

AFRICAN VISION MALAWI

'Creating Lasting Change'



Distributions - June 2017 Written by Gaynor Cook (Founder)

In general, our programmes and projects are aimed to be sustainable and we are in support of a 'hand-up' and not a 'hand-out', but our distributions are greatly needed by the orphan and vulnerable children in our area, and make a big difference to their lives.

I am often asked why we need to take knitted jumpers, blankets and hats to Malawi. The simple answer is that the Malawian winter is during June, July and August (being in the southern hemisphere) and while the days are often warm and sunny, the early mornings and evenings are very chilly. The nights can get down to 8 degrees! People living in the rural area we support sleep on mud floors so a blanket or an extra layer of clothing is invaluable. We (Sarah Parsloe, Eileen Speak and myself) were in Malawi for three weeks this year and visited some partnership schools in the early morning. Some of those schools have insufficient classrooms and many children are taught outside. We found groups of children huddled together trying to keep warm and concentrate on their lessons.



This year we visited 19 Primary schools, 8 CBCC's (pre-schools) and a maternity unit and distributed jumpers, blankets hats and warm clothing at each one. We have a wonderful team of knitters at All Saints Church in Kingston-upon-Thames and The Jolly Jumpers in Shropshire who knit all the year round to help and support the children in our area. Some of them also help to fund raise to enable us to pay the additional costs of getting the clothing out to Malawi. Three of us took 15 cases out this year which were full of warm clothing and pens, pencils, etc for the schools. Further donations were sent over by ship on 3 large pallets. If you would like to support us by holding a coffee morning or a cake stall to help us with these costs, please contact us on 0208 287 8169 or email heather.palmer@africanvision.org.uk

A hand knitted blanket or jumper does not only give warmth to the children, but happiness that someone cares about them. Look how amazingly colourful they look and with very big smiles!



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