



Malawi Scotland Partnership (MaSP)
ANNUAL REPORT
2014-15



Supported by



Foreword:

Warm greetings members.

It gives me great pleasure to realise that another year has passed since we last met at an AGM. As I said in last year's annual report, one of the joys of preparing an annual report is that it gives us the opportunity to reflect both on our successes and challenges. I am thankful for all that has been accomplished during the past year. This report comes at a time when I am standing down as Chairperson of the MaSP Board along with other six Directors after being in that role for the past three years. Of course, the other six Directors are free to stand again for re-election as per the MaSP constitution. When I look back, I am overjoyed by the fact that I have seen MaSP move from one degree of growth to the next. This has been made possible with the support that I have enjoyed both from my fellow Directors and Staff. It was a journey worth travelling.

One of the successes registered in the year just gone by is the successful conclusion of the 2012-15 project funded the Scottish Government. This as you may know, comes after the start of the project had delayed by one and half years. I am happy for the MaSP Team that managed to achieve this success within a short space of time.

The above successes have not come without challenges. One of the challenges encountered during the year was that the Board did not meet as planned once every three months.



Dr Matthews Mtumbuka

Instead the Board met only once since the last AGM in January 2014. The reason for not meeting regularly was primary due to financial constraints. The Board believes that this challenge will not recur during the 2015-17 project which has also been funded by our trusted partner-the Scottish Government.

Finally, the Board is very optimistic that the secretariat will be able to achieve all its plans running through to March 2017 as was the case with the just ended project. I salute the MaSP team and congratulate them for the job well done.

**Dr Matthews Mtumbuka,
Chairperson
Malawi Scotland Partnership**



Delegates at the 2015 MaSP Symposium





4 million
Malawians indirectly benefit

2 million
Malawians directly benefit

94,000 Scots & 198,000 Malawians involved

46%
of Scots have a friend with a Malawi link

74%
of Scots support Malawi links

300,000 Scots benefit

Every £1 from the Scottish Government unleashes £10 from Scottish civil society

Scottish Government Scottish civic society

£40 million from Scottish communities

4x awareness of Malawi links than any other country

MaSP Activity 2014-15:

Membership

As at March 31st 2015, MaSP had 271 members (224 institutions and 47 individuals). It is important to note that over the same time last year, MaSP had 192 members (171 institutions- and 21 individuals). This means MaSP has registered a growth of 79 members in just one year. This is a positive development for an organization which is membership based.

Communication and Resource Centres:

The year saw the establishment of two Communication and Resource Centres (CRCs) in Mzuzu and Blantyre in August and September, 2014 respectively. The CRCs have proven to be very important to our members especially those from the two cities because they are now able to access information on Scotland, communicate with their partners in Scotland among other things for free. Since the CRCs were established, a total of 402 visits have been recorded in Blantyre and 753 visits in Mzuzu as at 31st March 2015.

Strand Meetings:

Since the last AGM, Strand meetings were introduced in March 2014. The Strand meetings are a forum where NGOs that are implementing projects with funding from the Scottish Government come together every three months to share lessons and experiences for improved project delivery. The meetings are chaired by Government of Malawi Strand Leads for Health, Education, Sustainable Economic Development and Civic Society and Governance. As at 31st March, 2015, 16 Strand meetings have been held with a total of 116 members attending. The Strand meetings have been very crucial to both the Government of Malawi and project implementers in two ways. Firstly, the Government is able to monitor progress of projects in the four strands through presentations and reports. Secondly, the implementers are able to access policy information from Government to ensure that project activities are aligned to the Government of Malawi development framework and priorities.

MaSP Registration:

Another important event that happened after the last AGM is the registration of MaSP with the NGO Board in May 2014 as per legal requirement. This means MaSP is now registered with both the NGO Board and CONGOMA following the registration with CONGOMA in November, 2013. The significance of MaSP registration with the two institutions is that MaSP will now be recognised by key stakeholders including donors.

2014 National Symposium:

The 2014 National Symposium was held on 30th January, 2015 in Lilongwe under the theme "Priorities in Partnership: Connecting, Sharing and Learning" and it was hosted by MaSP for the Government of Malawi and the Scottish Government. NGOs that are implementing various projects with funding from the Scottish Government met with the Government of Malawi to update the latter on progress of those projects. In addition, implementers themselves shared lessons, experiences and challenges in order to enhance project delivery. A total of 70 members attended.

The event was designed around feedback from the 2014 symposium, with an expanded full-day programme and four core aims:

- (1) Increasing mutual awareness: including updates from the Government of Malawi, the Scottish Government, MaSP and the SMP, and time for projects to learn about one and others' work.
- (2) Networking and learning: with good time for informal networking and the sharing of learning between projects.
- (3) Building connections with the Government of Malawi: with time to get to know the four Strand Leaders and learn about the latest governmental policies and priorities.
- (4) Supporting projects: with time for discussions around common challenges, shared learning and solutions which can be taken forwards.

