AFRICAN VISION MALAWI

2021/22 ANNUAL REPORT



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OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of African Vision Malawi is to work with local communities to develop long-term, sustainable solutions to the issues affecting orphans and vulnerable people in Malawi.

We do this across four key areas:

- Education
- Healthcare
- Self-sufficiency
- Environment



OUR VISION

TO SEE A HEALTHY, EDUCATED
AND SELF-SUFFICIENT
COMMUNITY IN MALAWI

WHERE WE WORK

We have been operating since 2005 in an area 30km from Malawi's capital city, Lilongwe. The area spans 400km^2 with a local population of 60,000. We support 28 primary schools and have just under 4,000 orphans and 300 disabled people registered with two clinics and two maternity units.

We work through 14 centres where we have a Local Based Committee (LBC) of six volunteers — in each centre — who help us identify and resolve any issues on the ground plus a total of 84 volunteers who are residents in the local area.

Due to the impact of Covid-19, we have experienced difficulties in delivering some of our programmes due to a lack of funds and restricted access to the region. Malawi was on the 'red list' of countries and people were not permitted to cross its borders until December 2021. Over the past year our funding levels have started to increase and Malawi's regulations have relaxed.



THE FOUR PILLARS OF OUR WORK

EDUCATION

HEALTH

SELF-SUFFICIENCY

ENVIRONMENT



PILLAR 1

EDUCATION

EDUCATION

Malawi has a population of approximately 19 million with 85% living in rural areas as subsistence farmers. Only 25% of children get a place in secondary school.

Our education programme accounts for approximately 65% of our overall work and follows a life cycle approach: starting from pre-school, school years, through tertiary/vocational training and onto employment.

We currently have six education projects:

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD)

With support from Feed the Children we delivered porridge to our 13 ECD centres; assisted with the construction of centres as needed; and in partnership with government colleagues provided the ECD curriculum through our identified care givers. Unfortunately, in November 2021, we were notified by Feed the Children that the feeding programme would stop. We have been looking at alternative ways to re-start it. We had 1,035 children attending our ECD centres in April 2021 and by March 2022 that number had reduced to 721 due to the withdrawal of the feeding programme.





SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

We are working with 21 schools in Malawi and 23 schools in the UK who have partnered to learn from each other. This involves students writing to each other and sharing their experiences, culture and values. Schools in the UK fundraise for Malawi schools, and we have constructed school blocks; teachers' houses; offices; and also purchased school uniforms for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC).



SCHOLARSHIP

In January 2020 we merged Tilinanu orphanage girls into our scholarship programme. This increased our number of students by 28 (11 primary and 17 secondary). African Vision Malawi (AVM) has 37 secondary students, 19 university students, and seven young people on the waiting list for university. There are 91 scholarships in total. We are grateful to Love Support Unite (LSU) who not only sponsor the Tilinanu girls but also sponsor an additional 13 AVM scholarships.









GIRLS EDUCATION MATTERS

We are working with nine primary schools where we provide girls with sanitary materials and have built washrooms to encourage girls to attend school during menstruation. Girls in the region would usually miss 2 – 3 months of education per year by staying at home during their monthly periods.

ADULT LITERACY

In partnership with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, we deliver English, Chichewa and basic numeracy classes to adult learners across five centres.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

We offer vocational training to adult learners in non-formal skills at our training facility at Sam's Village in north-west Lilongwe.



PILLAR 2

HEALTH

HEALTH

In Malawi there are very basic health services. 50% of deaths of children under five years old are due to malaria. Within our catchment area of 60,000, we have just two government clinics and they are poorly resourced. In 2013, we rebuilt the maternity unit at one of the clinics. In 2019 we merged with Love Support Unite and since 2020 have taken on their programmes, which they continue to fund.

Health is our second biggest programme and accounts for 25% of all our work. It also follows a life cycle approach: from supporting babies in safe maternal care; working with children and adults with disabilities; helping vulnerable adults living with HIV/Aids and chronic diseases through to the frail and elderly.

Our health programme features:

MEDICAL OUTREACH CLINIC

In partnership with the Ministry of Health, we support 10 mobile outreach clinics providing much needed health services to those living in rural, hard to reach areas.









