IMPACT REPORT
2021 - 2022
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.
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 Khoram is Corporate Partnerships Manager and Project Coordinator and Claire Battersby is Ripple Africa’s Administrator. Our part time Marketing Consultant, Laura Massey, works two days a week with us.

In the US, Kay Yoder has been managing Ripple Africa Inc and has supported our work on a voluntary basis. In the last 12 months we have received £71,823 from Ripple Africa Inc. towards our projects.

In Malawi, our Country Director is Force Ngwira. At the end of the year, 173 Malawian staff were employed by Ripple Africa, and over 9,500 local people worked with us on a voluntary or part time basis on our environmental projects.

VOLUNTEERS & VISITORS

Because of the pandemic, we have had fewer volunteers and visitors than we would normally expect but the majority of the UK team were able to return late in 2021, their first trip since the pandemic. We also had seven volunteers including one who is with us for a complete academic year and four visitors plus two families who spent the day with us to learn more about our projects. Manchester University and Aldenham School did not come during this financial year due to the uncertainty of travel.
ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS

We have 9,684 community members working on a voluntarily or part time basis on our environmental projects.

In the Districts where we are working, over one and a half million people are experiencing an improved quality of life due to our projects.
The Fish for Tomorrow project is now operating in Nkhata Bay, Nkhotakota, Salima and Dedza Districts and in the Lake Malawi National Park area of Mangochi District. We have just been awarded funding to help us expand the project into the remainder of Mangochi District.

- The project is now operating along 450 kilometres of lakeshore.
- We have established and trained 343 Fish Conservation Committees (now known as Beach Village Committees), most with 11 members and are therefore directly working with around 3,750 people, 30% of whom are women.
- We have established and protect 92 key Chambo fish breeding areas and 10 key Cichlid breeding areas.

In Nkhata Bay District, we are continuing to trial larger meshed nets to catch Usipa, which form over 70% of the fish caught in Lake Malawi. The success of the trial of the Number 12 bunt has led to fishers who are not part of the trial buying their own nets to catch the more lucrative larger Usipa. In addition, we are continuing to support the 142 Beach Village Committees who are protecting 32 breeding areas. We are supporting the development of a District Fisheries Management Plan and will then help the District introduce new District Fisheries Bylaws based on this. We are also in discussion with the District Council about the introduction of District Permit Fees to provide sustainable income for the continuation of the project.
In Nkhotakota District, 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 also been supporting the development of a District Fisheries Management Plan to enable new Fisheries Bylaws to be signed and the introduction of District Permit Fees.

UNESCO, WITH THE HELP OF THE NORwegIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HAVE FUNDED US TO INTRODUCE THE FISH FOR TOMORROW PROJECT IN THE NATIONAL PARK

During the year we have been able to extend the reach of the project into the whole of Salima and Dedza Districts with support from the International Conservation Fund of Canada. There are 103 Beach Village Committees actively protecting 40 Chambo breeding areas and we are delighted that following the development of a District Fisheries Management Plan, new District Fisheries Bylaws were signed on 7th May 2022.

In Mangochi District, UNESCO with the help of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs have funded Ripple Africa to work in partnership with District Fisheries and the Department of Parks and Wildlife to introduce the Fish for Tomorrow project in the National Park. We are now supporting 17 Beach Village Committees and 12 Village Natural Resources Committees to protect Cichlid fish in the National Park area of Mangochi District and the Maleri Islands in Salima District.
Forest Conservation Committees are constructing firebreaks in forested areas to ensure that wildfires do not spread and damage the trees, and several of the committees have set up beehives. Not only do the bees deter people from cutting down the trees but the committee can harvest and sell the honey.

Patrols have continued to take place but the number of charcoal traffickers appears to be reducing as the number of sacks of charcoal and bicycles confiscated is less compared to previous years.

In the south area of Nkhata Bay District we now have 64 trained and active Conservation Committees working here. As well as supporting communities within the project area, the team are also running educational activities for adjoining communities to prevent further incursions into the forests.
These trees were planted out in March 2022 and are now being cared for by the beneficiaries under the supervision of our team.

