



Eagles' Impact, 2019

Equipping churches and communities in Malawi to work together to take responsibility for their own development and bring holistic change

Of the **204** churches that Eagles is currently working with in the Central or Northern regions of Malawi, **173** are actively involved in working with their community to bring increased food security, improved livelihoods, access to education, disaster resilience, better health and greater inclusion in community life for those usually left out.

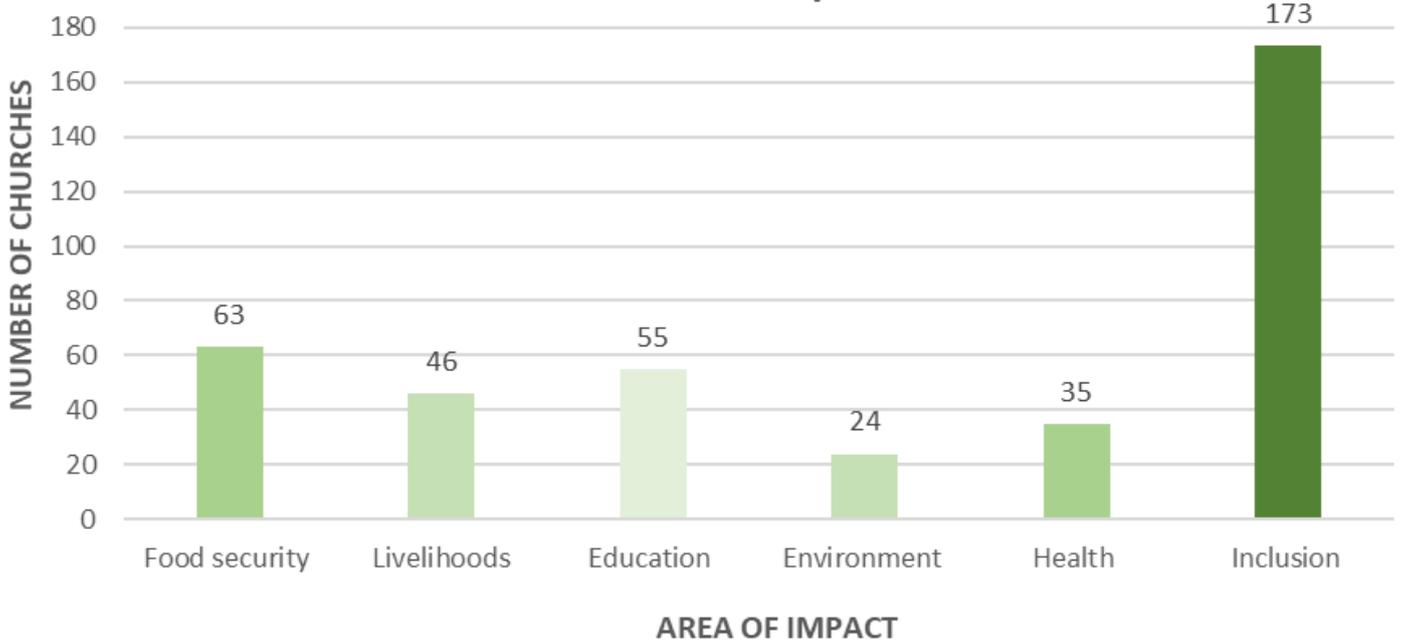
Thousands of people have benefitted from churches working with their communities last year, from 1863 people who increased their harvest to over 3800 marginalised and vulnerable people (including orphans and the disabled) who are now cared for.

"We have resolved as a church to make hunger history in our communities and church because CCMP has taught us that we can deal away with hunger and make our lives better using what we have." Pr. Gibson

IS THE CHURCH ACTIVELY SEEKING JUSTICE?



