Ripple Africa

2020 - 2021

IMPACT REPORT

PROVIDING A HAND UP, NOT A HAND OUT

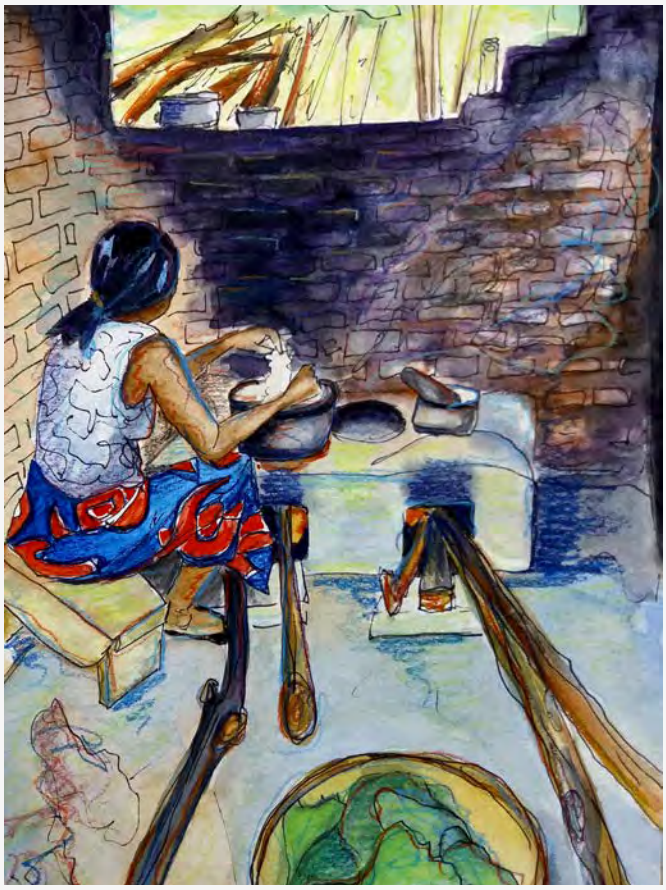
RIPPLE AFRICA

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT US

Ripple Africa is a UK registered charity (1103256 and SC043082) focused on conservation, education and healthcare in northern Malawi, Africa. Founded in 2003, our mission is:

- To preserve and sustainably develop the environment
- To create opportunities for local communities
- To improve the standard of education and healthcare near our base in Nkhata Bay District

Ripple Africa's ethos is **"providing a hand UP and not a hand out,"** and we work by finding simple solutions to locally identified problems. We are the catalyst helping Malawians to sustainably manage their natural resources community by community.



Art work by Birgit Wudenka McMullen, a former Peace Corp Volunteer who spent a number of years in Malawi teaching at Kapanda Community Day Secondary School.

THE TEAM

In the UK, co-founders, Geoff and Liz Furber, have continued to work for the Charity for no pay. Pam Haigh is the UK General Manager, Nikki Luxford is Corporate Partnerships Manager and Project Coordinator and Claire Battersby is Ripple Africa's Administrator. We also have a part time Marketing Consultant, Laura Massey, working one day a week with us.

Kay Yoder manages Ripple Africa Inc, our partner in the USA, on a voluntary basis - helping us fundraise and supporting volunteers and visitors from the US. Kay is a valued member of the Ripple Africa team.

SOME OF THE FUEL-EFFICIENT COOKSTOVE TEAM EMBRACING A RAINY WORK DAY AT WORK

In Malawi, our Country Director is Force Ngwira. At the end of the year, 138 Malawian staff were employed by Ripple Africa, and about 7,000 local people worked with us on a voluntary basis on our environmental projects.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UK team have been unable to visit Malawi during the year, but we have been delighted with the way our colleagues in Malawi have stepped up to provide the case studies, data and photos that we have needed for reports to funders. Force Ngwira and his team have also worked tirelessly to run Ripple Africa's environmental projects and plan the next steps for each of them.