MaSP Website:

The MaSP website was developed in April, 2014 and this has also helped to raise MaSP's profile tremendously as evidenced by the number of hits. For example, as at 31st March 2015 over 6,000 hits were recorded on the website; 8,000 on facebook and 140 followers on twitter. The development of the website has also helped enhance the credibility of MaSP as an organization.

Member Capacity Building:

The member capacity building was conducted during the year under review in form of project cycle management and advocacy training in all the three regions in Blantyre, Lilongwe and Mzuzu from June to August, 2014. A total of 53 people attended the training which strengthened their project management and advocacy skills.

2014-15 month by month:

April 2014:

- Education Strand meeting, with 23 attendees bringing together projects funded by the Scottish Government and the Strand Leader.
- Successfully recruited Clement Masangano, after Margaret Banjo returned to the UK.
- Met with the Democracy Consolidation Fund, the EU delegation in Malawi, the Malawi Economic Justice Network, the Civil Society Network on Climate Change and Action Aid in Malawi.
- Supported UNICEF with a video shoot at the Sunbird Capital Hotel in Lilongwe which was aired at the opening ceremony of the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games. MaSP supported the involvement of a local school (Minga Community Day Secondary School) with links to Scotland and provided Scottish flags for the video.

May 2014:

- Completed registration of MaSP with Non-Governmental Organisation Board
- Began development of advocacy strategy.
- Member capacity building training course in Project Cycle Management in Blantyre. Fully booked, attended by 18 members. See [course information](#).

June 2014:

- Health Strand meeting, with 14 attendees.
- Education Strand meeting with 11 attendees.
- Civic Governance Strand meeting.
- Member capacity building training course in Project Cycle Management in Mzuzu. Fully booked, attended by 14 members. See [course information](#).

July 2014:

- Full MaSP Board meeting

August 2014:

- Member capacity building training course in Project Cycle Management in Lilongwe. Fully booked, attended by 21 members. See [course information](#).
- Disseminated report published by the university of Edinburgh highlighting that 4.3m people are benefiting from the relationship between Malawi

and Scotland and published in the Daily Times of 1 August

- Purchased essential ICT equipment for Communication Resource Centres and recruited two CRC Assistants.
- CRCs in Mzuzu and Blantyre opened.

September 2014:

- Supported University of Dundee research in Malawi looking at Scotland-Malawi engagements in the extractive industries.
- Civic Governance Strand meeting.
- Education Strand meeting.
- Health Strand meeting with 19 attendees.
- Sustainable Economic Development Strand meeting with 11 attendees.

October 2015:

- Promoted the Scottish Government's Small Grants Programme in various media outlets online and in the Malawi daily newspapers.
- Promoted the David Livingstone Scholarships.
- Assisted Bell Geo Space a Scottish company based in Edinburgh, Scotland connecting them to airport officials to enable them to conduct an aerial geophysical survey over Malawi.
- Facilitated the donation of 425 books worth £20,000 from University of Glasgow Caledonia to two universities in Malawi.

November 2014:

- Blantyre Regional Cluster meeting, attended by 45 organisations, which elected a local chair, secretary and treasurer, as well as leads for each of the four Strands. The regional clusters were formulated to be self-sustaining and so far the Southern region cluster has held two meetings since.
- MaSP met with had a meeting with DFID Malawi head (Jen Marshal) and Governance advisor (Adamson Mkandawire) in Lilongwe.
- Participated in the Alternative Mining Indaba organised by the Citizens for Justice and Action Aid in Malawi with support from the Tilitonse Fund and Norwegian Church Aid.

- Mzuzu Regional Cluster meeting, attended by 31 organisations, which elected a local chair, secretary and treasurer, as well as leads for each of the four Strands. The regional clusters were formulated to be self-sustaining.

December 2014:

- Supported visit of SMP Member Development Officer, various meetings across Malawi to support business, investment, trade and tourism links between Malawi and Scotland, including meetings in Mzuzu with the Mzuzu Coffee Cooperative

January 2015:

- Meeting with David Hope-Jones, the British High Commissioner and the Head of DFID Malawi.
- “*Together in Partnership: The National Symposium for Scottish Government Malawi Grant Partners*” was attended by 70+ delegates from around 40 Malawian organisations funded by the Scottish Government. The event aimed to: increase mutual awareness; support networking and learning; build connections with the government; share experience from the recent floods; and support projects through discussions around common challenges and shared solutions. See [Event Report](#).