Commercial farmers have a financial interest to ensure that the trees grow successfully and we have now recruited some of our more experienced farmers to become lead farmers who are training others to care for their trees effectively. We are encouraging all our tree planters to also build Changu Changu Motos fuel-efficient cookstoves to further reduce the pressure on the remaining forests.
The groups are given the seeds and plastic tubes and once the seeds have been sown, Maston visits the groups regularly to teach them how to prune and care for the seedlings, how to make natural fertiliser, how to identify pests, and how to protect the seedlings from livestock once planted out. This past year these community groups have raised and planted out 9,000 fruit trees which are also shared with schools and vulnerable families. They will not only benefit from the fruit to eat but will be able to sell any surplus and raise a sustainable income.

**SUCCESSFULLY GROWING A VARIETY OF FRUIT TREES**
CHANGU CHANGU MOTO
FUEL-EFFICIENT COOKSTOVES

WE RECEIVED INVESTMENT TO EXPAND THE NUMBER OF OUR FUEL-EFFICIENT COOKSTOVES UNDER A NEW CARBON OFFSETTING PROJECT. AS WELL AS RECEIVING FUNDING FOR THE PROJECT, WE WILL ALSO RECEIVE A SHARE OF THE SALE OF THE RESULTANT CARBON OFFSETS.

We now have District Project Managers in Mzimba, Nkhotakota and Salima Districts to run the project here and to date seven Component Project Areas of 12,000 households each have been identified. We have recruited seven area managers, 21 coordinators and 413 Community Volunteers to help drive the project forward. This financial year, we have constructed a total of 17,649 cookstoves in the three Districts.

We are continuing to support the 40,000 households who have constructed cookstoves in Nkhata Bay District and money from sales of the carbon offsets is helping to fund the team here.

OVER 17,000 NEW COOKSTOVES BUILT
The majority (69%) of the farmers have grown sweet potatoes before and 31% are new growers. Four different varieties of vines have been distributed, and these are all varieties that have grown well in the area previously.

Farmers are able to harvest the sweet potatoes three times a year as it only takes four months for the vines to produce the sweet potatoes. The leaves can also be eaten and this further increases the benefit of the project, both nutritionally and financially.

**12,500 BUNDLES OF VINES DISTRIBUTED**
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 and to work with District Councils to introduce District fishing permits to provide sustainable long term project funding.
- We hope to expand the Fish for Tomorrow project into the whole of Mangochi District and eventually into Karonga and Rumphi Districts and the islands of Chizumulu and Likoma.
- We will continue to support householders who have installed the Changu Changu Moto and help further households to build these in new project areas.
- We will continue to support our Forest Conservation Committees to protect trees in the areas in which they work.
- We hope to further expand the tree planting project into new areas of Mzimba District as part of a new carbon offsetting scheme.
- We will expand the community fruit tree planting project in Nkhata Bay District.
- We will continue to increase the stocks of orange fleshed sweet potatoes in our area.
EDUCATION PROJECTS

We are directly supporting 8,916 children and adults through our education projects.

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

858  3,984  631  3,443

Pre-school Children  Primary Students  Secondary and University Students  Adult Education and Library
PRE-SCHOOLS

WE HAVE PROVIDED NEW RESOURCES FOR ALL THE PRE-SCHOOLS IN THE LAST YEAR AND 19 TEACHERS RECEIVED TRAINING IN EARLY YEARS EDUCATION WHICH WAS FUNDED BY WORLD VISION.

All teachers are now putting the training into practice and focusing more on child led learning through structured play.

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

Repair works have been carried out to the kitchen at Matete 1 Pre-school and at Mazembe and Chitingulu pre-schools. Matete 1 has also been repainted.

PROVIDING A SAFE LEARNING SPACE TO OVER 850 CHILDREN
PRIMARY EDUCATION

WE RECEIVED FUNDING TO CARRY OUT MAINTENANCE AT TWO OF THE PRIMARY SCHOOLS WE SUPPORT.

