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AFRICAN VISION MALAWI

CREATING LASTING CHANGE

Issue 32

Newsletter
Winter 2021

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Our Vision: A healthy, educated, self-sufficient community in Malawi

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Covid-19 affecting our programmes

It has of course, been a difficult time during the last 20 months due to the reduction in funding and fundraisers. A number of Covid-safety guidelines have therefore been put in place. This has meant that we have had to revise how we implement our programmes while still protecting our community and staff.

We are not giving up! Amazingly most of our programmes have continued to operate although some were stopped due to Government guidelines limiting larger groups gathering and 'spreading the virus'.

The two main programmes affected were the Medical Outreach programmes (see pg. 2) and there has been no Vocational training running at Sam's Village.

SAM'S VILLAGE

Covid affects our training programmes. Our STEP programme came to an end in February 2020 after training 265 marginalised people. 143 orphans, 55 single parents, 35 people with disabilities and 32 ultra-poor. Without funding we have not been able to do further vocational training, although we are planning 2 sessions in 2022 in Carpentry and Tailoring with funds raised in memory of Harry Lewis and Geoff Goodwin, both friends, who lived in Malawi in the 50's and 60's and additional funds from Love Support Unite (LSU). We did manage to do a refresher training in Early Childhood Development for our 46 caregivers at our pre-schools (see pg 2) and also Household Permaculture Training. This is a 5-day training course on basic permaculture and how to set up a protected garden by their homes , watered by 'grey water' used for bathing, cooking etc. They also learn how to make natural compost, a fuel saving oven and soap. 20 people were trained. We plan to do further Household Permaculture training next year with funds from Joan Higgs 90th birthday (see back page)



Finding the levels on the land



Mandala bed permaculture design



Setting up the bed with plenty of mulching



Making a fuel-saving oven

We also have built a new entrance which includes a guards room, graduate support room, show room and compost toilets.











Emma Katengeza with the new ambulance and on Medical Outreach





Bicycle ambulance training



Disability programme

HEALTH

Our Medical Outreach programme is funded by Love Support Unite and operates 10 times a month. This is an amazing programme that is having a positive impact in our area, serving an average of 1,500 to 2,000 people each month. This outreach is only possible by partnering with the Government who supply the medication and staff; the programme is managed by Emma Katengeza, who is our Health Manager.

We have reached 317 people with disabilities and supported them through prosthetic & orthotic devices, wheelchairs, therapy or an operation to support their independence. To do this, we work in partnership with '500 Miles' and 'MAP' in Malawi.

We made and distributed 7,000 washable face masks and provided hand wash facilities, soap and sanitiser to all of our centres. Kind thanks to UNESCO and donors who contributed to the funding.

We distributed 10 Bicycle ambulances throughout our area and provided training on use, maintenance and documentation of the trips. The 'kabaza' style ambulance is like a bicycle taxi and we converted bicycles that were left with us after the bicycle challenge.

Our next big (SEND) project is to build three Special Needs units in our area. An educational one at M'bang'ombe School, a health one at M'bang'ombe Clinic, and Training and making and fixing devices at Sam's Village.

STAFF & LBC (LOCAL BASED COMMITTEES)



We are delighted to introduce you to Marie Brown who has been our Country Manager since May. She has a background in Health and Education and has lived in Malawi for the past 3 years. For the interim period after Heather Palmer (CEO) left Malawi in September 2020, Kumbukani Kuntiya (one of our Malawi Trustees) stepped in on a temporary basis. Our grateful thanks to him for seeing us through a difficult period.



Photo above of Marie showing Government members our plans for our new SEND project

"I started in my new role as CM in May and it has been a busy and exciting couple of months so far. I work with incredible staff who are passionate and committed to achieving our vision. I feel very privileged to be given the opportunity to work with African Vision Malawi and am very excited about the next two years."



Our 14 Local Based Committees (LBC) have now been restructured and we have taken on 4 Coordinators who are the main link between the LBCs and our office. We have reduced the committees down from 7 to 6 people and have a total of 88 LBC members. We have just held our first Cluster meeting for a long time where we discussed our programmes and updates which included changing our name to African Vision Malawi in Malawi. From now on, we are officially registered. No more Landirani Trust! All our LBC members are volunteers and have a key role in implementing our programmes.

