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AFRICAN VISION MALAWI

CREATING LASTING CHANGE

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

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African Vision Malawi has been going 17 years!



We have an amazing team in Malawi who are committed to making changes to our community. Each year we celebrate our anniversary with a 'fun day' of games, music, dance and companionship so we can show them how much we appreciate their work.

As from April 1st 2022, we are now officially named **African Vision Malawi** in Malawi

HEALTH

Our 10 medical outreach programmes continues to have positive impact to approximately 2,000 people per month. This programme is funded by Love Support Unite. This supports in malaria testing and treatment, HIV testing, under 5's clinic, family planning and also sensitizes the community with topical subjects. We have had a case of polio in Lilongwe, so recently the community has been educated on preventative measures and also under 5's being immunised.





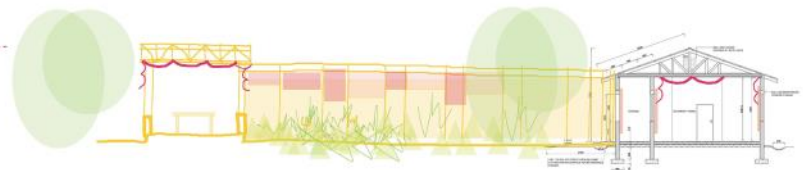
Our disability outreach also continues to identify people who we can refer to appropriate facilities. Many of these have physical disabilities, who we support in providing aids or operations.

(photo left) Chimpambulu outreach clinic treated 1,903 patients last month. (photo right) 5 year old Mercy, assessed at Ngoni clinic, now referred to Kamuzu Central Hospital with a congenital abnormality.

Our next big project is to build three Special Needs & Disability (SEND) units in our area. A health-based one at M'bang'ombe Clinic, an educational one at M'bang'ombe School, and training plus making and fixing devices at Sam's Village. Draft planning is in place for the health-based unit as well as the Safe Motherhood Unit (SMU) being built alongside. **Kingston University Head of Architecture** is involved with the design. We have had consultations with District members, medical staff and the community and hope to move ahead this year.

This SMU unit is to encourage expectant mothers to come early and learn about nutrition and other aspects of their ante and postnatal care. Malawi has the highest rate of pre-term births in the world, 18.1% due to mothers having persistent malaria, HIV and malnourishment. There are maternal deaths on route to the Maternity unit as mothers don't travel until they are in labour.

We shall be planting permaculture gardens and provide starter packs to women who go through the nutritional training, aiming to highlight the malnutrition. The SEND unit with assessment and therapy rooms will also be linked with the maternity for early identification of special needs, providing early intervention.







(photos left to right) Roundabout at entrance, reception with new learning area outside, renovated greenhouse (by intern Briefing Taonani)

SAM'S VILLAGE

We have been making improvements to Sam's Village and preparing for our official opening on 29th September. We are excited to introduce you to Richard Mwanjasi (below) who is our new Programmes Manager and will be based predominately at Sam's Village as he monitors programmes there along with our outreach programmes. We are looking forward to our next vocational training, which will start in July and finish in October. We have a new revised MoU with TEVETA who provide the accredited training modules. We shall be training marginalised people in tailoring and carpentry.





(photos left to right) preparation of permaculture garden, Tree block being completed, carpark with edible dividers

STAFF & VOLUNTEERS





We give a warm welcome to **Maggie Kaitano** (far left) who joined us in March as Administration Assistant.

We also welcome **Richard Mwanjasi** (centre) who has joined us in June as Programmes Manager and will be based at Sam's Village supporting all our outreach programmes.

Thanks to **Dr Millie Goodwin,** (right) who volunteered with our Health programmes for 8 weeks. Her grandparents used to live in Malawi.

Zikomo kwambiri to **Briefing Taonani,** an intern, has supported us with renovating our greenhouse which you can see in a photo above and has extended his stay for a further 3 months, based at Sam's Village.

Thanks to **Christine Costantini** who was meant to volunteer with us for 3 months which extended to 4 months! She's built up an incredible bank of photos and videos , some of which are below.







EDUCATION

Early Childhood Development (ECD) We received funding from the **Irish Embassy** of €7,500 which was used to renovate 5 of our 13 ECD centres. This has made them safe for purpose and included putting in a kitchen for the feeding programme. We are very grateful for this funding. Sadly 'Feed the Children' are no longer supplying nutritional food to us, due to funding for this not being available. We have therefore stopped our feeding programmes, except for one which is donated by **Gandys Foundation** at Funsani centre. If you would like to support us through the next year, we plan to grow sustainable feeding gardens in the community, but this won't be possible until the next growing season. It would cost us £5 per month to feed one child 5 days a week! Please donate if you want to support a child or several children. Gandys Foundation kindly provided funding for some outdoor play equipment which the children love playing on!

