

TIYENDE PAMODZI *Let's Walk Together*
GIRLS SECONDARY SCHOOL MALAWI
P.O. Box 80, Dedza, Malawi



From: Tiyende Pamodzi Girls Secondary School, Malawi
Nazareth Foundation Malawi, the Netherlands
GF Goeldner Foundation, Germany

To: Donors of Tiyende Pamodzi Girls Secondary School

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SUBJECT: update November 2022
TIYENDE PAMODZI GIRLS SECONDARY SCHOOL



Dear all,

2022 has been a very busy year. Many visitors who were unable to travel during the Covid-19 lockdowns were finally able to come and see Tiyende Pamodzi Girls Secondary School themselves. It was a pleasure for them and for us to see all the buildings and even more to see the girl students and teachers and to have a chat with them. We are most grateful for all their visits and hope to welcome more donors in the years to come.



Construction

Construction continues under more difficult circumstances than before. The Malawian Kwacha devaluated with 25%. This should be good news when paying in Forex, but prices of most commodities rose even more than the devaluation and keep rising. For the people of Malawi this is a dramatic development. So far it has not affected construction. But quotations are rising with the prices, naturally. Fuel prices have gone up considerably as well. Apart from the prices the availability of fuel has become a big problem in Malawi. This has caused some delay in construction, solely because the contractors have difficulty finding fuel for their vehicles. We hope to balance the higher prices with the better exchange rate for the Euro. But the financial end result for construction at hand might be a bit higher than quoted.

Construction staff houses

We already had 1 block of semi detached staff houses, finished in December 2020. The headteacher lives in one and the depute headteacher and his family live in the other one. In March 2022 we started construction of another block of 2 staff houses. By now this block has been finished and it is ready for 2 more families of teachers. See the pictures below.



At the end of May 2022 our contractor started outlining the work for block 3 of staff houses! We were most happy to receive enough funding for it. Construction has reached ringbeam level (see pictures below) and has been delayed a bit because of fuel shortages. We hope to get it finished in the first quarter of 2023. All these staff houses have basically the same lay-out. They are perfect for teachers who have a family with children.



Construction hostel and shelter

We raised enough funds to start our first hostel. We aim to have three hostels in total. Each hostel should be able to house 48 girls who live too far away from Tiyende Pamodzi to travel on a daily basis. At present these girls reside in an empty class room. The contractor has started groundwork for this first hostel. See the picture below on the left. In the middle you will find a picture of the shelter that we are constructing for the existing nursery school. On the right hand side a photograph taken from the air, where the progress of construction is visible.



Nursery school

Our day care / nursery school / kindergarten is a huge success. This year 5 children came to the day care, making it possible for their mothers to go to school. 60 children aged 2-6 years from the surrounding villages came in the morning hours to nursery school. Our nursery school teachers finished the Montessori Early Childhood Development Training in Blantyre in September. A volunteer from the Netherlands came for three months and assisted the nursery school teachers, improving the level of education even more. The children love to come and they really learn a lot. This will help them to perform better when they start Primary School at the age of 6 years old. The nursery block being a bit small for so many children, we used the remaining funds (exchange rate profit) for construction of a shelter (in the picture above). It will have a roof, but will be open on the sides. The teachers can use this extra space to make smaller play and teaching groups.



Teachers and students Tiyende Pamodzi

The new academic year started October 10th, 2022. By now the school has three classes of students: Form 1, Form 2 and Form 3. The students of Form 3 sat for their Junior Certificate Exams (JCE) in August. They achieved a pass rate of 80%. This is a promising result, seeing that it's the first class of Tiyende Pamodzi sitting for national exams.



The school started in March 2021 with 5 teachers. In January 2022 the Ministry of Education sent more teachers, bringing the total to 9 teachers. As soon as we have more staff houses finished, the Ministry will send us even more teachers. This is important because all Secondary School teachers are specialised in one or two subjects and the school needs to have specialised teachers for each subject. At present 11 subjects are being taught. To thank our teachers for their good work some friendly donors paid for an outing for the teachers: a trip to Liwonde National Park.

The teachers also give extra-curriculum subjects: organic gardening and tailoring. For tailoring 2 specialised teachers came for one month to teach both the girls and the teachers. Now that the solar water project has been finished and flowing water is available in the vegetable patch, the students started growing vegetables which they can also use for their cooking.



The bicycles (that were bought in unassembled packages in January) are being used by the students who have to walk from far every day to reach the school. This was also a big success. The donor who made this possible has offered another donation to buy more bicycles.

Further construction and fund raising

Our next priority is construction of 2 more blocks of staff houses. We aim to have 5 blocks of semi detached staff houses, which makes 10 houses in total. 3 blocks will be ready in the first quarter of 2023. Currently we are fund raising for the last 2 blocks. Because of rising prices we have decided to construct one more block with family houses, but this block will have an inside kitchen and flushing toilets. Now that we have flowing water this has become possible, making construction a bit cheaper because no outside buildings for cooking and toilets will be necessary. The last block will be for teachers who are single. This block will have two houses with two bedrooms each, making it possible for young and/or single teachers to share a house. The reason is, again, to lower the cost of construction.

Let us point out again the need for staff houses, which seems sometimes strange in the eyes of donor organisations. Our teachers are academically educated. They are appointed by the government to go to a certain school, but they are able to refuse. In the poor villages surrounding Tiyende Pamodzi houses are mostly mud houses or small self-constructed houses of local bricks without water or electricity. For teachers looking to rent a house it is hard to live in circumstances like that. Furthermore the Ministry of Education asks schools to construct staff houses as a requirement to send teachers. For teachers good houses are an incentive to come and teach in a far away rural area that does not even have a market for shopping let alone other facilities.

In the attachment on page 4 you can find an overview of the progress of the project Tiyende Pamodzi Girls Secondary School so far. It is amazing and fantastic what we have achieved together in a relatively short period. More than 30 donor organisations are involved by now, not mentioning all the individuals who are giving time and money to this project. The school will be able to educate girls and young women, who have no other opportunity to find education otherwise, for years to come. It's a miracle and you have made it possible. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Kind regards,

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Tiyende Pamodzi Girls Secondary School – Progress		
Arrival container with furniture	√	2018
Land acquisition / First borehole / Finalizing tender / Road construction	√	2019
Official Lease of the land	√	March 2020
Administration block	√	August 2020
Block 1 of 2 classrooms	√	August 2020
Latrines	√	August 2020
Block 1 of 2 staff houses	√	December 2020
Arrival 2 containers with furniture and learning materials	√	February 2021
OPENING FORM 1	√	March 2021
Second borehole	√	April 2021
Solar electricity	√	May 2021
Block 2 of 2 classrooms	√	June 2021
Block 3 of 2 classrooms	√	June 2021
15 latrines including latrine for girls with disabilities	√	June 2021
Nursery block	√	November 2021
Block 4 of 2 classrooms	√	November 2021
OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY	√	January 2022
Start Form 2	√	January 2022
Solar water system	√	January 2022
Start Form 3	√	January 2022
Block 2 of 2 staff houses	√	November 2022
Block 3 of 2 staff houses	Under construction	
Girls' hostel 1	Under construction	
Shelter at nursery block	Under construction	
Block 4 of 2 staff houses	Fundraising	
Block 5 of 2 staff houses	Fundraising	
Girls' hostel 2	Fundraising	