



Eagles

MALAWI SUPPORT



Thanks to Eagles' training, Kamkwenu, central Malawi, has diversified food and income sources, including beekeeping to make and sell honey.

MALAWI SUPPORT

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2023

A. Charity Details

Name: Malawi Support

Charity No: 1115747 - registered in England and Wales

Address: 32 Corston Lane, Corston, Bath BA2 9AE

Contact email: cathyjrjames@icloud.com

Trustees:

Chair – Tony Haines

Treasurer – Diane Haines

Trustee – Rick James

Trustee – Beverly Stark

Trustee – Nelson Kenneth

Trustee – Cathy James

B. Charity Structure

Malawi Support is a small charity, governed by six trustees. Trustees are selected to contribute a range of skills, knowledge and experience that is needed to perform the charity's duties in administering grants to Eagles Relief and Development Programme in Malawi (Eagles) and in monitoring the work and use of the funds. Current trustees have skills in finance, international development, education, organisation development, strategy and communications.

Trustees hold at least two ordinary meetings a year. New trustees are appointed by a resolution at a special trustee meeting. The charity keeps records of appointments, contact details and resignations.

C. Malawi Support's Aim

Malawi Support was established with the following object: to develop the capacity and skills of socially and economically disadvantaged communities in Malawi in such a way that they are better able to identify and help meet their needs and participate more fully in society; and in particular to support the charitable work of Eagles Relief and Development Programme.

D. Malawi Support 2023 Financial Review

Malawi Support's 2023 income was £74,342, 38% less than the previous year because of one-off gifts and a legacy grant for work with children in 2022. Total expenditure amounted to £110,736 as trustees agreed to transfer more to Eagles Malawi to balance reserves in line with the policy. Malawi Support was still able to carry over £81,978 to 2024.

In 2023, £106,591 went directly to Eagles' work in Malawi – 96% of Malawi Support's expenditure. Only 0.2% of expenditure went on administration, communications and fundraising. The funding for Eagles included the Malawi Support annual commitment to the national church and community mobilisation work, the Catalyse initiative supporting villages over three years, to emergency response and to provide a new second-hand vehicle for the work. Malawi Support intentionally covers core costs that are hard to fully meet through institutional donors.

E. Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity's policy is:

- to ensure that it can contribute to an annual agreed budget for Eagles national programme
- to retain enough surplus to use flexibly to respond to specific needs that arise, such as natural disasters and shortfalls in institutional funding
- to forecast giving for the next year, as far as feasible, to retain enough to support core commitments

F. Summary of the main activities in 2023

Public benefit

When planning our activities for the year, the Malawi Support trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and have ensured that the charity is compliant. Throughout its work, Malawi Support and Eagles ensure that projects reach those who are in need, regardless of their tribe, faith, ethnicity, gender or disability. Eagles aims to mobilise churches to work with their local communities to identify and find solutions to their own needs, encouraging them to develop methods of doing things that will last and supporting them in appropriate ways that do not create dependency. Eagles also equips churches and their communities to work with and lobby local and national government to take up their responsibilities, as well as partnering with non-government services.

The context in 2023

The work in 2023 took place in a very challenging context amidst rising cost of living in Malawi, exacerbated by the war in Ukraine and climate shocks, especially cyclone Freddy, which tore through 14 districts of Malawi in March 2023, wreaking physical and emotional devastation.

Malawi Support activities

Management and roll-out of Eagles' online Church and Community Mobilisation (CCM) course

Malawi Support continued to manage the Eagles online CCM course and its roll-out. A trustee and experienced volunteer enrolled participants, organised monthly peer learning meetings (involving Eagles CCM staff in the facilitation), marked participants' responses and follow-up actions for each session and carried out all the tech behind the course.

They supported firstly the Latin America pilot course, taking place in Spanish, that began in November 2022. 27 participants successfully completed the course and graduated in September 2023. They were from a range of organisations, churches and countries, including Argentina, Honduras, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Colombia and Bolivia.

They also enrolled a new cohort of English-speaking participants in June 2023, liaising with Tearfund and the Baptist Missionary Society to bring together people again from a range of organisations, continents and countries, including UK, Iraq, Nepal, Pakistan, Mozambique and West Africa. This cohort graduated in March 2024.

Malawi Support monitoring, technical support and advocacy:

- a) Monitoring and support of Eagles' work and leadership: In April 2023, two Malawi Support trustees visited Eagles to strengthen relationships following the Eagles' financial crisis in 2022; to monitor the impact of the work; to facilitate learning from the past year and understand plans for 2023; to review communications with supporters and gather stories and photos; and to expedite the purchase of a sturdy vehicle for the Central region.

