



When communities come together.

Temwa Annual Impact Report 2020

This report describes achievements under Temwa's interlinked programmes implemented in Nkhata Bay North, Malawi, during 2020. The spread of Covid-19 saw Temwa's income drop by 40% overnight, with the charity struggling to survive, while our continued support was needed more than ever by the vulnerable communities we support in Malawi. Although most of our projects had to be put on hold for some of the year to help protect the communities, we are pleased to report the following highlights and successes of our work in 2020.

Community Agriculture and Forestry

The impact of Covid-19 in Nkhata Bay North has gone way beyond public health. As many families there depend on small-scale businesses or hand-to-mouth 'piece work' for income, they have struggled to feed themselves as local markets had to close due to Covid-19 restrictions. Temwa's agriculture and forestry programme is helping to improve the resilience of vulnerable families through forest-friendly livelihoods and sustainable natural resource management.

- ★ **15 Farmer Associations and Community Enterprises**, specialised in baking, beekeeping and the production of crops and livestock, are gradually **growing in business capacity** and starting to invest their profits in the expansion of operations. In 2020, these groups helped ensure that 1,080 people in the benefiting families have enough to eat – and made the families more resilient to economic and climatic shocks.
- ★ **64,500 trees were planted** in 2020, resulting in 25 hectares of reforested land. 18,068 of the trees were grown under Temwa's Carbon Balance scheme, launched in early 2020, helping balance 2,263 tonnes of CO₂. Trees are a **long-term investment that improve community livelihoods** through beekeeping, raising and selling tree seedlings, sale of fruit from orchards, growing pines for construction materials, and planting agroforestry trees on farms to improve soil quality.
- ★ **More knowledgeable, skilled and responsive local governance structures** are taking steps to lead on natural resource management in their areas, including enforcement of local forest bylaws and implementing their own local development strategies.

Community Health

Temwa's health programme improves community knowledge and health services – allowing community members to better understand and take control of their health. With the emergence of Covid-19, there has been no governmental support for PPE or community awareness in Nkhata Bay North to help prevent transmission or to tackle misinformation widely circulating in social media. While a lot of our regular health work was put on hold, we were able to divert and raise funds for urgent Covid-19 response.

- ★ **Five local health centres were trained on Covid-19 and provided PPE.** 2,492 reusable masks were produced and distributed to community members, and 38 hand-washing stations, supplied with 1,600 bars of soap, were set up at community hubs. **Covid-19 awareness shows and jingles have been broadcast almost daily on local radio**, 2,000 local-language leaflets distributed, and 739 people reached directly through awareness campaigns in remote villages. The support has helped increase knowledge, prevent transmission and protect healthcare workers and broader communities, while increased handwashing also reduced prevalence of waterborne diseases.

- ★ **Provider-initiated HIV testing and counselling was rolled out at two local health centres**, including training of healthcare staff and awareness campaigns amongst communities. This WHO- recommended approach is stigma-free, as everyone visiting a clinic is offered a HIV test, helping reduce spread of the disease while ensuring adequate treatment and support for those affected.
- ★ **3,900 community members in five villages have accessed clean water** through our Water Filter Project. The beneficiary families paid a contribution towards the filters, and the collected funds were in 2020 invested in community-chosen health initiatives: **one village built three corbelled pit latrines at a local primary school**, and two other villages started constructing under-5s clinics.

Community Education

Prolonged school closures in 2020 due to Covid-19 have led to an alarming increase in sexual relationships, substance misuse, teenage pregnancies, child marriages and school dropout rates among children and youth. Temwa’s education programme improves community literacy, reduces barriers to education and supports inclusive and equal education – all of this is particularly important now to help encourage children and young people to continue with their education.

- ★ **24 weekly Reading Camps** were attended by 800 learners per week, with **10 of these established independently by the communities** in 2020, just before Covid-19 forced them to close in March. As a testament to the effectiveness of our approach: **Usisya was recognised as one of the best performing education zones nationally**, and the top one in the district, as regards literacy skills.
- ★ **2,098 visitors were recorded at the Usisya Community Library** (including 26% women) – with monthly visitors increasing from 247 in 2019 to 350 in 2020. The Usisya Community Library has established itself as **a popular place of learning for school-going children** who are attracted by the available curriculum books and conducive learning environment.
- ★ **Secondary school bursaries enabled 25 vulnerable but gifted students** (64% girls) to attend secondary school.
- ★ **Up to 25 girls have been staying at the girls’ hostel**, constructed by Temwa in 2019 at a local secondary school, and 44 young women were attending **Village Reading Groups**. These initiatives are enabling girls to access education, improving their education levels and confidence.

Thank you

Temwa is very grateful for the generous support of our donors and partners throughout 2020 towards our work in Nkhata Bay North during this unprecedented time.

With so many other charities having closed down, our continued presence in these remote communities is more important than ever, so thank you for your support in making that possible. Going forward, we will keep working around the changing situation with Covid-19, while creating more resilient communities that are able to transform their own futures.

So, on behalf of the Temwa UK and Malawi Teams - thank you again for your continued commitment and support!