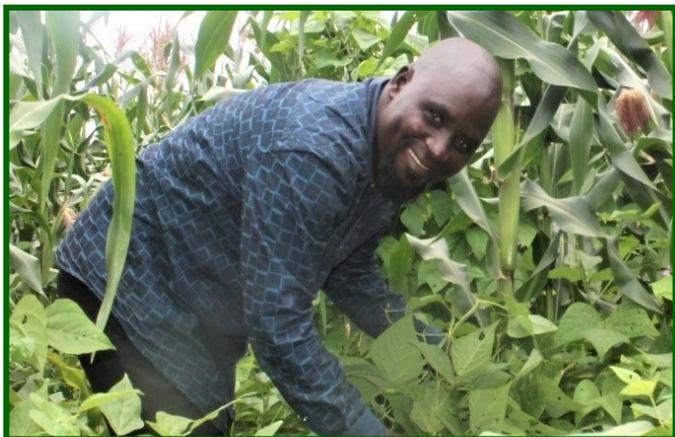
Churches' Impact



Increasing food security

63 churches are helping their villages to improve food security through irrigation, conservation agriculture, fertiliser-making, training in post-harvest management and helping the most vulnerable to farm so that they have enough food for the year.

1863 people have benefited.



Spotlight: After attending Eagles' training and realising that God had given them resources, Chinkhoma Living Waters Church experimented in making fertiliser from locally available materials using the principles that Eagles had shared. Their soil had been unfertile for years. It had become impossible to harvest enough to eat without buying expensive chemical fertilisers that most could not afford and that further degrade the soil. They mixed potato peel with maize husks and a few other ingredients and left the mixture in a covered pit for seven days. When it was ready, the church applied it to half of a field and chemical fertiliser to the other. Soon they noticed that the maize with their homemade fertiliser was much healthier!

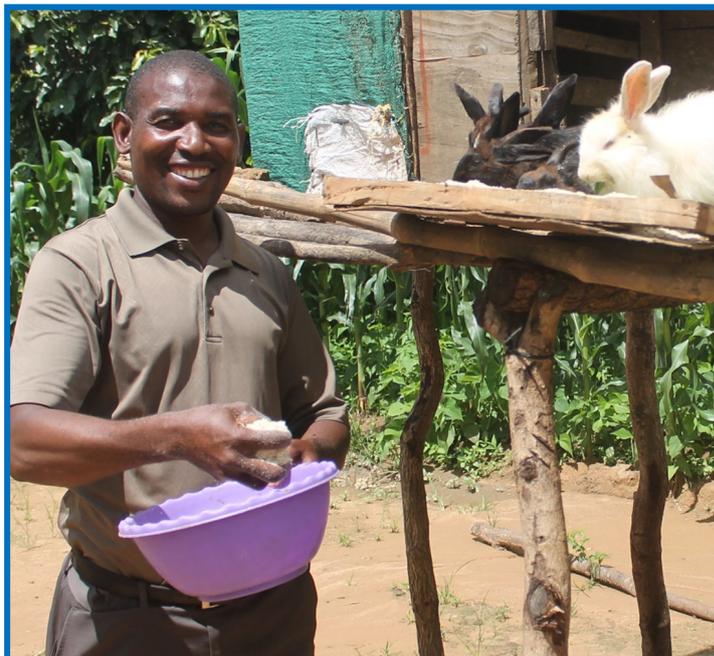
Pastor Chisale is amazed: **"We thought for a long time that we have no choice but to buy the expensive chemical fertilizers. Little did we know that we have resources in our homes being wasted which could answer our most crucial problems! Irish potato peels are very easy to find with all these chips places in our markets."** He concluded, **"We now grow as much maize as we can manage and are not limited by fertiliser!"**

Improving livelihoods

457 people have benefitted from **44** churches working with their communities to improve their livelihoods through rearing and keeping livestock, village savings schemes and skills training. Their incomes have increased and standard of living improved, enabling them to pay school fees, medical bills and begin or expand businesses.

Spotlight: Malomo Living Waters Church is raising rabbits so they can give their babies to the most vulnerable in their community. Although small, rabbits provide excellent manure to increase harvests, are a source of protein and can be easily sold in an emergency.

"Now I see that our church is really becoming relevant to its community as we meet the physical and spiritual needs of the people. We have positive feedback from community leaders, thanks to God's heart for the poor." says Pastor Chiumya



Spotlight: Ntcherenje church in Chitipa trained vulnerable women to make soap to sell at the local market, making them economically self-reliant. They have also begun savings and loans groups, transforming members' lives by: increasing assets; improving the position of women in the family and community; enabling people to meet their families' needs; expanding businesses; and investing in their farms to increase harvests.

Improving education

55 churches enabled 484 children to access education.

