



Malawi Girls Empowerment

By Max Kaliner, Manfredi Paternó
Castello, Giulia Barbiero, Marta
Andolina, Fabio Gissi, and Wang Yi

Organization Name: Malawi Girls Empowerment



Project Name, Country: Secondary schools / Clinics in Malawi

Background:

- **Girls in Malawi face cultural and practical barriers.**
- **Culturally girls are considered less important than boys. When family income is limited, paying for a male child's schooling may seem like a better investment.**
- **If a family member becomes ill, it is often left to a young female to look after them. The high incidence of HIV/AIDS forces many girls to leave school and care for the ill.**
- **Cultural norms promote early marriage, and a lack of access to comprehensive health education and contraception means pregnancy is common among young women.**
- **Girls also face practical challenges of getting to school in a country with a largely rural population.**



- As of November of 2013, there are 286 registered NGOs dedicated to Malawi. 124 of them are International NGOs, while 162 are local.
- Numerous NGOs work throughout the country across a variety of areas, including health, education, children's rights.
- NGOs are working to alleviate poverty, improve social welfare, and develop civil society.



Goals

- Currently, over 50% of the population of Malawi is under 18 years old.
- In less than 10 years, Malawi will have to create jobs for them. With no jobs or proper skills, they will become a large obstacle to Malawi.
- Our goal is to help Malawi increase the number of girls attending secondary school which will ensure the economic advancement of Malawi in the future.

Mission Statement

Every girl in Malawi has the right to a complete education. It is our commitment to help the girls of Malawi to achieve this goal.



Solution

- Our organization, Malawi Girls Empowerment believes that keeping girls in school is one of the best ways to fight poverty. Our primary focus will be on the education of young women to become educators and health care professionals. We propose the following solutions:
- Malawi Girls Empowerment believes that keeping girls in school is one of the best ways to fight poverty.
- Our primary focus will be on the education of young women to become educators and health care professionals. We will assist girls in enrolling in the College of Medicine at the University of Malawi.
- Enrollment in this school is approximately \$135 USD (55,000 Malawian Kwacha). We will give this school money to lower this cost.

In order to fund our solution we will:

- Create a website and use social media to elicit funds.
- Approach philanthropic organizations such as the Gates Foundation for finance.
- Because our solution is not a charity, but an investment, and since the World Bank focuses on long-term development and poverty reduction projects, we will work with the Malawi government to apply for grants and no-interest loans (credits) from the International Development Association (IDA) division of the World Bank.



Cost

- Enrollment in this school is approximately \$135 USD (55,000 Malawian Kwacha).
- Adrian Campbell of Arup analyzed what materials were needed and created a simple new solution.
- Using stabilized soil blocks for the main wall elements and making these on-site provides jobs for local workers, increasing their skills.
- The floors and foundations use less material and the roof utilizes roof sheeting which saves money and makes it easy to build.
- The cost of an existing school at US\$10 (£6) per sq ft. totaled US\$25,000 (£15,000) per school accommodating about 170 children.

Future

- We will free the girls from the obstacles preventing them from attending secondary school by localizing health care in the form of clinics to look after the sick and aged.
- We will localize secondary schools and create regional campuses with dormitories.
- Ideally, we could combine the clinics and the schools in one facility.
- In order to encourage teachers to work in rural areas, we need to build houses and provide salary subsidies.

Potential Partners

Raising Malawi (raisingmalawi.org). Raising Malawi supports NGOs that really understand Malawi problems and are able to bring Malawians the help they need.



ARUP (arup.com). Project commended by British Construction Industry Awards. ARUP working along with architects John McAslan & Partners designed a low cost prototype that could be used to the need for new schools across Malawi.





Malawi Girls Empowerment

By Max Kaliner, Manfredi Paternó
Castello, Giulia Barbiero, Marta
Andolina, Fabio Gissi, and Wang Yi