February 2015:

- MaSP met with members of the Scottish Parliament in Blantyre and Lilongwe: Liam McArthur MSP, James Dornan MSP, David McGill, Margaret and Elaine Smith MSP
- The southern region cluster held a self-organising committee at the Grace Bandawe conference Centre. In attendance were 10 members.
- MaSP held central region cluster meeting at the Kamuzu College of Nursing. The meeting was attended by 20 members. The meeting among other things elected cluster committee leaders, developed tentative Terms of Reference and preliminary plan of action.
- Meeting with Link Community Development in Dedza. The meeting reviewed a report called Dedza District School Performance Review Report (SPR).
- The SPR is conducted using 17 indicators under teaching and learning, Leadership and management instrument, School Governance Instrument and Child Friendly School instrument. [Click here to read a full report](#)

March 2015:

- Civic Governance and Society Strand meeting, with 6 attendees.
- Education Strand meeting, with 10 attendees.
- Sustainable Economic Development Strand meeting, with 9 attendees.
- Health Strand meeting.



Delegates at the 2015 MaSP Symposium

SCALE of Malawi's links with Scotland

In November 2010 the University of Edinburgh conducted an [independent analysis](#) of the scale and impact of the links represented under the Scotland Malawi Partnership umbrella.

In July 2014, to mark Team Malawi's arrival at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games, the university [published updated figures](#), based on a repeat study, allowing them to observe trends through recent years. This updated study, found that an estimated:

- **94,000+ Scots are actively involved in links** with Malawi (an increase of 10.5% since 2010);
- 198,000+ Malawians are actively involved in links with Scotland (an increase of 33.7% since 2010);
- **SMP members contribute more than £40 million** in finance and in-kind inputs to their Malawi links (an increase of 33.3% since 2010).

"Almost half of all Scots personally know someone with a link to Malawi."

"From Shetland to Dumfries, from Peterhead to Lewis, this is a unique national effort by the PEOPLE of Scotland."

As a separate exercise, the SMP also commissioned a study to assess Scottish awareness of, engagement with, and attitudes towards these Malawi links, with 516 randomly selected Scots interviewed between June and September 2014.

[This study](#) found that:

- There is four times greater awareness of Scotland's links with Malawi than any other African country;
- **46% of Scots personally know someone actively involved in a link with Malawi;**
- There is an incredible diversity in the links which exist, with more than 40 *different* types of engagements between Scotland and Malawi named by participants;
- **74% of Scots are in favour of links with Malawi (55.4% "strongly" in favour), and only 2.4% are against.**

From Shetland to Dumfries, from Peterhead to Lewis, this is a unique national effort by the *people* of Scotland.



Mphatso Nguluwe speaking about the MaSP PARTNERSHIP Principles

COORDINATION of Malawi's links with Scotland

The Malawi Scotland Partnership (MaSP) is the national civil society network coordinating, representing and supporting the people-to-people links between Malawi and Scotland. We represent an estimated community of 148,000 Malawians with active links to Scotland.

We have more than **271 member organisations** and key individuals. In Scotland, our sister organisation has more than 670 members, including half of Scotland's local authorities, every Scottish university and most of its colleges, 150 primary and secondary schools, dozens of different churches and faith-based groups, hospitals, businesses, charities and NGOs, and a wide range of grass-root community-based organisations.

We exist to **inspire the people and organisations of Malawi** to be involved with Scotland in an informed, coordinated and effective way for the benefit of both nations. We do this by providing a forum where ideas, activities and information can be shared on our website, and through regular forums, training events and strand meetings.

"Put simply, there is no comparable bilateral relationship anywhere in the world. It is admired and emulated across the globe."

Our project is to **build connections and collaboration**, on a multi-sectoral basis, between two small nations in ways that are transformational for both. There is no template for doing this. So far as we know, we are the first to develop this model of partnership.

Like many of our members, we are funded by the Scottish Government, as part of its International Development Fund. While we work closely with, and are core funded by, the Scottish Government we remain an entirely **independent charity, external of government**. We are Malawi led and Malawi owned, governed by a Board of Directors elected from our membership.

Our members' work is underpinned by the historic bilateral civil society relationship which is based not on 'donors' and 'recipients' but on long-standing, mutually-beneficial community to community, family to family and people to people links. It is a 156 year old relationship built on mutual trust, understanding and respect.

This is a **new and innovative mode of international development** and a powerful force for change.

Put simply, there is no comparable bilateral relationship anywhere in the world. It is admired and emulated across the globe.



Welcoming visiting MSPs from the Scottish Parliament

IMPACT of Malawi's links with Scotland

Malawi's many links with Scotland are defined by mutual understanding, mutual respect and mutual benefit. This last point is significant, for it is this reciprocity that makes this a genuinely dignified two-way partnership, not a charity. Both nations contribute and both nations benefit.