VOLUNTEERS & VISITORS

Due to the pandemic, we have had no volunteers in Malawi this year and only two visitors from another organisation who were already in Malawi. However, we have had two UK volunteers who have worked from home carrying out research to help with our marketing and fundraising. Manchester University and Aldenham School cancelled their trips.

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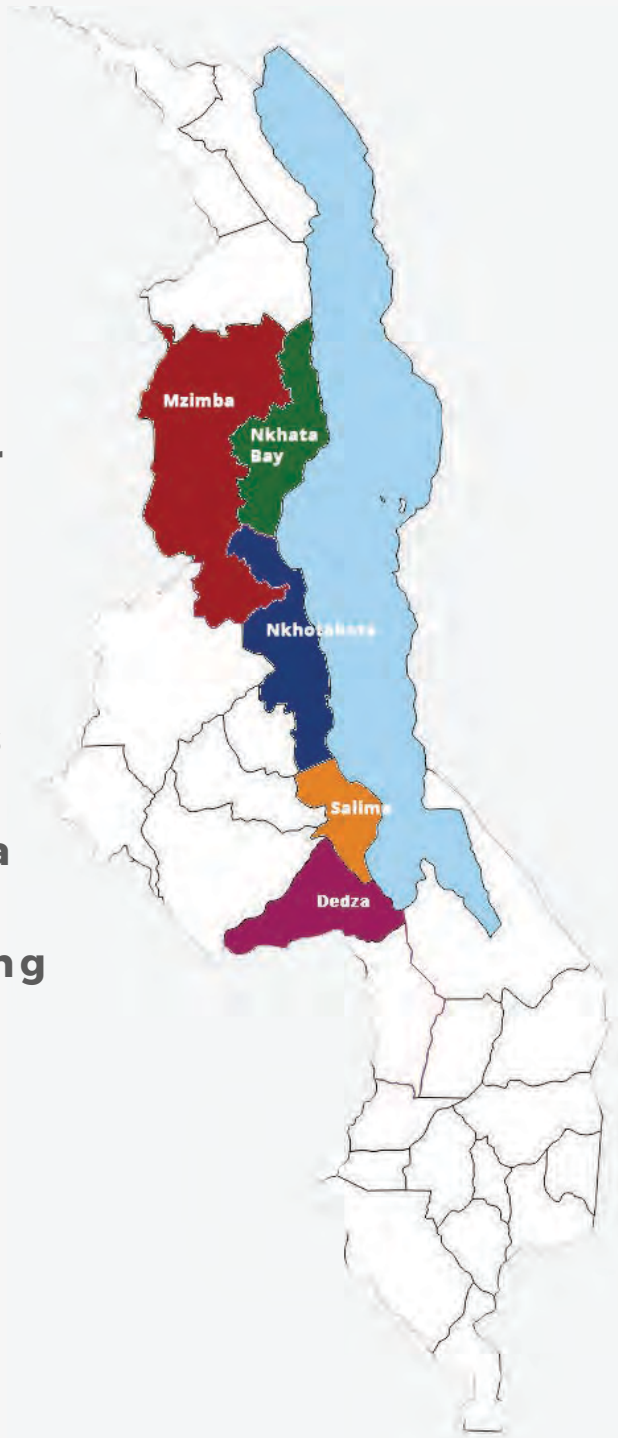
ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS

We have 6,719 community members voluntarily working on our environmental projects.

In the Districts where we are working, over a million people are experiencing an improved quality of life due to our projects.



FISH CONSERVATION

THERE CONTINUES TO BE ENTHUSIASM FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES TO SEE OUR APPROACH INTRODUCED IN ALL DISTRICTS ALONG LAKE MALAWI'S SHORELINE.

We have now extended the Fish for Tomorrow project into the whole of Salima and Dedza Districts and are continuing to support fishing communities in Nkhata Bay and Nkhotakota Districts.

- The project is now operating along 400 kilometres of lakeshore.
- We have established and trained 310 Fish Conservation Committees (now known as Beach Village Committees), each with 10 members and are therefore directly working with over 3,000 people, 30% of whom are women.
- We have established and protect 85 key Chambo fish breeding areas.