DISABILITY OUTREACH SERVICE

Our service identifies those living with disability in our communities and provides referrals and access to rehabilitation services. This includes ‘vulnerable support’ for people with long term illness needing support or medication.

BICYCLE AMBULANCE SERVICE

Bicycle ambulances provide much needed access to health care services for the acutely ill and mothers in labour.

WATER AND SANITATION

In partnership with the Rotary Club and other sponsors, 47 boreholes have been installed and we work with the community to monitor their performance.



SAFE MOTHERHOOD INITIATIVES

In 2013 we constructed a maternity unit at M'bang'ombe Health Centre which serves the community of 25,000 people. We are working towards building a 'Safe Motherhood Unit' which will include nutritional training, permaculture gardens, additional space for expectant mothers and facilities for children under five.





PILLAR 3

SELF-SUFFICIENCY

SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Sam's Village is a self-sustaining eco-training village built on a 17-acre site in rural north-west Lilongwe (8km from Kamuzu International Airport). The construction phase is now almost complete, and our objective is to support a move away from hand-outs to creating self-sufficient training programmes.

Features of Sam's Village include:

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

We offer accredited vocational training to adults in 'non-formal' skills.

LIFE SKILLS TRAINING

Life skills training such as health/disability awareness, education around gender-based violence, and permaculture gardening is available.













EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

We offer a pre-school learning service for children between the ages of 3 – 5 in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST).

LIBRARY

The library serves people of all ages and is utilised by community members.

PERMACULTURE GARDENS

The organic gardens sustain the staff, visitors and trainees at Sam's Village.

TRAINING IN EARTH BUILDING

Previously we have offered training in natural building methods and all our buildings are constructed using this method.



PILLAR 4

ENVIRONMENT



ENVIRONMENT

Our fourth pillar focuses on sustainable agriculture and improving environmental practices. This includes promoting food security and impacting climate change.

Our environmental programme features:

SUSTAINABLE FAMILY FARMING

With the support of our partner Love Support Unite, we provide this programme to vulnerable people who would otherwise struggle to produce farming outputs as a result of poverty, disability or illness. It is a roll-on programme where farm inputs are provided and then paid back over a 2-year period.

DIMBA GARDENS

Farming near riverbeds helps people grow crops all year round and is a sustainable farming method that enables people to maintain their livelihoods. Our selection process focuses on people supporting orphans, the disabled, the elderly and those living with HIV/Aids.



REFORESTATION

Since 2013 we have planted 35,570 trees in our area. We plant a mix of agroforestry and fruit trees.

MAIZE MILL

The construction of a maize mill at Bowa has provided access to milling services that were not available without significant travel.

HOUSEHOLD PERMACULTURE GARDENS

AVM has now trained 40 beneficiaries to grow their own ‘back garden’ near their home using permaculture techniques. The programme includes making manure, natural medicines, soap making, water management, soil management and natural pest control.

PERMACULTURE

In partnership with SCOPE Malawi, we offer training in permaculture approaches to schools and households in our communities. The SKI (Seeds & Knowledge Initiative) programme supports seed multiplication and organic methods of growing, leading to food security while encouraging the use of indigenous seeds and no fertilisers.



IMPACT

EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENTS

- We selected 10 students for scholarships. They are all orphans or vulnerable young people with high potential to go through secondary school and on to tertiary education. All 10 students are sponsored by Love Support Unite.
- In April 2021 we distributed 103 ‘girls packs’ which include washable sanitary pads, underwear and soap. In June, a further 101 were distributed to Bowa school.
- Eleven Form 4 students took their MSCE exams in January 2021 and incredibly all passed. The schools had been closed from March – September, so many of them had lost out on teaching time, but were studying at home. Nine started university in January 2022 and received government grants for their fees.
- Six Malawi partnership schools received funding from their UK schools to a total of £3,329 which was spent on learning resources, uniforms, footballs, chairs and some renovations.



