



CAMA Speeches

29 September 2019

Lilongwe, Malawi



Your Royal Highnesses, my name is Fatima Frank - and you can still call me Fati.

When we spoke in Zambia, I explained that we as CAMA do not work alone. We work to change the mindsets of our local chiefs and of parents, to make sure they understand the importance of girls' education.

I was the first girl in my village to obtain the Malawi Certificate of Education. Now I am a teacher in training, a relatable role model to students. As CAMA members, we bring our lived experience to the classroom. We know the pain of exclusion, what it feels like to be an orphan, the difficulties students face at home, and the pressure girls may feel to start relationships. I am also a trainer of CAMA 'Learner Guides' - young women who support vulnerable children in local schools. We are 'big sisters' and children confide in us. That means we can work with schools and communities to solve the problems they face.

We deliver a life skills curriculum called 'My Better World.' CAMA members helped create this curriculum, using our own stories, to help children learn, pass exams, set goals, and plan how to achieve them. With the support of UK Aid as a major partner, we are helping to improve the quality of education, and the learning environment. For example, we explore children's strengths and their goals, and this really helps them focus on what is possible, what they can achieve – this gives them confidence – and we see them go on to get really good results.