In **Nkhata Bay District**, we have been continuing to trial larger meshed nets to catch Usipa, which form over 70% of the fish caught in Lake Malawi. Many are caught at a very small size as fishers use either mosquito nets or very small meshed nets in the bunt (centre of the net). The new bylaws have set a minimum bunt size of 10 which has resulted in more larger fish being caught, but smaller ones still form part of the catch.We are trialling the use of Number 12 bunt size nets to reduce the number of smaller fish that are caught.In addition, we are continuing to support the 142 Beach Village Committees who are protecting 32 breeding areas, and we are in discussion with the District Council to trial the introduction of District permit fees to provide sustainable income for the continuation of the project.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION FUND OF CANADA HAVE BEEN FUNDING THE FISH FOR TOMORROW PROJECT IN SALIMA AND DEDZA DISTRICTS

In **Nkhotakota District**, Fish for Tomorrow was partly funded by The Darwin Initiative until April 2021. During the year our team have continued to work with the 65 Beach Village Committees in the District to help them carry out their activities, to audit the condition of the 13 Chambo breeding areas and to carry out monitoring on fish catches and income generated to measure the impact of the project.

We have been funded by the International Conservation Fund of Canada to extend the reach of the project into the whole of **Salima and Dedza Districts**. We have trained 103 Beach Village Committees who are actively protecting 40 Chambo breeding areas.

In **Mangochi District**, UNESCO funded Ripple Africa to carry out a scoping study in partnership with District Fisheries and the Department of Parks and Wildlife on the viability of introducing the Fish for Tomorrow project in the National Park. Following this, we have submitted a formal proposal for a two year project and are awaiting UNESCO's decision.

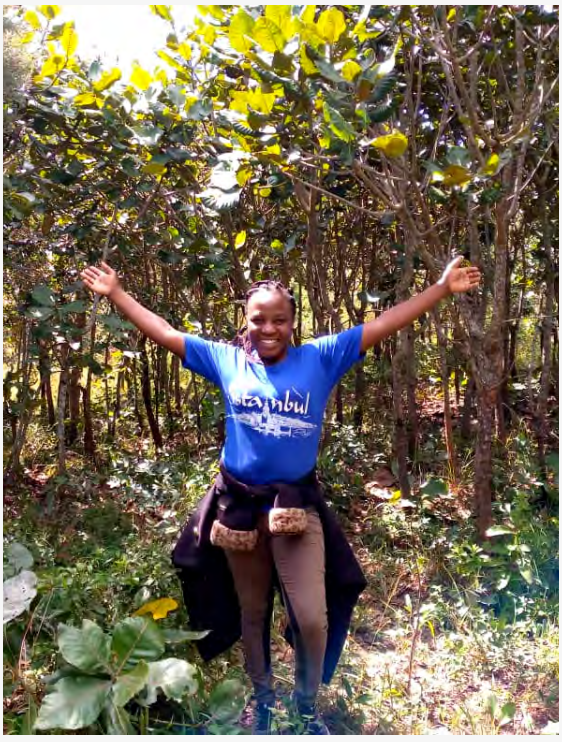
FOREST CONSERVATION

WE ARE CURRENTLY HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE TO PROTECT 130 SQ KMS IN KANDOLI, 60 SQ KMS IN CHOMA AND APPROXIMATELY 150 SQ KMS IN NKHATA BAY SOUTH HILLS.

WE HAVE 183 FOREST CONSERVATION COMMITTEES OF 10 MEMBERS EACH IN PLACE IN THESE THREE AREAS.

The Forest Conservation Committees are ensuring that natural regeneration is allowed to take place in degraded areas and protecting these areas by creating natural firebreaks.

We are still supporting 62 Forest Conservation Committees in Kandoli, but at a reduced level.



Forest Conservation in the Choma Hill area is still going well, despite the reduction in Forest Guards due to budgetary cuts in the Mzimba District Forestry Department. We have 62 Forest Conservation Committees set up here and many of these are now also engaged with our tree planting campaign.