All those involved in Malawi- Scotland links believe in this spirit of mutual benefit but, until 2010 it had gone untested and unproven. The University of Edinburgh then set about examining this claim of mutual benefit, looking at what *impact* these many links were having on the ground.

The University of Edinburgh found that these people-to-people links, while often seemingly modest in scale individually, when brought together had an incredible overall impact.

In November 2010 the [University of Edinburgh](#) found that:

1.38 million Malawians
were benefitting from these
civic links with Scotland each year

280,000 Scots
were benefitting from the
Malawi partnerships annually

Almost four years later, the University of Edinburgh undertook the same study again, using the same methodology but this time disaggregating between 'direct' and 'indirect' beneficiaries in Malawi.

In July 2014 the [University of Edinburgh](#) found that:

2 million Malawians
were *directly* benefitting
from these civic links with
Scotland each year
[an increase of 31% in under four
years]

4 million Malawians
were *indirectly* benefitting
from these civic links with
Scotland each year

300,000 Scots
were benefitting
from the Malawi
partnerships annually
[an increase of 7% in under four
years]

More than 300,000 Scots themselves BENEFIT from their links to Malawi each year

...that's enough to fill Kamuzu Stadium six times over!



In total, more than 4.3 million Scots and Malawians benefit in some way from their work together each year. We always say that Malawians and Scots work hand in hand together but if all 4.3 million *literally* stood hand in hand together...

... we would stretch three times around lake Malawi!



DISINCTIVE FEATURES of Malawi's links with Scotland

In his recent paper "[Malawi, Scotland and a Relational Approach to International Development](#)", Rev Prof Kenneth R. Ross identified four distinct characteristics of the links between Scotland and Malawi:

(1) The Priority of the Relational:

"Promoting a people-to-people model of development, focusing on active relationships between individuals, communities, families, businesses etc to foster a shared understanding of the development challenges. This is an approach to development which not only addresses material considerations but also answers the cry for human dignity."



(2) The Mobilisation of civil society:

"Ordinary people and local communities are mobilised to offer their time, energy, resources, experience and expertise to Scotland and Malawi's shared effort. This is not to usurp the role of development professionals but it is to place their work in the context of strong popular ownership and involvement. It represents a vote of confidence in the people and in their capacity for active participation in the close relationship between two nations committed to working together for the common good."



(3) A reciprocal partnership for development:

"The Cooperation Agreement between Scotland and Malawi sets out the basis on which the two nations plan to work together: 'Both countries share a wish to build upon this history by actively engaging through partnership. This is a reciprocal partnership based upon sharing experiences and skills. It is an opportunity to learn from each other and to recognise the needs of our two countries' "



(4) Government in synergy with people:

"A creative synergy has been forged between popular activism and Government engagement. The Government-to-Government relationship draws its vitality and finds its effectiveness from the multitude of links made by civil society— schools, universities, health boards, local government, community groups, faith-based organisations, and so on."





Major areas of Scotland-Malawi Cooperation

Malawi's many links with Scotland are celebrated for their scale, their bottom-up community-drive, and, perhaps above all, their incredible diversity. A [2014 research study](#) interviewed 516 randomly selected Scots; of the 237 who personally knew someone with a Malawi partnership, more than 40 *different* types of Malawi links were cited.

To give some small sense of the sheer diversity and range of links between Scotland and Malawi, we outline here 15 of the most common areas of partnership and, for each, give three quick Scottish case studies from the hundreds available. For full information about all 683 of Scotland's links with Malawi, please visit:

www.scotland-malawipartnership.org/members.html



Agriculture and Trade

Like many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, agriculture is a critical sector for the Malawian economy. It represents up to 85% of the labour force, 35% of GDP, 90% of foreign exports and 65% of raw material for industry.

There are a number of Scottish organisations with active and innovative agricultural and trade partnerships with Malawi. These partnerships are with local institutions in Malawi like co-operatives and farmer associations, offering grass-roots solutions that are people-centric, helping strengthen the agricultural sector in Malawi to reduce poverty and hunger. Through two-way shared learning these links not only improve food security and resilience, but also provide much needed opportunities for sustainable livelihoods through the cultivation and sale of fairly traded cash crops, such as coffee, tea, sugar, rice, fruit and paprika.



