



SHINE
RELIEF TRUST

Autumn 2018

shine-relief.org

Reg. Charity no. 1168458



Trustee Phil Irvin with the Late Chief TA Kuntumanji when work began in 2010



Loading the first container to start the project

Serving The Region Of Kuntumanji Since 2010

When we closed the container door that cold January morning in 2010, after cramming it with donated goods, clothes, furniture, bikes, toys and even a vehicle, we wondered, 'How was this all going to work out?' We had no building, no staff and no money in Malawi - just a handful of regular supporters. Over the years God has surprised us again and again and he ensured that the project could go far beyond what we ever thought it could.

- Despite all funding applications being rejected, Shine Resource Centre was built, through a miracle of provision, which helped launch the region's first Early Years group.

- Although floods and droughts of 2015-16 saw Shine Village loose crops, we were able to provide emergency food, clothing and repairs to homes to those in the community.

- Food parcels provided for child-headed families and the elderly have increased despite living costs quadrupling and the Kwacha devaluing.

- When school fees rocketed and Shine struggled to support extra pupils in local primary schools who gained boarding school places, Shine's Bursary Scheme grew to manage these additional needs.

- Students who completed secondary school enrolled into college despite having no funds available. Shine's Bursary Scheme has supported them for two years.

- Despite a shortage of trained teachers, Early Years education, a concept not understood in the community six years ago, is now delivered to over 170 children at Shine Village and a further 200 in the local community.

- Land acquired in 2012 by Shine Relief Trust which has been farmed to feed the children is now able to grow Moringa trees - this will not just feed children, but will become a viable income generating opportunity!

- Improved communications, a field office and transport on the ground now enables our growing staff team to reach isolated communities, identify needs, network with other agencies and provide training opportunities. Following a Leadership Conference held at Shine Village, networks are developing between Shine Church, rural pastors and partners in South Africa.

"Shine Relief Trust has been fully embraced by the community. Over the years it has been more than a place to receive handouts. It has been a place for us to come together to talk, to plan and to laugh. This village belongs to the people and has the first Children's Home for the most vulnerable families. We are forever grateful. It is an answer to the prayers of these people."

- Chief Chilambe



Shine Village Children's Home has welcomed it's first new residents!

After a year of hard work and renovations following last year's storms, six girls were finally moved into the Children's Home this summer. The girls have been supported by our team for many years, some through our Early Years' programmes and others through community visits. They all come from some of the poorest villages in Kuntumanji, and as you can imagine life in the home will be quite different to that in the village. An endless list of daily chores, fetching water and preparing farmland steals the time needed for school work and reading. Hot water on tap and in the shower, lighting in the bedroom and power for to run basic electrical items - all things which we can take for granted - will mean more time to be children.

Whilst household chores such as cooking and washing will still be expected, they will not be burdensome. It is important that the children still continue living as close to village life as possible, so we don't have electric cooker, washing machine or a television in the house. The children do have access to technology through planned activities in the home and at the centre. One of Shine's objectives is to empower girls in our area. Those girls without a stable female role model at home, other than an

older sibling, desperately need to understand and experience daily, loving and affirming one-to-one support to boost their self esteem and improve their wellbeing.

As the children living at Shine Village will continue to attend the government primary school, which is like most schools in our region and very poorly resourced, the support before and after school will be key. School work will become a priority for the first time in their lives.

With class sizes reaching over 170 pupils of varying ages, it is a challenge for children to engage. The Shine Village after-school group, which has now been running for two years, will be a place for the children to stay connected with those who attend from the local villages. It is a vibrant meeting place for education and play thanks to resources now coming in from New Zealand.





Long-Term Sustainability Through The Miracle Tree

A spirit of entrepreneurship has always been at our core and although we have had many failed attempts to launch business ventures over the last years, this has taught us many valuable lessons which are helping us move forward now. In 2013-14, Hastings Zidana planted two moringa trees at Shine Village after hearing about the healing properties and nutritional benefits.

The trees grew strong and tall very quickly so we decided to look into this as a means of providing nutrition for our children.

Our recent market research has found there to be a growing market for moringa oil all over the world. Shine has now planted approximately 1000 trees on the land we own surrounding Shine Village. The plan is that from these trees we will harvest both seeds and leaves. The leaves will be added to children's meals and the seeds pressed into oil.

