



The
Malawi
Project



"Together
we can make
a difference
half a world away."

“It is not about
the Plan, Program,
or Project...
It is about
the People.”



The Malawi Project crosses religious, civil, community, ethnic, tribal and social lines in its effort to assist the poorest members of society.

Malawi Project

The Malawi Project is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization located in the United States. Its primary focus is to help the African nation of Malawi. It pursues this goal through six key areas: agriculture, education, medicine, food sustainability, community development, and the maturation of responsible community and religious leaders. The members of the Malawi Project, and their families, have provided various types of support and involvement to at least 14 other African, European and Asian nations.

Formed in 1999 the Project functions under the leadership of a board of directors; all are volunteers and serve without financial compensation. A number of ideological factors make the Malawi Project unique when compared with other non-governmental agencies:

1. Creating Independence

The Malawi Project is committed to helping people get on their feet and manage their own future. Aid programs provided by the MP are executed with a concerted effort to avoid dependency. To dispel systems of aid-based dependency, many programs have incentives that help recipients move toward independent, self-sustaining, productive lives.

2. Developing Management

The Project seeks to avoid transatlantic management over programs in Malawi. It is the responsibility of Malawi managers and organizations to carry out oversight and administration, along with handling daily operations. This is part of the Project's overall view that nationals do a better job than outsiders. This principle results in more efficient programs for the poor by utilizing locally responsible oversight and organizational skills.

3. Establishing Fish Ponds

The adage “Give a man a fish and he will come back for more, teach him to fish and he will continue to care for himself,” requires supplemental considerations when discussing Malawi (whose GDP in 2016 made it the poorest country on earth.) While “teaching them to fish” is the focus of the Project, it is recognized that there may not be enough “fishponds” to visit! Opportunities for development must first be established before the Project can help partners sufficiently utilize them. Consequently, the Project will help create needed “fishponds” from time to time.

The Project recognizes knowledge is cultivated in every corner of the globe. Ideally, our goal of “teaching them to fish” is not founded in a belief that “we know best”. Rather, programs are designed to collaborate with Malawians and embrace collective knowledge. Eventually, humanity's tradition of learning will result in Malawians combining local and international knowledge to teach themselves the contextual skills they need for sustainable self-empowerment.



Mission Statement

The Malawi Project is a faith based humanitarian organization dedicated to working side-by-side with the people of Malawi to improve their physical and spiritual wellbeing. Assistance extends nationwide, and in some cases to other impoverished African nations. Programs are structured to help develop individual and group independence, and when this is not possible aid is given in a way that develops and supports local and regional management of the various programs. Programs focus in the areas of agriculture, education, medicine, mobility, famine relief, resource conservation, and human development potential.

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State of the Nation - MALAWI

From the majestic, cloud-high plateaus of Mulanje Massif and Zomba Mountain to the sparkling pristine waters of Lakes Malawi and Chilwa, the natural beauty of this African nation serves as a magnet for both visitor and explorer.

From the rich soil of Thyolo's tea plantations to the mountain splendor of coffee estates near Mzuzu, Malawi's rich potential is reflected from the top of its mountains to the depths of the lower Rift Valley.

From wildlife reserves at Liwonde and Kasungu to the lowland marshes of Majete and Vwaza, visitors and locals are treated to the constant splendor of its rich heritage and historic animal kingdoms.

From the Uraha archaeological digs in the north, to the Chongoni Rock Art in caves near Dedza, the region's past comes alive in stunning, dramatic, historic detail.

From the quaint mountain villages, to commercial and government centers in Lilongwe and Blantyre, Malawi presents vibrant, exciting, and friendly voices as children plead for all to come experience their laughter and song.

From the sandy, sun-drenched shores of Lake Malawi to the dizzying heights of the Nyika Plateau the visitor finds it impossible to fully grasp the breathtaking sites that flood one's view.

Home to eighteen million people, and no larger than the state of Pennsylvania, Malawi is all of this and more.

The first time visitor is mesmerized by the intense hospitality and warm greetings, as the country lives out its theme of being, "The Warm Heart of Africa."