Scholarship programme If you feel you would like to sponsor a student it costs £35 per month for Secondary and £90 for University, which covers fees, uniform, transport, books, learning materials and toiletries. Please contact Ahu if you would like to make a difference to an orphan or even part sponsor, at ahu.guray@africanvision.org.uk.





(photos) Chiweza II ECD centre renovated; Zione Tracy Kafansiyanji graduating in Journalism and Funsani children enjoying their play equipment donated by Gandys Foundation

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



Over the years we have supported 320 beneficiaries with **'Dimba' gardens**, based on river beds. They all support orphan and vulnerable people. The vegetables they grow, feed the family and surplus gets sold to support the extended family, helping to give them good nutrition and self-sufficiency. This is a rolling programme. One beneficiary managed to save enough money to buy a bike!



'Sustainable Family Farms' empowers vulnerable families supporting orphans and elderly, to become independent. It is a two-year programme which starts with a 'farm input' loan which is paid back over 2 years. This makes them food-secure and also provides them with additional food to sell which will support their extended family. There are 30 beneficiaries from M'lumbwira Centre and a further 9 from Chalasa village. They also learn how to build a fuel-saving oven, make organic compost and how to set up a Village Saving Loan. This is funded by **Love Support Unite.**

Reforestation programme. We have planted 10,000 trees which means we have a total of 35,570 since we have started working in Malawi. They have been planted in our communities, health clinics and schools.



We have now implemented two **Household permaculture** training programmes. These beneficiaries also received trees from our reforestation programme. We shall also be implementing this 5-day training within our vocational training at Sam's Village, so that they get a whole rounded training which includes life skills.

. *Vaida Matalanda (right) in her household permaculture garden full of food!*

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African Vision Malawi
31 Upper Brighton Road
Surbiton
Surrey, KT6 6QX

Phone: 020 8287 8169

info@africanvision.org.uk

Charity no: 1113786

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OUR MALAWI TEAM
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GANDYS FOUNDATION
ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH
EILEEN SPEAK
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AHU GURAY
JANE THOMPSON
ST MARY'S CHURCH

Strategic 5 Year Plan



We have been working on our next 5 Year plan for AVM. Our core aims and objectives remain on empowering orphan and vulnerable but with more focus on sustainability within Malawi. We are looking at our programmes having more connection and interlinking with each other, along with building more partnerships with like-minded organisations. We are officially opening Sam's Village in September and the facility is up for rental. Funds will go back into running the charity and programmes.

Malawi devalued the kwacha by 25%

On Friday 27th May, the Malawi Government announced that the local currency, the Malawi kwacha, was being devalued by 25%. We have already seen soaring fuel costs, now gone over the £2 mark in Malawi which has a knock on effect on our running programmes and staff. Another worrying time for us to find our way through.

Container is on route to Malawi—thanks to one of our Trustees, Andrew Ridley-Barker for securing a container, which will stay at Sam's Village as secure storage. Thanks to all people who have donated items to send and helped us pack it up! We have another one which will go out near the end of the year. Let us know if you have items to donate, but please store until we are ready to pack up.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Pedal Power 2022 — has now been postponed to 18th September 2022! This cycling challenge is 500km in Malawi with a safari and a day by the lake included. Total of £1,750 for an unforgettable experience. Details on our website

Virtual Marathons— We have bought five places for the Virtual London Marathon that can be run anywhere in the world. It will take place on October 2nd 2022. Please let us know if you are interested in a free place!

Indulgence Day—June 18th from 10am—6pm @ 31 Upper Brighton Road, KT6 6QX. A day of relaxing, live music, therapies, yoga, gong bath, homemade food & bar. Details on our website.

Past events: Curry Quiz night—Saturday March 5th 2022 raised a fantastic £1,378.57. Thanks to Ahu and Greg who helped to organise it!

We are very grateful for our Partnership links. We have 24 links in UK with 22 schools in Malawi (1 pre-school). Over the past 6 months we have had donations from the following schools to support their link school. Thanks for making a difference!

St Richards First School partnered with Kambulire Junior School raised £1,029

St Pauls CE Primary partnered with Bowa Primary School raised £300

Briar Hill Infants partnered with Kafutwe Primary raised £447

Katey's House Nursery partnered with M'teza CBCC raised £576