- 276 beneficiaries are receiving Adult Literacy Support in both English and Chichewa.
- In total we supported 40 students in secondary school scholarships, seven in primary school and 28 in college/university.
- Six girls from Tilinanu completed primary school and started secondary school.
- 102 out of 137 adult literacy beneficiaries graduated from our five centres, a total of 76%.





"In December 2021, a 29 year old woman from Kasakula Village was travelling to attend a funeral. On her way, she developed labour pains and our Bicycle Ambulance at Kaninga Centre helped her. She was taken to Kayembe Health Centre and delivered twins safely."

HEALTH
ACHIEVEMENTS

- We secured £30,000 funding for the construction of a Safe Motherhood Unit and Special Needs Therapy Unit at M'bang'ombe Health Centre.
- 24,500 people were able to access the Medical Outreach Clinics over the year.
- We had three medical internships supporting the health programmes.
- Disability – 250 people were on outreach and supported with prosthetic & orthotic devices, wheelchairs, therapy or an operation to support their independence.
- 350 vulnerable and elderly received 15kg of maize during the hungry month of February.
- We have nine active Bicycle Ambulances in the area.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Access to our ECD Centre and library was maintained during COVID-19.
- We conducted a community needs assessment exercise, which will enable us to determine the vocational courses needed at Sam's Village.
- We harvested 63 x 50kg bags of maize and 12 bags of soya in early June 2022.
- We continued growing extensive permaculture gardens and completed the erection of a greenhouse.
- 3,102 users were registered at our library this year.
- Training was provided on using bamboo as a construction material to over 20 people in our communities and key members of staff.
- 17 local marginalized people were supported by being hired as assembly workers for ener-G-AFRICA up until October 2021.



"With the income I was earning from assembling rings, I have been paying school fees for my daughter at Chikutu CDSS am also able to support my disabled child in education. I have been affording clothes and food for the family without problems and was able to buy a phone too."



ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- We identified 39 new beneficiaries for our Sustainable Family Farms programme in Chalasa Village and M'lumbwira Centre.
- We continued to support 27 'dimba' guardians gardens (supporting orphans, vulnerable people and people with disabilities) to improve livelihoods.
- Trained 320 beneficiaries in 'dimba gardening'.
- We relocated the maize mill from Kafutwe to Bowa for ease of monitoring and where there is greater need.





- Continued SCOPE Malawi partnership with SKI (Seeds Knowledge Initiative) programme in Chitsime community, promoting growing local indigenous seeds, composting and reducing reliance on fertilizer and 'greened up' M'bang'ombe and M'teza schools with permaculture programmes.
- Provided training on how to make manure in our 14 centres.
- Provided two internships over this period to agriculture interns who have assisted with the construction of our greenhouse and the analysis of two of our programmes.
- Provided training to local-based volunteers on how to maintain changu-changu stoves (local built fuel saving ovens).
- Planted over 9,000 trees since January 2022 of which over 83% are growing well.

LOOKING AHEAD

From the beginning, it's been our mission to develop long-term and sustainable solutions to the issues affecting orphans and vulnerable people in Malawi and there is still much work to be done.

This year and next, we will continue to invest in and develop the projects we work on currently and we've identified other initiatives that we believe will make a real difference to people's lives. This includes building a girls' washroom at M'bang'ombe Primary School, providing a dental service at five schools, constructing an outdoor learning facility at Sam's Village, and recruiting and training new beneficiaries for the Sustainable Farming Programme, plus much more.

As an organisation, we have developed our Strategy Plan from 2022 – 2027 outlining our direction for the next five years and we've held two cluster meetings for our valued Local Based Committee members across our 14 centres to identify further issues and solutions.

We look forward to working with other organisations and ministries with expertise in our programme areas and to recruiting additional staff to support the development and implementation of our programmes including a Programmes Manager, a Senior Finance Officer, and Agriculture Manager and an M&E Officer.







EMPLOYEE STRUCTURE

African Vision Malawi has no employees in the UK and relies totally on volunteers, which includes the CEO. Through its local entity in Malawi, the Charity employs 34 staff, all of whom are Malawian nationals except the new Country Manager who is Scottish.