EDUCATION



Early Childhood Development (ECD) We are now operating 13 pre-schools. With funding from LSU we built a new pre-school at M'seteza which has improved their learning. We also held a refresher training course for 46 caregivers who support our ECD centres. 'The Gandys Foundation', who built Funsani CBCC (Community Based Childcare Centre) funded a special Christmas gift and lunch with the children. 140 turned up for the meal! The gift was food stuffs, vegetable seeds and a small ball. They were so excited!



Now that we have taken over LSU programmes, this also meant taking on their scholarship programme. With the closure of Tilinanu Orphanage, it meant that all the girls needed to be reintegrated back to their extended families at local schools. It was a real challenge for Wezie Gwaluka (Education Manager) to implement this for 28 girls based all around Malawi, but she did a fantastic job. We now have 81 students in our scholarship programme.

We didn't take on new scholarships last year due to the pandemic, but we have completed our selection process for 10 orphan and vulnerable children. If you feel you would like to sponsor a student it costs £35 per month, which covers fees, uniform, transport, books, learning materials and toiletries. Please contact Ahu if you would like to help at ahu.guray@africanvision.org.uk. We have just held our Scholarship Camp for all 81 students!

We continue to support 'Girls education matters' which empowers girls to stay in school. We provide them with a pack of washable sanitary pads (made at Sam's Village), pants and soap. We have now built 8 washrooms and donated 248 'girls packs' if you would like to support this programme we are always looking for size 10-12 pants, microfibre cloths and old umbrella fabric.



Wezie visiting students at school



New scholarship home visits



Scholarship Camp



Girls Education Matters

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



Our partnership with SCOPE Malawi grows stronger; our community is excited with the implementation of a SKI (Seeds & Knowledge Initiative). We have been working with the Chitsime community for 2 years now and encouraging them to save their seeds and we recently held a 'seed fair' where many local seeds were shared, swapped and sold to the community. They are also slowly changing their agricultural practices to more organic methods.



Sustainable Family Farms receiving seeds

LSU fund a programme called 'Sustainable Family Farms' which is a 'seed loan' to empower vulnerable families supporting orphans and elderly, to become independent. It is a rotating programme and this year we have selected, trained and provided farm inputs to 39 new families who have 2 years to pay off the loan. It is dramatically changing lives and making them sustainable.

We currently have 4 tree nurseries. A minimum of 5,000 of these trees will be planted with funds from LSU within our catchment area.



4 tree nurseries

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JANE THOMPSON



Winter 2021



Household Permaculture Training



Thanks to Joan Higgs-Smith for donating her 90th birthday gifts to AVM. These funds will mean we can do another Household Permaculture Training at Sam's Village next year!

Do you have a special celebration you would like to support others with your gifts? Do we really need more 'things'? Please contact us if you would like to give your gift to Malawi.



Some of you passing by may have noticed a container in our drive! Thanks to our trustee, Andrew Ridley-Barker for providing it. If you have good old fashioned tools, a working amplifier, projector or filing cabinets; please get in touch!



FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Curry Quiz night—Saturday February 5th 2022 with venue to be advised but will be Surbiton based.

Pedal Power 2022 — has now been postponed to September 2022! This will include an optional climb up Mount Mulanje and then cycling 500km with a safari and a day by the lake included. Details on our website.

Finally we have been able to hold some fundraisers!



Past events:

Garden Party—We held our Garden Party on July 10th which was well attended and raised a wonderful £4,000!

Ladies Fun Night—Was on October 13th with 43 women supporting our 'Girls Education Matters' programme which raised £1,000 They also donated 329 pants and 54 microfibres for making washable sanitary pads.



Ultra race—Charlie Horne ran an incredible endurance race of 50km per day for 5 days on a trot followed by a week break and then the Marathon! Just short of 300km in 6 days! She raised £2,700.



London Marathon—Karla Goodman ran her first ever marathon and raised an incredible £1,937

Virtual Marathons— We had a further 4 amazing runners doing the virtual London Marathon which raised a total of £4,476. Sadly Jacqueline Goldsmith had to drop out due to injury but the others were, Nadia Chelache, Freddie Allum, Sam Palmer and Dan Hunt who did the run in 35 degrees heat in Oman!



St Mary's Magdalene Church coffee morning—Gaynor Cook is one of the founders of AVM and selflessly spent her birthday doing a coffee morning at her church on November 13th which raised an incredible £756!