Our team here have been working with Forest Conservation Committees and the Forestry Department to find those illegally producing and selling charcoal. On one patrol they confiscated 145 50kg bags of charcoal and two motorbikes and the patrol led to the conviction of a charcoal trader.

The south area of Nkhata Bay District is still developing under John (Skip) Banda, and we now have 63 Conservation Committees working here. The distances involved in supporting conservation in this extremely large forested area are very large and our staff have to travel long distances over very poor roads to reach the remote villages.

CHARCOAL TRADER CONVICTED FOLLOWING FORESTRY PATROL

TREE PLANTING

THIS YEAR WE HAVE HELPED FARMERS, COMMUNITY GROUPS, SCHOOLS AND HOUSEHOLDS TO PLANT ALMOST 2 MILLION TREES IN MZIMBA DISTRICT BRINGING THE TOTAL PLANTED SINCE 2004 TO 17 MILLION TREES.

Of these, 1.85 million (93% of those delivered) were planted out in March 2021 and are now being cared for by the beneficiaries under the supervision of our team here.

1.85 MILLION TREES PLANTED OUT

Our biggest success is with commercial farmers who have a financial interest in ensuring that the trees grow successfully and those who are now experienced at germinating, planting out and caring for their trees are helping our staff to train their fellow farmers to help us expand the project further. We are encouraging our tree planters to also build Changu Changu Motos in order to further reduce the pressure on the remaining forests.

The Mwaya Tree Nursery have been working with the seven local schools and community groups to plant fruit trees. The students have really enjoyed putting into practice what they have learnt in Agriculture class.

CHANGU CHANGU MOTO FUEL-EFFICIENT COOKSTOVES

WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE PROJECTS IN NKHATA BAY AND MZIMBA DISTRICTS TO ENSURE HOUSEHOLDERS CONTINUE USING THEIR COOKSTOVES AND TO ENABLE US TO CONTINUE TO EARN CARBON CREDITS FOR THEIR USE.

With the two year continuation grant from Dining for Women (now renamed Together Women Rise) we have so far helped 1,919 householders in Mzimba District, many of whom are our tree planters who are keen to get involved in the project and a further 1,816 in the Dwambazi area of Nkhotakota District.

Work is still continuing in the area around Mzuzu previously funded by Dining for Women. We have a coordinator here called Ethel Chipeta who has been ensuring that the cookstoves that have been built here are continuing to be used. Funding for this project area is being provided now from other sources. We now have over 5,201 cookstoves in use in this area.

We have recently been awarded 5,000 Euros to help an additional 350 households in the Ekwendeni area construct fuel-efficient cookstoves.

Carbon credits are selling gradually, and Sigma Global have been working closely with us to ensure that we find purchasers at the right price.

5,000 NEW COOKSTOVES

IMPROVED SWEET POTATO

EXISTING FARMERS HAVE CONTINUED GROWING ORANGE FLESHED SWEET POTATOES AND WE HAVE RECEIVED FUNDING FROM DONORS IN THE US TO ENABLE US TO EXPAND THE PROJECT FURTHER AND INCREASE THE NUMBER OF FARMERS WITH WHOM WE ARE WORKING.

We have delivered vines to an additional 1,128 farmers in Nkhata Bay District, 60% of whom were women. We also delivered vines to 200 farmers in Mzimba District. Virtually all had grown sweet potatoes before and have now been given 500 vines each of orange fleshed sweet potatoes. District Agricultural Extension workers here are helping us support the farmers and monitor yields.

60% OF FARMERS ARE WOMEN

PLASTIC WASTE

WE ARE STILL WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES IN KACHERE, MATETE AND KANDE TO FIND WAYS THAT THEY CAN REDUCE PLASTIC WASTE.

Malawi's new President, President Lazarus Chakwera, has instituted a national clean-up plan in Malawi. On the second Friday of every month between 2pm until 5pm, Malawians in urban and rural areas are encouraged to go out and clean-up their local area. However this has stop due to the COVID-19 crisis although several villages are continuing their efforts and our staff in Malawi are supporting this initiative.

