

Spring 2023

What we do

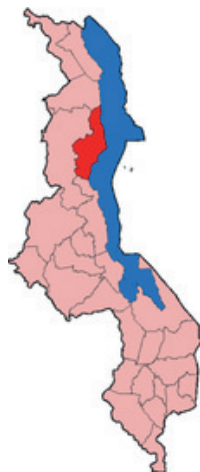
Overriding objective is to overcome poverty in an area of 50 villages. Here's how:

- Prioritise help to 1,000 families who rely on subsistence farming.
- Provide start-up and growth loans to people who want to run their own business.
- Run adult literacy classes for people who didn't finish school:
 - improving capacity to consult and co-operate
 - enabling literate adults to help their children
 - literacy qualifies people to take our business training
- Create capacity among youth as the future core of the community.

Capacity's Social Action Fund enables the community to finance local projects:

- the community generates the money
- the community decides on the projects

Uniquely, the SAF avoids waiting for external aid and creates local control.



UPDATES FROM MALENGA MZOMA

CAPACITY WORKS IN MALENGA MZOMA, IN
NKHATA BAY DISTRICT (SHOWN RED)

FLOODS CAUSE DEVASTATION



The rains have also severely disrupted normal day-to-day business in the trading centres, making it harder for many people to earn their living.

CAPACITY'S SCOPE TO HELP HAS BEEN AFFECTED AS WELL

Capacity relies on its grocery store, Chanju, to generate about a third of its income. The rains, on top of the effect of Cyclone Freddy only a few weeks ago, mean that Chanju isn't generating the revenue the Foundation needs to run its programmes.

Additionally, loantakers have been restricted in their ability to go about their business, so we have postponed some repayments - leaving a further gap in our income.

Torrential rain has caused massive damage across Malenga Mzoma

The rains have destroyed crops, taking away subsistence farmers' means of feeding themselves. The families need help to reclaim their fields and plant anew.

Houses have been hit badly: some have been completely demolished while others have sustained cracks rendering them unsafe. Families need the means to repair.



CAPACITY URGENTLY NEEDS TO PLUG A £10,000 FUNDING GAP BY CHRISTMAS

After five years operating, Capacity has made good progress toward our eventual objective of making the Foundation completely independent of external funding – the only true meaning of sustainability. But while there have been many steps forward, there is occasionally a step back – and that's what we are experiencing now; a temporary need to supplement help from the UK.

You can read more about the situation in Malenga Mzoma at www.capacityfoundation/news and you can see what we are doing to raise £10,000 at www.capacityfoundation.org/fundraising.

Capacity survived COVID and can overcome the floods with your help.

Bokashi-making extended into neighbouring Traditional Authority

Last July, the Trustees authorised an extension of Capacity's bokashi programme into the neighbouring area of TA Malanda after a special plea from Malanda's Area Development Committee, a 25-strong group representing approximately 75 villages. TA Malanda is about half the size again of Malenga Mzoma.

TA Malanda's request followed the outstanding impact made by bokashi in TA Malenga Mzoma together with the huge price increases for the commercial alternative. The Trustees saw the extension into TA Malanda as a humanitarian gesture to assist families who are particularly dependent on their crops.

Capacity's Farming Improvement Programme staff (Kennas Jim, Andrew Kamanga and Vincent Mphande) trained five volunteers from TA Malanda, who each in turn trained farming families in groups of villages.

97 graduate from adult literacy classes (Capacity Academy)



In February, almost a hundred people took part in the Capacity Academy's fourth graduation, receiving their certificate and t-shirt.

Many more women are unable to read compared to men owing to early betrothal and pregnancy but also due to traditional attitudes to women's role. While women will always form the bulk of the Academy's intake, one-in-eight of the graduates were men, a trend we want to encourage.

Students have to achieve a 75% pass mark in both the national language, ChiChewa, and mathematics, to graduate.

Chanju Superette contributing to funds

The recent blip recounted overleaf apart, the Chanju grocery store (or superette as it is called locally), has been paying a portion of its profits to Capacity for more than 18 months, toward making the Foundation financially independent.



Grace Nyanjaya (left) is one of the cashiers at Chanju, pictured with Emily.

Chanju sells a very wide range of food, drinks, household goods, cosmetics, beauty products and cleaning materials. It is open seven days a week, employing 8 members of staff under the overall supervision of Capacity's Manager, Emily Nkhoma.

Closure of Mamama restaurant

Our restaurant, Mamama, once occupied the left side of the building but was closed last year. During COVID, travel restrictions caused a collapse in overseas visitors and, although Mamama was situated on the main north-south highway, COVID-time closure of the borders meant that the trucking fleets and migrant workers on which the restaurant depended stopped coming. By contrast, Chanju is much more reliant on local custom. It now occupies the whole site!

Fortunately, we were able to re-deploy two of the Mamama staff to work for Chanju.

In rural Malawi, villages are grouped into Traditional Authorities. Capacity works in TA Malenga Mzoma and TA Malanda is immediately to the north.

Fertiliser shortages caused by the Ukraine war have hit Malawi very hard.

The Academy has ten classes with a current student roll of 173.

The pass rate was 87%, achieved by keeping the classes small (usually no more than 20-25 people).

Social enterprises put their profit to community use; in Chanju's case, its profits support Capacity's programmes.

Before the floods interfered, Chanju was on course to contribute up to a third of the income Capacity requires – and it will re-attain that level.

Our objective is to have the Foundation fully funded from within Malawi. The date that is achieved depends on economic and climate events we don't control!

The Capacity Foundation newsletter will henceforward be published quarterly. The next issue will report the long-awaited launch of the Youth Programme and a note of the sums needed to run the operation in Malawi.

www.capacityfoundation.org