We have drawn up plans for an oil refinery building to produce organic, cold pressed, 100% moringa oil. We will sell the oil to the local community in Malawi and into Europe. By 2019, hopefully, we will see *Shine Moringa* as a brand in the UK and we expect to be producing 1500-2000 litres of oil per year in three years.

The vision to create jobs and see finance re-invested into our community is moving a step forward and we are hoping moringa oil could make the difference to our sustainability and development.

Moringa leaf is proven to help malnourished children with absorption and weight gain. We also discovered that the seeds are eaten raw as a means of pain relief and to make clean water. It has significant levels of antioxidants, essential amino acids, carotenoids and anti-bacterial

compounds. The oil is used as an antioxidant; it is anti-inflammatory, anti-ageing, anti-microbial, hepatoprotective; a disinfectant, a carrier oil, a preservative, an emollient, an exfoliant and is also used as a lubricant in fine machinery. This tree really is a miracle tree! We only need £25,000 to build the oil refinery and get the business off the ground so we are hopeful that this will be a viable way for the project in Malawi to become self-sustainable. If you wish to help Shine raise the funds needed, please do get in touch.

Phil Irvin

Cutting costs with Rocket stoves

Food plays a very important part in any event in Malawi and over the last year our lovely ladies have turned their hand to cooking for more events as the work has grown. They cook thousands of meals every month; the special Lukini Phala porridge which keeps the younger children at the Early Years healthy and meals for those attending events and training at Shine Village. Their biggest challenge came this year when we invited 250 children and students to attend a special youth conference and a

further 300 leaders from across the district to attend a leadership conference the following day. Hundreds of plates of goat stew, nsima and relish (pumpkin leaves and tomatoes) came from our tiny outside kitchen! The rocket stoves provided this year by a local stove-making project have helped to reduce our cooking costs.

The Mbezza Project, founded in York by Julian Watson of "Friends of Malawi", recently received DIFD funding which will help them to produce more stoves for poor families



across the Zomba District. Reducing the amount of wood for cooking is vital in combating deforestation. The ladies are very happy with the three stoves and recently taught the children how to bake a cake in the new stove at the Children's Home.

Suzen Zidana



Early Years Graduation

During our Trustees visit this August, we attended three Early Years Graduations, the first held at Shine Village and a further two in the village CBO centres in our area. The comprehensive pre-school program which introduces children to the English language from an early age is working really well. It was touching to see the children so engaged and hear even the youngest answering questions in both Chichewa and English! The older children graduating to primary school came forward to receive their certificates, a bright smiley face and a toothbrush from teams visiting from New Zealand, UK and South Africa. It was such an honour for the teams and a proud moment for the children, their parents and the village leaders!

Shine Early Years program forms an important part of the orphan care support network, which is slowly growing across the area. Guardians of the children attending our groups may often be a single mother or even a child themselves. Families traumatised by the loss of parents or loved ones, and living with the daily challenges of extreme poverty, are able find help and the support through our team. Shine workers assess the health and security of children, identify urgent needs and provide essential provisions such as groceries, school fees and improvements to dilapidated dwellings which are common in our area.

What We Do

Shine Relief was established in 2008 by two groups of people living in Hull and in Malawi who came together in 2006 with a heart for the desperately poor rural communities of Malawi. We began with a small group of local volunteers serving the community in the Traditional Authority (TA) Kuntumanji of Zomba District. Shine's Resource Centre was established in 2014 to support children from 2-18 years and provide various training opportunities. Shine UK has worked to encourage individuals, churches, schools and local businesses to invest in this vital work. Visits to Malawi, which are self-funded as much as possible, provide opportunity for discussion and strategic planning. The organisation receives no funding from the government and relies on individuals, various fundraising activities and grants given by Trusts. Child Sponsorship provides vital support to vulnerable families through our rural centres. Co-ordinated through regular meetings at Shine Village, local volunteers are empowered to teach, and identify needs. This work is desperately needed across the district.

£20 will support a child at Shine Village centre and also help raise up more Early Years teachers. Please contact Shine Relief fundraising office for more details at deborah@shine-relief.org and collect your free Shine Flash Drive/Bottle opener to host a Let Your Light Shine event !

