

NURSERY SCHOOLS PROGRAM: In January, close to 500 children were enrolled from 20 area villages. Impact Malawi has five schools, 10 teachers, two senior teachers who assist in administration, five assistant teachers and 10 cooks. Two and three year olds learn by recitation. Five year olds have work books and learn the alphabet, numbers, colours and shapes. This program prepares them so well they typically skip Grade One of primary school.



Each morning starts with singing and a short bible story. Our schools share a felt board to bring these stories to life. A generous donor has paid for us to buy four more boards which will be taken to Malawi in the near future. This will be a great addition to our Christian Education program.



FEEDING PROGRAM: Due to a poor growing season many villagers were going to bed with empty stomachs at the beginning of the year. Impact Malawi's feeding program provides a hot porridge meal fortified with ground nut powder for the children who attend our nursery schools. We also provide porridge to pregnant and nursing mothers and this year started to feed the elderly who have no one to care for them.



Throughout the year Jones holds a teacher training day each month as a means of motivating and encouraging the teachers.

Once a year, a 3-day refresher training course is held for all our teachers taught by educational specialists. Our teachers are excited to learn new skills and techniques in child care, hygiene, first aid and community mobilization.



During the final week of July, all Nursery School staff carried out home visits in the villages to help the village people understand the importance of nursery school education. They also tried to assess the reasons why parents were not sending their children, with the hopes that Impact Malawi might find ways to help. Such interaction with village families is important so that parents know Impact Malawi cares about the health and future of their children.



CROP SITUATION: A good growing season is the key to a successful year in Malawi. When the crops are good families are able to grow some of their own food. Because a good growing season means a good economy, parents can afford to buy food at the market to supplement what they grow. It has been years since our villagers have seen a good growing season.

In January they were finally feeling hopeful that there would be a good harvest. The maize was growing well and looked healthy.

However, by February everything changed due to hail storms and heavy rains. Within a short period of time the crops were ruined. Over 2,000 hectares of crops were destroyed in the area around our villages.

Once again, Impact Malawi chose to make feeding the most vulnerable in the villages a priority.



To compound an already bleak situation, Cyclone Freddy hit in March. A few hours from our area thousands of people lost their homes and over 200 died. More crops were lost and the country was pushed into an other economic disaster. Cholera, all but eradicated in Malawi, was once again on the rise.

PURCHASING MAIZE: By April Malawi was declared to be in food crisis. Impact Malawi did a fundraiser to buy enough maize to feed the Nursery School children and the other most vulnerable in our villages until the next harvest. Our amazing donors made it possible for us to purchase maize before the prices skyrocketed. Our manager, Jones and our friend, Henry worked hard to bargain for good prices. We bought 500 bags of maize over a two month period.



CLEAN WATER: Impact Malawi is committed to providing clean water to all the villages in our catchment area. Once we dig a well and fit it with a pump head the chiefs sign an agreement to stop using all open wells for drinking water. Each well has a committee responsible to collect a small user fee to help pay for yearly maintenance done by Impact Malawi, while major repairs are covered by us. In 2023 we did major repairs on two wells in Nzindo village and Mvuu village.

During the cholera outbreak Jones met with all village chiefs and well committees to talk about the importance of protecting the area around the wells and to teach all villagers about personal hygiene.

CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIRS: Heavy rains and strong winds blew roofs off some of our toilets and washed away soil around foundations. Several roofs were repaired, and two new toilets were built.



A SPECIAL DAY: Impact Malawi's friend, Henry, was given some very nice dresses and he chose to donate them to some of the most needy of our Nursery School students.



CHRISTMAS: We ended 2023 by serving a special meal in our villages. Nursery school children, primary school children, nursing and pregnant mothers and the elderly came for a meal of rice and chicken.

This meal made Christmas special for so many and was possible because of our generous donors.



SPONSOR A CHILD



Impact Malawi is a fairly small organization but over the last 15 years we have had the privilege of changing young lives in rural villages. We started in 2005 with one small nursery school under an open thatch roofed hut with one teacher. We now have 5 large nursery schools where our local manager Jones and 12 Malawian teachers, 5 volunteers and 10 cooks feed 500 two to five year olds. We are helping one child at a time, providing their families with a better understanding of the importance of an education and giving them a chance of a healthier life because of a simple bowl of hot porridge. What we do together matters!

The most challenging part of running Impact Malawi is raising money. We are so grateful to all those who regularly or periodically help us financially. Every dollar makes a huge difference. If you follow Impact Malawi but have not made a donation in a long time would you consider making a one-time yearly donation of \$50 to sponsor a Nursery School student?

If we could find one \$50 sponsor for each of the 500 children in our program it would practically cover all our monthly expenses. We don't have 500 regular followers but maybe you can share this need with a friend or family member, which would be a big help to us.

We will mail you a photo of a Nursery School child with their name and age similar to the photos above. Please email joanchilds@impactmalawi.org if you want to make a huge difference by partnering with us by sponsoring one or more nursery school children.

DONATIONS: PayPal: www.impactmalawi.org or e-transfer: donations@impactmalawi.org

THANK YOU
IMPACT MALAWI DONORS

