



villages in partnership

GROWING TOGETHER

2023 Annual Report







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DEAR VIP FAMILY,

2023 was a truly momentous year. On a personal level, my family continued to grow and change as my older son got married in October, my daughter gave birth to our first grandchild in December, and I retired at the end of the year, after practicing law for 32 years. At VIP, we continue to **grow** as well. Most significantly after years of planning and preparation, the Khanda Health Center opened in August. I was fortunate to attend the opening ceremonies, and what a celebration it was! The community came out in force, a marching band led a parade of dignitaries, and the event received prominent coverage on the national TV news. While all of that was great, the truly momentous event occurred the following morning - when the first

“

We are incredibly grateful for all that you do to support the work of VIP and the ways we are **Growing Together.**”

patient was treated at the Center! Since then, the Center has been treating hundreds of patients a day, and the maternity ward has become operational. People who would have suffered without medical treatment are being healed. Mothers are giving birth safely. Lives are being saved. Hallelujah!

While the opening of the Khanda Health Center was the most notable achievement of 2023, it was only one of the many VIP success stories

summarized in this Annual Report. None of those successes would be possible without you. The love, generosity, care, and prayers that the VIP family pours out upon our partner villages in Malawi is the engine that drives everything we do, and it is the fuel that brings hope and joy to people living under the weight of extreme poverty.

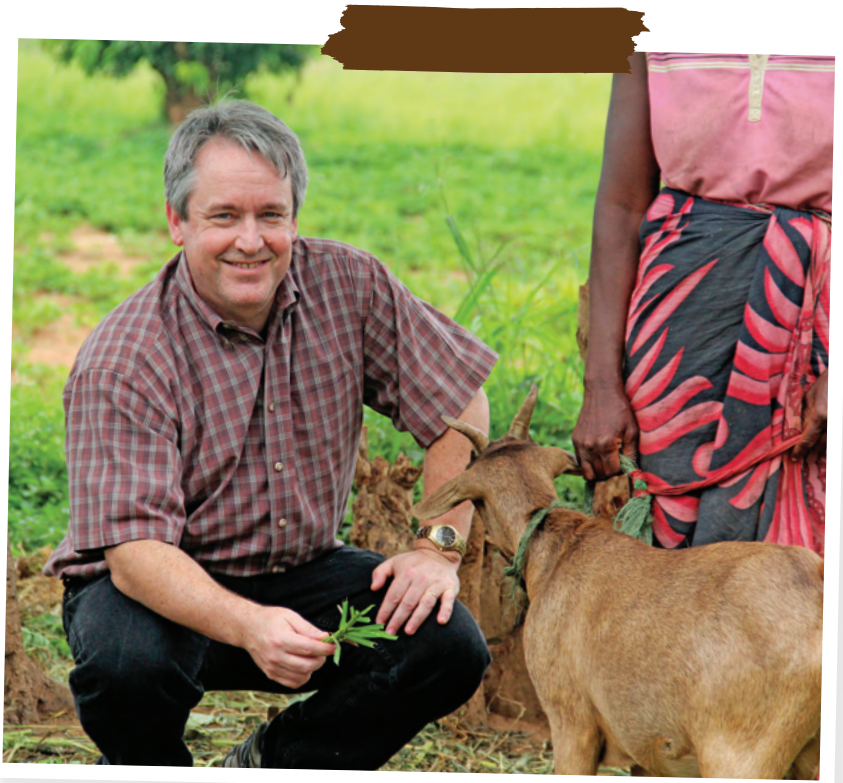
And as great as the pictures that fill the pages of this report are, they cannot fully convey the impact you are having. Pictures cannot depict the sense of dignity and pride that comes along with becoming food secure and being able to provide for your family even when the next drought strikes or floods arise; the relief a mother feels when her infant child's health is restored because she's able to access medical care for a disease that previously would have gone untreated; or the pride a family feels when their daughter is the first person from their village ever to graduate from college thanks to the scholarship she received. I invite you to travel to Malawi to see these things in person, you will not regret it.

We are incredibly grateful for all that you do to support the work of VIP and the ways we are **Growing Together**. You are making a difference in the world. You are transforming lives.

Thank you,

Bob Rhoad

President, VIP Board of Trustees





our VISION

is a world in which communities from across the globe work together in partnership to transform each other's lives, so that people are relieved from suffering and can begin to achieve their full potential.

our BELIEF

is that we can empower people to raise themselves from extreme poverty by coming alongside them as partners to share each other's burdens, resources and solutions.

our MISSION

is to build partnerships between villages in the developed world and villages in Malawi to bring about life-changing development for all.

our METHOD

is to work with local development experts in Malawi to implement programs designed to simultaneously address the interconnected web of root causes of extreme poverty: lack of access to clean water, food insecurity, poor health care, inadequate education, insufficient infrastructure, and lack of economic opportunities.

our MOTIVATION

is to respond to the call of Jesus Christ to love and serve the poor, the hungry, the widowed and the orphaned.





our VALUES

LOVE

All of our actions are motivated by our love for God and for all of His children, no matter where they may live. We love our neighbors all over the globe, as we love ourselves.

RELATIONSHIP

We strive to know and value all of our partners, including our staff, the chiefs and village elders, grassroots leaders, government agents, donors, and members of our partner communities. We honor the existing village leadership structures and systems already established in our partner communities. We listen to the voices of our partners.

ADAPTABILITY

Within the context of our core values, we are a learning and creative organization. We are flexible and innovative with our partners. We will learn from our mistakes, adapt, and move on.

FAITHFULNESS

We understand that making transformational changes in the lives of those living in extreme poverty requires patience, persistence, trust, and time. We are committed to being there for our partners for a long time.

SUSTAINABILITY

The goal of every VIP project is to empower our partner villages to become self-sustaining communities. We want to equip our communities to thrive without the need for on-going assistance from VIP or others.

