



The VIA program in Malawi

Road Safety in Malawi

Malawi is in the group of ten countries that are in worse road traffic fatalities status. Due to the scarcity of the studies around this issue, a few that exists, and somewhat outdated still point to the glaring picture of the case. The available scanty data estimates that Malawi records 31 per 100,000 road traffic fatalities. These statistics, though, should be taken with a pinch of salt, because research has shown that even the police records are inaccurate as follows. It appears that the total number of deaths caused by road traffic injuries in 2015 was the same number in 1990 when there was a 50% difference in population of the entire country.

The WHO's records of road traffic deaths in Malawi in 2016 was 5601, yet in 2015 the police records showed 1060. In short, we know that the road traffic injuries in Malawi are worse than what the government documents claim. Further, the situation should be treated as a ticking bomb amid rapid urbanization that puts vulnerable road users, especially school going children at a very high risk.

TotalEnergies in Malawi

TotalEnergies Marketing Malawi Limited has been in the country for 60 years. TotalEnergies Marketing Malawi is a Market Leader in Malawi and a pioneer in solar energy through solar lamps, with operations in Malawi in 79 locations we have 86 employees who are committed to better energy. Our Corporate Social Investment levers are; road safety, climate, coastal areas and oceans, youth inclusion and education, cultural dialogue and heritage. The affiliate is also engaged in education, entrepreneurship and community support.

The partnering NGO

VIA is implemented by Rays of Hope a faith based, local NGO that uses Transformative Education Model to strengthen the skills of teachers, supports learners and provides financial solutions to the youth for a productive life.

Rays of Hope aims at nurturing children, youth, and empowering them with abilities essential for life management, academic excellence, spiritual development to become competent leaders. Stakeholders involved in the implementation of the VIA phase 2 are: Directorate of Road traffic and Safety Services, Blantyre District Education office. Ministry of Education, Malawi Police Services, Blantyre City Council, District Education Officer Roads Authority

VIA deployment

VIA phase 2 is operational in 15 schools in Blantyre urban and rural, with a target reach of 15,000 pupils.

Some of the activities conducted include; Launch of the program, revamping of existing road safety clubs, setting up road safety clubs where they did not exist, Training of trainers, community outreach, road safety school fair, learning visits between schools, safe mobility quiz competition among schools, Painting of pedestrian crossings and the creative competition (closing function).

The VIA facilitators conducted road safety education sessions in a total of 15 schools, reaching over 15,200 students ranging from 10 to 16 years old, in the Blantyre District Education (Urban and rural).

The sessions allowed students to identify road safety related problems within the community and their way to school and design solutions for them while presenting them in posters.

VIA Safe Mobility Ambassadors

Students

Favour Mkwamba
Faith Mkwamba
Trinity Maliya
Patricia Mwaungulu
Isaac Moffat



Matrons

Rita Kalungulu
Eunister Chakuma

The winning school

South Lunzu CCAP primary school was established in the year 1953, Under the Proprietor of Blantyre Synod of the CCAP church, In TA Machinjiri Blantyre Urban.

