

2017

ANNUAL REPORT

DETERMINED TO DEVELOP



DETERMINEDTODEVELOP.ORG

WELCOME

THANK YOU, EVERYONE, FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF D2D. 2017 WAS A YEAR OF LEARNING FOR US. WE'VE LEARNED WHAT IT TAKES TO BUILD AND OPEN A WORLD-CLASS HIGH SCHOOL SERVING STUDENTS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE IN MALAWI, INCLUDING RURAL DISADVANTAGED KIDS. WE'VE LEARNED HOW TO MAKE OUR WOMEN'S GROUPS SUSTAINABLE AS THEY EMBARK ON INDEPENDENT BUSINESSES. WE'VE BETTER LEARNED HOW TO ENGAGE WITH OUR INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS IN MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIPS THAT BRING ABLE WESTERNERS TO PARTNER WITH MALAWIAN STAFF IN IMPROVING OUR PROGRAMMING. AND WE'VE LEARNED TO FOCUS ON WHAT WE ARE GOOD AT AND TO RESPOND TO THAT BY PUTTING OUR ENERGIES INTO EDUCATION INITIATIVES.



AS WE LOOK TOWARD 2018, WE SEE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO FOCUS ON YOUTH, WITH EXTRA ATTENTION TO OUR GIRLS, TO MAKE SURE THEY BECOMES SOCIETY'S NEXT GROUP OF LEADERS. AND WE DO THIS WITH YOUR SUPPORT AND YOUR DEDICATION, WHICH WE NEVER TAKE FOR GRANTED. THANK YOU FOR BEING A FRIEND OF D2D AND, ON BEHALF OF THE HUNDREDS OF BENEFICIARIES IN MALAWI, THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIVING SPIRIT.

YEWO (THANK YOU)

MATT MAROON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





OUR MISSION
TO EMPOWER THE PEOPLE OF
MALAWI TO IMPLEMENT
SUSTAINABLE, COMMUNITY-DRIVEN
SOLUTIONS THAT PROMOTE HUMAN
ADVANCEMENT

OUR CORNERSTONES
-EDUCATION & YOUTH SUPPORT-
-HEALTH & NUTRITION-
-WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT-
-ENVIRONMENT-



EDUCATION + YOUTH SUPPORT

In Malawi, there are many barriers to students receiving quality education. Barriers begin at pre-school, which is recognized as vital to a student's advancement, but is not financed by the government. In primary school, students must provide their own uniforms and school supplies, a cost too high for many families to afford. In secondary school (high school), students are required to pay school fees in addition to buying their uniforms and school supplies. Further barriers include distance to schools, lack of administrative support, and gender disparities. With so many barriers present, few students continue on to tertiary education. This is why Determined to Develop focuses its efforts on supporting youth to attend school and further their education.

FRACKSON'S GRADUATION

BY FRACKSON MHANGO

It was in 2010 when I first met Matt Maroon, the Executive Director for Determined to Develop. I was at Khwawa CDSS, a local secondary school close to Maji Zuwa. During that time, I was desperate because I had nowhere to go for help. It has been a long journey since I started my education up to now when I can finally be called a graduate. With the support from D2D through Matt Maroon, I was able to go to University of Livingstonia where I earned a Bachelors of Social Science in Human Rights. My studies in the four-year Human Rights program were very interesting and I always received wonderful support from D2D.

When I was told I had to prepare for graduation, I was very happy. I recognized it as a great achievement for my family and I, and I couldn't believe that I had really made it. When I informed my family about the graduation ceremony, my mother and relatives were extremely happy because I am the first graduate from my entire family, which is a great feeling. I was so happy on the day of the ceremony. Receiving my degree in front of Matt Maroon, my mother and other relatives was a moment I will never forget.



The support from D2D has really created a lot of opportunities for me, in a way that I have already started to enjoy the fruits of my hard work. Currently, I am working with Determined to Develop as the Residential Youth Coordinator, my first job after graduation. I am very happy to work with D2D so as to grow professionally, but I will not stop working hard to achieve what I want in life. I am prepared to further my education and my career as a Human Rights activist, especially in the areas of youth policy and advocacy.