INTEGRITY

We will live our word. We shall act at all times with the highest degree of ethics and accountability which builds trust. We will use the resources entrusted to VIP wisely, in ways that will have a significant impact on the lives of our partners.

RECIPROCITY

We expect our partners to invest themselves and their resources in the development of their communities. All beneficiaries are expected to give back to the best of their abilities; every project requires investment and response.

HOLISTIC CARE

We are concerned not only about the physical well-being of our partners, but also about their emotional, spiritual, and educational needs.

“

VIP understands **poverty is a complex and multidimensional issue**. We believe that a holistic approach is the most effective way to support households moving from extreme poverty to an improved and sustainable way of living.”

— Phillip Samuko, VIP Program Manager



CHANGING LIVES,

ONE VILLAGE AT A TIME

29 Partner Villages

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Machilika 2009 | 11 Mtengowautali 2009 | 21 Mgwalangwa 2014 |
| 2 Mtambo 2009 | 12 Mkwezaziya 2009 | 22 Mpoola 2014 |
| 3 Kalupe 2009 | 13 Sitaubi 2009 | 23 Pahuwa 2014 |
| 4 Kalino 2009 | 14 Chilimani 2012 | 24 Mphero 2014 |
| 5 Chikabwereza 2009 | 15 Disi 2012 | 25 Chidule 2014 |
| 6 Mbuka 2009 | 16 Mkumbira 2012 | 26 Libwalo 2016 |
| 7 Nambabada 2009 | 17 Liti 2012 | 27 Phetembe 2021 |
| 8 Robeni 2009 | 18 Nkagula 2012 | 28 Samani 2021 |
| 9 Ngomano 2009 | 19 Muluwira 2012 | 29 Khanda 2021 |
| 10 Teputepu 2009 | 20 Chumba 2014 | |

* Dates of Partnership

MALAWI

5,623
HOUSEHOLDS



24,654
INDIVIDUALS

Our APPROACH



Our approach is based on an **enduring collaborative partnership** with the people of Sakata, Malawi, our VIP Malawi staff, the Malawian Government and the VIP USA family.

United Nations

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

VIP's projects support
**16 of the International
Sustainable Development
Goals** developed by the UN to
eradicate extreme poverty.

- ✓ 1 No Poverty
- ✓ 2 Zero Hunger
- ✓ 3 Good Health and Well-being
- ✓ 4 Quality Education
- ✓ 5 Gender Equality
- ✓ 6 Clean Water and Sanitation
- ✓ 7 Affordable and Clean Energy
- ✓ 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth
- ✓ 9 Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
- ✓ 10 Reduced Inequalities
- ✓ 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities
- ✓ 12 Responsible Consumption and Production
- ✓ 13 Climate Action
- 14 Life Below Water
- ✓ 15 Life on Land
- ✓ 16 Peace and Justice Strong Institutions
- ✓ 17 Partnerships to Achieve the Goal



UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

IMPACT AT A GLANCE



Khanda Health Center
COMPLETED!



Constructed

13

HOUSES
for Cyclone
Freddy
victims



10

NEW WELLS
drilled



573

**ADDITIONAL
HOUSEHOLDS**
have access
to clean water

52

VILLAGE SAVINGS & LOAN in operation



129

HOUSEHOLDS stored

775

BAGS OF GRAIN in grain banks



631

CHILDREN enrolled in early childhood education



10 YOUTH Supported in Vocational Schools

10 STUDENTS received scholarships to attend college

Vaccinated 26,000 CHICKENS across 29 VILLAGES

Dewormed 1,685 GOATS from 559 HOUSEHOLDS



38 FARMERS

grew cash crops using large scale irrigation

58 GOATS

distributed to

33 HOUSEHOLDS



EXTREME POVERTY TO A SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE



VIP's approach to eradicating poverty is rooted in recognizing that ending it requires a comprehensive strategy. Our approach is multifaceted and centers around addressing the six critical needs of human development: **water, food security, economic development, education, infrastructure, and healthcare.**

The poverty experienced in rural villages in Malawi is unlike anything we know in the United States. It is marked by challenges such as a lack of access to clean water,

sleeping on the ground, eating limited food once a day, and relying solely on walking for transportation. VIP aims to transition individuals toward a sustainable lifestyle where they can fulfill their basic needs and achieve a level of financial security that they previously did not have. This enables them to maintain self-sufficiency even in the face of some adversity.

VIP's 2021 survey has shown that households that engage in multiple VIP initiatives are more likely to move up the economic ladder and achieve a more sustainable lifestyle. Reuben Mtute from Chumba Village embraced many of the VIP initiatives and it has changed his life.



Mr. Mtute, along with his wife and eleven children, has grown from living in scarcity to living a sustainable life. Through embracing VIP initiatives such as joining a farm club, being a livestock recipient, and participating in a grain bank, Mr. Mtute and his family no longer have to worry about where their next meal is coming from.

When Mr. Mtute joined the farm club, he was given 2 bags of fertilizer and seed to start farming. To further address his food security needs, he was a goat beneficiary through VIP's goat pass-on program and later received a dairy cow. Mr. Mtute is able to use the cow's manure in his garden to nourish his plants and also has sold its milk, making a large profit.

Perhaps most impressive is Mr. Mtute's involvement with a grain bank that was introduced by VIP to address food security through food storage. Through the grain bank, Mr. Mtute can keep his harvest in storage so that he can access it in the winter when food is scarce. This ensures his family will eat all year long.

While many families struggle with food security, Mr. Mtute's family is able to sustain themselves. Both Mr. Mtute and his wife agree that their lives are changed for the better, and they hope to continue growing through their partnership with VIP.

“

The government mandates support for vulnerable rural masses to meet development needs, but lacks resources for uplifting communities.

This slows down development.

Partnering with VIP, the government offers skills and capacity development, while VIP provides financial resources.

This hastens development and leads to sustainable living among vulnerable communities.”