113 churches pay school fees for **825** orphans and vulnerable children. Many other children benefit from improved school facilities, especially girls who frequently drop-out or absent themselves when the lack of toilets leads to abuse or humiliation. Other churches have built houses to attract higher quality teachers. A further **44** people are benefitting from adult literacy classes, decreasing their vulnerability to being cheated, enabling them to read vital information and increasing their status so they can participate fully in community decision-making.



Spotlight: Children living with disability are amongst the most hidden, marginalised and vulnerable in Malawi - ignored and left behind in over-crowded classrooms; even abused and locked away by families who are afraid of stigma.

When Eagles' helped Living Waters Church, Thete, to understand that loving God was inseparable from loving the most vulnerable, they committed to enabling these children to access education and take part in community life. The church works with their parents and schools to help them understand how to care for the children. Volunteers give further learning support to the children after school and the church have even persuaded a specialist NGO to start working with the families

Yankho, 15, and Chimwemwe, 11, were both still in the first year of school with five and six-year-olds. Neither had ever passed an exam and their mother, Ellen, had given up. Now Ellen says: **"I had given up about Yankho and his sister but since the church started helping us, I have hope again that they will have a future."**

Caring for the environment

24 churches have mobilised their community to plant and look protect trees, involving **482** people and benefitting hundreds more from the increased disaster resilience. Just **three** of those churches have planted **20,000** trees. **57** people are making energy saving stoves, reducing deforestation and improving health, and over **50** church leaders have been trained this year in how to work with their communities to reduce risk of disaster.

Spotlight: Annual floods eroded and degraded the soil in Mchinji, making it impossible to get good harvests. Kapili church took action by planting a woodlot around the church. Trees not only anchor the soil, but also provide a physical barrier to flood water that protects crops and houses. Church members are also multiplying vertiver grass so that everyone can use it to prevent soil erosion on their farm land.

"In Genesis, we learn that every tree has seeds and these are the ones God uses to sustain trees on earth. From [Eagles' training], we have learnt that we do not need money to plant trees; we use the seeds that God has already given us." Rev Mwale.



Improving health

Many churches are involved in working with their communities to increase health.

2 villages have built entire clinics; **6** now have clean water, benefitting over **7000** people; and many other churches support local hospitals or begin community-based childcare centres to monitor the health of under-fives.

29 churches are also supporting **375** people living with HIV. Knowing the terrible impact of the disease, both physically and through the associated stigma, churches revived support groups for those with HIV/AIDS. These provide a safe space for those living with the illness so that they can care for each other, learn new skills and become agents of change in their communities. Community leaders and local health experts are involved, modelling an inclusive attitude for others to follow.



Spotlight: Looking to help the most vulnerable, churches from Ntcherenje and Lufita in Chitipa identified the health of under-fives. People had to travel over 10kms to find health services, a gruelling distance for small children and pregnant mothers. The churches at Lufita shared their idea for an under-five clinic with their community leaders, successfully won their support, and together mobilised the community, lobbied the government for permission, gathered resources and constructed their own under-five clinic together. The health surveillance assistant comes to this clinic every month to monitor the health of the pregnant mothers and to check that the children are thriving.

Inclusion

173 churches are supporting the most vulnerable in their community, treating them with dignity and love, enabling them to increase their self-reliance and to take an active part in community life. **113** churches are supporting **825** orphans; **118** churches are supporting **235** elderly people; **27** churches are supporting **2683** people living with disabilities; **82** churches are supporting **399** widows; and **64** churches are working with other households in poverty. They are also supporting and fighting stigma against those living with HIV (see left).

Spotlight: instead of ignoring or abusing those living with disabilities, Ntunthama church goes out of their way to show them love, include them in community life and give them hope for their future. Before meeting this church, life was very difficult for Emilia. Caring for her children alone with a disability in her legs that made it impossible to accomplish daily tasks, she was almost destitute, sheltering in a disintegrating hut that would not survive the rainy season.

As soon as they met her, Ntunthama church took action. Although living in poverty themselves, church members generously gave their time and little money to build her a better house of bricks, as well as giving her some bedding for the winter.

Emelia was so overwhelmed with joy she could hardly speak for smiling: **“Life has not been easy for us. I’m so thankful to the church for helping us through a huge challenge that I had in front of me.”**

