

PROVIDING A HAND UP, NOT A HAND OUT

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REPORT ON FUNDING FROM THE OVERSEAS AID ALLIANCE, GUERNSEY OCTOBER 2025

On 29th April, we were delighted to have received a grant for £10,000 from the Overseas Aid Alliance, Guernsey for the following:

- £7,500 to enable us to extend our **Growing the Future Project** to fishing communities in Nkhata Bay District, Malawi.
- £2,500 towards the cost of **Borehole Repairs** in Nkhata Bay District.

As you have a meeting on 19th October, we hope that this report shows the progress that we have made on the projects to date.

Growing the Future Project – including fishing communities in Nkhata Bay District

This funding has enabled us to work with Beach Village Committees and Forest Conservation Committees who volunteer their time to protect their section of Lake Malawi or their local forest. We have been trialling our successful Growing the Future project with groups from each project to see if it can create an additional income stream, particularly for fishing communities during the closed fishing season when fish are breeding. This project has been helping community fruit tree clubs in Nkhata Bay District to successfully grow vegetables which can then be sold at local markets. These clubs are then given financial and business training to enable them to use the profits from the sales of the vegetables to develop even more lucrative livestock businesses, raising chickens and eventually pigs. Ripple Africa's Project Coordinator, Maston Mkandawire, has been training Beach Village and Forest Conservation Committee members in the same way – initially teaching them to make manure and natural pesticides, how to prepare and plant seed beds and successfully grow healthy vegetables. Financial and business training is also being given. All Ripple Africa does is provide the groups with their initial seeds and training – the rest is up to them! The money that they make can be used to either supplement their household incomes or fund their committee activities.

We are pleased to say that there has been great progress already. In one week, Mauluka Forest Conservation Committee made 27,000MK and they are ready to earn more. The Chairman said, "This will positively, and easily, change our livelihoods." These committee members have continued to grow and sell vegetables using seeds that they have collected from their crops and some are now starting their own chicken businesses which will make them even more money. A great demonstration of Ripple Africa's ethos of providing a hand up not a hand out!



Learning how to prepare the land and plant the seeds



Learning how to care for the seedlings to ensure they grow well



Harvesting some really healthy vegetables

Borehole Repairs in Nkhata Bay District

Most people in rural Malawi get all their water for washing, cooking and cleaning from boreholes, visiting these several times a day and carrying the water back to their homes in buckets on their heads. When their local borehole stops working, some people will walk to the next nearest borehole but others will collect water from Lake Malawi or from rivers, and some even dig holes near their homes to collect water. This water is usually contaminated, leading to increases in diseases such as cholera. Sadly while each district has trained water engineers who are able to repair the broken boreholes, they lack the funding to purchase the spare parts or travel out to often remote villages to carry out the repairs. Hence the need for Ripple Africa's borehole repair project. We purchase the spare parts and pay the transport costs for the engineers to reach the boreholes to repair them. The £2,500 funding that you awarded us supplemented another grant and we repaired 43 boreholes in Nkhata Bay District in July and August 2025 - some photos of the repairs are shown below.



Kapanda School Borehole



Botolo Borehole



Chipololo Borehole



Kachere Trading Centre Borehole



Tigawana Borehole



Chofya Borehole

The total cost of the repairs for the 43 boreholes was £32,489 – making the cost per borehole £755. This reflects increased costs in Malawi. Fuel and spare part costs were significantly higher than we had anticipated as Malawi is experiencing a financial crisis - fuel has just been increased again by a further 28% for diesel and 38% for petrol. With the recent election of a new president, we are anticipating a devaluation of the Kwacha to counteract these rising prices which are causing huge problems in Malawi.

In total, the 43 repaired boreholes are being used by 2,162 households - the average family size is five so the project has benefitted 10,810 household members. As some of the boreholes were at schools, an additional 2,697 students and 19 teachers have also benefitted. So, in total the project has benefitted 13,526 people. For the final report we will provide some case studies to show how the project's impact on people.

We are extremely grateful for your support for these vital projects. As we say in Nkhata Bay District, **Tawonga Ukongwa (thank you very much!)**

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Haigh'.

Pam Haigh
UK General Manager
8th October 2025