— Wellings Mwalabu, Country Director

WATER



Making sure our Malawian partners have **ready access to clean water** continues to be a **top priority** for VIP. Over the years we've drilled or rehabilitated over 146 water points so that over 85% of the people living in our villages walk less than 10 minutes for water.



In 2023 VIP drilled 10 new wells. Two of the wells were completed in partnership with Engineers Without Borders of the University of Delaware. More than 410 additional households now have better access to clean water.

In addition to the wells, VIP installed 8 new communal water taps in 7 villages and repaired 3 others. More than 163 households are now able to access clean and potable water within reach.

In order to sustain the wells, 10 Water Point Committees were established. The committee members, who are village community members, were equipped with the basic knowledge and skills on how to maintain the water points and how to improve hygiene and sanitation around the targeted areas.

Along with providing and maintaining these new water points, as a pilot program, VIP facilitated planting trees around 15 of the wells. The trees planted included Moringa and Kesha varieties. The hope is that the trees will help improve water percolation around the water sources.



In 2023, VIP constructed **public handwashing facilities in 2 market places** and procured and distributed **300 plastic gallon buckets as handwashing facilities** through the generosity of the Blantyre and Downers Grove Rotary Clubs.



SKYLOO PIT LATRINES

An exciting, new sanitation initiative this year was the construction of Skyloo pit latrines. The Skyloo is an elevated latrine allowing for the collection and composting of human waste that can later be removed and used for fertilizer. This prevents the villagers from having to dig a new latrine every few years and helps in reducing fertilizer costs. A total of 8 Skyloo pit latrines were constructed in seven villages. This new technique has received high praise from villagers.

SANITATION

With a continued focus on increasing health and sanitation and under the guidance of Adrian Kamwendo, VIP's lead for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, VIP partnered with the Rotary clubs from both the US and Malawi, Downers Grove and Blantyre respectively, to construct public handwashing facilities in two market places. VIP further distributed 300 plastic gallon bottles, to be used as handwashing facilities in 5 villages reaching approximately 1500 households

186 sanitation platforms (cement floors) were cast for use in the construction of durable and clean pit latrines in 11 villages. By the end of December 2023, 128 pit latrines were fully installed and the targeted households had started using them. Village members always partner in these efforts by constructing the burnt bricks that are used for the rest of the structure.

AREA WATER MECHANICS

In an effort to maintain water accessibility within the community, VIP understands that technical work is sometimes needed to service and repair wells and water access points. In 2023, VIP helped to train and provide valuable tools and materials to 5 area mechanics who are responsible for maintaining 350 wells located in the Traditional Authority Nkagula of Zomba District, an area greater than our impact area. The tools and materials provided not only assist in mechanical work but help to ensure the safety of the workers. Trained and equipped area mechanics contribute to the sustainability of the wells and help ensure that VIP's partners will not be dependent on us for clean, safe water in the future.



EDUCATION



Education plays a critical role in a child's development and long-term success, that is why **VIP invests in initiatives that support children and youth who are the future of Malawi.**

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Villages in Partnership is passionate about empowering communities through early childhood development. The Malawi government has an Early Childhood Development Initiative that emphasizes child-centered learning, providing children with opportunities for self-awareness and exploration through interaction with adults, materials, and positive role models. This year, VIP distributed outdoor play materials to two Child Care Centers. Led by Stewart Gonani, VIP's Education Officer and in partnership with the Government's Social Welfare Officer, Mr. Steven Mchilima, VIP facilitated the provision of playhouses, seesaws, slides, and merry-go-rounds. Adequate play materials, both indoor and outdoor toys, are essential for promoting learning through play. Enrollment at the Community Based Child Care Centers was up this academic year to 631 students, a slight increase compared to the previous year (600 students).

SCHOLARSHIPS AND SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

In the past year, the VIP family has proudly supported 76 secondary school students, ensuring they have the opportunity to further their education regardless of financial constraints. 69% of the secondary students who sat for their Malawi School Certificate of Education examination passed the exam, well above the national average of 54%. Passing this exam gives the students a chance to compete and enroll in public universities

Additionally, 10 new and 13 ongoing students were provided college and university scholarships, empowering them to excel in their studies. Each college student is also provided with a laptop, their very first computer!





In 2023, VIP supported
76 students in
12 government secondary schools with school fees,
school uniforms, and supplies.

COLLEGE GRADUATES

VIP celebrated the achievements of three individuals who graduated from public universities with degrees in various fields. Beatrice Makumba graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Agronomy, Chimwemwe Sangano graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Banking and Finance, and Alinafe Matchado graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Education. We are proud of their commitment to their futures, and we were happy to walk alongside them in their journey.



SCIENCE LABORATORY AT ONE HEART SECONDARY SCHOOL

In alignment with VIP's educational objectives and in order to strengthen a student's performance in science, VIP built a new science laboratory at One Heart Secondary School. The design included the construction of concrete lab benches which include water and electricity. The laboratory was equipped with all safety features along with the equipment, charts and models needed to conduct scientific experiments and hands-on learning activities.

PROVISION OF VOCATIONAL SKILLS TO VULNERABLE YOUTHS

Many vulnerable youth applied for VIP vocational training scholarships. After a thorough and careful assessment, nine students were selected to pursue tailoring and design and one to pursue plumbing. All necessary supplies were also provided to support the student's success in their respective programs.

LIBRARY AT ONE HEART SECONDARY SCHOOL

Libraries are not typically found in rural schools in Malawi. The One Heart Secondary School now has a beautiful new space for reading and learning, built in memory of one of VIP's founding Board Members, Kim Daly. This space was created in honor of her dedication to educating youth in America and in Malawi. Thank you to the Daly Family and Friends who made this possible.