State of the Nation

Hidden Behind the Beauty

"All that glitters is not gold," is a common expression around the world. Behind the beauty and charm of Malawi, and unseen in its cheerful countenance is an array of problems and suffering. Land-locked between the larger nations of Tanzania, Mozambique, and Zambia this tiny country has a GDP to population ratio that makes it the poorest nation in the world. Village life is charming, but primitive. The economy is consistently crippled, placing the health-care system on life support. Farming methods are outdated, and food supplies depend on good weather and long hours of manual labor in the fields. Schools have few supplies, buildings are run down, libraries are almost non-existent and the system suffers from serious teacher shortages. Road, bridges and infrastructure are in need of repair, and basic services are unavailable to most of the population. Water, electricity and phone service is overextended and obsolete. A million people live with HIV/AIDS, fifty-two percent live below the poverty line, and inflation is currently running twenty-three per cent a year.

As the economy slips farther behind the rest of the world the sounds of their cries fall on deaf ears and unseeing eyes. Who will hear their cry? Who will see their pain? Who will step forward to help them?



The Need

Malawi is currently in the grips of a national food emergency. The nation has only experienced similar famines twice before, in the 1950's and early 2000's. The effects of El Nino weather patterns in the Pacific and increases in average temperatures globally have disrupted crop production for the past two years. This has led to estimates that half of the 18 million people in Malawi suffer from some degree of malnutrition or starvation. It is so serious that only outside aid can help the nation recover before mass starvation leads to wholesale death.

Progress

The Malawi Project has responded to food shortages in the past by sending millions of dollars in food aid to the country. This took place primarily in 2001-03, and has again taken place in 2015-17. In both cases the root cause has been the same; weather patterns. Coming from the east across the Pacific and Indian oceans, Malawi's weather is strongly influenced by the El Nino effect. While it brings uncomfortable changes to parts of North America, El Nino's effects on Malawi are often catastrophic. The nation consistently sees either far too much, or far too little rain. Areas along riverbanks are prone to flooding, sweeping away the crops, while in other areas with too little rain, tender plants consistently dry up and die. In both cases the nation barely raises it's minimum food requirements and thus finds itself in serious trouble. At these times the Project shifts from independence and self-reliance programs to initiatives that address widespread malnutrition, foodshortages, suffering, or death. A person cannot patiently learn independence skills when he or she is too busy searching for their next meal.



Whether it is a trailer of food from an American contributor, or food purchased locally, any and all acquired foodstuffs are carefully distributed to areas that present the greatest need. Food shipments go to every ethnic group, every religion, and all stations of life. Distribution takes place with Tribal Authority, government agencies, local communities, churches and other groups committed to maintaining accountability and responsibility. Each distribution is well thought out in advance, organized before the food arrives, and wisely governed when the truck arrives. There have been no government restrictions on any of the over 350 shipments the Malawi Project has made to the country, and the Customs Department has never stood in the way of a Malawi Project sanctioned shipment.



Nation Wide Famine

How to Participate



Feed a child for a month

\$20

Even at current high prices it only takes \$20.00 to feed a hungry child for a month. Seldom can so much go so far. For more information, to make an electronic contribution, or give by check, go to: www.malawiproject.org/donate/.





The Need

Malawi is a poor country where 85% of its population survives through individual subsistence farm plots. This is done without modern mechanization and calls for every member of the family to work as much as 10 – 14 hours a day cultivating and caring for the family-plot. The government is unable to generate sufficient revenue to create and supply farm programs or subsidies that will adequately improve the livelihood of village farmers.

Progress

To avoid dependency and develop sustainable crop production (when weather conditions permit), the Project focuses on education, training, and the introduction of mechanized equipment to increase crop production. Recently ten thousand educational booklets calling for planning ahead and storing part of each year's crops were produced for distribution nationwide. These booklets emphasize community centered grain storage facilities, as well as crop production during the dry season. Co-ops similar to Community Development Agencies need to be created so farmers can work together to increase production and sell their products through joint efforts.

Food Processing Plant

Over the years the Malawi Project helped establish the Madalitso Food Facility, which helps process food and feed between 65,000 and 100,000 people a day. The Project has also helped create the Mtalamanji Agricultural Village, which today houses and trains 50 farm families a year in modern farm techniques.

Drip Irrigation Systems

The Project has also helped install over 11,000 drip-irrigation systems to have crops growing in the dry season, while American professionals have trained groups of local farmers in their use.

Farm Tractors & Basic Utility Vehicles

Agricultural Aid International an Indiana not-for-profit has designed simple farm tractors called the V-Tractor and the VT2 Walk Behind for Malawi and other emerging nations. Twelve of these units are currently in Malawi. These units can increase field cultivation multiple times over in comparison to the traditional hand-hoe. Three Basic Utility Vehicles have been sent in order to evaluate the viability of this form of inexpensive transportation for moving product and people over greater distances.