FUTURE PLANS FOR OUR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

- We will continue to seek funds to enable us to continue to support fishing communities to protect fish stocks in Nkhata Bay, Nkhotakota, Salima and Dedza Districts and will also work with District Councils to introduce District fishing permits to provide sustainable long term project funding.
- If we are successful in getting UNESCO funding we will also introduce the project in the National Park area of Mangochi District.
- We will continue to support householders who have installed the Changu Changu Moto, help further households to build these, and will undertake kitchen performance tests annually for the carbon credit scheme.
- We will continue to support our Forest Conservation Committees to protect trees in the areas in which they work.
- Next year we plan to plant a further 2 million trees in the areas around Mzuzu.
- We will continue to increase the stocks of orange fleshed sweet potatoes in our area.
- We will continue to help communities in our area to reduce the use of single use plastics.

EDUCATION PROJECTS

We are directly supporting 7,812 children and adults through our education projects.

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

800	3,724	571	2,717
Pre-school Children	**Primary Students**	**Secondary and University Students**	**Adult Education and Library**

PRE-SCHOOLS

DUE TO COVID-19 WE HAD TO CLOSE OUR PRE-SCHOOLS AGAIN IN JANUARY 2021 IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED. WE CONTINUED TO PAY THE PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS EVEN WHEN SCHOOLS WERE CLOSED.

Training with Matilda, our Disabilities and Rehabilitation Coordinator, has continued to help teachers further develop techniques to engage all children attending irrespective of any disabilities.

As the pre-schools each have an average of 60 children attending each day, we we provided them with extra buckets and soap so that the children and teachers could wash their hands regularly.

PROVIDING A FOUNDATION EDUCATION TO 800 CHILDREN

PRIMARY EDUCATION

THERE WERE SEVERAL SCHOOL CLOSURES DURING THE YEAR BECAUSE OF COVID-19 AND TERM DATES HAVE BEEN CHANGED AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THIS. HOWEVER, NOW THAT SCHOOLS HAVE REOPENED WE ARE CONTINUING TO EMPLOY FOUR TRAINEE TEACHERS AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOLS TO REDUCE PRESSURE ON LARGE CLASS SIZES.

We have carried out repair works at Mazembe Primary School as the roof collapsed on the Standard 7 and 8 classroom block. Fortunately this happened over a weekend so nobody was hurt. We have also repaired the basic classroom block at Matete Primary School and felled a tree that was causing concern following heavy winds.

To keep the students and teachers safe during the pandemic, we provided the six primary schools we support with extra buckets and soap so that the students and teachers could wash their hands regularly.

REPAIRING CLASSROOMS SO STUDENTS ARE LEARNING IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

SECONDARY EDUCATION

AS WITH PRIMARY SCHOOLS, THE SCHOOL CLOSURES DUE TO THE PANDEMIC HAVE SEEN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL ACADEMIC CALENDAR CHANGE TOO.

Following on from helping Kapanda Community Day Secondary School refurbish their study room into a school library, we have equipped it with four copies of each textbook. We have built four more toilet blocks for the school and also two toilet blocks and an additional washroom at the Girls Dormitory as the girls were consistently late for class due to limited facilities.

We also provided Kapanda with buckets and soap so that the students and teachers could wash their hands regularly when schools reopened.

GIRLS ARE NO LONGER LATE FOR LESSONS AS THERE ARE ADEQUATE FACILITIES

SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

We continue to fund students at Kapanda Secondary School who are in Form 4. We also support a smaller number of children at Government Secondary boarding schools which are very much more expensive. This year 31 students have graduated - 22 passed and nine failed. Of those graduating, four scored highly on their MCSE so hope to gain entry to university. We have 38 students remaining in Form 4 who will be the last students to be sponsored by Ripple Africa as we are finishing the scheme.