THE LOCAL BASED COMMUNITIES (LBCs)

Besides the Malawi Team outlined above, we work through 14 Local Based Committees (LBC) which are each clustered around several villages and schools. One Committee is based in each of our centres within our support area. Our 84 LBC volunteers act as the voice of the communities we work in, and help to make decisions about priorities in different areas.

They also function as an accountability mechanism to ensure that projects are implemented successfully and that funds are used appropriately. Each LBC has been restructured to six members: Secretary (a teacher from a school who can speak both Chichewa and English); and one representative for each of the five areas we work in (education, healthcare, self-sufficiency, water and sanitation, orphans & vulnerable people). One of these representatives is also appointed as a Chair and members report on their specific area on a monthly basis. The records from these meetings enable us to keep track of issues and developments in the area we work in and to act upon information coming directly from the area.

We have four coordinators who monitor a number of centres:

MATTHEWS NELSON – supporting Kafutwe, Chamcholo, Masiye, Lombwa centres

WILLARD NYUNDO – supporting Kaninga, Chibwata, Chimbalu, Mundundu centres

ANNES BANDA – supporting M'khalapadzuwa, Chitsime, Namanyanga centres

BONIFACE MALEMA – supporting M'bang'ombe, Lumbadzi, M'lumbwira centres.

A bi-weekly meeting is held at Sam's Village with AVM staff where new activities are discussed and information passed on for them to liaise with the different LBC centres.



THANKS

Without our supporters and funding through grants and trusts, we would not be able to complete our work. We sincerely thank people for continuing to fund our projects, which make such a positive impact within the community. Our particular thanks to our partners over this past year, which include Love Support Unite, Scope Malawi, 500 Miles, MAP and Project4Africa.

Our grateful thanks to inq. Malawi (formerly Skyband) who provide our internet at Njewa office and Sam's Village. And finally, the many volunteers who tirelessly help both in the UK and Malawi with organising events to help us continue our work and to our Trustees in the UK and Malawi for providing their time, support and guidance.

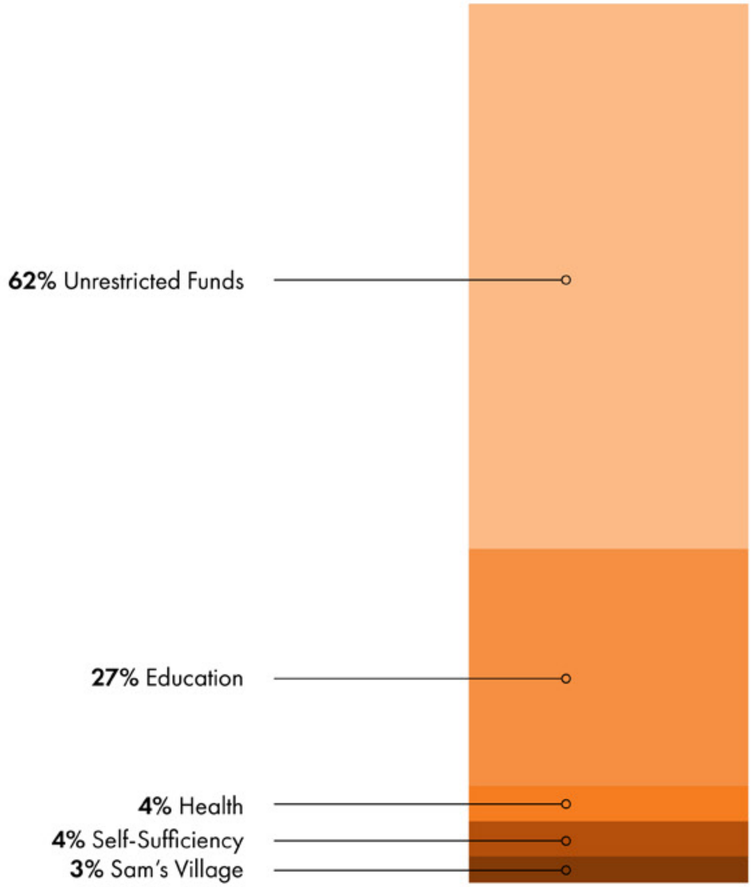
TRUSTEES

Nigel Palmer	**Chairman**
David Stead	**Treasurer**
Andrew Walker	**HR**
Sara Butterfield	
Andrew Ridley-Barker	
Beth Sheehan	
William Nyasulu	**(Malawi Resident)**
Kumbukani Kuntiya	**(Malawi Resident)**
Heather Palmer	**CEO**
Marie Brown	**Country Manager (Malawi) (From May 17th 2021)**