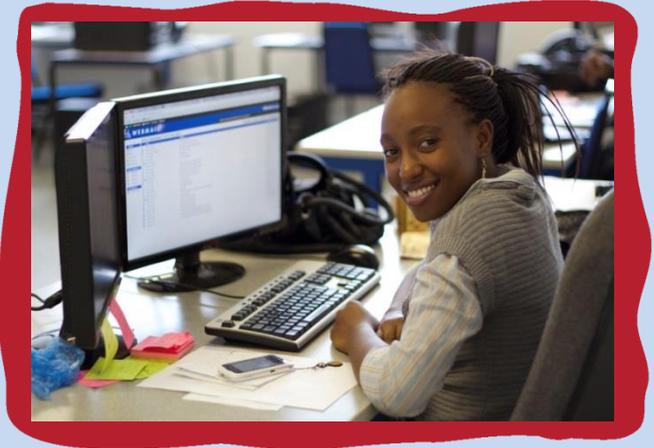
For example:

- [GALVmed](#) has transformed Malawi into the regional hub for the development of cattle vaccines, protecting livelihoods and food security for hundreds of thousands.
- [Scotland's Rural College](#) (SRUC) has half a dozen or more different initiatives with Malawi, helping share learning to increase sustainable dairy production.
- [The Cooperative College](#) is helping build capacity of the cooperative movement in Malawi, helping smallholder farmers get the best return from their crop.

Sustainable Economic Development

150 years ago Livingstone pioneered 'legitimate trade' between Africa and the Northern hemisphere as an alternative to the slave trade. Today, many Scottish organisations are supporting private sector growth in Malawi through active partnerships.

There are innovative new links between Scotland and Malawi in business, trade, investment and tourism; supporting sustainable economic development through values-led engagements with the private sector. Scottish organisations are building strong Scottish markets for Malawian exports like coffee, sugar and tea; Scots are investing in Malawi as individuals (from £10 of crowdfunding to millions from high net-worth individuals); business leaders are sharing and mentoring to support Malawian enterprise; and Scots are successfully lobbying the UK and EU Parliament to address trade injustices.



Scottish

For example:

- [Just Trading Scotland](#) works with Scottish local authorities to get Malawian Kilobero rice into Scottish schools, as part of an integrated education programme.
- [Challenges Worldwide](#) is doing incredible work building the capacity of Malawian businesses by sharing Scottish expertise; this is bringing in more new investment almost every day.
- [Malawi Fruits](#) is providing start up finance, training and support to local farmers and community enterprises to enable them to secure their futures, increasing household income for school fees and health care.



Arts and Culture

David Livingstone was, arguably, Scotland's greatest cultural ambassador. His legacy lives on in the contemporary cultural links which unite our two countries.

Scotland has incredibly vibrant cultural industries and creative economies, estimated to be worth over £2.8 billion. For decades, Scots and Malawians have been active in two-way cultural sharing and celebrations: promoting and helping understand our heritage and national identities.

Such cultural sharing between Scots and Malawians is generating new revenues and helping inspire and inform other sectors such as science, technology and civil society. Both our nations are master storytellers, promoting our history and people through films, books, poems, art, music and events. Bringing artists and creative practitioners together from both countries is yielding exciting results.

For example:

- [National Museums Scotland](#) have had a strong partnership with Museums of Malawi, building capacity in Malawi to develop cultural exhibits and working together on a joint David Livingstone exhibition in both countries.
- [The Lake of Stars](#) is one of Africa's biggest and best music and cultural festivals, bringing millions of pounds into the Malawian economy over the last 10 years through Scotland-Malawi cultural sharing.
- [I Love Scolawi](#) has brought young Scots and young Malawians together in a collaborative art project, allowing young people to reflect and learn, capturing the spirit of friendship which unites us.

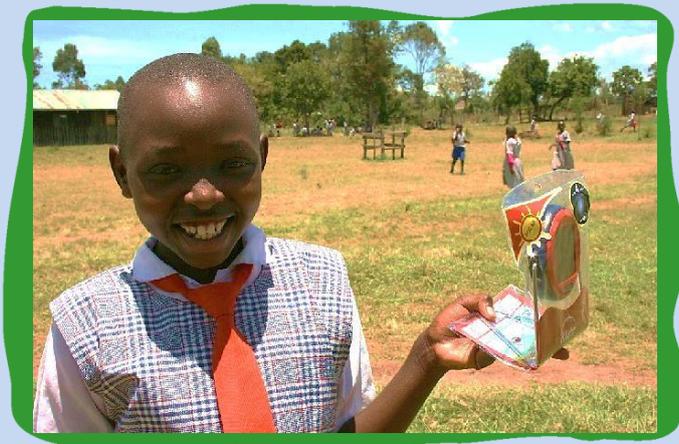
Diaspora

The Malawian diaspora are an essential and integral part of Scotland's special relationship with Malawi. There are thousands of Malawians across Scotland: an active and vibrant community with a unique cultural insight into both our nations. The Malawian diaspora have led with the annual Malawi Independence Day celebrations, including many [special events](#) in 2014 marking 50 years of Malawian independence'



For example:

- [The Malawi initiative for National Development](#) (MIND) has been supporting professionals in the Malawi diaspora community to volunteer back in Malawi, sharing their specialist skills and expertise.
- [The Association of Malawians in Scotland](#) has been bringing Malawians together from across Scotland to represent key issues, coordinate work and help raise funds where needed.
- [Malawians in Aberdeen](#) is helping Malawians in the north-east of Scotland to come together to promote sharing, enhance cultural understanding and support development initiatives.