INFRASTRUCTURE



2023 saw a continued growth in the number of construction projects within our impact area, not the least of which was the **completion of the Khanda Health Center.**

KHANDA HEALTH CENTER

Construction of the Khanda Health Center (see page 24) began in 2021 and continued through 2023 leading up to the Grand Opening in August, 2023. This state of the art facility was built in partnership with so many people including Joe Majamanda, VIP's Construction and Logistics Officer, Ernesto Makoko, VIP's Coordinator for Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition, VIP's Health Committee, led by Lucy Goeke, VIP's Construction Committee, led by Tom Goeke and Jim Obermeier, Macy Carmen-Goeke, Architect, the District Health Office, Khanda Village's Chief, leadership and community members, and the many staff, donors, and supporters who gave of their time, talent, and resources. We are so grateful.

VIP'S DEMONSTRATION FARM

Villages in Partnership owns approximately 60 acres of land in Mindano Village for the purpose of developing a training and learning center for local farmers. This demonstration farm will include a solar powered irrigation scheme, livestock housing areas, a warehouse, farm office, VIP staff offices, teaching classrooms, farm staff houses and hostels among other structures. VIP's Construction Committee along with VIP's Farm Manager, David Forpenz, and a team of Surveyors were able to do a land survey and produce a full schemata for the location of all desired structures and roads to be instituted within the farm.

In 2023, a water tank stand tower was built as part of the irrigation development. The tower can accommodate 4 tanks, which can hold a total of over 2600 gallons of water. In addition, two wells were drilled, one close to this tower and one closer to a new rice field.



The demonstration farm plays a crucial role by demonstrating successful techniques, providing employment, market and a continuous supply of food in the target community and beyond.

— David Forpenz, VIP Farm Manager



CYCLONE FREDDY

In March, 2023 the largest cyclone that has ever hit the Zomba District of Malawi dropped 36 inches of rain over 24 hours. The rains continued for over a month. People lost their homes, crops, and belongings. While VIP is not a relief organization, our supporters and partners heard of the devastation and gave generously to help support these communities.

Because of the generous donations, a careful assessment was made through Malawi's Rural Housing Department, and VIP was able to construct 13 homes with cement block, steel doors and windows, and metal sheet roofs for the most vulnerable of families. These families live in 13 villages across our impact area. In addition, VIP planted thousands of trees along river banks to help prevent further soil erosion.







KHANDA HEALTH CENTER OPENING

The Khanda Health Center opened with a celebration! On August 3, 2023, the ribbons were cut and thousands attended. The clinic was operational the next day seeing hundreds of patients. This state of the art facility serves over 23,000 people and was built in an area that had little to no access to care, as the closest government clinic is over 7 miles away.

VIP built and furnished the facility, and it was turned over to the District Health Office to manage. Mr. Mwali, head clinician, instituted many new programs including a prenatal program, HIV testing, and a clinic for children under the age of 5. He and his growing staff of 34 are focused on high quality care and teamwork. We are grateful for his leadership and the support and partnership with the Malawi Ministry of Health.

Five houses were also built and are occupied by the two clinicians and three nurses. Both clinic and houses are fully powered by a new solar system that was installed by African Mini Grid. The VIP staff worked tirelessly to make the opening happen with the help of their American partners. Tom Goeke and Jim Obermier made several trips to ensure the construction and installation of the solar power was completed. The Boy Scout Troop 439, led by Aiden Joyce, collected many supplies and came to help empty a shipping container and assemble furniture. Ernesto Makoka, VIP's Coordinator for Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition, Joe Manjamanda, VIP's Logistic Officer and other VIP staff worked tirelessly to coordinate all facets of this complicated project.



HEALTH CARE



A person's health and wellbeing impacts every aspect of their daily life.

VIP is committed to improving the health and nutrition of our beneficiaries and improving their access to care.

MEDICAL AND DENTAL OUTREACH CLINICS

Weekly medical clinics continued in 2 villages, Kalupe and Khanda. The clinics were conducted in partnership with H-Parker Hospital and supported by VIP. A total of 3983 patients were seen throughout the year. 4 patients were referred to other health facilities for more critical health needs. Monthly dental clinics were held in Kalino Village and supported by the dental technicians from the District Health Office. The attendance for the routine dental clinics was 1,110 patients.

PREVENTATIVE CARE

VIP continued to conduct home visits to the most vulnerable by making regular visits to 45 people that are bedridden and elderly. During these home visits, VIP provided treatment, counseling, education, advice to caregivers, wound dressings, and provision of additional food supplies.

VIP further conducted health education on dental and eye care. VIP also promoted the establishment of backyard gardens in order to enhance good nutrition practices in the targeted households.

VIP HEALTH STAFF

VIP welcomed its newest member to the team, Ruth Mkhola, VIP's Health and Nutrition Facilitator. Ruth is responsible for the day to day activities, helping with the weekly outreach clinics and teaching about health prevention, good hygiene and nutrition. She works closely with Health and Nutrition Assistant Violet Matimati.



VIP supported weekly medical outreach clinics that were **attended by 3,983 villagers** in 2023.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Creating economic opportunities is important for villagers so they have a sustainable way to generate income. **VIP works to train and equip individuals with skills** that can help to diversify their income sources.