THE NEED:

- Only 1 in 20 women and 1 in 10 men in our area complete secondary school.
- Only 27% of Malawian girls enroll in secondary school, and those who attend still face higher dropout rates than male peers due to additional pressures such as early marriage and pregnancy.
- Over 50% of Malawi's estimated 1 million orphans have lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS.

OUR IMPACT IN 2017:

- **D2D sponsored 185 students in secondary school and 14 in university.**
- **56 of D2D's sponsored students attended quality boarding schools, which allowed them living quarters where they could concentrate on academics without having to walk long distances to school.**
- **D2D hosted 65 youths on our campus. All were either orphaned or disadvantaged males in need of stable living situations. They were provided with 3 nutritious meals a day and essential items including school supplies (books, uniforms, backpacks, shoes) and toiletries (soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant).**
- **D2D built a classroom for Khwawa Community Day Secondary School (CDSS) and donated 50 desks to Thunduti CDSS.**

IMPACT SINCE INCEPTION:

- D2D has helped establish 4 nursery schools in our area. This has included building of the structures, developing the curriculum used for instruction, and providing training and stipends for teachers.
- D2D created a technology center with over 20 fully functioning computers. In 2017, over 214 hours of computer instruction was provided, benefitting 70 community members of all ages.
- D2D holds a leadership workshop for sponsored youth twice a year.
- D2D has supported nearby Khwawa CDSS by building 3 classrooms, electrifying the campus, and providing much needed textbooks and science equipment.
- D2D has held adult literacy classes in English and the local language of Chichewa.
- In total, D2D has put over 1,300 students through school.

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

THE NEED:

- In Malawi, 47% of girls are married by the age of 18.
- Women in our area have an average of 6 children in their lifetime.
- Approximately 30% of women in Malawi are illiterate, which limits their access to resources, land, and echnology, and decision making

OUR IMPACT IN 2017:

- D2D held weekly Girls Club meetings with over 70 girls, providing them with tools needed to pursue their educations. D2D developed a curriculum to specifically target the needs of girls in this area, including lessons on self-esteem, leadership, goal setting, health, hygiene, and safety.
- D2D supported 3 women's micro-credit groups with total membership of 169 women (all disadvantaged, widows, or those suffering with HIV/AIDs). These groups used livestock instead of cash, creating wealth in a form that doesn't devalue and is readily available in times of emergency.
- D2D provided start-up costs, materials, and training for a local women's sewing group, a baking group, and a chicken group. All of these groups are now running sustainably without D2D funding and continue to benefit over 30 local women and their families.



Women in Malawi are afforded far fewer opportunities for financial stability or advancement compared to their male counterparts. For this reason, D2D has promoted Women's Empowerment through initiatives which invest in girls' education and the tools needed for women to accomplish financial stability.

ENVIRONMENT

Malawi has a very high rate of deforestation, and loses about 2% of its forested area each year. Trees are cut down and used for daily necessities including cooking (89% of Malawians lack electricity and rely on wood for fuel) and building materials. As trees are cut down, soil becomes less fertile and erosion worsens. These can be devastating consequences for Sangilo community members, of whom most are subsistence farmers relying on the quality of the soil for their livelihoods. This is why Determined to Develop has focused its Environment Program on reforestation efforts.



OUR IMPACT IN 2017:

- D2D planted and distributed 5,000 mango, moringa, local mtangatanga, and acacia trees.
- D2D sponsored a community initiative which oversaw the planting of 10,000 trees on the Wasambo campus, which are being cared for by local community members.
- D2D provided reforestation lessons and also houses a greenhouse on campus maintained solely by residential youth.
- Since 2009, D2D has distributed over 33,000 trees to be planted in the community. Many have been fruit trees, which provide essential nutrients to families or nitrogen fixing trees, which provide essential nutrients to the soil.