Environment and Energy

Malawi is one of the world's most vulnerable countries to climate change, and amazingly only 9% of Malawians have access to electricity.

Scotland-Malawi links are playing a critical role in developing stronger community-based approaches to environmental sustainability.

Scotland is providing support and expertise to the Malawian energy sector through technology and knowledge exchange; providing training and showcasing models of sustainable community development.

Scotland's world leading [Climate Justice Fund](#) is bringing a human rights and social justice approach to climate adaptation: 80% of all Scotland's climate justice projects are with Malawi. At the request of the UN, the people of Scotland are playing a key role in the UN's [Sustainable Energy For All](#) initiative.

For example:

- [Community Energy Scotland](#) is empowering Malawian communities to adopt appropriate renewable energy technologies.
- [Malawi Renewable Energy Acceleration Project](#) is bringing Scottish universities and NGOs together in a national effort to accelerate the growth of community and renewable energy development in Malawi.
- [Scotland Lights Up Malawi](#) is bringing the Scottish business community together with Keep Scotland Beautiful and SolarAid to bring small solar lights to school children and communities across Malawi.

Faith

Faith-based groups play a key role in civic society in both our nations: holding leaders to account, inspiring our cultural life, bringing communities together, and informing our response to adversity.

The genesis of Scotland-Malawi linking was through faith-based links, established soon after the first Scottish missionaries travelled to Malawi in the 19th century. The link between the Church of Scotland and the Church of the Central African Presbytery (CCAP) in Malawi remain as strong now, as it was over 100 years ago, and has been further supported by partnerships in other denominations and faiths.



For example:

- [The Church of Scotland](#) continues to support missionaries and a whole host of development projects in Malawi including in health, HIV and AIDS, education and theological training.
- [EMMS International](#) is a Christian healthcare charity fighting HIV and AIDS, supporting palliative care, supporting student bursaries and training clinical officers, nurses and midwives.
- [St Kenneth's](#), is just one of hundreds of churches across Scotland with active links to Malawi, it supports infrastructure in six villages, including essential bore-holes, schools, and enterprises designed to lift people out of poverty.



Further and Higher Education

When Malawi became independent in 1964 there was not a single university in the country. Now there are a number of public and private institutions but all are acutely under-resourced.

Almost every university in Scotland has at least one link to Malawi. This is a defining sector in Scotland-Malawi linking. The SMP is currently promoting [more than 40 FE and HE links](#) between Scotland and Malawi in 15 Scottish universities. These partnerships promote economic and social development;

facilitate the sharing of knowledge, experience and expertise; and make

a valuable contribution towards sustainable poverty alleviation.

For example:

- [The University of Strathclyde's](#) Malawi Millennium Project has more than a dozen separate initiatives, each based on self-help and sustainability, transforming the lives of tens of thousands and teaching generations of Malawian teachers, nurses, scientists, technicians and engineers.
- [The University of Edinburgh](#) has more than six different Malawi links, including an innovative e-learning programme which is transforming medical and healthcare professional education in Malawi.
- [The University of Glasgow](#) has nine different Malawi projects, including Students Volunteer Abroad which supports students to volunteer in Malawi, working with local communities on sustainable projects for the relief of poverty.

Gender

Scotland and Malawi both believe that, as well as a human right, gender equality is integral to all development efforts, for there is a close correlation between gender disparity and poverty. Gender equality matters for *all* Scotland-Malawi links.

In recent years gender in Scotland-Malawi links has moved from being just about gender equality (for example, equal numbers of men and women entering education) to a focus on the empowerment of women, enabling them to express their opinions and make informed choices, rather than focussing solely on quotas and economic gain. Dozens of different collaborations have offered the chance to reflect on what has and hasn't worked to this end in both Scotland and Malawi. Our two nations continue to share and learn together on this topic in a dignified two-way partnership.



For example:

- [The Active Learning Centre](#), working with Members of the Scottish Parliament, has a programme of capacity building, training and support for Malawi's Women's Parliamentary Caucus, empowering Malawian MPs.
- [The Mamie Martin Fund](#) is a small Scottish charity which has supported more than 1,500 girls through their education in Malawi.
- [The Micro-loan Foundation Scotland](#) provides loans, training and mentoring services to women living below the poverty line in rural Malawi.