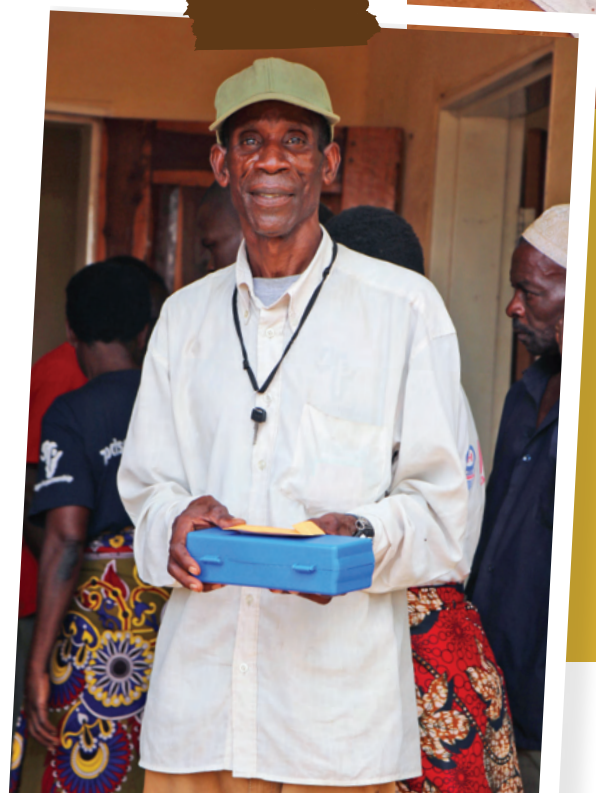


VILLAGE SAVINGS AND LOANS GROUPS

Village Savings and Loans (VSLs) help teach those involved how to save money, how to combine their resources to make loans, and how to manage loan repayments. These VSL groups, who are guided by dedicated VSL leads, that have been trained by Adrian Kamwendo, VIP's Economic Development Facilitator, have demonstrated remarkable success. Among the 52 registered groups, 33 from 19 villages have collectively disbursed MK45,850,400.00 (\$26,455), showcasing the transformative power of collective financial endeavors. Notably, members have utilized these funds to purchase vital agricultural inputs like fertilizers and seed. This underscores the pivotal role of VSL groups in fostering economic empowerment and resilience.

GROWING CASH CROPS

Irrigation enables farmers to grow crops during the dry, winter season. These crops are used to both supplement household food supplies and also to increase household income. Tomatoes, onions, fruits, and leafy vegetables are often called cash crops because of the ability to sell them in the local markets.





In 2023, **137 farmers** participated in small-scale irrigation in the winter cropping season (75 females and 62 males) The farmers cultivated crops such as **onions, maize and tomatoes**, and managed to rake in **over \$1,770**.



STRENGTHENED SAMANI IRRIGATION SYSTEM IN WINTER CROPPING

The Samani Irrigation System, supported by Paul Bilayi, VIP's Irrigation Technician, aimed to boost cash crop production for economic and food security purposes. Despite challenges, like market saturation, 38 farmers cultivated crops over 3 hectares (7.5 acres), with tomatoes and onions being the main products. A review meeting highlighted the project's progress and emphasized community ownership for sustainability. Despite the market challenges, some farmers achieved significant financial growth, enabling them to make transformative purchases for their families.



STRENGTHENED SMALL SCALE IRRIGATION GROUPS FOR WINTER CROPPING

VIP continued to work with 12 small-scale irrigation groups with a total of 137 (62 males and 75 females) farmers participating. This represents a 69% increase in participation since 2022. The irrigation groups produced onions, tomatoes, maize (corn), and leafy vegetables and earned over MK 3,068,000 (\$1,770), a 50% increase over 2022. In all irrigation sites, farmers used climate-smart agriculture including making and using bokashi manure (fermented organic matter) and biochar to improve crop production. The additional cash income allows households to become more food secure, like Gift M'bwana, a member of Nyambwe women Irrigation club, who managed to purchase livestock after selling maize and tomatoes from the small-scale irrigation club.



DISTRIBUTION OF SOLAR WATER PUMPS

A total of four portable solar irrigation pumps were distributed to four of the small-scale Irrigation clubs. The pumps were distributed to help the farmers be more efficient in production and save money and energy from the use of engine water pumps and treadle pumps (a foot powered pump). The portable solar pumps were new to the community and the farmers were excited about this environmentally friendly and efficient technology.





BEEKEEPING

Beekeeping has proven to be a powerful enterprise that supports farmer's economic development. The Katambasula Cooperative, a VIP-initiated enterprise that is owned by local beekeepers, continues to show positive growth. Notable achievements of the cooperative include earnings of MK 3,891,000 (\$1,945), successful land acquisition to construct a honey processing unit, and securing a contract with the World Food Programme (WFP) to support school feeding programs in primary schools. These accomplishments underscored the cooperative's progress towards financial sustainability and its contributions to local agricultural development.

VIP Board Member, Tim Schuler, a beekeeper and past New Jersey State Apiarist, has been an advocate, partner, and teacher of beekeeping for our Malawian farmers for years. He travels to Malawi almost annually, including in February, 2023 where he was able to witness and share time with Malawian beekeepers. He



participated in honey harvesting at Cassim Inussa's apiary in Mkwezaziya village where hives were sampled and a total of 10 kg (22 lb) of honey was realized. He participated in the training of a new 15-member beekeeping club (Talandira) at Samani village and donated Langstroth hives to the demonstration farm and helped to transition 2 colonies to the new hives. We are grateful to Tim and all our US Beekeeping partners who continue to share their talents and gifts with their brothers and sisters in Malawi.

VIP organized presentations in key marketplaces to raise awareness about the importance of bees in agricultural ecosystems and the need to protect them. This initiative aimed to address challenges facing the beekeeping industry, particularly the killing of bees and theft of honey. By educating communities on the vital role bees play in agricultural production, VIP hopes to mitigate these harmful practices and to foster a deeper understanding among the public.

FOOD SECURITY



Food security means you can feed your household. This is one of the hardest challenges to address in our impact area as it depends on many factors, like the climate, economy, and available resources. To improve opportunities to become food secure, VIP supports many initiatives across all six resource areas.

DISTRIBUTION OF IMPROVED CROP SEEDS AND FERTILIZERS

Under the leadership of Frank Mwenjemeka, VIP's Livelihoods and Food Security Officer, Villages in Partnership distributed 1,000 kilograms (2,200 lbs) of corn seed to 200 households, 400 cassava bundles to 200 households and 1,500 kilograms (3,300 lbs) of groundnuts to 300 households. These distributions were crucial for families who had lost their previous seed to Cyclone Freddy. A field day on climate-smart agriculture was organized in Mtengowautali village. This event highlighted vital agricultural and conservation techniques like fertilizer production, the importance of crop rotations, and how to plan more effectively for upcoming weather forecasts. At VIP, the commitment lies in empowering farmers with the knowledge and resources they need for sustainable farming practices.