The trustees facilitated learning meetings with CCM staff in the southern and central regions, and visited Eagles' work in the communities, including Govala and Mpyupyu in the Eastern region of Zomba and Kamkwenu in the Central Region. They spoke to survivors of Cyclone Freddy in the Zomba region and in Blantyre (photo right), seeing the massive impact of the disaster on communities and exploring how Malawi Support could respond.



They met with the Eagles management team both individually and then as a team and agreed with them a new Memorandum of Understanding and work plan for 2023. Outputs from the visit included the signed MOU, together with the annual budget and workplan; successful purchase of the new vehicle; a strategy for the cyclone response and agreement to extend the Catalyse programme to the Eastern region, including support to recruit a new CCM facilitator. It was also agreed that Malawi Support will involve the management team more in trustee visits in order to make sure the relationship between the two organisations is more widely owned than by CCM staff and the top leadership.

- b) Trustee meetings: During 2023, Malawi Support trustees met twice formally – in May and October to review progress and approve the annual report and accounts. They also communicated consistently with each other and with Eagles through emails and calls. Trustees also agreed to open a new bank account at an ethical bank, Triodos, to handle the charity's main transactions. This account was opened in December 2023 and funds transferred to it for the new year.
- c) Communications with supporters: Malawi Support produced three good quality newsletters in 2023. These covered: feedback on the impact of the Catalyse programme in the Central region and its expansion to neighbouring areas; Eagles' response to cyclone Freddy, including in supporting mental health through psychosocial support; and how Eagles' work is protecting and empowering children who suffer most in times of disaster and scarcity.

In February 2023, Malawi Support held a wine and cheese party to thank Bath-based supporters for their ongoing commitment. Eagles' CCM coordinators joined by Zoom from Malawi to update people on progress and share stories of impact. Two Malawi Support trustees visited Cosham Baptist Church in March to share about Eagles work. One trustee provided feedback on Eagles' work at All Saints Weston Bath services. And a trustee also facilitated an assembly for Kingswood School, Bath, in November, giving children and staff both information and experience of Eagles' approach and receiving much positive feedback.

Eagles activities 2023 core-funded by Malawi Support

Church and Community Mobilisation (CCM)

In 2023, Eagles continued to work with local churches and communities, mobilising and empowering them to take responsibility for their own development and address social and economic challenges they face to achieve change.

Eagles CCM approach in 2023 helped a total of 208,150 people through 490 local churches. 52% of the churches were part of Living Waters, Eagles' umbrella church, and 48% were from a range of other denominations. Through CCM, Eagles helped people across the whole country: 46% of the churches and their communities were in the northern region; 16% in the southern; 12% in the eastern; and 26% in the Central. Eagles helps people of all faiths and none. Its CCM approach trains churches to work with community leaders and members of all faiths.

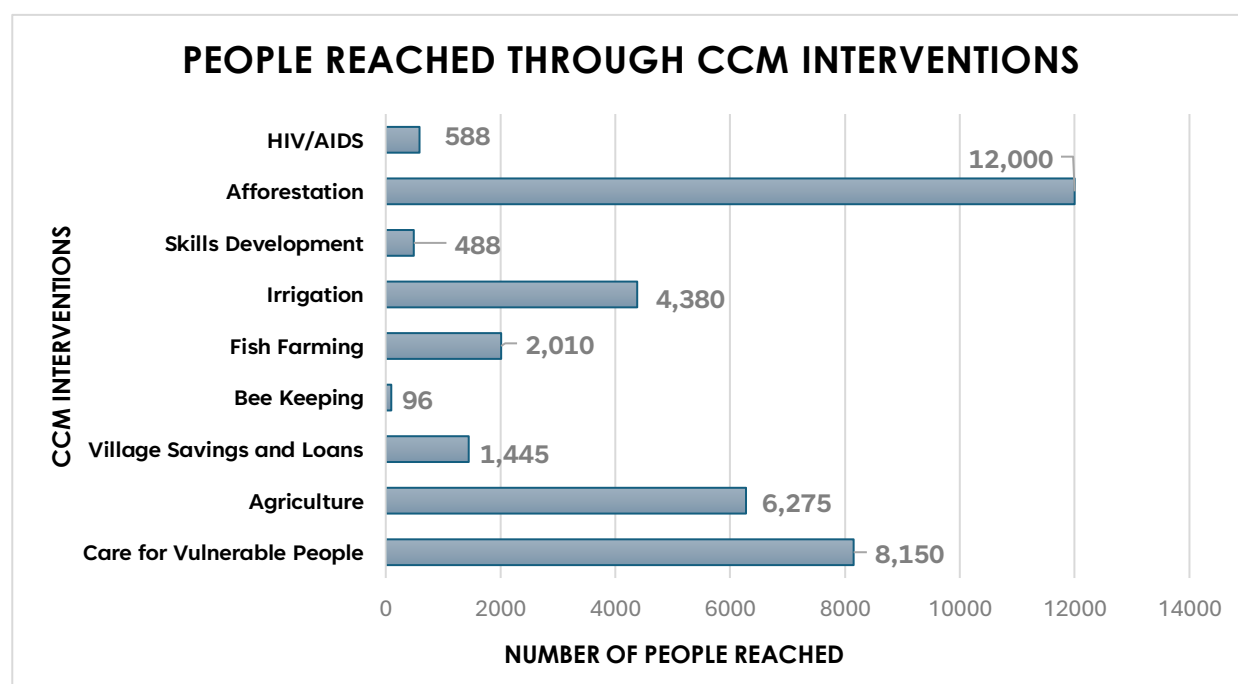
Eagles' CCM activities funded by Malawi Support in 2023 included:

- Disaster response: Eagles helped people with immediate needs, galvanising churches and partners to provide immediate lifesaving and life-sustaining help. But it also supported people towards medium- and long-term recovery, helping churches provide psychosocial and spiritual support. Ekhayi (photo right) has not given up, despite all the challenges she faces. She says:
"I find hope in reading the Bible. I've been reflecting on the story of Job – he lost everything, but he held onto his faith in God and He restored everything."
- National mobilisation of churches: envisioning and training churches to understand their responsibility to work with their communities to bring about holistic transformation; providing refresher training and monitoring visits and calls; and planning with Zomba region church leaders the response to cyclone Freddy. In total, Eagles trained 136 CCM facilitators in 2023 (86 men and 50 women)
- The Catalyse programme in the central region: providing in-depth CCM training to church leaders and facilitators to equip them to bring about mindset change in their congregations and to take action to address issues with their communities; making follow-up visits; carrying out training in honey harvesting and processing, permaculture and soap-making; reviewing progress with Village Savings and Loans groups; and facilitating a learning visit to Mchinji to learn from a cooperative producing cooking oil. Eagles also extended Catalyse from the 22 existing villages to reach 55 new villages.
- Child protection work: using funds passed on to Eagles from the closing of a street-connected children programme, Eagles carried out safeguarding and inclusion training in communities they were working with in the central and eastern regions. They worked with



62 church leaders and 117 children (66 boys and 51 girls) to understand risks and how they can respond and trained 26 people (16 men and 10 women) to act as Champions of Change, providing safe spaces for children. They also trained 49 people (24 women and 25 men) in responding to gender-based violence and 37 people responsible for Community Based Child Care Centres for the under-fives, including caregivers, management committee members and village chiefs.

Churches and communities carried out a range of activities, according to their local priorities. They planted trees and took other measures to protect the environment and mitigate climate shocks, such as buying irrigation pumps. They diversified food and income sources: practising permaculture, making their own fertiliser, carrying out mixed cropping, fish farming, taking part in Village Savings and Loans groups and carrying out small income generating activities like beekeeping. They improved village infrastructure and tackled health and hygiene issues, including access to water. They supported vulnerable children in school, set up youth clubs, ran child care centres for the under-fives, tackled violence/ abuse, provided counselling and created safe spaces for children to meet. They cared for vulnerable people in their community such as the elderly, those with disabilities and those with HIV/AIDS. The graph below shows the numbers reached and taking part in different CCM activities run by churches and communities.



Training church leaders in CCM

In 2023, Eagles trained 55 student church leaders (12 women and 43 men) in the Bible School in 'God's heart for the poor' (Integral Mission), equipping them in the CCM approach so they are able to work with their communities to respond to needs holistically. 322 trainee church leaders (92 women and 230 men) cumulatively have benefitted from this work over the past eight years (2016 to 2023).

Outcomes achieved through Eagles' work core-funded by Malawi Support

Communities brought about transformation in their standard of living, health, education, relationships and in their environment. Eagles helped communities become self-reliant and resilient, able to identify their problems, find lasting solutions and take action for themselves.