HEALTH + NUTRITION

Hunger is a very real problem for many children in Malawi. Children suffer from high rates of under-nutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, with a 47% stunting rate for children under 5 years old. Primary schools have high dropout rates, and those who do attend often go on empty stomachs. Poor nutrition not only affects a child's health, but also their performance in school. This is why Determined to Develop has focused its Health & Nutrition initiatives on feeding students at our nearby schools.


OUR IMPACT in 2017

- D2D served a total of 227,319 nutritious meals to students supported by D2D.
- D2D ensured that 300 nursery school and 1500 primary school students were given a nutritious meal at school, allowing them to focus on their studies instead of worrying about hunger.
- D2D's residential sponsored youths were all fed meals each day, consisting of nutrient rich soya, meals, vegetables, and fish.
- D2D donated 6 beds to the local Sangilo Health Center.
- D2D supported the health of their residential sponsored youth by paying for all of their emergency medical expenses.

SINCE OUR INCEPTION

- D2D has fed over 2,559,800 meals to youth since its inception.
- D2D built toilets for girls at Khwawa CDSS, improving the hygiene and safety of its female students.
- D2D has built 3 sanitary kitchens for local schools and is now constructing another at Khwawa CDSS.
- D2D installed a water system for a nearby hospital which serves over 30,000 people.
- In 2013, D2D donated more than \$120,000 worth of medical supplies to local Malawian hospitals from USA-based charities.





"OUR EYES ARE TO THE FUTURE AND THE EXCITEMENT AT WHAT LAYS AHEAD IS PALPABLE."

WITH A FULL CLASS OF 70+ BOYS, WASAMBO HIGH SCHOOL BEGAN WITH AN INCREDIBLE FIRST YEAR. A DEDICATED HEAD TEACHER, A CADRE OF PROFESSIONAL AND EAGER TEACHERS - BOTH MALAWIAN AND EXPATRIATES, AND AN INTENTIONALITY TO BE EXCELLENT IN EDUCATION DELIVERY MEANT WE ARE ABLE TO SEE OUR SCHOOL EXCEEDING THE EXPECTATIONS WE LAID OUT FOR THE FIRST YEAR.

THE FIRST YEAR AT WASAMBO WENT EXCEPTIONALLY WELL. WE ARE OVERWHELMINGLY PROUD OF OUR STAFF AND STUDENTS. OUR PIONEER CLASS OF STUDENTS HAS FORMED A COMMUNITY ON TOP OF WHICH FUTURE CLASSES MAY BE BUILT. OUR TEACHERS HAVE CONTINUOUSLY IMPRESSED US WITH THEIR INGENUITY, RESOURCEFULNESS, AND COMMITMENT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR STUDENTS AND WASAMBO AS A WHOLE.

WASAMBO ACADEMY

BY ABBIE MORNEAULT
HEAD TEACHER, WASAMBO

The curriculum followed at WBHS is a combination of both formal academic and nonformal youth development curriculums. The utilization of both curricula allows for a more holistic approach to education and supports the growth of “mind, body, and spirit.” The academic curriculum follows the Malawi National Curriculum, allowing our students to eventually participate in a culminating examination taken at the end of secondary school that determines a student’s access to university.

The nonformal education curriculum follows the Malawi government’s curriculum and adds leadership and professional skills training. This curriculum was developed by a University of Dayton student from the School of Education during their 2017 summer practicum. The nonformal curriculum is taught on Saturdays, allowing students to actively engage in a more relaxed environment, free of uniforms. Topics range from study skills and time management, financial responsibility and literacy, physical and emotional health, and etiquette and interpersonal skills.



Once courses are finished each afternoon, students spend their time enjoying football (soccer) or volleyball, cleaning the campus, and attending club meetings. On weekends, students are kept very busy participating in sports programs, study sessions and church services. On Saturday evenings the staff organizes a movie to watch or music to dance to. It is important to us that our students are kept busy, preventing opportunities for misbehavior, while capitalizing on every opportunity to help them grow in mind, body, and spirit.