At Mwaya Primary School, classroom window frames were repaired and fitted with burglar bars, chalkboards were repaired and repainted and four classrooms were re-painted. At Matete Primary School we built another teacher’s house and carried out repair work on some of the classrooms too.

We have continued to fund four trainee teachers at local primary schools to supplement the government teaching staff, and Matilda has been running awareness sessions and teacher training at the primary schools too, helping students and teachers to support those with additional needs.

RUNNING AWARENESS SESSIONS AND TEACHER TRAINING

Maston continues to run fruit tree planting training with the school Environment Clubs and some of our team represented Ripple Africa’s Education projects at a Day of the African Child event in the District. Activities focused on one key message, to encourage children to go to school.

Students at Mwaya and Matete Primary Schools took part in First Aid lessons with volunteer Tom, an Italian nurse working in the UK. Tom has been volunteering in one of the local clinics and during the afternoons, running interactive first aid training.
SECONDARY EDUCATION

FOLLOWING A DECISION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI TO DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENTERING FORM 1 AT KAPANDA EACH YEAR, WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY SECURED FUNDING FROM FONDATION EAGLE TO CONSTRUCT A NEW DOUBLE CLASSROOM BLOCK AND TO PROVIDE DESKS FOR ALL THE CHILDREN WHO ARE CURRENTLY HAVING TO WORK IN A TEMPORARY OUTDOOR CLASSROOM.

We have also repaired beds at the Girls’ dormitory. Slats had broken or come away from the frame so girls were top-and-tailing in the beds that were not damaged but we are pleased they have now been repaired giving the girls a much more peaceful night’s sleep.

The school was ranked 26th out of the 208 schools in the region following the MSCE exam results. 69.5% of Form 4 students passed their end of school exams and the top result for the school was Davie Chirwa with 17 points. Head girl Juliet Nyrienda came in with the second highest result with 22 points.

Four female students were within the top 10 students which is really positive. The overall pass rate for the girls was 63% which shows that living on the school premises allows them the time they need to focus and study instead of having to help with chores at home and being put at risk of dropping out due to child marriages or pregnancy.

69.5% OF FORM 4 STUDENTS PASSED THEIR END OF SCHOOL EXAMS

SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

We have now finished our secondary school scholarship scheme and we will be focusing on school improvements to benefit as many students as possible.
UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

THREE STUDENTS REMAIN AT UNIVERSITY, AND WE ARE PROUD OF AARON FOR GRADUATING WITH A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH. THE REMAINING THREE STUDENTS, RICHARD, ELMON AND COLEZ, ARE DUE TO GRADUATE IN THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR.

Aaron said, "My university experience was fun. I have learnt a lot of things including how to interact with people of different cultures and religion. Now that I have graduated, I want to join a youth organisation in my community to inspire them and volunteer for Ripple Africa.

Aaron continued, "I would like to express my sincere thanks to Ripple Africa as you have been there for me since my primary school days. Ripple Africa has played a great role in my academic life and words may fall short to express my gratitude but my family and I say thank you. May God bless you as you continue doing charitable work to help others."

ADULT EDUCATION

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES ALSO RESUMED IN 2021 WELCOMING BACK THOSE KEEN TO LEARN AND IN MANY CASES, CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION AT KAPANDA CDSS DURING OPEN SCHOOL HOURS.

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.

Allumson is one of our Adult Education teachers. For two months he was supported by volunteer Ruth, a former librarian. The groups would meet three days a week to learn English followed by other subjects such as Sociology. They learn comprehension and how to answer questions fully, poetry techniques, narrative voice, different aspects of grammar, how to use a dictionary more effectively and pronunciation.
COMMUNITY LIBRARY

FOLLOWING THE REOPENING OF THE LIBRARY AFTER GOVERNMENT COVID RESTRICTIONS WERE RELAXED, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE USING THE LIBRARY HAS STARTED TO INCREASE AGAIN.

Book borrower numbers were back to near normal with 2,636 books borrowed and 3,443 readers registered, 1,000 fewer than in 2019 but significantly higher than last year. We are pleased to have welcomed 51 new members too, up on last year as well.