Improved relationships

Eagles helped communities become more inclusive of people facing stigma, such as those living with disabilities or with HIV/AIDS. They restored relationships by promoting safety and dignity, reducing harmful practices such as child marriage and domestic violence. In the face of cyclone Freddy's devastation, thanks to Eagles' training, leaders from different denominations and faiths came together to plan their response and pool their resources to repair houses.

In 2023, thanks to churches' safeguarding champions, trained by Eagles, police made four arrests in communities which formerly did not acknowledge that child abuse happened at all. For example, one pastor who spends his free time visiting churches and talking to them about how to keep their children safe, says: *"I will not let a case pass through my fingers again."*

Improved standard of living

Communities improved the amount and nutritiousness of their food (photo right – improved harvests in Kamkwenu, central region). They harvested fish and honey, reared and ate livestock, and made sure even the most vulnerable people had enough to eat. Lucy says:

"My household has changed a lot since Eagles' training. Before, I was very stressed due to the lack of things to feed my family. Now I am a happy person. I harvest a lot and am able to feed my family balanced food."



Improved environment

Trees planted by communities trained by Eagles, saved lives and crops in the wake of cyclone Freddy. Permaculture and homemade organic fertiliser has helped preserve soil fertility and improve crop production. Communities have developed plans to deal with climate shocks and used their training to support survivors from cyclone Freddy, providing emotional and spiritual support, as well as practical help.

Improved health

Eagles helped communities prevent and manage diseases better by improving hygiene, nutrition and access to clean water and health services. Some carried out their own health surveys and used the data to prioritise actions. They created new handwashing facilities and safer places to dry kitchen utensils. They built toilets and raised people's awareness on how to protect their health. They protected people from malaria, planting fruit in areas of 'grey' (waste) water.

Churches also took care of people's mental health, providing counselling, prayer and practical support.

"My mindset has completely changed. Before, I couldn't even think about the future. Now I can plan for the future of my family and my children. ... Now we are united with God and with each other." (Charity)

Improved education

Churches and communities, trained by Eagles, identified vulnerable children who needed additional support to go to school, providing them with uniforms and notebooks and paying their school funds. Vulnerable under-five children improved their safety by attending Community Based Childcare Centres.

Improved resilience

Eagles' work helps local churches and communities take the initiative to solve their own problems, shifting mindsets from dependency to problem-solving. They learn to recognise and use locally available resources, whether material, financial or identifying skills. Eagles helps ensure the sustainability of the approach by supporting local churches to set up Social Action Committees (SACs) to oversee and monitor the work with communities. In 2023, 292 were active (60%) and 198 inactive (40%)

G. Learning

Some of the key learning shared by Eagles staff in 2023 includes:

- Monitoring visits make people feel good – both the facilitator and the 'facilitatee' – and have a real impact. Visits show seriousness, love and hold people to account.
- Vision is so important: if people are clear about their vision, they work towards it and align all their activities to it. Vision helps to keep people committed.
- Transformation is a slow process in the community, and it can be frustrating. People do not leap into knowledge. It's important to encourage, practise patience and not get cross. People also learn from action and not just talking.
- When we train people, we have to leave room for their own talents and make sure our knowledge does not bury theirs – like a tree graft bringing together theirs with ours.
- Change of behaviour has to come from engaging heart, mind and spirit. Personal testimony can be useful to engage emotions – people don't change just because of knowledge. Stories of great success ('positive deviance') can be useful to learn what has made them better than others and take that learning to the rest of our work.
- It is important to showcase success –celebrating change, organising learning visits, and sharing ups and downs.
- You have to care about the one, as well as the strategic big picture
- Changing mindsets also comes by reflecting on the lies that we believe are a stumbling block – we need to map the internal journey people need to make in order to change.
- Stakeholder engagement is key: local communities, government and church. The church has a key role in catalysing and convening, which leads to others appreciating its role.
- Church Social Action Committees and their leadership are key to sustainability

Conclusion

Eagles' CCM work in 2023 was overshadowed in many districts by the terrible impact of cyclone Freddy. The disaster highlighted the importance of preparing for climate shocks and strengthening community resilience. Despite the challenges, Eagles CCM work reached over 200,000 people through a variety of initiatives, prioritised and owned by the communities themselves. Churches and their communities brought about impressive levels of transformation, using their own resources. They achieved lasting change in relationships, standard of living, health, education, resilience and in the environment Furthermore, the Eagles online CCM course helped extend Eagles' cost-effective and sustainable approach to other organisations and countries.



Approval of the trustees' report

Malawi Support's 2023 Annual Report and independently examined Financial Statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 14 October 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. E. Haines'.

Tony Haines
Board Chair