VILLAGE GRAIN BANKS

Grain banks are storage facilities where farmers can store their harvest until needed during the challenging lean months, when food becomes scarce and costly. These enable community members to concentrate on their farming endeavors rather than worrying about sourcing food. There are five grain bank centers across Khanda, Pahuwa, Mpoola, Samani, and the VIP satellite office in Kalino Village. 212 households actively participated, collectively storing a significant quantity of produce, including 1,187 bags of maize (corn), 64 bags of rice, and 228 bags of groundnuts, each weighing 50 kilograms (110 lbs). Several open houses were held to show other villagers the benefits of using grain banks.



“

*Addressing food security first at the household level **is crucial** for the development of a family.”*

— Frank Mwenjemeka, VIP Livelihoods and Food Security Officer





BANANA GROWERS

Continuing to help introduce new crops is an important tool to promote economic opportunities and improve variety in the diet of the villagers. VIP selected and trained 60 new banana growers from 10 villages. These first time recipients will have an opportunity to pass on banana cuttings to new farmers in the future. To ensure their success, VIP organized a three-day training session aimed at equipping the farmers with essential skills for banana cultivation. The farmers were responsible for constructing planting pits and preparing compost manure, showcasing their commitment to this new opportunity.

LIVESTOCK PROGRAMS

VIP has implemented various livestock initiatives aimed at improving the economic and nutritional status of households within partner villages. The initiatives include providing animals, ensuring reciprocity and sustainability through pass-on programs, and providing veterinary care and animal management training.

50 female goats were distributed among 25 households across five villages. Additionally, eight households within these villages received male goats to augment livestock ownership and goat productivity.

VIP's livestock pass-on programs enable families to pass the offspring of their goats and cows to another family in need, further increasing livestock ownership and productivity within the community. A total of 90 households received 140 goats through this pass-on program. In addition, one dairy cow was passed to the next recipient household.

The health of the animals distributed is critical to the success of the program. To combat Newcastle disease, which significantly impacts chicken populations, VIP vaccinated over 26,000 chickens across 29 villages. This endeavor not only safeguards the poultry population but also contributes to increased meat and egg production, thereby bolstering the economic and nutritional status of



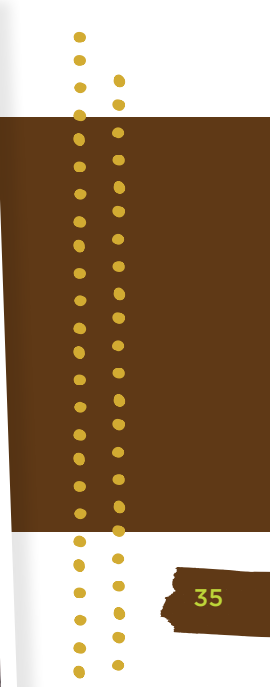


more than 2,000 households. Additionally, over 2,700 goats were dewormed.

Various livestock species, including goats, pigs, chickens, and cattle, received treatment for a variety of ailments. VIP's Livestock Officer, Charles Sokoso along with para-vets, who have been trained by VIP, provide these services regardless as to whether the animals were provided by VIP.

Beneficiaries also received training on animal management. These integrated efforts underscore VIP's commitment to uplifting the livelihoods of participating households by fostering both economic prosperity and nutritional well-being within the community.

| SPECIES | # TREATED |
|--------------|--------------|
| Goat | 1,837 |
| Pig | 399 |
| Dairy Cattle | 6 |
| Beef Cattle | 270 |
| Total | 2,512 |



MEDICAL TRIP

MEDICAL TEAM

- Lucy Goeke, CRNP
- Jynn Albano, CRNP
- Lauren Gradwell, PA
- Alexandra Mazza, PA
- Stephanie Graefe, RN
- Eileen Gradwell, RN
- Shawna Whitford, RN
- Jean Buscaglia-Yurkiewicz, RN
- Madeline McGraw, RN
- Tessa Mills, RN
- Deb Monts, RN
- Joe McGraw, *Support*
- Frank Albano, *Support*
- Tom Goeke, *Support*
- Tim Golden, *Support*
- Jim Obermeier, *Support*
- Mary Frankenburger, *Support*
- Harry McCabe, *Support*
- Gloria Han, *Support*
- Kellyn Sheppard, *Support*

In March of 2023, a team of 25 medical professionals and support staff arrived in Malawi to run outreach clinics.

Unfortunately Cyclone Freddy arrived at the same time making it impossible for the team to leave N'amingazi Farm, their accommodations, for three days. 36 inches of rain fell. Roads and bridges were washed away, houses melted and collapsed, crops were destroyed, and lives were lost. The American and Malawian team were even more committed to serving in the villages when the rains finally slowed. They were able to open 3 clinics as the water subsided. The vehicles transporting the team and supplies got stuck in muddy washed roads, but they persevered. They witnessed the devastation but also the resilience of the Malawian people. Over two days, they treated 2,264 patients in 2 medical clinics and one dental clinic.

They were in the right place at the right time.



FRIENDSHIP TRIPS



It was an exciting year of travel for VIP, in addition to the February Beekeeping trip and the March Medical trip, 38 Americans traveled to Malawi over the summer to work, learn, and share their time and talents. 3 of the 4 groups were able to participate in the grand opening of the Khanda Health Center; A truly amazing and joyful experience. The earliest group helped to prepare for the opening by stocking supplies at the clinic, putting together furniture, and ensuring final construction details were completed. As always, all of the participants were able to share in a variety of work experiences with the villagers and VIP staff. For all, sharing in worship and traditional village meals are a highlight.