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

We received funding for our last four sponsored university students for this year. Two of these students will finish in our next financial year, but we have a pledge from one of our educational donors to provide enough funds for them to complete their degree courses.

ADULT LITERACY

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES WERE DISRUPTED DUE TO THE PANDEMIC. DURING THE TIME THAT SCHOOLS AND THE LIBRARY WERE CLOSED, THESE DID NOT RUN. OUR TEACHING TEAM WERE PAID DURING THE CLOSED PERIOD.

The classes are typically attended by students from Open School at Kapanda. Open School is run by the teachers each afternoon after the normal school day has finished and offers the opportunity for people who were not fortunate enough to be selected for a secondary school place to gain a secondary education and the crucial exam results needed to get a good job. As the number of hours that Open School operates is less than the normal school day, many of these students struggle and attend extra lessons in the mornings, which are run by the library team to keep up with their coursework.

COMMUNITY LIBRARY

IN RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, AND IN LINE WITH OTHER EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS IN MALAWI, WE WERE FORCED TO SHUT OUR COMMUNITY LIBRARY FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. HOWEVER, WHEN THEY REOPENED, MEMBERS CAME BACK TO READ THE NEWSPAPERS AND BORROW BOOKS. DURING THE CLOSURE BURTON AND HIS ASSISTANTS JOHN AND VITU CONTINUED TO BE PAID.

As a result of the library being closed, the numbers recorded during 2020 were considerably lower than previous years. They recorded 1,206 borrowers visiting the library and 1,486 readers. They lent out 1,870 books and welcomed 46 new members.

1,870 BOOKS BORROWED DESPITE CLOSURES DUE TO COVID-19

Textbooks continue to be the most borrowed genre of books and we equipped the library with four more sets of each school textbook, helping students attending Kapanda Secondary School.

Children's Corner continues to run but again, it was cancelled when the library was closed.

FUTURE PLANS FOR OUR EDUCATION PROJECTS

- We will continue to run the eight pre-schools and ensure the children receive an early years education and daily meal of sweet potato.
- We will continue to maintain primary school buildings when funding allows.
- We will continue to fund four trainee teachers as long as funding permits.
- We will continue to support the remaining students being sponsored at secondary school and university but will not take on any more students.
- We will continue to support and run the Library, Adult Education and Children's Corner sessions, and we will buy additional books when funding is available.

HEALTHCARE PROJECTS

We are directly working with and have reached 91,380 through our healthcare projects.

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

130	22,000	69,250
Disability and Rehabilitation clients	**Family Planning and Sexual Health reach**	**Coronavirus Support**

DISABILITIES AND REHABILITATION

WE HAD 130 CLIENTS REGISTERED OF WHICH MORE THAN HALF RECEIVED REGULAR CARE AND THE OTHERS RECEIVE OCCASIONAL VISITS AND SUPPORT.

We have continued to fund operations and equipment where required. Due to the pandemic we had to cancel group sessions at times and more recently, adapt them by having smaller numbers attending. However, Matilda has continued to support the clients and their families and has welcomed a number of new clients needing support. Matilda continues to carry out home visits.

FUNDED OPERATIONS AND SPECIALIST EQUIPMENT FOR 25 CLIENTS

During 2020, Matilda has supported children and adults with 40 different disabilities of which 33 have achieved significant milestones such as crawling, walking and speech improvements.

We have funded more than 25 children to receive operations and specialist equipment. Some have required hospital check-ups and others have met orthopaedic specialists to discuss operations including club foot and bow leg operations. Amongst those needing equipment, this has varied from standing frames and wheelchairs to prosthetics. The specialist equipment centre, 500 Miles, is to be handed over in June 2021 to Mzuzu Central Hospital and will be known as the Prosthetics and Orthotics Centre.

We monitor the progress of all our clients and 86 are showing signs of improvement.

FAMILY PLANNING AND SEXUAL HEALTH

KHUMBO AND WATSON HAVE FACED A CHALLENGING YEAR AS COVID-19 AND THE CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS HAVE LED TO MORE UNDERAGE PREGNANCIES AND EARLY CHILD MARRIAGES.