Governance

Good governance is as essential in Malawi as it is in Scotland, for a strong economy, empowered citizenry, and accountable government. Scotland-Malawi links are contributing towards good governance principles and practice in Malawi, prioritising accountability, transparency and civil society participation.

For example:

- [The Scottish Parliament's](#) Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (Scotland Branch) has been linking MSPs and Malawian MPs for almost a decade, sharing learning, building capacity and strengthening systems.
- [Challenges Worldwide's](#) Capacity Building for Justice programme built links between justice institutions in Scotland and their counterparts in Malawi, providing institutional support, targeted training, coaching and mentoring.
- [The Active Learning Centre](#) is training trainers to deliver courses for elected Local Councillors, building capacity and strengthening good governance in local authorities.

Health

For more than a century Scots and Malawians have been working together to improve healthcare and fight disease. While there have been a great many successes, sadly many of the worst diseases we were fighting a century ago, like Malaria, are still all too prevalent today and a number of new diseases like HIV and AIDS have appeared.

From training health professionals in medical colleges, to assisting HIV and AIDS prevention clinics, and supporting community-based medicine in rural areas at every stage and at every level Scots and Malawians are working together to improve health outcomes.



There are more than 150 health-related partnerships between Scotland and Malawi.

For example:

- [The Meningitis Research Foundation](#) is delivering a proven health package for early recognition, treatment and referral of severely ill children in community health centres.
- [NHS Lothian](#) is working with Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in Blantyre to improve breast cancer treatment in Malawi.
- [The Scotland-Malawi Mental Health Education Project](#) is giving sustainable support for psychiatric teaching and training for healthcare professionals in Malawi.



Local Authorities

Malawi's local elections took place in May 2014, after a decade-long hiatus. Scotland is now actively involved supporting newly elected councillors and building capacity, encouraging the growth of local democracy, improving effective service delivery and strengthening community engagement.

Today, half of Scotland's local authorities are members of the Scotland Malawi Partnership and are involved with Malawi links. Some local authorities have formal twinning arrangements, some promote Malawian fair trade

produce, some help schools embed their Malawi links into the curriculum, and some run their own projects.

For example,

- [Glasgow City Council](#) is actively twinned with Lilongwe due to the strong commitment of successive Lord Provosts; the Council has many different projects including the award winning Malawi Leader of Learning Programme.
- [North Lanarkshire Council](#) has a number of Malawi links which actively involve the Provost, including the innovative Healthy Lifestyle Project and the inspiring Aiming Higher in Malawi project.
- [Fife Council](#) was twinned with Team Malawi in the Commonwealth Games 'Support a Second Team' initiative because of the sheer number of primary and secondary school links with Malawi in Fife.

Primary and Secondary Education

School Partnerships have been at the very centre of the bilateral relationship for more than two decades. Today, more than 150 Scottish primary and secondary schools have active and vibrant links. The benefits of school partnerships go far beyond individual teachers and students, they allow school communities in both Scotland and Malawi to learn, understand other cultures better and feel connected in our global society.

Such links, and a focus on good global citizenship, are an integral part of the Curriculum for Excellence, with Education Scotland extolling the many benefits of such links and making clear their expectations for all schools in Scotland to follow this lead. Indeed, Education Scotland now has its own formal partnership with Malawi: a cooperation agreement sharing learning, experience and support for school inspection services.

Decades of schools links with Malawi have created whole generations of Scots growing up with a greater sense of the challenges faced in the developing world, Scotland's place as a responsible nation, and the many similarities and commonalities which unite us. They have inspired new generations to think differently, and act differently.

For example:

- [Beath High School](#) is just one of the 150+ Scottish schools with an active Malawi link; since 2009 hundreds of young Scots and thousands in their community have been involved in this link which is driven by mutual respect and mutual understanding.
- [Link Community Development International](#) is a Scottish NGO which since 2006 has been developing and delivering high-quality school improvement programmes in two districts of Malawi
- [Mary's Meals](#) is an incredible Scottish success story; it has inspired millions around the world and today provides basic school meals for 740,700 Malawian children, driving up enrollment across the country.



Sport

There is something wonderfully universal and unifying about Sport. Its simplicity and passion transcends borders; it promotes cohesion, enhances tolerance and mutual understanding; and it inspires people to act. When David Livingstone first arrived in what became Malawi, it is reported he travelled with a football, and 156 years later football continues to unite our two nations.

In 2014, when Glasgow hosted the Commonwealth Games, it was Team Malawi that was the first team into the athlete's village: a great honour signifying the strength of our friendship. This is an unshakeable friendship: it even survived when, one week later, Malawi's world renowned netball team knocked Scotland out of the tournament! When it became apparent Team Malawi's bicycles were insufficient during the Games, Scots, young and old rallied, to [donate new bikes](#) for the team, not just for the Games but to support Malawi cycling for years to come. There are hundreds of different connections that use sport and physical activity to bring Scots and Malawians together, fostering mutual understanding and collaboration.

