

CONNECTING LIVES

Eagles Relief & Development Programme
www.eaglesmalawi.org



Eagles trains pastors to work with their communities to adapt to the changing environment, prepare and respond to natural disasters and plan for long-term recovery. By carbon offsetting with Eagles, you are supporting this process:

<http://www.eaglesmalawi.org/CarbonOffset.html>

Preparing for emergencies

Many communities suffer from flooding and/or droughts every year. After Eagles' training, churches and their villages can map their local area to identify the places and people who are most at risk and plan what action to take.

For example, Benga Living Waters Church helped their community to assess which houses would be able to withstand the rainy season. They repaired the homes of several elderly people and mobilised community members to improve the drainage and tackle other vulnerabilities that they had identified.

Unlike previous years, no houses collapsed in the rainy season! The community now assesses their disaster resilience every year. They support those who need to improve their homes and maintain the drainage system which protects all of their land.

Resilient to disasters

Mobilised by Eagles, churches and communities are taking action to increase their disaster resilience:

Energy-efficient stoves: The churches at Kachenyu are encouraging everyone to use energy efficient stoves to reduce the demand for firewood and conserve trees. They are also reforestation and working with community leaders to ensure the woods are cared for. One traditional leader, Chizumba Ngulube, praised the churches, grateful that people are using less firewood and saving time searching for it.



Tree-planting: frequent floods erode and degrade the soil in Malawi, making it impossible to get good harvests. Trees not only anchor the soil, but also provide a physical barrier to flood water that protects crops and houses. Many churches have taken action to protect local forests and plant more trees. Just these three churches have planted nearly 20,000 trees by working with their communities:

- In Lusangazi, the church worked with the community and forest department to plant over 10,000 seedlings. They shared the work of caring for them, dividing them between 100 families, six local churches and the village forest.
- In Kasungu, Ntunthama church raised a nursery of 3000 trees to plant (photo above)
- Kaphatenga Living Waters Church persuaded the government to give them 5000 seedlings which they planted with their village to protect farms from erosion.



Rev Mwale (left), Kapiri Living Waters Church, sees this all as God's design:

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In Genesis, we learn that every tree has seeds and these are the ones God uses to sustain trees on earth. From Eagles, we have learnt that we do not need money to plant trees; we use the seeds that God has already given us... we cannot be limited any more in tree planting.

Adapting to Climate Change

Ineffective farming methods trap many farmers in Balaka, Central Malawi, in cycles of annual hunger – exacerbated by the increasingly unpredictable weather from climate change. Soil is infertile and artificial fertilisers unattainably expensive for most people.

But Tigwirane farmers' club broke the cycle. Eagles trained its members in 'Climate Smart Agriculture'. They determinedly applied their learning – for example, making 'mbeya' fertiliser from locally available resources, turning 10kg of costly chemical fertiliser into 50kg by mixing it with maize bran, ash, chicken droppings and water.



The group have proved that their simple recipe actually works better than the normal chemical fertiliser and improves soil quality. They planted two fields on the same day for comparison. Julius, a member, explains: **“We witnessed that the plot where we applied Mbeya manure retains more moisture during dry spells than the plot where we had applied chemical fertiliser.”**

Responding to emergencies

Churches who have been mobilised by Eagles can respond immediately to disasters in their local area – they are already on the ground and can identify the most vulnerable:

- The districts of Karonga, Salima and Nkhotakota are ravaged by floods almost every year. Eagles trained pastors to work with their communities to reduce the risk from these disasters and to respond in emergencies. Soon after, in December 2019, floods hit again. The communities that Eagles had trained acted immediately, rescuing people, taking them to safety and providing food, cooking materials and clothes to many. They also quickly informed the local authorities to enable them to intervene.
- Nkhata Bay was hit by tragedy when the killing of a suspected thief by one village led his home village to retaliate, resulting in another two deaths and 22 houses set on fire. The loss of their houses and businesses reduced the 22 families to destitution within minutes as they lost everything they owned. The local Living Waters Church immediately sprang into action to help the most vulnerable with food and other basic necessities, particularly the elderly who would struggle to rebuild their lives.

Recovery: Are handouts the only way?

Eagles believes passionately that, even in a disaster situation, people must be treated with dignity, as creative and intelligent people, not passive recipients of help. Emergency relief is necessary, but has greater impact when it is integrated with community mobilisation for long-term change.



Cyclone Idai ravaged Kalulu village, Southern Malawi, obliterating the harvest. Starvation threatened. Most NGOs responded with handouts, but Eagles has a different approach. With some immediate support, Eagles also trained farmers to grow food effectively and sustainably, preserving water and restoring soil fertility. Some grumbled, preferring to be given food, but changed when they saw their gardens flourish and knew they could feed their families for the year: **“We didn’t realise we could have a garden of Eden right next to our house!”**



Patricia’s five children nearly died from malnutrition. But, throwing herself into Eagles’ training, she transformed her land from the top to the bottom photo in five months! She will harvest food all year!



I am no longer a captive of food shortage! My children are eating two meals per day!

Carbon offset to change the ending

The choice to be part of the problem or part of the solution is ours. Visit our website and offset your carbon emissions when you have to fly or drive by partnering with communities adapting and seeking solutions.

<http://www.eaglesmalawi.org/CarbonOffset.html>

Offset your flight emissions			
Flight time	Offset cost	For example, London to	Quantity
1 - 2 hours	£8.00	Paris, Geneva, Barcelona	- 0 +
2 - 4 hours	£17.00	Athens, Canary Islands	- 0 +
5 - 7 hours	£34.00	Jeddah, Dubai	- 0 +
8 - 10 hours	£45.00	Delhi, New York, Nairobi	- 0 +
11 - 12 hours	£65.00	Los Angeles, Johannesburg	- 0 +
13 + hours	£95.00	Australia, New Zealand	- 0 +