Helping to Grow

How to Participate



Drip Irrigation Units

Provides a farm family
the opportunity to grow
crops in dry season.

\$15



Village Tractor

\$250.00 helps share the
cost of providing a small
tractor for a village.

\$250





The Need

Education is the key to the future. Unlike many children in first world cultures, the children of Malawi are aware of the need for education and beg for the chance to go to school. While parents do everything possible to educate their children there are two factors that inhibit school attendance. First is the financial shortage. It costs to go to school; books, paper, pencils and pens, uniform, travel, and many other expenses. The second problem is the loss of work power; when the children are away there is no one to help on the farm or with household chores.

In addition to improving childhood education, The Malawi Project also focuses on leadership education, adult skills, and moral character; not only in schools, but communities, churches, and across the nation. In some ways this need is more acute than education of the youth. Without guidance from adult leadership and strong moral character there is risk the nation's youth may fail to develop into responsible citizens. Once this occurs the community will find it difficult to recapture the neglected opportunities.

Progress



A number of programs help with these problems. The Shoes for Grades Program helps address the need for academic excellence. Programs that offer increased production in agriculture allow more time for children to go to school rather than work in the fields. Dresses for Little Girls, school supplies (pens, paper, pencils, textbooks and other needed resources), as well as creating school libraries increases educational opportunities. The Text Book Program has placed 40,000 books in 1,000 school libraries, as well as books to medical schools, and church training schools. The Senga Bay Library, a project the Malawi Project helped to sponsor, houses 2,000 donated books, and serves as a community resource for the lake shore area. Over the past twenty years the number of pieces of educational literature totals in the millions.



Path to Success

How to Participate

Church, community, and organizational drives collect school supplies (pens, paper, pencils, erasers, rulers, three ring binders, and small hand pencil sharpeners). Textbooks in English, elementary, secondary and high school libraries) are needed. Teaching aids also contribute to the success of the cash poor Malawi schools.



School Backpack

A backpack of school supplies can be sent to a class or students for \$45.00.

\$45



The Need

The national healthcare system was put in place shortly after independence when the population was approximately 4 million. Since that time the three tier system has faced major fracturing from lack of funding, population growth, the pandemics of HIV/Aids, malaria, TB, and malnutrition, as well as aging equipment, and facilities, lack of adequate supplies, and the drain of qualified doctors and nurses to other countries or private facilities. Fully 40% of the healthcare is administered by private or religious healthcare facilities. Estimates in recent years give a ratio of .02 physicians and 3.4 nurses for every 1,000 people. By comparison the U.S. has 2.4 doctors and 10 nurses per 1,000.

In many of the higher tiered facilities x-ray, ultra sound, and other diagnostic equipment is non-existent or broken down. Labs stand empty in many hospitals and closed completely in others. There are few ambulances, and even fewer emergency rooms adequately staffed for a major problem. Mattresses are aged, torn, and stained and for many only a bare frame with protruding springs awaits the patient. Patients often lie on bamboo mats on the floor, share a bed, or lay in outside hallways where the overflow of suffering humanity is found.



Progress



Beginning in 1999 the Malawi Project assisted in the construction of a major medical facility in the central region. Over the next eight years a 5-building, 110-bed hospital complex was completed near the international airport north of Lilongwe.

In 2008 attention shifted to the southern region. In subsequent years major supply, equipment, and construction projects were carried out at the Namikango Birthing Clinic in Thondwe, a small trading center east of Blantyre.

At the same time focused attention brought shipments of supplies and equipment for the Kachere Orthopedic Hospital and Bengwe Weaving Factory, (a service for the blind) both in Blantyre and Bottom Hospital in Lilongwe (as it was known then), a major birthing hospital.

Near the end of the decade attention turned to assisting the Dzidalire Development Agency construct a birthing center north of Dedza in the central district.



Establishment, training, and supply assistance for Clinic at the Gate in Senga Bay, and Sacred Promise Clinic in Lilongwe were also accomplished over subsequent years.



Change the Future

How to Participate

Personnel

Opportunities are available for qualified personnel to offer assistance.

Supplies

Hospitals need simple first aid supplies, as well as major supplies and equipment. Whether a simple box of Band-Aids, a tube of burn ointment, 100 pair of rubber gloves, or major diagnostic equipment contact us for details on need. Contact info@malawiproject.org for details on needed supplies.

Village First Aid



First Aid Kit.

\$40



Burn Care Kit.

