

## January 2021 update on Malawi Mission Action Plan project

### **The Context in Malawi**

Malawi has a population of approximately 18 million; 70% live below the poverty line. The country has one of the world's highest rates of child marriage; one out of every two girls is married before the age of 18. Girls are also less likely to complete their education, which lessens their future opportunities for employment and contributing to their families, the community, and the economy.

Malawi's economy is mainly based on agriculture, with women responsible for most small-scale farming in the country. With agriculture as the economic focus, the environment faces pressures such as consumption of wood for fuel, poor farming practices, and reduced soil fertility.

Since 2015 The Anglican Council of Malawi has been helping vulnerable households in the rural areas of Chintheche, Kayoyo, Samama and Chapananga, to improve their livelihoods and support girls in education. In addition, they have also worked on increasing access to HIV treatment and improving hygiene and sanitation.

Work on HIV care and sanitation continues. However, as the Community Integrated Programme has progressed, the focus has been on developing livelihoods and girls' education as these have made the greatest impact on the communities.

### **Ketrina's Story**

Ketrina is 42 years old and lives in Mtongole village in the district of Mangochi. Sadly, she lost her husband and has to look after their five children alone. She struggled to provide for her family and put food on the table. Then her life improved when she joined the Community Integrated Intervention Programme.

She was supported by staff from the programme to develop a kitchen garden at her home to improve the living standards of her family. She was provided with seeds and, having prepared her garden, planted many different types of vegetables. Ketrina had a successful harvest with lots of produce. She kept some for herself and sold the surplus to generate family income.

Unlike in previous years, the kitchen garden means that she has food to put on the table. A healthy diet has improved her and her children's well-being. She is now living happily, enjoying the fruits of her labour and blessings from the Anglican Church.

**Further information**, or if you would like to support this programme personally, please contact John Neilson on [johnneilson@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:johnneilson@blueyonder.co.uk)



### **Sarah's Story**

"I'm 15 years old and come from Msomba in the Nkhatabay District. I live with my grandmother and my mother and another four children from our wider family.

We have hardship in our daily lives. My mother is elderly, and she works temporarily as a cleaner at Msomba Primary School, but she can't manage to provide for all the family's needs.

We've benefited from the Anglican Church's programme in many ways. My family has learnt how to make manure, and we have been given fertiliser, maize and vegetable seeds and fruit trees. I've had skills training. We were taught to make door mats and simple fabric bags for sale, and how to make reusable sanitary pads. I've also received a school uniform and exercise books, pens, and a mathematical set.

My life has changed because of all these things. I now regularly attend school and I'm able to attend classes comfortably during my menstruation period. When I finish school, I want to be a teacher so that I can help others. I'd like to thank the Church for the role they're playing to ensure that girls have an education."

### **Coronavirus in Malawi**

The July update describe the main actions which the Anglican Church in Malawi has been taking, in particular through organising support for five mission referral hospitals: St Peters, St Andrews, St Anne's, St Luke's, and St Martins. Over the last six months the Church has been purchasing and delivering Personal Protective Equipment including gowns, aprons, medical face masks, goggles, and biohazard bags and essential drugs for the treatment of Covid-19 to frontline healthcare workers.