Academic performance is a key area of our focus. Each term, our staff sit down to discuss the results, in a program called “Achieving Academic Performance Together.” Staff discuss student scores on examinations, homework, quizzes, lab reports, and brainstorm how to improve education delivery. Students with lower scores are then given extra lessons which are provided in smaller groups and tailored to the students’ needs. During first term, 98.5% of students improved from their midterm to their final exams. We credit the increase in many of the students to their participation in this program.





WASAMBO'S COMMUNITY IMPACT:

One highlight of our work is seeing how our Wasambo full scholarship students are performing in comparison to their peers. This year, seven full scholarships were awarded to students based on their performance in primary school as well as leadership and teamwork skills. All of them come from impoverished homes in the surrounding area. These students, many of whom would normally not be able to attend secondary school, let alone a school of this caliber, are now competing against more privileged students from urban areas in Malawi. During the first two school terms, six out of seven of these full scholarship students ranked in the top 20 of their class. Two of them ranked in the top 10, and one of them has been ranked position #1 for the first two terms (third term results are not yet out). It is impressive to see their performance and it is a large indicator of the impact that Wasambo Boys High School has within the local surrounding community, a very intentional broader goal of the school.



Pictured top left: Our Wasambo full-scholarship students, who represent 10% of the first year (Form 1) class



D2D relies heavily upon our friends and supporters who generously keep our organization moving forward.



FINANCES

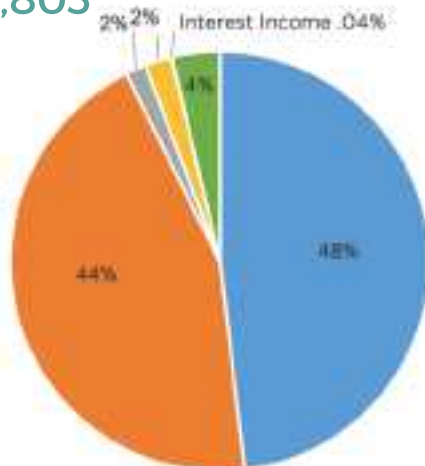
How did we spend your donations in 2017?

D2D's financial information and procedures are audited every year and the results are posted on our website (www.determinedtodevelop.org) for the public. We are proud that a majority of our annual funding comes from individual donors who support our mission. At D2D, we make sure that money always goes to where it is needed most, and we aim to keep the administration costs as low as possible. In 2017, overhead costs were only 2% of our annual expenses, and went towards things like accounting fees and paying our staff in Malawi.

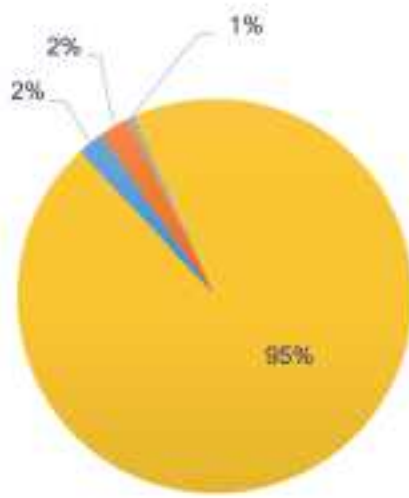
2017 INCOME

\$527,803

- Individual Donations: \$253,937
- Wasambo High School Grant: \$235,000
- Corporate Contributions: \$8,282
- In-Kind Donations: \$10,964
- Interest Income: \$200
- Other Grants: \$19,420