Location

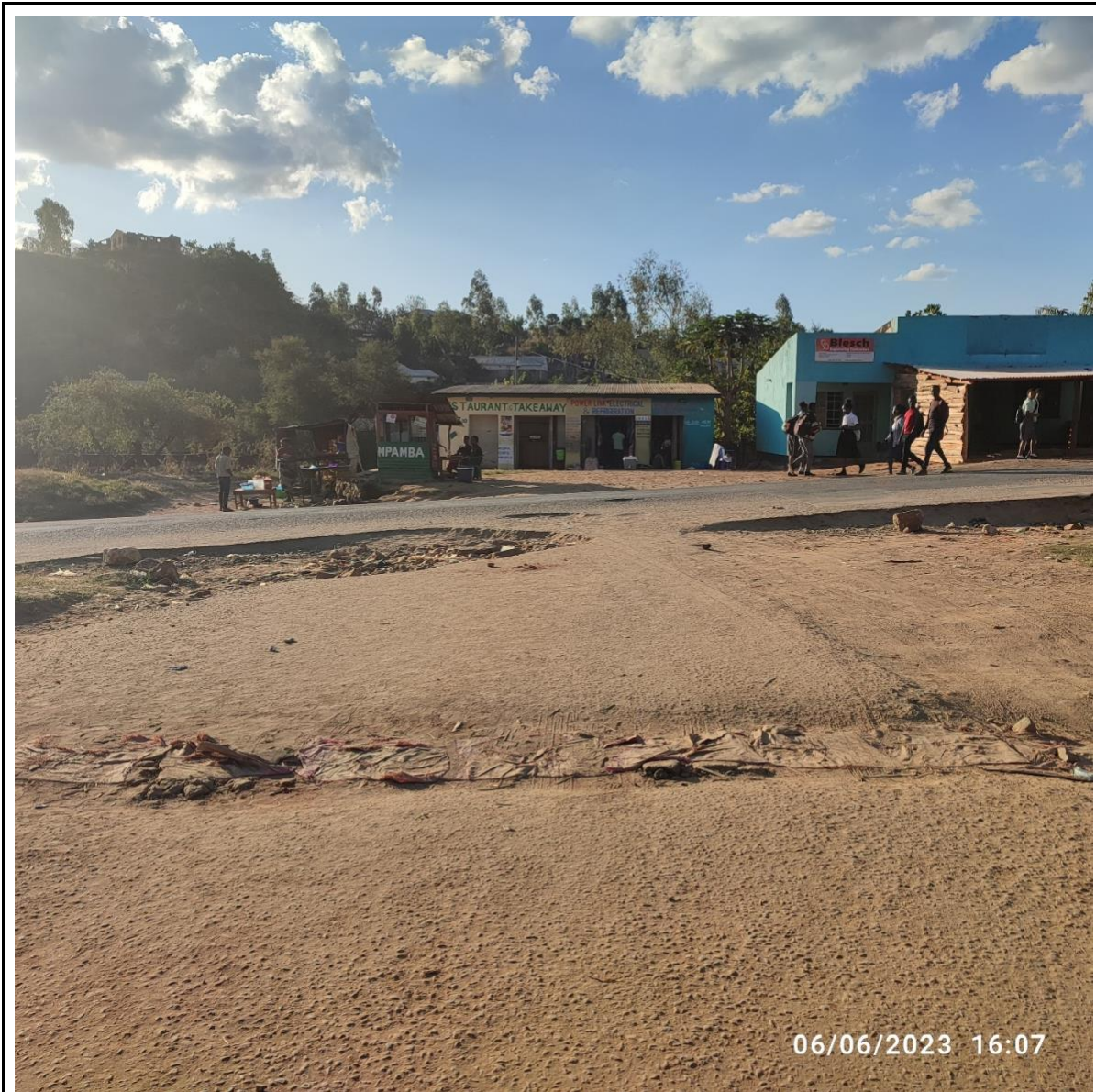
Screen shot of a google map of South Lunzu Primary school.



Picture of the surroundings



The front of the school (South Lunzu CCAP Primary)



The road the pupils use to cross to and from school, with no pedestrian crossing or humps.

