



**THANK YOU  
TO ALL OUR DONORS**

News - November, 2022

Impact Malawi has seen struggles and successes this year. A major struggle has been the food situation once again being at a critical stage. The crops got off to a poor start due to lack of rain at the beginning of the season and then tropical storm Anna brought too much rain and flooding which destroyed more crops. The war in Ukraine caused both fuel and commodity prices to increase. The government of Malawi devalued the Kwacha by 25% which then caused higher costs of production and therefore higher costs of food. Over 70% of Malawians are living below the international poverty line of \$1.90 per day. The majority of Malawians, including those in our villages, do not have enough money to purchase essential food items to feed their families.

But, thanks to you, a major success this year has been all the children in our villages receiving a fortified hot porridge meal five days a week since the start of the covid pandemic. Up until a few months ago the children in primary school were also receiving this meal. Once the schools that were closed due to the covid crisis reopened, the primary school children were not able to come for a bowl of porridge. However, when there is a school break, we invite these older children to come for food. We are still serving between 500 and 800 bowls of porridge every day.

We will continue to provide these hot porridge meals as long as we have the funds to do so. At this point there are no other organizations in our area providing meals to the most vulnerable in the villages. The situation is both heartwarming and heartbreaking. It is heartwarming because our village children do not have to go to bed with an empty stomach but heartbreaking because the children in the other villages in our area that are not served by Impact Malawi are going to bed hungry. Thank you for helping us do what we can to make a difference.



### **HOME VISITS**

Every year Jones and our teachers go into the villages to visit all the homes to talk to the parents of nursery school and primary school aged children. They talk with them about the importance of education and try to determine if there are any issues in the family that need to be addressed. These visits typically result in more children coming to school. They also give Impact Malawi the opportunity to identify families that might need some type of intervention. We so appreciate the efforts of Jones and our teachers in this important task and are grateful for the impact it has on the village families.

## NZINDO NURSERY SCHOOL

Another major success we've experienced this year is one more NEW Nursery School. Many three to five year olds from the village of Nzindo were walking more than a km to attend our nursery schools, which included a dangerous creek crossing during the rainy season. Jones had discussions with the Chief and a decision was made to begin a Nursery School program in their village during the rainy season. Amazingly, the village had a building available for our use! So many children showed up that the Nzindo community asked us if we would consider continuing throughout the year. How could we say no!

However, as soon as we got set up we experienced a setback. The owners of the building decided they would no longer allow us to use it. Together, Impact Malawi and the Nzindo Chiefs began searching for a solution. I am not sure we will ever know the whole story but - the building is once again available for our long term use! The Chiefs and villagers are very supportive and enthusiastic. We now have two new nursery schools - Mvuu and Nzindo - and they have the highest attendance and the most supportive villagers. Each of these nursery schools has over 100 children in attendance each day.



## NZINDO WELL

A clean water source is a government requirement for all Nursery Schools and also an absolute for Impact Malawi. The building made available for our Nursery School did not have a well so we dug a new well and installed an Afri-Dev pump.

The men in the village started by digging a hole deep enough to hit water. The walls were then lined with bricks and a concrete base and concrete drainage system were added. And finally an Afri-Dev pump head was installed.

The cost of putting in a new well has doubled in the last few years - another aspect of the struggling economic system in Malawi. A couple of years ago it cost approximately \$300 Canadian dollars to install a new well. The cost is now closer to \$700 Canadian. But the value added to every village that receives a new well makes the cost and effort completely worth it!



## DEVALUATION OF THE KWACHA AND FUEL SHORTAGES

So many around the world have been impacted by the Russian Ukrainian conflict. In Malawi, one of the effects was that for the first time in many years the Malawian currency, the kwacha, was devalued by 25%. In order for our staff to provide for their families we had to raise their salaries. We want to express our tremendous appreciation to the many donors who met this need by increasing their monthly donation or becoming a first-time monthly donor. We knew we could not, in good conscience, agree to this salary increase without knowing we would have enough money coming in each month to cover it. YOU DID IT! We now have the security of knowing all our salaries are covered by monthly donations.

