

Connecting Lives

Eagles Relief & Development Program
www.eaglesmalawi.org



Eagles' approach spreads beyond the communities it trains, multiplying its impact .

For the last three years, a group of supporters has partnered with Kamkwenu community, Central Malawi, to CATALYSE long-term change. This issue shares the amazing results of journeying alongside some truly remarkable people.

Catalysing Lasting Change

Since January 2020, church leaders in Kamkwenu have worked with their communities to create and achieve their own vision. Eagles' Church and Community Mobilisation Process (CCM) has helped churches understand their calling to live sacrificially to help others and to recognise the resources that they have. It equips them to engage their communities effectively, prioritising the greatest challenges facing them and finding creative solutions together, using what they have and partnering with others.

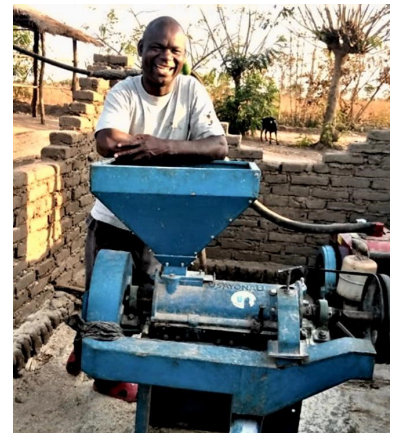
Kamkwenu's 11 villages have achieved astonishing things, from increasing food security by starting a honey business (above) to ending impunity for rape.

And this is just one community. Last year, Eagles worked with 525 churches and their communities, reaching over 7000 people through CCM.

What changes have taken place?

Churches working together with their communities has led to:

- Improved environment:** These villages are planting and protecting trees with as much determination as they used to cut them down. Their woodlot protects young trees and allows indigenous trees to regenerate. They practise permaculture and make their own compost, instead of relying on expensive chemicals. They are using 'grey' waste water to grow plants, thus preventing it from becoming breeding grounds for malaria.
- Better relationships and care for the vulnerable:** Many orphans, living alone or with extended family, do not have enough food or school fees. So churches and their communities are registering them and giving them the support they require, without needing expensive external interventions. Thanks also to the churches' safeguarding champions, trained by Eagles, police have made four arrests in communities which formerly did not even acknowledge abuse. Pastor Gibson spends his free time visiting other churches, talking about how to keep children safe. Ashamed by their past inaction, he has vowed *"I will not let a case pass through my fingers again."*
- More ways to earn a living and have enough food:** Villages are running all sorts of income generating activities and improving food production. They run livestock 'pass-on' programmes with the most vulnerable people (rearing goats and chickens), savings and loans schemes, and small businesses like vegetable-selling and milling maize (right). They have set up community fishponds and bee-keeping enterprises, finding ways to access training themselves. They have formed farmer clubs, growing different types of crops and making sure everyone in the community has enough to eat.
- Looking after their health and hygiene:** Communities have carried out their own health surveys and used the data to prioritise actions. They have created new handwashing facilities and safer places to dry kitchen utensils, built toilets and raised people's awareness of how to protect their health.
- Children staying in school:** Villages have set up committees to monitor school attendance, collecting data about who has dropped out and why. They make sure all the children are now in school and the community covers costs for those who are orphans / vulnerable. They have built classrooms and teachers' houses. They are also working against child labour, helping parents to see that children should not spend all their time cattle herding, but go to school .



Shifting mindsets from dependency to problem-solving



Since Eagles started training us, I have learned not to look down upon myself, to know there is a lot that I can do in life and to use the resources that I have.

I have also trained members of my church to work hard in fighting dependency syndrome. After going through trainings in breaking dependency we have started building a church on our own using locally available resources and skills within the church.

Pastor Lungu



I have always looked down on myself, thinking I can't manage, but now I have confidence. I have gathered different types of fruit tree ... to plant this rainy season.

The Bible studies have touched my heart. At first I could not lead a Bible study but now I gather my neighbours. They are surprised as they have seen a great change in me since these trainings. I will continue working with them doing Bible studies and planting trees.

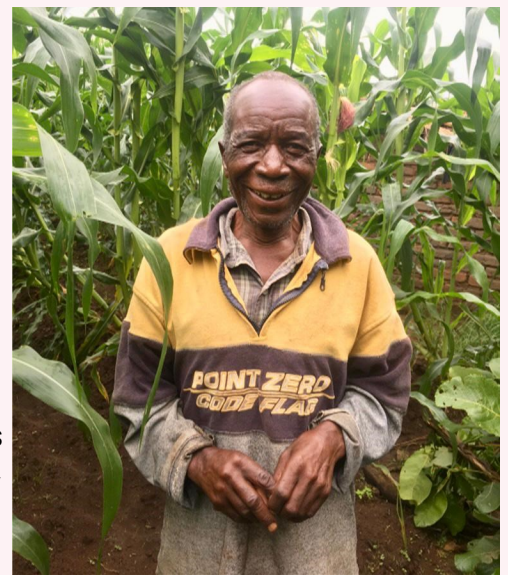
Lenia Kaliza



People in Kamkwenu are amazed at the resources they found and multiplied.

Cecilia (left) just picked up fruit seeds from the market that people were throwing away and planted them.

Katsika (right) made his own fertiliser from local materials to increase his maize quality and harvest.



Meet Chief Kamkwenu

Head Chief over all 11 villages in Kamkwenu, Central Malawi.



As a model community, Kamkwenu is working very hard to achieve our community vision. We have narrowed down what to do in the short run and long run so that each community member should take part in the development of our community.

Exponentially More – 55 new villages in 2023!

The impact is overflowing! When Eagles began in 2002, the story of Jesus multiplying five loaves of bread and two fish to feed 5000 people was seminal to the approach – and has remained so. Eagles expects to see transformation across Malawi through its relatively small funding and numbers of staff .

This vision of that multiplication is becoming a reality. Not only are the churches and communities Eagles has trained working together to bring lasting change among them but the facilitators they have trained are training others, even without any prompting. And other communities are seeing what is happening and coming to learn themselves too.

And, as Eagles expands its work, it keeps learning so it can strengthen the approach and deepen the impact. Training safeguarding and gender champions in the villages makes sure that these sometimes hidden and more sensitive issues become a priority, ensuring that those who are often overlooked are involved in the change process and those who are most at risk are safe from harm.

In 2023, Eagles plans to expand Catalyse from the 22 current villages to 55 new ones! The church and community facilitators from Kamkwenu are so passionate about what God is doing in their community, that they cannot wait to spread it to other places! Cuthbert, Eagles' CCM Coordinator, says:

The key to sustainability is passionate and high quality facilitators in the community who will do the work when you're not there and invite you to see what they have done.

Your support is vital for Eagles to continue and multiply its country-wide work with over 500 churches and communities. If you would like to join the Catalyse initiative, please email : stefielara@icloud.com