Usually they reach on average 1,000 students each month across upper primary and secondary schools, but when schools closed they were unable to do this and they adapted by running more community sessions.

They will continue to work closely with the students – during Life Skills lessons at schools the students are active participants in discussions about family planning, but out of school they feel uncomfortable about visiting the health centre for advice.

THOUSANDS REACHED THROUGH PUBLIC AWARENESS AND SPORTS EVENTS

During the year Khumbo and Watson have increased the number of couples they have worked with from 24 to 250 and reached 2,000 people through sports events, four times more than the previous year. They have continued to run awareness campaigns on market days reaching more than 200 people each time and meet 80-100 parents regularly at different Under Five clinics and church groups. They now have local volunteers who are assisting in their local areas so even when Khumbo and Watson are unable to be present, the awareness sessions are still able to take place. Information given continues to relate to the impact of family size on resources and finances as well as encouraging better communication between partners and shared household responsibilities to improve family relationships.

COVID-19 SUPPORT

WE HAVE CONTINUED TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO COMBAT COVID-19 IN MALAWI.

We have issued masks to all our staff and Fish Conservation Committee members and have now repaired 440 boreholes and shallow wells. Of these, 400 were funded by Fondation Eagle who also funded the purchase of 13 oxygen concentrators for Chintheche Rural Hospital and three District Hospitals – Nkhata Bay, Nkhotakota and Salima – to assist with treating patients suffering from breathing difficulties due to COVID-19. We are encouraging all staff to get their vaccinations when offered and many have already done this.

440 BOREHOLES REPAIRED PROVIDING CLEAN WATER TO MORE THAN 65,000 PEOPLE

HEALTH CENTRES

We have done some minor repairs at Kachere Health Centre this year and the clinic staff have requested our help with rebuilding the incinerator wall which has collapsed, providing a new waste pit and building new toilets and washrooms for women attending the maternity unit.

FUTURE PLANS FOR OUR HEALTHCARE PROJECTS

- We will continue to support existing Disabilities and Rehabilitation clients and strengthen links with other healthcare providers such as MACOHA and Mzuzu Central Hospital Prosthetics and Orthotics Centre.
- We will assist with Healthcare building projects if funds allow.
- We will assist Mwaya Dispensary in a minor way.
- We plan to continue running and carrying out research through the Family Planning and Sexual Health project.
- We would like to continue to fundraise to repair broken wells and boreholes.

ACCOUNTS

SEE OUR FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF OUR ACCOUNTS

Accounts Extract
Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
For the year ended 31 May 2021

	Unrestricted Funds 2021	Restricted Funds 2021	Total 2021	Total 2020
Incoming Resources	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Voluntary Income	123,229	768,572	891,801	791,923
Investment income	194	-	194	391
Total Incoming Resources	123,423	768,572	891,995	792,314
Resources Expended				
Costs of generated funds				
Raising funds	- 80,135	- -	80,135 -	55,819
Charitable activities	- 111,259	- 631,998 -	743,257 -	727,775
Total Resources Expended	- 191,394	- 631,998 -	823,392 -	783,594
Net income	- 67,971	136,574	68,603	8,720
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	73,911	136,614	210,525	201,805
Total funds carried forward	5,940	273,188	279,128	210,525

The statement of financial activities incorporate income and expenditure. The results for the year derive from continuing activities and there no gains and losses other than those above.

Balance Sheet
As at 31 May 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets	118,109	133,431
Current Assets		
Debtors	3,887	8,166
Cash at bank and in hand	216,413	160,850
	220,300	169,016
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	- 59,281	- 41,922
Creditors: Bounceback Loan	- -	50,000
Net Current Assets	161,019	77,094
Net Assets	279,128	210,525

Analysis of current assets and liabilites

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted funds	Total funds
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Current assets	69,328	-	150,972	220,300
Current liabilties	- 18,656	- -	40,625 -	59,281
	50,672	-	110,347	161,019

Signed on behalf of the board by:

Toby Milton
Chairman