



Brian



Grace



John



Introduction

The 5,500 strong community of Chimteka in Malawi, who are distributed across 989 households in 21 villages, have seen major improvements in the quality of their lives thanks to the help given by CCS over the last 5 years. Help was given to: increase the yield of their staple crop maize corn, bring a continuous supply of good quality drinking water near to where the community live, provide a series of preventative and remedial health care measures, increase the number of qualified primary school teachers and provide much needed community infrastructure.

Volunteers

In January 2009, we recruited our second long term volunteer, Grace MacLean, a nutritionist, also sponsored by VMM, who will be screening children and adults in the villages to determine levels of malnutrition and illness with a view to improving the diet and health of the pre-school orphans and primary school children in general. John Harrison from near Newcastle in England started his placement on 29/09/09. John replaced Brian Cranmer who finished in April 2009.

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Community -based Therapeutic Care (CTC)

A nutritional assessment on 400 children under 5 (including Chimteka catchment) was conducted in 2009 to identify those children who are suffering from moderate acute malnutrition and severe acute malnutrition. 54% of the children were found to have moderate or severe difference from what is a normal weight for age and the corresponding figure for height for age is 64%. This data provides a basis for the establishment of a CTC programme, based in the Chiosya clinic, serving the Chimteka community. There are various treatments for severe acute malnutrition including high calorie milk and Chiponde, which is a peanut-based product. A course of Ready to Use Therapeutic Food, principally Chiponde, is given to those with moderate acute nutrition.



Nutrition rehab unit



The screening process



Severe, acute malnutrition

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Diversification of Food Production

An over dependence on maize as the main source of food in Chimteka, gave rise to the implementation of a CCS programme of crop diversification in 2009. This comprised of training 63 farmers in animal and crop husbandry in Spring 2009, followed by the setting up of a community chicken Khola (with 120 laying hens) and a community fruit and vegetable garden for each village and primary school.

Health

The Chiosya Health Clinic serves the Chimteka community and the wider catchment area, with a population of 25,000 people. Grace works with Fortina, the only mid-wife and Dr. Bwezonii the only doctor.



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Antenatal outpatient clinics at the Chioshya health centre provide the following treatment: Iron supplementation to prevent/treat iron-deficiency anaemia during pregnancy, vitamin A supplements, treatment/prevention of malaria and antiretroviral therapy for HIV positive Mums (including treatment at time of delivery to decrease the rate of mother-to-child-transmission of the virus).



Since 2004, 2,000 blankets and 2,500 mosquito nets have been purchased and distributed by CCS to the most vulnerable households (estimated 616) . Bales of clothes were also purchased and distributed to the 600 orphans. CCS has facilitated the local delivery of ARV drugs for HIV/AIDS sufferers who previously would have had to make a 40KM journey twice weekly to receive the drugs.

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Schools

CCS has supported the educational sector at nursery and primary school level. The new Primary School was officially opened on 9th May, 2009. The enrolment has increased to more than 600 for the 4 classrooms. The 4 new qualified teachers have been assisted with relocation to the 4 new houses built by CCS. School uniforms have been made. Children arrive at 7am without taking breakfast. Arrangements have been set up by CCS to run a school meal programme and give supplements of vitamin A.



Water

CCS built 11 new boreholes and repaired another 4 which altogether brought a consistent supply of good quality clean water to nearly 5,000 of the total population. It remains to build another 3 boreholes to bring water to the remaining 500 people. Altogether, we now have bore holes for 20 villages. Ideally, there is a requirement for additional boreholes to reach the Millennium standards of having a borehole per 250 people within 500 metres.

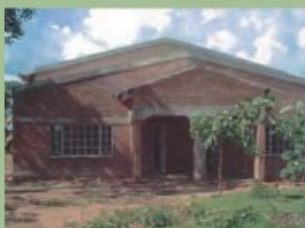
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Community Infrastructure

CCS funded the development of a 4,200 sq. ft. multipurpose hall in Chimteka which has been used for temporary accommodation for teachers, a local development office, local administering of ARV drugs as well as community social and cultural events.



Phil Dineen Community Hall



Teachers'house



2 blocks of
2 semi-detached houses
are underconstruction.
1 block is already occupied.

Volunteer Accommodation

The construction of a 2 bed house in the village of Chimteka, will provide volunteer accommodation.



Construction started in August 2009, and is expected to be completed in January 2010

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Disability Group

This group includes children and teenagers; the nature of the problems encountered necessitates one-to-one consultation; patients are usually screened on a home-visit basis; types of disability include: blindness/partial blindness; cerebral palsy; polio; epilepsy; paralysis; intellectual/learning disability. Typical problems relate to: Malnutrition; mobility - severe lack of physical aids and equipment for mobility; services - inability to access services e.g. assessment/treatment by Physiotherapist; medication - lack of appropriate medical review/understanding of therapy, e.g. epilepsy control; education - non attendance at school due to lack of transport and the cultural belief that a disabled person is beyond learning.



Olivetta had both feet amputated. CCS has enabled Olivetta to see a physiotherapist and to have prosthesis.

She is enjoying life now



F Thanks to the very generous support of the Sutton Community, their relatives, friends and
u business associates in Ireland and overseas, for funding the development of Chimteka over
n the last 5 years. Thanks to Irish Aid, ESB and BOI for their contribution of grant aid. Thanks to
d our auditors Grant Reddy for providing their services free of charge and to their sister company
i Origin Corporate Finance for raising funds from corporate donors. Our partnership with VMM
n has been key to funding 3 professional aid workers to date.
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