For the very first time, VIP hosted a Women to Women Friendship Trip. This unique experience paired women from America with women living in the villages. Through participation in daily chores like collecting water from the well, cooking over an open fire, and working the fields, the American participants truly came to better understand life in the village. They spent time learning from each other to understand their unique and shared experiences creating a lasting and impactful sisterhood.

**See how your life can be changed...
join us on a future trip!**

BEEKEEPING TRIP (FEB)

Tim Schuler
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FRIENDSHIP TRIP (JULY)

Andrew Wilshusen
Fred Wilshusen
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Thomas Maxwell
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WOMEN to WOMEN TRIP*

Madeline McGraw
Jennie Garst
Tory Huchro
Jordan Heinzl-Nelson
Anne Diebel
Kelsey Carroll
Caitlin McCarthy
Morgan McCarthy
Kathy Shearer
Crystal James

FRIENDSHIP TRIP* (AUG)

Frank Albano
Charles Williams
Mariah Poll
Dona Daesener
Rich Daesener
Trudi Veldman
Joi Thompson

*designates teams also
in attendance at the
Khanda Clinic Opening

CLINIC OPENING* (AUG)

Bob Rhoad
Macy Carman-Goeke
Michael Goeke
Stephen Heinzl-Nelson
Kim Huchro
Paul Huchro
Mark Carman
Nancy Carman
Lucy Goeke
Tom Goeke
Eileen Gradwell

TWO ORGANIZATIONS, ONE MISSION:

To share challenges, solutions and resources to equip people to move themselves from extreme poverty to sustainable living. Villages in Partnership and its Board of Trustees are responsible for all U.S. operations, partner development, fundraising, and strategic planning. They work collaboratively with Villages in Partnership International, a separate NGO headquartered in Zomba, Malawi, which along with its own Board of Trustees, oversees program operations in Malawi, partner development in Malawi, and adherence to government regulations and procedures. The two boards work collaboratively, sharing vision, ideas, and resources. Three of the board members serve on both boards.



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- Ernesto Makoka *Coordinator for Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition*
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- Eileen Gradwell *Director of US Operations*
- Aaron Shaver *Data and Digital Operations*
- Sarah Moore *Communications and Special Events*
- Stacy Foy *Administrative Assistant*
- Manda Bliss, *Communications and Administrative Assistant*

IN MEMORY

We honor and give thanks for a member of our VIP Staff whom we lost in 2023.

We are grateful and blessed to have known and worked with him.

ERNESTO MAKOKA

Coordinator for Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition

Community Workers

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Memory Dama | Patricia Namtongwe |
| Laston Kassimu | Ganizani Matope |
| Chimwemwe Khaula | Wilson Nalivata |
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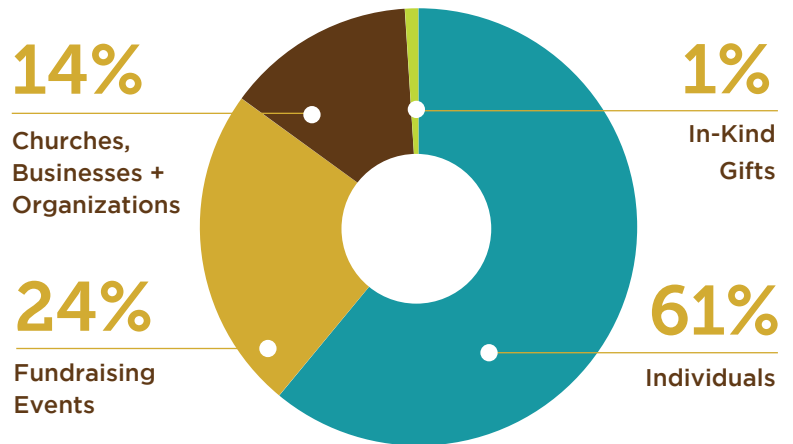
We are grateful for the continued generosity of our donors and partners.

In 2023, your support resulted in more families in Malawi having access to the tools they need to escape extreme poverty.

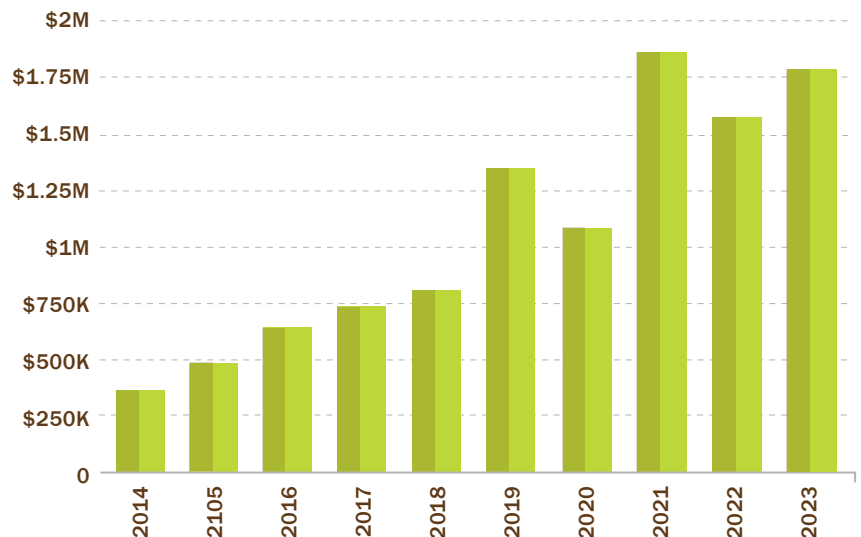
The Water Walk was our largest giving campaign, with 33 fundraising teams raising over \$418,000 from across the US.

The generosity of individuals, churches and businesses is what fuels VIP's work. Neighbors helping neighbors. We value and cherish those relationships. We take the importance of responsible fiscal stewardship very seriously.