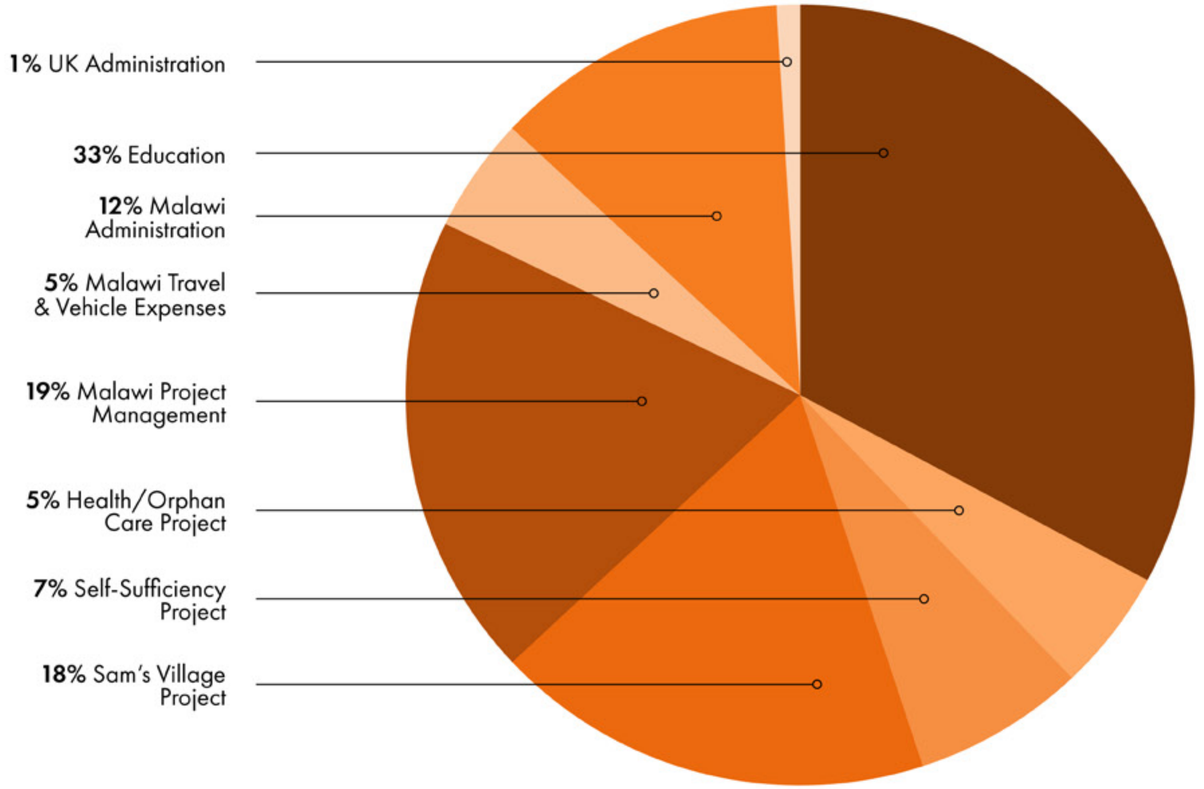
Charity Number	1113786
UK Address	31 Upper Brighton Road, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 6QX
Email	info@africanvision.org.uk
Phone	020 8287 8169
Website	https://www.africanvision.org.uk
Malawi Office PO Box	PO Box 30928, Lilongwe 3, Malawi
Office Physical Address	Off Mchinji Road (behind Sol Farm), Njewa, Lilongwe, Malawi

FINANCIALS

INCOME



EXPENSES



AFRICAN VISION MALAWI

THANK YOU

