

ON SITE ... OHP Centre

Goats & Milk

Our goats are doing fine, but reproduction has been disappointing this year, only 3 male kids so far.

Milk has been distributed to increasing numbers of vulnerable babies referred by Village Heads or Maternity services. Since 2018, when the new nutritional policies dissuaded the use of goats milk for infants, our milk was diverted to nursery schools, but slowly, it's value is being reconsidered by authorities and more mums, unable to feed their babies, are coming back....



Help us help them

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

If you're able to, please **PRAY** for the

Support the **AID AFRICA**

Make a Donation by cheque or internet

Leave us a legacy in your Will

Site - Staff & Maintenance

Our staff are doing well, diligently handling tasks and continuing to positively impact the local community despite the fact that we're not able to travel from the UK. Our overseers have called onto site occasionally, unannounced, and found the team working well. Site maintenance has been done, the tree nursery re-constructed, and vehicles serviced.

Education Sponsorship

All schools have been closed down due to coronavirus and as yet, there is no re-opening date, nor plans for how to sort the situation with exams.

We currently have 65 students "on hold", and will continue sponsoring their educational needs as soon as the situation is clarified.

Elderlies' Luncheons



Unfortunately, these popular fortnightly events have had to be cancelled for a while because of the ban on gatherings due to the pandemic, but other ways have been developed to help the hungry and frail.

We grew and gave away 40 kgs of mustard leaves, and thanks to a donation specifically for food, alongside our main maize programme, we were able to provide extra "food tokens" for hundreds throughout the hunger period.

Open Hand - giving

Each month we help in all sorts of emergency situations—transport to hospital for medical treatment or urgent maternity care, baby formula for hungry babies living too far from our Centre to collect goats' milk daily, or help with funerals. Our cash-for-work scheme provides temporary work for the more able-bodied who are struggling to feed their families or meet other urgent needs.

UK matters

Along with many other charities, the coronavirus situation has challenged and threatened to end Aid Africa's work after 15 years in Malawi.

Our Charity Shop closed in March, and with it went most of our income. However, help from the authorities and favourable responses from funding bodies recognising the value of our work have enabled us to continue

—but more help would be appreciated!



Thank you!
for your
support



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Pure and genuine religion... means caring for orphans and widows in their distress.

Jas 1:27



Aid Africa

the amazing work goes on

A report by Lynda Mills



2020—developed into an unusual year!

Despite the challenges of inability to travel and financial concerns due to the coronavirus pandemic, our work in the rural areas of Malawi has

COMMUNITY



"Open Hand Projects" is the local title of Aid Africa in Malawi



Food Programme - 2019/20

Monthly distribution of our Food Programme began just before Christmas so the particularly vulnerable wouldn't miss out on celebrating this special time too, and went through till March.

170 households (about 750 people) received maize, soya meals and soap to help bridge this 3-month "hunger period" when maize was scarce and unaffordable by many, following the destruction of much of the crop by Cyclone Idai in early 2019.



Feb 2020: some of the beneficiaries of our Food Programme



Reforestation

Along with the food, we also gave tree seedlings to help the families longer-term. One of the main trees we promote is moringa—a local tree with leaves packed with valuable nutrients—ideal for areas where so many are malnourished. Also among the 4,500 tree seedlings grown in our tree nursery, were mtangatanga and acacia for fuel, and glycidia for green manure to improve crops.

All were freely distributed to schools, community groups and households to empower local villagers to benefit their trailer neighbours as well as their own families, and share awareness of the importance of trees towards local environmental stability.



Pupils from a local Primary School are excited to collect tree seedlings from our Centre to plant around their school as they learn about the benefits and importance of reforestation...



COMMUNITY ...

Coronavirus - Soap & Water

Before March, our major concerns were hunger and the potentially poor maize harvest coming up, but within weeks, schools were closed, a country-wide lockdown threatened, and the first deaths of covid-19 registered in Malawi.

Social distancing is tricky in a congregational society, but gradually word spread, and as more information unpacked globally, it was realised that this lifestyle might help mitigate transmission as much of it is lived outdoors in the fresh air. But with limited healthcare and facilities, complacency is risky, so we worked hard to help educate around prevention and provide resources to back that up.



Frequent hand washing was recommended, so in April we distributed soap to 600 families in 15 villages, knowing many couldn't afford to buy it, and more later.

Alongside, we set to work repairing borehole pumps, recognising that broken pumps force congestion at adjacent points causing queues that prevent the women from being able to socially distance.

So we repaired 7 borehole pumps—including at 4 schools—enabling 1794 households, (about 20,000 people) access to clean water.



A broken borehole pump brings distress and problems.

The women need to walk further, carry heavy water buckets for longer, use up more time, and risk increasing congestion and queues at the next clean water source, or risk using potentially contaminated water from rivers or waterholes.



Madeya's broken pump



Madeya's repaired pump

Madeya Village Borehole

This pump served 180 households, 365 people, and was the sole source of safe water in this village.

It's repair renewed direct access to clean water in their locality, and the replacement of the broken cement apron has made the area hygienically safer.



*Nachanje Village Pump
320 households—550 people*



*Lolo Village Pump
474 households—550 people*

COMMUNITY ...

Borehole Pump Repair

Siyamanda School Borehole Pump

200 households plus schoolchildren—1732 beneficiaries—used this busy borehole. When it broke down in March, the long walk to the next water source put children at risk as they were outside the school's safe locality and increased the crowds at that pump.

It's successful repair has meant families can now collect enough water locally, at intervals, to inhibit the spread of the virus. It also brings safe water back within grasp of those too frail or sick to walk far.



Siyamanda School's repaired pump

Water is traditionally collected by women from either taps or borehole pumps built at intervals throughout the area.

When these pumps break down, the nearest clean water source may be over a mile away—a long walk in this heat, carrying back a full bucket weighing about 23kgs on the head. This journey must be repeated many times each day if you're to keep your family fed and your home and laundry clean

During April 2020, we repaired 7 borehole pumps, restoring clean, safe water back to 1794 households & 4 schools, about 20,000 people



Nazombe Primary School pump—4430 users

Food Programme - 2020/21



In June, after the maize harvest, we bought in 17 tonnes—the basis for 68,000 meals—to help feed the vulnerable later in the year as the hunger increases.

This year, because of the stresses of coronavirus on the world-wide economy and the risk of lockdown in Malawi, we fought to get everything in place in time, but managed to fill our storerooms and began the process of effective storage.

After weighing the maize we set about ensuring it was dry

or we'd risk it deteriorating during storage. The ladies did a great job winnowing the grain and then it was re-weighed into special bags that are double lined and designed to destroy weevils which would otherwise threaten destruction of much of the grain.



winnowing