



PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

Country: Malawi
Partner: Livingstonia Aids Programme (LISAP)
Dates: 22nd February – 5th March 2010
Cost: £850* + flights

COUNTRY INFORMATION:

Malawi is a landlocked country in south central Africa bordered by Tanzania to the north, Zambia to the west and Mozambique to the east and south. Over 1/5 of the total land area of 118,000 sq km comprises of Lake Malawi.

Malawi takes its name from the Maravi (which means 'rays of light') empire which developed on the shore of Lake Malawi in the 16th and 17th centuries. Christian missions, inspired by Livingstone's appeal to end the slave-trade, played a key role in promoting British intervention. Apart from local initiatives – most notably by John Chilembwe, an evangelical Christian minister (and national hero), in 1914 - there was little resistance to colonial rule until the 1950s when there were widespread protests against the unpopular Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

Nyasaland achieved independence as Malawi in 1964; Hastings Banda, who had returned from a successful medical practice in London to lead African protest against the Federation, became the first prime minister. He ruled for 30 years. The current president Bingu wa Mutharika was elected in May 2009 to serve a second term of office as President.

Until recently Malawi was considered the poorest country in the world that is not either involved in, or recovering from, civil war (UNDP Human Development Report 2002). It has one of the most unequal income distributions where the richest 20% of the population consumes 46.3% of goods and services, compared to the poorest 20% that consumes only 6.3%. 60% of the population is estimated to live under the poverty line and 49% to be stunted because of long-term mal-nourishment (WFP, 2002).

The first free elections took place in Malawi in 1994 after 30 years of rule under Dr Hastings Banda. There had been increasing resistance to him due to an authoritarian style of government and widespread accusation of human rights abuses. Malawi has a developed cash crop economy (tobacco, tea, sugar etc) which accounts for 90% of export earnings.

This development has often been at the expense of peasant farmers because of the large amounts of land

COUNTRY FACTS

Population: 14.3 Million (2008)
Capital: Lilongwe
Area: 118,484 sq km (45,747 sq miles)
Major languages: English, Chichewa (Both official)
Major religions: Christianity, Islam
Life expectancy: 48 Years (Male and Female)
Monetary unit: Malawian Kwacha
Main exports: Tobacco, Tea, Sugar, Cotton
GNI per capita: US \$250 (World Bank, 2007)
Internet Domain: mw
International Dial: +265
President: Bingu wa Mutharika

set aside for estate farming which forces subsistence farmers to look for increasingly scarce and often unproductive land. Droughts in recent year have affected farmers as well as the balance of payments.

From BBC country profile.



PARTNER INFORMATION:

Malawi's HIV and AIDS infection rate is one of the highest in sub-Saharan Africa. Stigmatization of, and discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS have been recognized as factors that undermine efforts to provide care and support to them. These also affect the ability of those infected by HIV and AIDS to protect and help themselves.

The Livingstonia Synod AIDS Prevention Program (LISAP) is equipping local churches to address the HIV and AIDS crisis. Home visitation provided by the Synod

gives care and comfort for the infected and their family members. Visits also provide opportunities to increase HIV and AIDS awareness and to remove the fear and stigma of HIV and AIDS.

LISAP is also taking action to reach women affected by HIV and AIDS. Women are often victims of traditional beliefs that categorize them as carriers of sexually transmitted diseases. Events and workshops are delivered that aim to decrease stigmatization against

women. It is also hoped that after these workshops, women will feel encouraged to be tested for HIV and AIDS, and that the transmission of the virus from mother to child will decrease.

LISAP are bringing hope to communities, families and individuals ravaged by HIV and AIDS. They do this in a variety of ways and the impact through engaging in and with the local community is significant.

The work of LISAP is varied and far reaching as it is also involved in empowering and enabling communities through a range of projects including microfinance schemes and a girls empowerment programme in the North of Malawi.

TRIP INFORMATION:

This trip is for women in some form of leadership role. The aim of the trip will be for each individual to gain an understanding of the impact of poverty in the life of a family as well as the community as a whole. The team will stay with a family in a community for several nights and during each day each individual will shadow and assist a member of the family/community. Members of the group will not be together during this part of the trip but will meet up to debrief with project staff after the host stay.

Because of the nature and focus of the trip also being based around issues for Women and seeing life in Malawi through the eyes of local women there will be opportunities to engage in LISAP's work to empower women through specialist projects and also microfinance groups.

*COST & FURTHER INFORMATION

The approximate cost (excluding flights) will be £850. Please note that all costs are subject to change; this is due to the variable nature of overseas travel expenses. This will include all food, accommodation, in country transport, insurance and the pre trip orientation day.

For Further information please contact Lindsey Reece-Smith on lindsey.reece-smith@tearfund.org or 0208 943 7868

ABOUT TEARFUND

We are Christians passionate about the local church bringing justice and transforming lives – overcoming global poverty. And so our ten-year vision is to see 50 million people released from material and spiritual poverty through a worldwide network of 100,000 local churches.

