

CSEC's PRISON EDUCATION PROJECT

DURATION: THREE YEARS (JAN 2015 – DEC 2017)

IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS, FEMALES, AND VULNERABLE MALES IN PRISONS AND POLICE ESTABLISHMENTS IN MALAWI

Civil Society Education Coalition (CSEC) is a network of presently 82 diverse independent and voluntary local and international Non-Governmental Organizations which promote the right to education and quality service delivery in the education sector in Malawi. The network was initially founded in July 2000 with a founding aim of achieving measurable change in quality of basic education by 2015 through supporting and influencing the implementation of and monitoring of Government policies relevant to the realization of the right to education in Malawi.

CSEC's vision is 'A society where all people enjoy the right to education that promotes equity, relevance, accessibility, quality and critical thinking'. Its missions is to promote the right to quality education for all and complement government efforts towards a literate and highly productive nation through information sharing, research, advocacy, and capacity building of member organizations and stakeholders'.

CSEC is implementing the Improving Living Conditions and Access to Justice for Young Offenders, Females, and Vulnerable Males in Prisons and Police establishments in the central and northern part of Malawi, with funding from the Royal Norwegian Embassy in partnership with Centre for Legal Assistance (CELA).

The project aims at providing quality formal and informal education to boys, girls and women in Prisons. Formal quality education is being provided from grade one to grade eight in primary section and from form one to form four in the secondary section to assist them to access and sit for the national examinations so that capable students should have an opportunity to go further with their tertiary education. This is part of the prison reform agenda where education is taken as one of the critical reformatory tools. Informal education is being provided to these young people, women and vulnerable males to acquire entrepreneur/trade skills in tailoring, carpentry, Art, sewing, bricklaying, mechanics, agriculture, etc. so that they are well equipped upon their releases so that they become better citizens and well integrated in communities.

The founding aims of the project is that inmates require certain skills and knowledge in preparation for their new life after prison or for their better life in prison. In view of this, CSEC recruited 25 qualified and salaried teachers who have been allocated in the six (6) prisons namely; Kachere Juvenile Centre, Maula Girls Reformatory Centre, Kasungu Prison, Nkhotakota Prison, Mzuzu Girls Reformatory Centre and Nkhata Bay Prison.

In October 2015 CSEC registered Kachere Juvenile Centre as a MANEB Centre to cater for candidates from Kasungu and Nkhotakota Prisons. These candidates were transferred to Maula Prison during the examination period to allow them seat for their examinations at Kachere Juvenile Centre.

The table below shows the MANEB Examination Schedule with the Statistics of Candidates who sat for all three levels of examinations in 2016.

EXAMINATION & DATES	PSLCE 11th to 13th May 2016	JCE 31st May to 10th June 2016	MSCE 22nd June to 12th July 2016	TOTAL
PRISON SCHOOL				
KACHERE	18	11	4	33
KASUNGU	14	8	5	27
NKHOTAKOTA	8	7	9	24
MAULA GIRLS	2	2	2	6
NKHATABAY	2	4	2	8
GRAND TOTAL	44	32	22	98

Conclusion

The prison education project has registered considerable success as inmates have become highly motivated to plan for their lives after release.