

The Edith M Ellis 1985 Charitable Trust

Malawi Farmers Aid

#XPY5FWFM41 submitted on 21 October 2021

1.1 Please summarise what you are seeking from us

Funding for one of our sustainable agricultural projects in rural Malawi.

We require funds to buy, seeds, plants, and tools to help a group of young people set up a small farm, providing food and employment, and reducing poverty.

The project will be carried out during the 'dry season' of limited rainfall. We have an innovative irrigation system that enables us to grow crops despite the effects of climate change.

1.2 Tell us more about your project, the impact it will have on those it aims to help, and why you consider the proposed approach to be innovative

The project's purpose is to create employment in agriculture for young people in the 15 - 25 year age group. The location is the Viphya region, a rural area of Malawi, East Africa. Many of the participants will have dropped out of school early, some are single mothers.

Our partner organisation in Malawi, Tiwavwire Youth Organisation (tiwavwireorg.yolasite.com), will oversee and report on the project. We have worked with TYO for many years. Their founder Denis Mhango is a farmer and devout Christian. He delivers many community projects in agriculture and education. In our many years working in international development, we have found TYO to be the most dependable African partner.

Malawi has a population of 18 million, and 90% of the population live in scattered rural areas working in agriculture. The climate is such that crops can be grown all year round, subject to sufficient rainfall.

We bring together groups of twenty five young unemployed people. We provide them with the necessary farm inputs of hand tools, seeds, and fertiliser. Provide training in farming methods and oversee their work in starting small farms. We teach basic business finance, including the importance of retaining part of sales income to reinvest in the future. We find markets for the crops grown.

We have worked in seven villages in Northern Malawi, providing sustainable long term employment for several hundred young people. More information, and photographs, can be seen at <https://www.malawifarmersaid.org.uk/projects-2019>

Crop farming in Malawi is concentrated in the rainy season in the first six months of the year. Few crops are grown during the dry season in the second half of the year, due to unreliable rainfall and the high cost of irrigation.

The project will be our third dry season scheme, located in the Viphya region of Malawi. Viphya is hilly, and contains lakes, streams, and springs which allow free irrigation of crops even when there is no rainfall. The region is difficult to access by road, but there are many small villages where the communities struggle to farm successfully due to lack of money to buy farm inputs. The dry season projects are especially important due to the reduced rainfall being experienced in Africa.

The group will mainly grow vegetables, and salad crops. These grow quickly in the excellent climate, and successional sowings enable the group to maximise their output. Some of the crops will be eaten by the group's families, providing much needed nutritious food, but the majority of the crop will be sold. These cash crops have a ready market in nearby villages and small towns.

Additionally, we will plant twenty fruit and nut trees adjacent to the village. This is a long term investment in food for the future, and a contribution to the reforestation of the region.

Overseas aid and financial help from the Malawi Government does not reach these poor communities. It is left to small NGOs like ourselves to help the communities make use of the plentiful resources of fertile land, abundant water, and well motivated workers. However, it is often difficult for small NGOs like ourselves to attract funding.

The project's impact will be the provision of long term employment for the participants, an increase in their income, reduction in poverty for their community, and sustained food security.

Our previous projects have provided an average income of £ 290 per person for their efforts over a six month period. The average annual income per capita in Malawi in 2020 was £330, so the previously unemployed youths, their families, and community benefited enormously earning almost a year's income within six months.

1.3 Which grant-giving categories does your project fulfil?

D - Climate change mitigation

F - Sustainable development

1.3d Climate change mitigation

Rainfall is becoming scarcer in Malawi, and farmer's crops cannot be grown without water.

Using the natural spring water in the remote Vipya region avoids the need for expensive irrigation systems. Pumps and the fuel to power them are not needed.

Our project uses free natural resources and does not need fossil fuels.

1.4 Which country is the project based in?

Malawi (MW)

1.5 Will the project continue after initial funding has ended?

Yes

1.5b Please give details of how you plan to continue after initial funding has ended

Participants are required to retain part of the proceeds from the sale of their crops to buy farm inputs for the next year's growing season.

This ensures that they continue farming in future years.

The participants are taught basic business management as part of their training, including the importance of reinvesting for the future. We do this for all of our projects, and it is successful.

1.6 How will the project be monitored and evaluated?

The project is overseen by our overseas partner. We have worked with them for many years and they are entirely reliable.

During the project they provide regular photographs of the project as it progresses. At the end of the project they provide a financial report showing the costs and income from the project.

2.1 Expenditure

| EXPENDITURE ITEM | AMOUNT | NOTES |
|----------------------------|--------|-------|
| Vegetable seeds and tubers | £800 | |
| Fertiliser | £450 | |
| Pesticide and herbicide | £250 | |
| | | |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|---|
| Sprayers | £120 | |
| Wheelbarrows, hoes, wire, packaging | £180 | |
| Transport | £200 | Transport costs are incurred for bringing inputs to the farm, and taking crops to their buyers. |
| Fruit and nut tree saplings | £100 | |
| TOTALS | £2,100 | |

2.2 Income

| INCOME SOURCE | TARGET AMOUNT | AMOUNT RAISED | NOTES |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---|
| Sale of crops | £9,300 | £0 | The target figure is based on results from previously completed projects. Our previous projects have provided an average income of £ 290 per person for their efforts over a six month period. The average annual income per capita in Malawi in 2020 was £330, so the previously unemployed youths, their families, and community benefited enormously earning almost a year's income within six months. |
| | £0 | £0 | |
| TOTALS | £9,300 | £0 | |

2.3 What is the total amount (in £ sterling) your organisation is requesting from The Edith M Ellis Trust?

£2,100

2.4 Has your organisation made an application to The Edith M Ellis Trust before?

No

2.5 Please state your organisation's annual turnover (in £ sterling)

£2,750

2.6 Do you wish to upload your audited accounts or financial statement?

Yes

2.6b Upload File

https://theedithmellischaritabletrust.org/assets/uploads/2021/10/ilovepdf_merged.pdf

2.7 Please tell us where payment should be made if your application is successful

Malawi Farmers Aid
00767611
20-59-43

3.1 Your name

Mike Holmes

3.2 Your contact telephone number

01642 767228 + 07519563183

3.3 Your position within the organisation

manager

3.4 Your email address

admin@malawifarmersaid.org.uk

3.5 Organisation name

Malawi Farmers Aid

3.6 Please state the status of your organisation

UK Charity

3.7 Please summarise what your organisation does

We provide training and resources to unemployed youths in rural Malawi to enable them to start and expand their own small farms. This provides employment, income, and food in the country's poorest region.

Our Malawi partner, TYO, delivers and manages the projects in Malawi. TYO are a well managed social enterprise run by Denis Mhango. Denis has been known to ourselves for many years.

TYO's website <https://tiwavwireorg.yolasite.com/>

3.8 UK correspondence address for organisation

Malawi Farmers Aid

Chesterton Avenue

Thornaby

Stockton on Tees

TS17 0BH

3.9 UK telephone number

01642 767228 + 07519563183

3.10 UK charity number (if applicable)

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3.11 Year established

2018

3.12 Website (if applicable)

<https://www.malawifarmersaid.org.uk/>

3.13 Social media accounts (if applicable)

<https://www.facebook.com/Stocktonontees77>

4.1 How did you hear about The Edith M Ellis Trust?

Internet