\$30





The Need

Emerging world needs cannot be fully understood through first world eyes. A rural hospital with no doctor, no working laboratory, and no pharmacy half the month cannot be imagined. A population center with thousands of people and not a single pharmacy cannot be explained. Hundreds or thousands of homes with no fire, police, or emergency service cannot be visualized. A two-room house with only two cooking pans, a single spoon, no beds (only bamboo mats) and a small bamboo bin for food storage, home to seven people, cannot be comprehended. Yet this is common in Malawi where village people have no bank account, no savings, and almost no possessions to store.

One finds it hard, when living abundant lives in first world countries, to think of going to a nearby hospital and learning they have no antibiotics, bandages, no aspirin, no Tylonol, no doctor and only a single nurse to care for over 3,000 people.

These are the kinds of conditions faced by the medical system in Malawi, a country at the bottom of the world's economic ladder. In 1993 members of what would become the Malawi Project learned first hand the conditions in government hospitals in Malawi, both in the cities and in the rural areas. Something had to be done. The world had to learn. Aid had to be given. The Malawi Project was born.



Progress

It started as a trickle, first aid supplies in travel luggage, then partial and finally full shipping containers of medical, agricultural, and educational supplies and equipment were gathered and shipped to this land of poverty.

Over the next 23 years over 350 forty-foot container shipments totaling over \$225,000,000.00 in aid have made their way to Malawi through the efforts of a dedicated team of volunteers who solicit the supplies needed for one of the poorest regions on the globe.



Sharing Our Wealth

How to Participate

There are few things not on the list of needed items in a mud-hut, thatched roof nation. Attention is given to basic items for medical needs; such as bandages, tape, exam gloves, gauge, aspirin, Tylenol and first aid kits. For education such things as pencils, pens, paper, erasers, rulers, chalk, three ring binders, and textbooks in English are needed. For hygiene; soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, hair brushes, and shampoo.

Five cubic feet of
supplies costs \$35.00
to ship to Malawi.

When sending supplies
please assist in the cost to get
them to Africa, a total of
\$14,000.00 per trailer.

\$35



The Need

Mobility issues in sub-Saharan Africa make it nearly impossible for the disabled to lead normal, independent and productive lives. Most jobs require physical labor. Schools and hospitals have only limited access. Public buildings often have high steps and no wheelchair ramps. Travel requires passage along rock-strewn paths and dirt road. Because of this it is not unusual for people with mobility issues to remain indoors for years at a time, always afraid to come outside, never able to navigate the formidable obstacles that stand in the way. For these people wheelchairs, canes, walkers, and mobility units are required if they are to realize any type of freedom of movement.

The Malawi Population and Housing Census indicated as far back as 2008 the number of people with physical disabilities was 498,122. At that time nearly 10,000 people needed wheelchairs. Few could purchase a unit on their own. The three leading causes of mobility issues are: (1) 48.3 % - Physical illness such as polio or cerebral malaria, (2) 17.2% - Natural from childbirth, and (3) 10.6% from accidents.



Progress

The Malawi Project has distributed approximately 4,000 conventional all-terrain wheelchairs, along with a large number of canes, walkers and other mobility devices. In 2016, working with Mobility Ministries - Demotte, Indiana, 248 mobility units were shipped to Malawi. These units are hand-peddled and do not require an additional person to push them.



Bringing Hope and Mobility

How to Participate

It is possible to help someone lead a productive, self-sufficient life by supplying a wheelchair or mobility unit. Each year hundreds of these units are needed.

Personal Energy Transportation **\$75**

Your contribution of \$75.00 will allow us to ship one mobility unit.

All-Terrain Wheelchair **\$25**

Your contribution of \$25.00 will allow us to ship an all-terrain wheelchair.



The Need

With a population growth from 4 million in 1964 to 18 million today, the public and private demand for wood and wood products has outstripped the ability to maintain Malawi's forests. In the early years the nation conducted massive programs of tree planting, creating one of the largest rain forests in Africa in northern Malawi. This trend turned in the opposite direction in the early 70's and has continued since that time.

Data from the Malawi government (2000; cited in Alden Wily and Mbaya, 2001) indicate that approximately 41% of Malawi's forest area disappeared between 1972 and 2000. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) (2001) gave a higher estimate, stating that 57% of Malawi's forests were lost between 1972 and 1992. Population growth, consumption by the export and local forestry industry, and domestic use, such as cooking fires and charcoal production, contribute to the alarming loss of forested land.