For example:

- [The Scottish Football Association](#) has a partnership with the Malawi Football Association, announced by the First Minister and the President of Malawi in 2013, developing a joint coaching programme.
- [Livingstone's Living Legacy](#) is an art exhibition at Hampden Park composed of photos by young Malawians and Scots, celebrating our shared love of football.
- [The David Livingstone Centre](#) in Blantyre hosts special sports days to education and inspire local schools about the travels of David Livingstone, and the contemporary links between Scotland and Malawi.



Water

Access to safe, clean and sustainable water supplies is essential for life. Thankfully, this is not something Scotland lacks. Far from it!

Collaborations between Scotland and Malawi in water, sanitation and hygiene are well established. From large university-led research projects and INGOs advancing national-level change, to grassroots community-owned initiatives supporting individual bore holes, Scotland-Malawi links are contributing towards improved health, sanitation and infrastructure. The Scottish Government's Climate Justice Fund, as part of the Hydro Nation initiative, has supported eight new initiatives with Malawi which are working alongside local communities, government officials and researchers to transform access to safe, clean water across the country.



For example:

- [WaterAid](#) in Scotland is supporting communities to repair broken wells and hand-pumps across Malawi, bringing safe water to 44,000 and improving sanitation for 105,000.
- [Strathclyde University](#) is working in Malawi to make rural communities more resilient, make the government more aware of hydrological systems, and helping map Malawi's water infrastructure.
- [SCIAF](#) is helping drive forwards water management best practice in Malawi by building on joint research, mobilizing communities, and helping rural communities increase their access to safe water.



Young people

With over half of Malawi's population under the age of 25, young people aren't just Malawi's future; they are its present as well. Many of the challenges they face, and the stories they tell, strongly resonate amongst young people in Scotland and across the globe.

Whether through international volunteering opportunities, fundraising efforts, university exchanges or curriculum-based learning at school, youth links between Scotland and Malawi are stronger now than ever before. People-to-people links between young Scots and young Malawians are challenging

assumptions and prejudices; they're moving our understanding of poverty and social justice from one of statistics and shocking images, to a personal appreciation of the shared human experience that unites us and the cry for solidarity, friendship and basic human dignity.

Social media has made it easier than ever before for young Scots, often inspired through school partnerships, to increase their own learning, forge their own friendships, and be leaders in their communities. The Scotland Malawi Partnership now has more than 180 Youth Ambassadors.

For example:

- [Martha Payne](#), a Scottish primary school girl, has inspired more than 10 million people across the globe with her school meals blog, her love of and friendship with Malawi, and her incredible fundraising achievements.
- [Chance for Change](#) is a Scottish charity which is supporting young people in Malawi to become more entrepreneurial, have a stronger voice and increase their personal effectiveness.
- [Students for Malawi](#) is a charity led by young Scots, rising out of Strathclyde University, which has transformed thousands of lives in both countries through community-embedded, youth driven development volunteering partnerships.

Closing Remarks

2014-15 will be remembered as the year Malawi experienced the worst floods in history leaving tens of hundreds of Malawians dead and thousands of others homeless across the fifteen districts. The Lower Shire districts of Chikhwawa and Nsanje were the worst hit by these floods. Let me take this opportunity to thank the Scottish Government, DFID and other Malawi Government international co-operating partners as well as the private sector in Malawi for swiftly coming in to assist those affected by the floods

Despite the above challenge, I look forward to the following year with a great deal of optimism and strongly believe that MaSP will register a lot of successes. With the next round of funding from the Scottish Government secured, the MaSP Team will aim high to achieve all the targets set in the 2015-17 project. Above this, MaSP will intensify donor mapping so as to increase and diversify its funding base. We shall also explore the possibility of introducing membership fees during the next two years. We believe that this is the only way we can make MaSP more sustainable as we face the future. In terms of membership, we intend to grow the membership from 272 currently to somewhere around 362 (33%) by March 2016.

On behalf of my Team I would like to sincerely thank the Board and the entire MaSP membership for supporting us without which it would have been almost impossible for us to achieve what we achieved during the year just



Happy Makala

gone by. I look forward to receiving similar support during the coming year. I would also like to thank the SMP-our sister organization for rendering support to us considering that we are a relatively new and budding organization. The SMP has been patient with us in certain instances as we embarked on a learning curve. By and large, we should be there in a not-so distant future from now.

**Happy Edward Makala
National Co-ordinator**



Members having completed the Mzuzu Project Cycle Management course



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