Problems

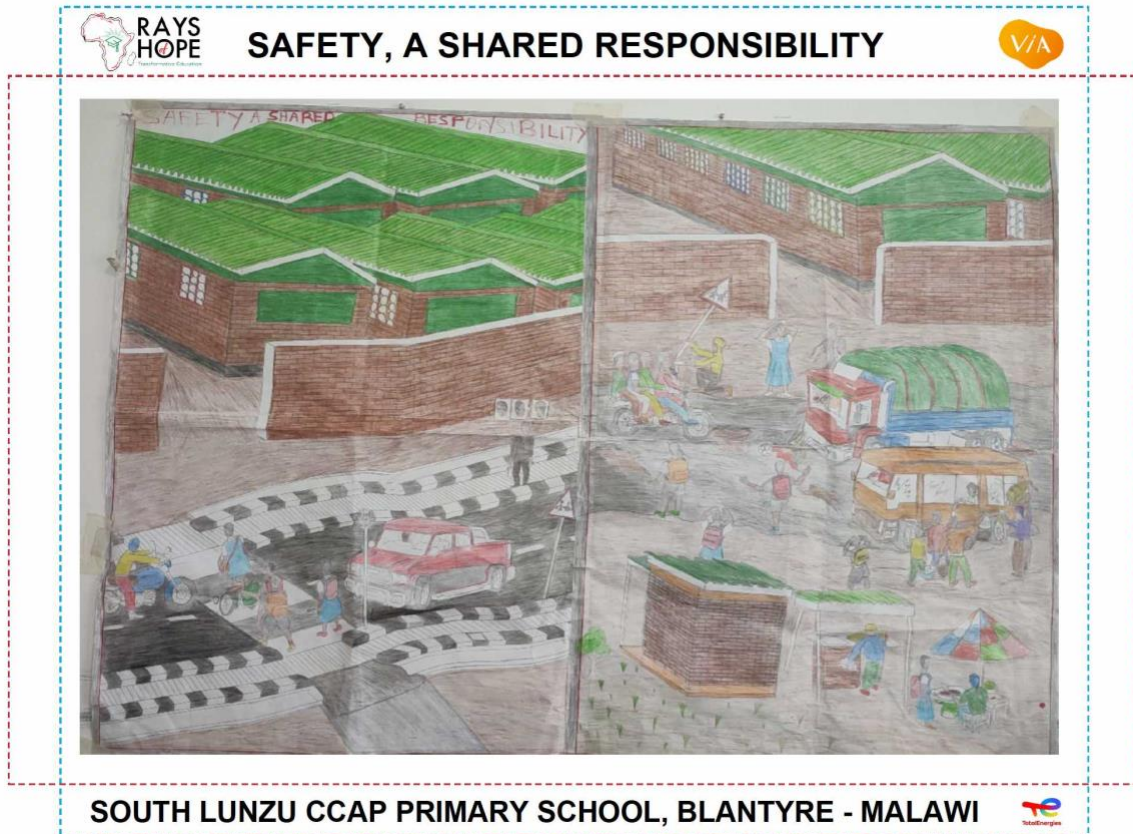
What are the problems identified by the young ambassadors around the school?

- There is no pedestrian crossing to aid the learners cross safely to and from school, this is a very big issue because the school is quite close to the main road which is quite busy.
- There are no scholar patrol materials like; reflector jackets and stop signs to help the young ambassadors when they are helping their fellow pupils cross the road to and from school.
- There is no signpost indicating that there is a school nearby and this poses as a threat to the pupils because most drivers do not slow down when nearing the school.
- There is no hump to cause drivers to slow down when they are near the school.
- There is no proper stage for minibuses to park and this causes most minibuses to park right at the entrance of the school, in turn compromising the safety of the pupils.

Recommendations

- Rays of Hope and TotalEnergies together with the District Education Office, City assembly and the Traffic Police to paint a pedestrian crossing at the school.
- To ask the city assembly to elect a hump on the road to slow down drivers
- Come up with scholar patrol materials using locally available resources
- Work hand in hand with city council to put a proper stage away from the school
- Work on restoring the lost signpost indicating that there is a school ahead.

The prevention poster



What does the poster mean? How is it related to the problems identified

- The poster means that safety is a shared responsibility, as you can see on the poster the first part everyone including the pedestrians and motorists are working together to make sure that the students and even themselves are safe. The last part of the poster is showing us of the dangers that can arise if no one takes responsibility for their own safety, as well as, the safety of those around them.