

FOOD

Overcoming Adversity



"Don't do for us that which we can do for ourselves," has proven to be good advice to members of the Malawi Project early in its existence. To avoid creating a dependency that defeats the goal of reaching self-sufficiency the programs of the Malawi Project are tailored to help people get on their feet and provide for themselves. Drip irrigation, the development of the V-tractors, training in soil and crop development, and giant community storage buildings (referred to as Joseph Projects) for the safe storage and protection of the harvest are examples of providing a helping hand toward sustainability.

In 2001-03 one of the worst famines in over 50 years struck Malawi. In a short time well over a million dollars in food aid was delivered to the nation. As the famine began to subside the Project shifted to programs that would help offset malnutrition and famine.

In recent years, through the working relationship with Action for Progress, food sustainability programs have increased, along with emergency aid when the need arises. Contributors make this possible through financial contributions, as well as with food shipments from the U.S.



The
**Malawi
Project**

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FAMINE

Food Supply Collapse

Malawi is one of the poorest nations in the world. As it struggles with its economic plight its population has increased from 4 million in 1963 to nearly 20 million today. This explosive growth is one of the factors that rips at the fabric of self-sufficiency in food production. However, this is not the only reason the nation suffers from the lack of food availability. Here are additional reasons:

- **It's land locked status makes shipping costs astronomical.**
- **The lack of commercial investment restrains modernization.**
- **Insufficient infrastructure makes transportation and storage difficult.**
- **Lack of modernization requires high human contribution with meager return.**
- **Arable land is wearing out from overuse.**
- **More and more land is being lost to population growth.**
- **Cash starved government is unable to supply needed capital to increase production.**
- **Changing weather conditions disrupt effective growing seasons.**
- **Floods and insects wash away and eat away successful harvests.**
- **Shortage of working age men and women slows full use of farmlands.**
- **The inability to reach markets leave harvested crops for only village use.**

When your house catches fire you don't deliver a speech on fire prevention. You run for a bucket of water. The same is true when famine reaches Malawi's countryside. You turn your attention and energy to the delivery of food. Everything else becomes secondary until you can solve this problem.

