COULD WE BE YOUR CHARITY OF THE YEAR?

We are proud to run and support education projects in and around our headquarters at Mwaya Beach in Nkhati Bay District, Malawi. We are committed for the long term to ensure that local communities have a positive future.

At Ripple Africa we run eight pre-schools welcoming over 900 children aged two to six to receive an early years education and a daily school meal. We also support six Government-run primary schools and one Government-run secondary school.

We are constantly looking at ways to improve education in Malawi and with your help, we can do just that. Each year schools in the UK choose us as their Charity of the Year. Could we be your 2023/24 Charity of the Year?

As a school, every £ you raise makes a huge difference. Here are some of the ways you can have an impact.

- £1 provides a week of school meals for a pre-school child
- £5 plants five fruit trees at a primary school
- £8 buys a secondary school textbook
- £12 provides Life Skills lessons for a month for secondary school pupils
- £35 buys a school desk for three primary school students to learn at
- £60 ensures a child receives an early years education for a year
- £250 replaces solar batteries so that students can study for their final exams at night

Email Laura - laura@rippleafrica.org - on our Education team to find out how your school can make a difference and have Ripple Africa as your chosen charity for the next academic year.

To learn more about our projects, take a look at the updates below.

www.rippleafrica.org
PRE-SCHOOLS

Our pre-schools provide an early childhood education to over 900 children every day in Malawi. Across our eight pre-schools the children learn the alphabet, numbers, colours, shapes and much more. Singing, dancing and play are important parts of the day too. At the end of each morning the children receive a meal of sweet potato, the only hot meal of the day for some children. Our teachers are growing a new-and-improved variety of orange-fleshed sweet potato which are a vital source of Vitamin A.

Rainy season (January to April) is the most disruptive time for our pre-schools. However, with the rain it does make some surfaces great learning spaces - as you can see below the children were practising writing in the wet sand. Class sizes also tend to be smaller during these rainy months.

Even with the rain adding challenges, it is needed to be able to grow the sweet potato - which is served to the children - as well as to grow the fruit trees. The pre-school teachers grow the sweet potato and this improved variety not only provides bigger yields but are more nutritious too. Across 2022 the teachers served an impressive 117,487 school meals!

As well as providing an early years education and school meal, we pride ourselves in ensuring the children learn in a safe environment. Recently we finished re-building Chiomba Pre-school and although there is still some art work to be done - numbers, letters, animals - which will be done in the summer holiday's, the hundred plus children that attend this pre-school, are excited to be back!
PRIMARY SCHOOLS

We support six Government-run primary schools in rural Malawi. Our aim is to improve the learning environment for the children by reducing class sizes through building new classrooms and funding additional trainee teachers.

We currently fund four trainee teachers, Isaac, Dollah, Irene and Nessie, at three schools. At Mazembe Primary School Issac has 98 pupils in his Standard 5 class and Dollah has 88 pupils in her Standard 2 class. At Matete Primary School, Irene teaches 78 Standard 4 students and at Mwaya Primary School, Nessie and another colleague teach the Standard 3 students. They have had to split the 166 pupils as the class size was too big. Nessie has 94 of them!

The teachers all echoed the same message - class sizes are growing rapidly but the schools remain under-resourced. Maurice Chungu, Headteacher at Mazembe Primary School said, "We are very grateful for Issac and Dollah teaching our children. Without them we wouldn't have enough teachers at our school."

We strive to improve and maintain the local primary schools we support, ensuring that the facilities provided to the students offer a safe learning environment. This can include carrying out repairs, providing school desks and the provision of other items including solar batteries.

Standard 8 pupils revise for their end of primary examinations during the evenings so need light to be able to study. Some of the classrooms are quite dark during the daytime too so we plan to fundraise to replace metal roof sheets with transparent roof sheets to let in more natural light. These simple changes make all of the difference.

Students study at night for their final exams
SECONDARY EDUCATION

We built Kapanda Community Day Secondary School near to the primary schools we support so that students don’t have to walk 15km each way to the other nearest secondary school. The school was handed over to the government to run but we continue to support Kapanda Secondary School by building new classrooms and facilities and improving existing ones.

We also work with the students through our Fruit Tree project and Life Skills project. In 2022 the students planted 50 fruit trees including oranges, tangerines, guava, papaya, avocado and tamarind.

Our Life Skills team run sessions at the school to compliment the syllabus being taught and outside of school, many of the students are members of youth and sport groups. The Life Skills sessions cover a broad range of topics including peer pressure, HIV/AIDS, gender equality and sexuality. The majority of these topics are taught through drama, games and demonstrations.

In the latest exams (A-level equivalent), the overall pass rate was 69.5% and the school was ranked 26th out of the 208 schools in the region. Six students were offered places at university to study Education, Arts in History and Heritage Studies, Information Systems and Business degrees, and four female students were within the top 10.

We built a girls dormitory at the school to provide the female students with the opportunity to focus on their studies instead of having to help with chores at home and being put at risk of dropping out due to child marriages or pregnancy.

The top result for the school was Davie Chirwa with 17 points, and Head Girl Juliet Nyrienda came in with the second highest result with 22 points. Both of these students are among the six offered university places.