

Community Roofing

The weather can be extreme in Malawi, and damages the frail housing, so we replaced 14 roofs for ultra-vulnerable families during the first half of 2021. Lucy is one—she has three children which she struggles to care for alone, and her home was in serious trouble with a collapsing roof. We replaced it in May....



Lucy's home—before...



Her roof repaired...

Education

Malawian schools briefly opened in January but closed again nationally due to an abrupt increase in covid numbers. However, we did manage to take on 30 new students in the 3 schools we support, some replacing the F4 students that had left after their final exams. Our 68 students returned to school in March, and we also paid fees for the re-introduced JCE (second year) exams.



Some of our new sponsored students at Michesi School

Goats & Milk



Up to 20 ultra-vulnerable youngsters have been receiving our goats' milk daily. Madalitso (left) is one of them. She was born at the end of 2019 and was referred to us by the maternity unit at 4 weeks, as her mother had no breast milk. She was tiny, frail, underweight, and at risk, but now she's healthy and walking! Her mother is convinced that without this milk, her daughter would have died. But things aren't going so well in the goat paddocks, despite staff attempts to save them, we've lost many kids this year.

"Green" Groves

We're planning the next exciting step in our moringa promotion—"Green" Groves. These are new woodlots in 4 villages, extended to include vegetables—mainly mustard, a popular and nutritious green veg, and possibly tomatoes too. These will need to be replanting several times during the season, whereas the 100 moringa trees per grove will continue to produce edible, nutritious leaves for decades to come, as well as supplying shade, soil stability, and protection from extremes of climate.

UK Update

Due to coronavirus, our Holt Charity Shop was forced to close from Christmas to April, greatly decreasing income, though we still had rent and utilities to pay. We're thankful for the Gov. help, but still have a lot to make up!

You can help—donations, Standing Orders, buy on "Smile Amazon" & "Give as You Live"- check our website for more info.

Help us help them

Donate monthly by **Standing Order** (Please ask for info)

If you're able to, please **PRAY** for the work of AID AFRICA

Support the **AID AFRICA CHARITY SHOP**

Make a Donation by cheque or internet

Leave us a legacy in your Will

AID AFRICA
UK Reg Charity No 1116336
Charity Shop:
7 Shirehall Plain
Holt, NR25 6HT
01263 713641
07979 888398
info@aid-africa.com
www.aid-africa.com

Thank you!
for your **support**

Pure and genuine religion ... means caring for orphans and widows in their distress. Jas 1:27

June 2021



Aid Africa
the amazing work goes on



Covid in Malawi...
Masked mum & twins on our milk programme

Coronavirus..... 2021

The pandemic continued to affect all arrangements and projects during the first half of 2021, but despite not being able to travel to Malawi, we still managed to positively impact the impoverished rural areas.

In the local battle against covid, we gave out hundreds of bars of soap at the beginning of the year, distributed hundreds of masks we'd had made, and repaired 9 borehole pumps.

Borehole Pump Repair



Chidalale Village

A broken pump is distressing, especially for the frail, sick, and those with mobility problems, as they're forced to walk long distances to the next water point or risk collecting from rivers or other potentially polluted sources. Additionally, as social distancing is one of the few weapons available to minimise viral transmission in the rural areas, breakages threaten health by increasing crowding at working pumps.

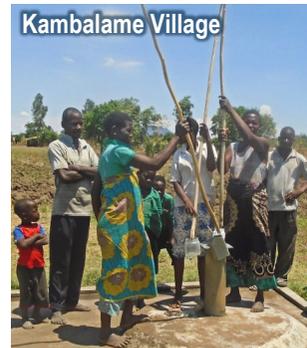
Chidalale Primary School pump

This pump, serving 100 households and a school with 1386 students, hadn't been working for 4 months. When the school re-opened after the enforced closure by covid, the children were at risk as they walked beyond the safety of the school grounds for water. Women had to walk to other villages, taking time from their families and fields.



Chidalale Village—after repair

The repair of this pump was considered so urgent, some of the work was even done on Christmas Day!