Progress

In an effort to help stem the loss of forests, the Malawi Project has tailored its "shoe contribution program" into a "Shoes for Trees" program. Rather than giving shoes in a way that may contribute to a welfare mentality, the Malawi Project encourages development of forests around the village areas through planting trees in order to obtain new shoes.



Here is how it works: The Malawi government, through its forestry division, offers tree seedlings free to this program. The village people plant a specific number of tree seedlings, and then care for them until they grow sufficient not to be overrun by fire. As a reward for work well done the Malawi Project gives each participant a pair of shoes. It is a positive for everyone.

In recent years over 85,000 pairs of shoes have been sent to Malawi to help plant trees. Two million seedlings have been planted as a result.

Shoes for Trees

How to Participate

The shipping cost for 12 pair of boxed, donated, new shoes is \$15.00. Your donation will be most helpful.



Gift of Shoes

Provides 12 pairs of badly needed shoes and helps restore the natural forest

\$15





The Need

Imagine a teacher giving a student 1 single piece of paper on which to record all of their notes for a day ... or for a week!

Imagine going to school but having no desk, no chair, and no building. Classes are in a bamboo shelter and students sit in the dirt the entire day.

Imagine going to school and finding there is only 1 teacher for over 100 students.

Imagine going to the school library and finding only 6 or 8 old ragged books on the wooden shelf in the corner.

Imagine, can go on and on, with all of the problems that accompany a nation wide school system in one of the poorest nations on earth.

Progress

Through the years this program has proven to be one of the most successful of all of the outreach efforts of the Project. Young people have found multiple, creative ways to participate. They know few boundaries, no limits, and hold unshakable faith in their mission. They are raising funds, gathering supplies, and sending help at an ever increasing rate. School textbooks (in English), raisins, eyeglasses, dresses, band-aids, pencils, paper, pens, soap, shoes, and even "slightly used" crayons are reaching Malawi schools.



Learning from our kids

How to Participate

Write today to see how your school, community group, Boy or Girl Scout troop, or simply a bunch of your friends can get involved in sending supplies to young people in Malawi.



Gift of School Supplies

\$45

A backpack of supplies can be sent to a group of students for only \$45.00, helping to provide an education half a world away.





The Need

The need for development, in its many forms cannot be overemphasized. Change comes with education and education is at the heart of changes needed in Malawi. From the ancient methods of growing crops, to the modern struggle to communicate across international lines, Malawi is trying desperately to squeeze its way into the 21st century. With its heart imbedded in subsistence farming, and its world view just beginning to make its influence felt, Malawi is, in some ways, like a child on the first day of school. So much is known, but there is much outside the safety of home to grasp. How to navigate the halls of international trade, how to find ones way through the classrooms of government interaction, how to move from home country activities to the fierce competition on the world stage, it is somewhat new to many of Malawi's people. Poverty holds everything down. Lack of natural resources leaves one wondering where the jumping off point begins for successful interaction with the rest of the world. Where to begin? How to get a step up the ladder? How to attract international trade, commerce and tourism? Many questions, few answers.

Progress



Although there is little in resources, Malawi has a wealth of experience. It's roots rest in one of Africa's great empires, the Maravi Empire. From its beginnings in 1480, and lasting well into the 18th century this African dynasty had a successful life span that extended farther through history than the U.S. has been a nation. Today because of its poverty, and lack of interational investment, there is a mistaken view Malawi is backward, uneducated, and out of touch. Malawi is anything but backward, uneducated and out of touch. On the contrary, its people have survived some of the most catastrophic circumstances of any people around the world. Its people have persevered when others would have, and did, throw in the towel. Now, Malawi is ready to step forward, climb out, make a move, and take its place in the prosperity of the family of world nations. It is the time. It is the place. It is the moment.



Building for the future

How to Participate

While going to Malawi to assist the various programs is one option, this is not the only way to serve. Serving from home is also needed.

Example:

If you are a farmer or mechanic, they need hand tools.

If you are a school teacher or student, they need text books and school supplies.

If you are a doctor, nurse, or pharmacist they need tylenol, bandages, rubber gloves, and other medical supplies.

If you sew, little girls need dresses.

If you organize a group, baby packs are needed.

There is a place and job for every person who wants to be involved.

Contact us for details.



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Other Project Sites

The latest news:
<http://www.malawiproject.org>

To view 1,800 pictures:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/malawiproject>

References for the Malawi Project:

<http://greatnonprofits.org/org/malawi-project-inc>

Malawi Project Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/MalawiProject>