But the struggles continue as we try to meet the costs of our feeding and nursery school programs. The devaluation of the kwacha has brought many new challenges to Impact Malawi. Although the kwacha was devalued by 25%, the costs of goods and services did not go up by only 25%, instead everything is now costing 40% to 60% more than before devaluation. After the devaluation, the cost of fuel skyrocketed, and the government could not afford to provide fuel to local stations. This fuel shortage has been going on for months now. Some stations are completely out and there are long lines at other stations. Many are paying for fuel through the black market at an exorbitant price. Impact Malawi has had to cut down on visits to the villages because the cost of transportation is prohibitive.

**WILL YOU CONSIDER BECOMING A MONTHLY DONOR?**

The relief of knowing we have enough money coming in each month to pay our staff is amazing. We would so appreciate having the same security of knowing our feeding program and learning program expenses are covered through monthly giving.

If you are able to do so, becoming a monthly donor would help us tremendously. We can fundraise for unusual needs but to have the everyday expenses covered through monthly giving would give all of us much relief. You can do this by emailing a copy of a voided cheque and the amount you are willing to give per month to ([joanchilds@impactmalawi.org](mailto:joanchilds@impactmalawi.org)). The money will automatically be taken from your account on the 18th of each month. You can cancel this payment at any time by contacting either your bank or Impact Malawi. Or you can set up a monthly donation through PayPal on our website: [www.impactmalawi.org](http://www.impactmalawi.org).



### **Mvuu, Mpombe, Chidoola and Siinda Schools**

Our other four Nursery Schools are all doing well. It is a joy to work with the chiefs and villagers at Mvuu Village. They are so grateful for this new school and very supportive in every way possible. Attendance is almost always over 100 children a day.

The other schools are in less populated areas but each one is doing well with good support from the villagers.

## Impact Malawi: a story of Crime and Compassion

A few years ago, we had good sturdy tables built for our Nursery Schools (one is pictured on the previous page). They are used by the five-year-olds and make using their workbooks much easier. Some months ago, one of the school buildings was used for a community meeting and left accidentally open. In the morning it was discovered that two tables had been stolen. Everyone was asked to be on the lookout for these tables, which several months later were seen in a neighbouring village.

Jones took this matter to the local police and accompanied them to retrieve the tables and arrest the man who stole them. Jones felt it was important for a message to be sent to the local communities that stealing from Impact Malawi would have consequences.

The Malawian prison system is harsh and after it was determined that the man who stole these tables would be spending years in jail, we called Jones to determine our options. After spending a few months in jail, Jones went to the local police station to ask for the man to be released. He then met with the man and explained that as forgiveness was an important part of our Christian faith, he was forgiven and would be released.

### WILL YOU HELP US MAKE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL?

This last year has been so difficult for our villagers. Many of them cannot afford even the most basic of needs. As you know for the last two years we have tried to make Christmas special by serving a rice and chicken meal to the children as a means of celebrating. This is the meal Malawian village families would serve during the holidays but most will not be able to buy either the rice or the chicken again this year. Last Christmas we served a meal to all the children from toddlers through Primary School plus nursing and pregnant mothers.

If we can raise enough money we would love to extend an invitation to the children from the nearby villages that don't attend our Nursery Schools. To provide them with a special Christmas meal would be so meaningful to their families. If possible, a small gift for each of the children would also be amazing. A very special treat would be to give each child a small bag of corn chips. This might not seem like much to us but it would bring them much happiness! Jones has sent us a budget for this year's meal. We hope to serve up around 1,200 bowls for only 85 cents per meal. How many meals can you help us provide?

As you can see, despite the significant struggles experienced by those in our Impact Malawi villages, we have also seen great success. This is due to our villagers, Chiefs, Jones and Adams, and our generous donors working together to impact lives for good! Thank You for being part of the work we do!



Here are some pictures from last Christmas.