REVENUE SOURCES



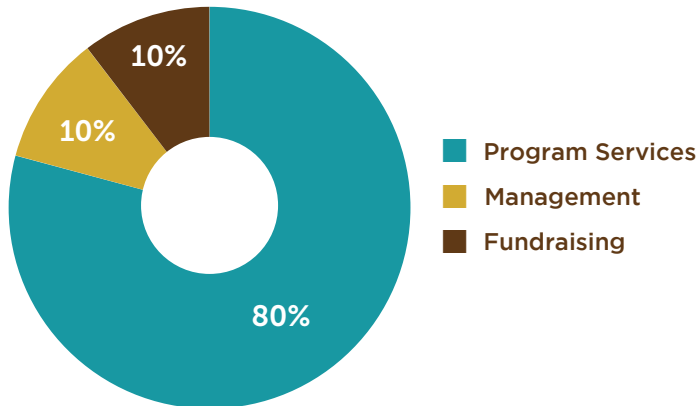
ANNUAL REVENUE



Thank You!

to all our volunteers who give countless hours and so generously donate their time and expertise to help eradicate extreme poverty in rural Malawi. Our brothers and sisters in Malawi are incredibly blessed by these gifts!

EXPENSE OVERVIEW



WHERE YOUR DOLLARS GO

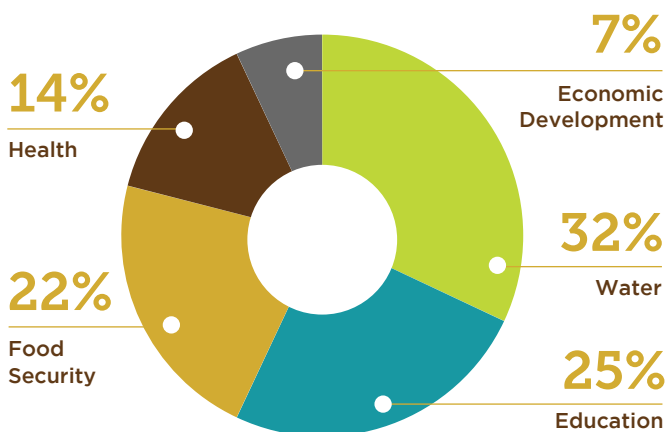


80% of all donations

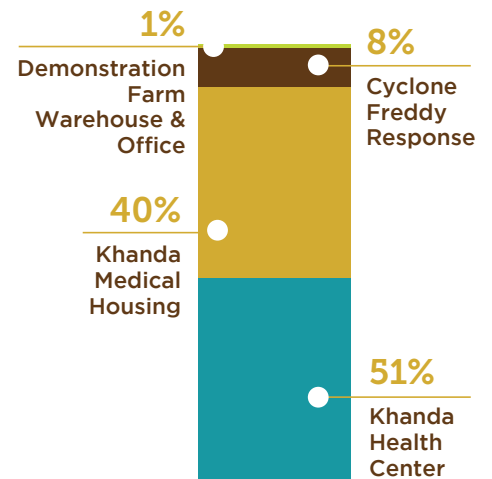
is spent on life-changing projects in Malawi

YOUR DOLLARS CHANGING LIVES

Resource Development Spending



Capital Projects & Infrastructure



Of the 80% of donations spent directly on improving livelihoods in Malawi, 65% was spent on Capital Projects and Infrastructure, while 35% was used for Resource Development. Project spending impacts multiple areas of life. For example, Food Security improves Health, Economic Development, and Education.

Villages in Partnership Exceeds Nonprofit Industry Standards

by spending the majority of funds directly on Malawi programs and building projects. Investment in operating and fundraising costs helps ensure long term growth, effective management, and a healthy organization. Each badge represents the highest rating available to a nonprofit.



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LOOKING FORWARD

Dear Friends,

I'm filled with gratitude and excitement as I write this. It's amazing to see how far we've come since starting Villages in Partnership 14 years ago. Your unwavering support has been the cornerstone of our success, and I can't thank you enough for your faithfulness to the people of Malawi.

This year has been incredible, especially with the opening of the Khanda Health Center in the very remote villages. This clinic is a beacon of hope, providing essential healthcare to those who need it most. Women are delivering healthy babies in sanitary conditions, children are being treated for malaria and other deadly diseases. Your generosity and dedication have made this dream a reality, and I'm deeply grateful for your commitment.

We've also made significant strides in addressing food security. Feeding children every day impacts every aspect of life—staying in school, health, and maintaining businesses. Through sustainable agriculture initiatives, we're empowering local farmers with the knowledge and resources to thrive. Your support combats hunger and fosters economic growth within these communities.

Looking back, it's humbling to see how Villages in Partnership has grown. What started as a tiny mustard seed of hope has evolved into a powerful force for change, touching thousands of lives. None of this would be possible without you. Your generosity and compassion lift families from extreme poverty toward having enough to feed their families and develop their potential. For this, I am eternally grateful.

As we look to the future, we all have hope, as God brings the most unlikely families and communities together under His Kingdom. With your continued prayer and support, I'm confident we'll expand our reach, empower new communities, and create lasting change.

Your generosity and kindness are the driving force behind everything we do, and I'm honored to walk this journey with you.

With gratitude and never-ending hope,

Liz Heinzl-Nelson, VIP Executive Director
(pictured in top center photo)





ages in partnership

ision
in which communities
together in partnership
es so that people are
begin to achieve their
potential

ission
s between village
ages in Malawi
development for

e Values
Love
ustainability
relationship

A woman with curly hair, wearing glasses and a light green polo shirt, is standing in front of a brick wall. She is looking towards the camera.



VIP's women-to-women trip was a transformative experience because I had the opportunity to immerse myself in the daily practices and culture of a Malawian woman. I would say what I most enjoyed about this experience was being present with my "sister" and learning from her. Because of this trip, I believe the women from the US and the Malawian women have formed a community of co-learners and sisters that will last a lifetime."

— Pastor Crystal James
(pictured on front cover)



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