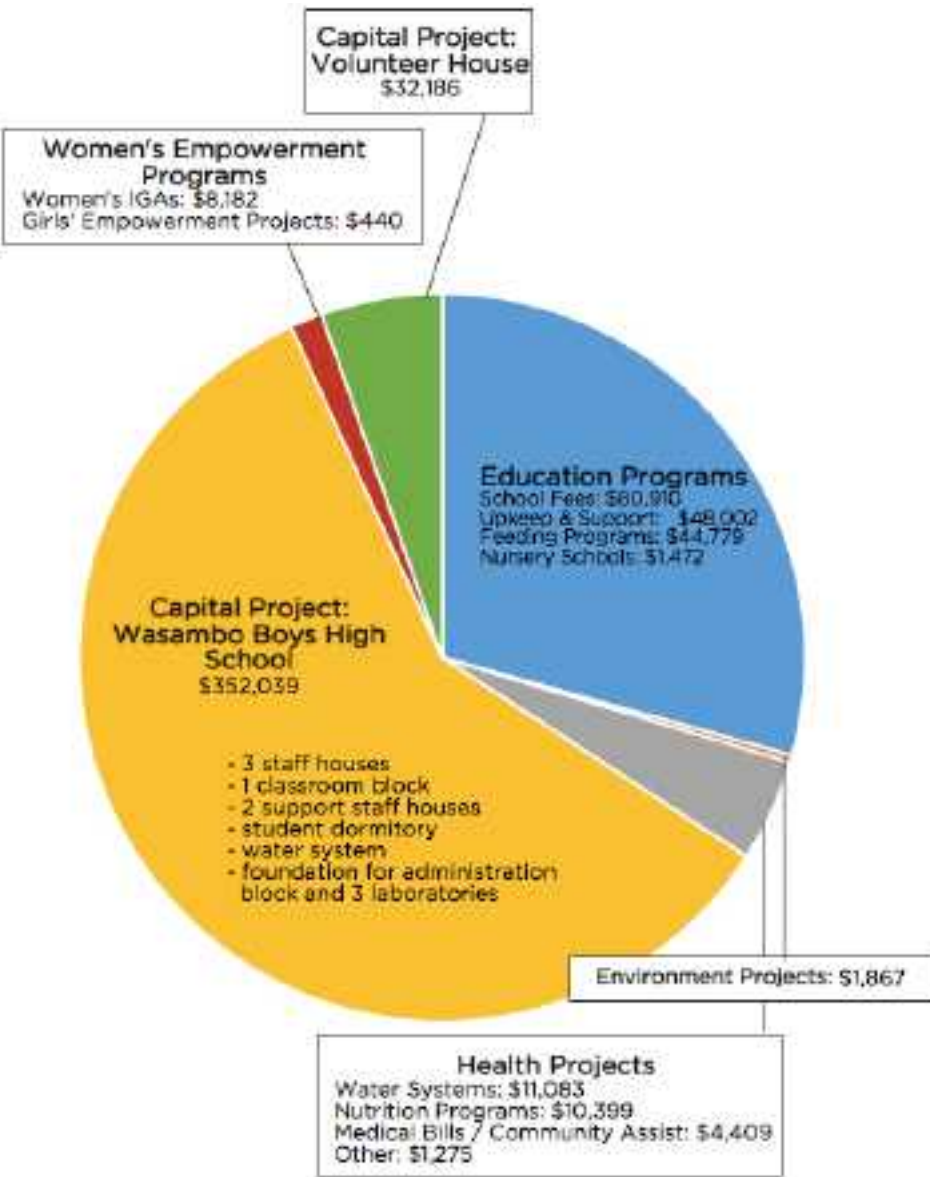


2017 EXPENSES



- Fundraising: \$13,703
- Admin: \$15,664
- Accounting Fees: \$3,475
- Programming: \$597,044

2017 PROGRAMMING BREAKDOWN



DONATIONS IN ACTION

This year, a substantial amount of D2D programming costs went towards funding one-time capital projects.

These are necessary additions to our infrastructure, and will allow our organization to grow and support more beneficiaries in the future. This included the construction of Wasambo Boys Highschool, the funds on which were provided by a private grant. Funds for our 4 Cornerstone initiatives are broken down in the graphs to the left.



