

Connecting Lives



Food for body and soul

Enough food for your family is almost always people's first priority in Malawi. 85% are dependent on what they can grow. High population density and climate shocks mean 3.5 million are currently experiencing acute hunger. But Eagles' training helps the church see God's view of creation. They learn how to work with their communities to become food secure—going beyond conservation farming to permaculture techniques that protect their environment and help people strengthen their relationships with each other too.

A community dream come true

A tractor is a rare sight in Malawi. People farm laboriously by hand, digging with hoes and planting each seed individually. But Kamkwenu community in Central Malawi has a vision and strategy, thanks to Eagles' training and support. Since 2020, church and community have worked together to make sure that no one goes hungry. They formed a farmers' cooperative and registered with government so they could access its resources to supplement their own efforts. In October 2024, they celebrated the arrival of this tractor and its driver, after paying the government 10% of its cost. The tractor can do in one day what would have taken them at least a month!

(cont. on p.3)

New life post cyclone Freddy

Communities in Zomba, Eastern Malawi, are reinvigorated post the devastation wreaked by Cyclone Freddy—thanks to Eagles’ Church and Community Mobilisation process (CCM).

Eagles has trained church leaders from all denominations in a biblical perspective on justice. Leaders have formed ‘pastors fraternals’ (to encourage and learn from each other) in Mpyupyu and Govala. They are working together to transform their communities. Their members are taking part in Bible studies that inspire them to ‘acts of love’ for those around them, especially the most vulnerable. Eagles’ participatory activities have helped them prioritise those in most need. Their training, co-facilitated with government officials, has helped the leaders map the risks from climate change and plan how to protect their crops and homes.



As a church leader, I've discovered I'm more than able to deal with the hunger situation and have begun irrigation farming.

Bringing back creation

Church leaders in Mpyupyu describe how they have learned the importance of bringing back creation. They have established a tree nursery (photo right) and are planting the saplings out in the rainy season. They are now caring for the elderly and vulnerable—planting their crops for them. They have also helped get a wheelchair for a disabled person.



Protecting our future



In Mpyupyu, the pastors’ fraternal has worked with the local chief to create a tree nursery too . 7,800 trees are already growing. They have linked up with the local hospital (photo left), cleaning up the premises and planting trees. The hospital has provided them with a meeting room so they can plan together. As a result of the Bible studies, members have cultivated the land for those who are chronically ill and for people with disabilities.

As Eagles continues to train them how to work with their communities, they plan to improve food security for everyone by building dykes and planting more trees to protect the crops and by introducing irrigation.



A dream come true...

Jennifer and Mathilde (photo above), two members of the farmers' cooperative describe the transformation in their homes and community. They have diversified their crops, growing soya beans, groundnuts, vegetables, fruit trees, sweet potatoes and cassava in addition to their staple maize. They have learned how to plant and grow food more effectively, spacing the seed, inter-cropping, planting trees to improve and protect the soil, making their own manure—and now buying the tractor. And it's not just cooperative members that benefit—they make sure they teach everyone and they take care of those too vulnerable to join in.

The community keeps learning and planning. They are keeping bees, farming fish, growing sunflowers for oil, raising livestock and many more activities. Jennifer and Mathilde explain the difference the support from Eagles has made. They can harvest five ox-carts per hectare instead of one and a half. Their children eat three meals a day instead of one—and enjoy a much wider variety of food. They get sick much less often. Relationships are better. Churches are stronger. Men and women share leadership. Conflict has gone down. And now Eagles is extending the work to new villages.

Hunger is now in the past. I am very proud.. You need to know that our community has many more ideas and is daily moving forward.

I am so happy. We are busy as bees. Everyone is doing something—everyone has responsibilities.

The ‘multiplier effect’ (cont. from p.3)

Inspired by the transformation in their community, church leaders from Kamkwenu central Malawi, have been sharing their learning with others in neighbouring villages. So Eagles is supporting their efforts by providing training and follow-up in Chiwoko community. 22 church leaders from many different denominations have come together in a pastors’ fraternal (a learning/ support group). One of them, also a trained government agricultural extension worker, has helped them form a cooperative. Although in the initial phases of the process, they are already seeing transformation of mindsets and resulting fruit in their communities—both literal (photo right) and metaphorical. They say:



- *We have learned a lot about being self-reliant and about agriculture. We are changing the way we think—not depending on handouts any longer but becoming people who can develop our own area.*
- *Now all my children are in school. We are not struggling to send them anymore.*
- *We have begun visiting the elderly and sick and helping those in need. We were doing a bit before but have become much more effective now because of CCM.*
- *We have trained 280 people ourselves and are helping them become self-reliant.*
- *I have a great desire to see other people change the way I have. I believe, if Eagles keeps training others like they are training us, the whole area will change and even our whole country.*

Malawi – latest threats

Three-day queues for fuel - since October 2024, Malawi has struggled with massive shortages of diesel and petrol, caused by a lack of foreign exchange. This has brought the country to a literal standstill, with people waiting in queues for up to three days simply to refuel their car.



Election campaign handouts undermine

progress - Candidates campaigning already for national elections in late 2025 are calling communities for meetings and handing out sums of money—drawing people away from productive development and back into dependency mindsets.

Fear from cyclones - Tropical Cyclone Chido hit Malawi on 16th December 2024, affecting almost one third of the country and killing seven people. It could have been worse—most damage was limited to roofs being blown off houses, schools and clinics. But the threat of climate shocks looms over the country as this is the rainy season when crops are planted and people already struggle to recover from previous years of devastation.

Please keep Malawi in your prayers and hearts.