Kambalame Village

Kambalame Village pump (80 h/h)

This is the only water source locally so villagers had to use jars on sticks to get to the water—painfully slow and always congested with women waiting to get enough for their families.

However, after repair, the pump was working well, providing safe water, and protected from theft & damage.



Kambalame Village—after repair



Makumbe Village



Serihiwa Village

During January 2021, we repaired 9 borehole pumps, (Chidalale, Kambalame, Macheembe, Makumbe, Mukoro, Nakude, Namata 1 & 2, & Serihiwa) restoring clean, safe water to 1,013 households & a school with 1386 students—about 5,500 people in remote areas



Hunger Food Programme - 2020/21



Back in June 2020, we bought in 17 tonnes of maize, which was carefully stored till Dec 2020, then distributed to 650 families through the "hunger period", from Christmas to March 2021.

This was issued—along with dried soya meals and soap—in small groups to limit crowding as per covid regulations, and provided 65,720 meals, helping well over 1,000 people through the most difficult 3 months of the year.



Just one of the families that benefitted

But that left our storerooms empty....

However, hunger isn't restricted to only part of the year, so we run a cash-for-work programme which empowers the able-bodied to work for food and other necessities, and offer "food tokens" each month to the frail and vulnerable, considered most at risk.

Next Steps ... Food Programme - 2021/22



95 bags of maize arrive at the Zomba warehouse

By the end of June 2021, our staff had found 26.5 tonnes of quality maize, bought it at the best price, and transported 530 bags to the safety of our storerooms in 2 districts—a huge undertaking! Then each of the 26,500 kgs was processed—ensuring that the moisture level was suitable for storage, winnowed to remove any debris, and carefully weighed into our special grain bags, which prevent weevil infestation.

Overall, this should provide more than 100,000 meals during the hunger period from Christmas to March 2022, supplying 100 meals each month to 335 households.

From our Centre in Chiringa, 275 families will be served, and a further 60 vulnerable households will be helped in Zomba—another impoverished area 50 miles away—via a new, enthusiastic voluntary group that we're encouraging.

Right: 435 (x 50kgs) bags of maize delivered to Chiringa, then processed and stored in special grain bags ((lower pic)



Processing maize—checking, winnowing, weighing & packing



Moringa Groves Project

Moringa is an amazing, fast growing, drought resistant, local tree, with leaves that contain an impressive range of nutrients for human consumption. However, in this poorly nourished society, it's scarcely eaten because the trees are destroyed by wandering livestock. So this project trialled bamboo modular fencing panels made with traditional skills to protect 3 village groves, each planted with 100 moringa seedlings.

The plan was to nourish the most vulnerable in the villages, and during 2020, voluntary committees were set up, local compost pits prepared, thousands of seeds sown in our Tree Nursery, and with the fence design agreed, 50 panels were commissioned.



Jan-Training Day

In January, socially-distanced training was given to all volunteers, then the 3 groups began to prep their groves, helped, encouraged & supervised by our agri-staff.

Moringa leaves contain vitamins A,B,C,E & K, calcium, protein, potassium, iron, copper, zinc, all 9 essential amino acids and 46 antioxidants.

Land was cleared, the planting areas measured and marked, tree pits dug and filled with compost, tree seedlings circulated and planted, then the fence was erected around each site, and fitted with a robust padlocked gate.



Jan—Measuring & marking



Jan—planting



Jan—Fencing



Weeding—March 2021

By March the saplings had grown to about 1m tall, gaps were filled with fresh plants, & regularly monitored.

By mid-May, the trees had grown enough to begin to remove the first batch of leaves to promote bushier growth.



1st harvest—May 2021

This initial mini-harvest provided the vegetable content for about 60 meals—the yield will quickly increase as the trees mature.

Later, they'll be pruned to about 1.5m high, enabling easy harvesting of leaves, with the off-cuts planted elsewhere to extend the local tree stock, and provide shade, soil stability & further nutrition.

The trees are expected to be fully mature and producing by Christmas, providing nutritional benefits for decades.



Enjoying moringa