OUR STUDENTS' STORIES

MOUNT MULANJE

KENNEDY

Everybody was excited to see that the day we were waiting for had come. The day which we were starting off from Maji Zuwa going to Mulanje Mountain. We traveled for two days to get to the mountain. It was a long journey as we were moving from the northern part of Malawi to the southern part. Apart from the excitement I had to see Mulanje Mountain, I was also excited to see other parts of Malawi, because the journey there covered almost the whole of the country. Once we arrived, we spent the night at the bottom of the mountain before our climb up began. Around six the next day we started our hike. At first, everybody was confused, The view and the setup of the mountain was different from our imaginations. It was beautiful, of course it was tiresome going up, but it was very enjoyable. We spent two nights on the mountain, spending each day working our way to the top. After a lot of hard work, the entire group made it, with everyone reaching the highest point of the mountain which we refer to as 'Sapitwa,' here in Malawi. On the third morning, we started off going back down. It was one of the trips I really discovered something, to feel what it's like to breathe that high up and to see such beautiful views standing on top of Malawi. It was a great time for everyone and a lot of fun.



SUCCESS STORIES: GIRLS CLUB

Milliam Mnthali began attending Girl's Club in 2016 when it first started being hosted by D2D. Two years later, she's reflecting on some of the best features this all-female safe-space has to offer.

"We learn a lot of important stuff at Girl's Club which isn't taught to us at primary school, like lessons on how to take proper care of our bodies as girls and the benefit of not having a relationship and deciding against early marriage. Before Girl's Club, none of us knew anything about saving money or why we should. We all hope the lessons continue because we learn many new things and are always encouraged to work hard and do our best in school. We're reminded of the importance of getting an education and what it can do for our lives. One of the best things I've ever done was giving a speech in front of other people who came to hear about Girl's Club. It was so encouraging for me to know I could stand in front of others and speak good English which is something I had never done before. English is something we get to practice a lot at Girl's Club and are always taught more through our lessons. We hope D2D never stops hosting Girl's Club. I really enjoyed the time we went swimming in the lake with the leaders. It's always a lot of fun when we have disco party's with Sobo and biscuits after a lesson is over. I have told a lot of my friends about it and now they come too. It's a space that even our parents encourage us to go to."



OWEN MCHEKA

As part of my bachelor degree studies at the University of Livingstonia in Social Science-Development Studies, I did a 12-week internship from the 5th June, 2017 until 25th August, 2017 at the Ministry of Gender, Children Disability and Social Welfare agency in Nkhatabay district. The Ministry is mandated to promote gender equality and protect the welfare of Malawian women, men, girls and boys in order to become self-reliant and active participants and beneficiaries of the national development agenda. The internship that I took in the Ministry corresponds to my career interests and school major. My duties were diverse and ever-changing, leaving me with an immense amount of knowledge, learning experiences, and growth opportunities that I will forever appreciate. The experience has helped me gain a wide array of considerable and professional knowledge within my field. More importantly, I had the chance to sharpen my skills in a professional working environment. I further expanded my communication technologies skill-set and gained invaluable communication skills. I received extensive training and was able to put these skill-sets in motion through giving presentations and having important discussions with supervisors, experts in the field and other staff members within and outside the Ministry council.

Some of the projects and programs I worked on and participated in were the Malawi National Social Support Program, which aims to alleviate poverty levels in Malawi, researching to identify beneficiaries of social cash transfers and assessing its impact, youth empowerment programs, particularly girls empowerment ones just to mention a few. I also learned an extensive amount about the Tonga culture, whose benefits are far beyond what I could learn in a normal project setting. I am thankful for all that I have gained through this educational attachment and for all the people that worked in the office of social welfare of Nkhatabay district council who helped me along the way. With their patience and openness, they created an enjoyable working environment. As a result of Determine to Develop (D2D) introducing me to this great opportunity, and supporting such an endeavor, I have developed academically, socially and professionally and look forward to what the future has in store for my career soon to take place.



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reg number C916/2016 (MW)
NGO Board of Malawi #
NGO/1/16/035
Determined to Develop is registered
with the NGO Board of Malawi and
the Council for Non-Governmental
Organizations

Determined to Develop would not be able to work with our local community without the support of people like you.

To learn more about D2D and to support our mission to empower the people of Malawi, please visit:
determinedtodevelop.org.

