other young people too. They also said that if the girls who experienced an early pregnancy would have seen the film earlier, it might have had the power of changing their decisions/life.

The film can be seen online at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvCDLP46z40> (part one)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3FUxOKI\\_UZE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3FUxOKI_UZE) (trailer)

**Beneficiaries and their number:** The project is aimed at youths at primary and secondary schools aged 10+. During the first year of the project running 200 schools will be visited (each approximately 250 students) and thus **50,000 teenagers** will benefit. In the afternoon hours the film will be shown to the community, this way another **20,000** people will benefit.

**BUDGET FOR 1 YEAR OF THE PROJECT (in Malawi Kwacha and USD)**

**Technical equipment**

4x4 car (capable of driving off-road) + insurance	K 1,800,000	\$ 11,250
Computer ....	K 140,000	\$ 900
Data-projector ....	K 160,000	\$ 1,000
Generator ....	K 50,000	\$ 310
Cable (50m) ...	K 20,000	\$ 110
Projecting screen ....	K 80,000	\$ 500
Speakers ....	K 180 000	\$ 1,100

<b>TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT TOTAL</b>	<b>K 2,430,000</b>	<b>\$ 15,170</b>
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**Operational expenses**

petrol for traveling to the 200 schools (average 100 km ... K 3,600 ... \$23 )	K 720,000	\$ 4,500
salaries for the 2-member realization team (each K 95,000 ... \$590 monthly)	K 2,280,000	\$ 14,160
coordination of the project (K 140,000 ... \$ 880)	K 1,680,000	\$ 10,560

(M&E, communication, poster printing, reporting, car maintenance, contribution towards office rent, generator petrol)

<b>OPERATIONAL EXPENSES TOTAL</b>	<b>K 4,680,000</b>	<b>\$ 29,220</b>
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**TOTAL COSTS : K 7,110,000 ..... \$ 44,390**

comment: Another year of the project (another 200 schools and 70,000 beneficiaries) would see a major reduction of the costs down to operational expenses only K 4,680,000 ..... \$ 29,220.

**About boNGO:**

boNGO is a registered Malawian non-governmental organization working towards better standards of education in the country since 2005. Contact person is the Managing Director Tereza Mirovicova (0888 014 575).



**Zione in Schools: Entertaining while Educating**