Not unsurprisingly, secondary school textbooks are still the most borrowed books and these were lent out 3,073 times during the year. It is worth noting that even though Kapanda Community Day Secondary School has opened its own school library, large numbers of students are visiting Mwaya Library which has an extensive selection of textbooks for students living in and around Mwaya to access.

2,636 BOOKS BORROWED, AND 51 NEW MEMBERS

In 2021 we did not receive funding to buy more textbooks but we did receive a wonderful donation to purchase novels. Amongst the 80 books bought were many African authors such as Chinua Achebe and novels for children by authors like Roald Dahl.

The Saturday morning Children’s Corner sessions restarted in 2021 too, encouraging more young readers to access books.
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 and run the Library, Adult Education and Children’s Corner sessions, and we will buy additional books when funding is available.

• We will continue to support the remaining students being sponsored at university but will not take on any more students.
HEALTHCARE PROJECTS

We have helped 37,130 people through our healthcare projects.

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

130
Disability and Rehabilitation clients

22,000
Family Planning and Sexual Health reach

15,000
Clean Water
We restarted our group sessions and attendance at Kachere and Kande groups continues to be strong. We are working closely with families in the other two areas to encourage them to come to the group sessions, not only for the children to receive check-ups but for the parents to share their experiences.

We have 86 Active Clients who receive home visits or attend group sessions each week and the other 44 are Occasional Clients who will sometimes attend group sessions to enable Matilda to monitor their long-term progress.

During the year we discharged 17 clients; nine left due to relocating to other parts of Malawi and sadly a further six died – the majority from malaria or causes not directly linked to their disability.

We are proud that 66% of the clients are showing improvement and achieving milestones, and we have funded more than 45 children to receive operations and specialist equipment. We continued working with orthopaedic specialists and with the Mzuzu Central Hospital Prosthetics and Orthotics Centre to ensure our clients can be fitted for specialist equipment.

Matilda has also been running awareness sessions at pre-schools and local primary schools. This has included offering basic training to the teachers and she has supported them to offer more inclusive learning for children with disabilities.
FAMILY PLANNING AND SEXUAL HEALTH

WE HAVE WELCOMED A NEW MEMBER TO THE TEAM AS KHMBO HAS NOW RETURNED TO CLINICAL DUTIES AS A TRAINED NURSE-MIDWIFE.

Rebecca, one of our pre-school teachers since 2015, has been trained and her eight years in education along with her own life experiences and passion for the project have seen her bring another dimension to the team.

Success is my dream has become the slogan for the Life Skills lessons at primary and secondary schools, and with youth groups. The team have also been meeting with parents and at one meeting, welcomed 140 parents.

We have also been working with the area Social Welfare Officer, discussing and addressing issues such as child marriage and teen pregnancy. We have helped one student who fell pregnant during the pandemic to return to school to sit her primary school examinations.

We are encouraged to see that the number of teenagers who are not mothers but are accessing family planning is increasing. These youngsters are likely to be attending our Life Skills lessons at their schools.

Sessions at Under Five clinics, village banks, women’s groups and sports games have continued and more than 4,000 people have attended them. We have also trained seven volunteers from the Under Five clinics to run talks at those clinics. The messaging remains consistent, discussing the impact of family size on resources and finances, and encouraging couples to communicate more efficiently and effectively.
Fondation Eagle have provided funding to enable a further 100 boreholes and shallow wells in Nkhata Bay District to be repaired and we have just secured funding to repair a further 120 boreholes in Salima and Nkhotakota Districts in the next financial year.

**CLEAN WATER**

We have continued to repair boreholes and shallow wells.

**HEALTH CENTRES**

We have rebuilt the incinerator and placenta pit at Kachere Clinic. We have also secured funding to build new toilets and washrooms here in the next financial year.
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.
IN OUR LAST FINANCIAL YEAR, £1,311,119 (APPROX. $1,480,000) WAS RAISED, FOR MALAWI-BASED CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE INITIATIVES, THANKS TO THE SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY OF OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS.

Direct project costs accounted for 90% of our spend with only 10% on administration and fundraising costs.