

Becca Dunkel  
Beckman Catholic High School  
Dyersville, Iowa  
Malawi, Factor 19

### **Organized Protocol For Foreign Aid In Malawi**

Malawi, a landlocked third world country slightly smaller than Pennsylvania, is one of the most populated countries facing an increasing death rate due to disease and low protein quality. "Malawi is located in Southern Africa, east of Zambia, and has a total land area of 118,484 square miles. It has a population of 18.5 million people and a growth rate of 3.32% per year ("The World Factbook: MALAWI")." In Malawi, many people live in the rural areas such as Blantyre (*Infoplease*). Most of the people in this country are living in poverty. "Malawi is rated 173 out of 182, of countries that are rated, to have the most poverty." Many challenges face the people of Malawi and they need our help to get their country back on track. The determination to improve poverty rates in Malawi is very crucial for their country, and we should be dedicated to help them make this happen.

When a person sees where Malawi is located on the map, it is easy to recognize that some of their challenges are based on their location. "The climate in Malawi is subtropical. Rainfall usually occurs from November to May and it often floods, but then they have droughts from May to November where it often affects the production of their crops and goods. Ninety percent of Malawi's Labor force is based on agriculture and the left over ten percent is based on industry and services (2003 est.)." Since ninety percent of the labor force is agriculture based, the country is impacted greatly by flooding due to its dependency on crop production. Malawian farmers grow various crops such as sugarcane, tobacco, and cotton. Malawi's main crops though are maize and cassava, which are better known as corn and tapioca ("The World Factbook: MALAWI"). "In 2014/2015, it was estimated that there was a 12.4% decline in maize production due to the flooding season ("Malawi Economic Monitor: Analysis Predicts Continued Weak Growth in 2016 Amid Low Agricultural Production"). It is said that because the country is so high in poverty that 12 million people can afford to spend only \$1.25 on food each day ("10 Facts About Poverty in Malawi and Efforts to Reduce It"). The problem with eating only these two crops is that these crops aren't allowing access to good protein quality for the people of Malawi. Many things can help increase protein quality and get rid of diseases. One way to improve protein is by raising animals such as goats to help increase the quality protein available. By adding goats to this country, the people can use these animals for higher protein quality food beyond their base, which is maize. Goats will also provide more economic options for farmers. In order to do this, we need to have an organized protocol for foreign aid in Malawi.

Malawi's typical household consists of five people. The people of Malawi often live with their extended families. The family would live in a hut and those huts would be grouped together into villages. In Malawi, the head of the household is usually the male or a widow that has been assigned to take care of around twelve children that are from late relatives. Malawi has a low life expectancy which results in a large number of orphans, and because the relatives cannot take care of all the children they inherit from deceased relatives, those children are often left to care for themselves ("Children Of The Nations"). When the Malawi people don't have a good harvest, it is especially crucial for them to find food for themselves without the added job of finding food for all the children and orphans of the Malawi people killed by starvation and disease. If Malawi received foreign aid, it could help increase the life expectancy of their people so families could take care of their own children. This would create fewer orphans and a better standard of living. Foreign aid that would help the Malawian people support themselves while improving the economy and providing better living conditions is a win-win situation.

Malawi is one of the most impoverished countries in the world. It is home to many people who are suffering both from diseases and lack of protein quality. This is why this country needs an organized foreign aid system. Foreign aid is when a country lends another country food, money, or other resources that a country needs. In Malawi, maize is their base crop, but maize does not have enough protein for an adequate healthy human diet. “In a 100 gram serving of maize, you receive 3.4 grams of protein, 21 grams of carbs, and it is 73% water (“Corn 101: Nutrition Facts and Health Benefits”). Maize is the most consumed crop for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the population in Malawi. Maize is popular because it is reasonable and able to be purchased by those living in poverty. Inadequate protein quality in maize adds to the chain of challenges that this country is already dealing with due to its poverty. Malawi needs foreign aid to add more goats not only for meat, but also for cheese, milk, fiber, and other products. Foreign aid cannot just give them these resources though, we need to teach them how to use them and produce them successfully so it doesn't just go to waste or die. This leads to giving the Malawi people education about creating food to feed both themselves and their livestock without a waste of resources. When this step is accomplished, it would give the people of Malawi a real, long lasting foreign aid because they can improve their protein quality which will help ward off diseases. Goats would be able to establish a means of getting good nutrition, bringing in income through sale of offspring, meat, and dairy products, improve soil quality through use of goat manure, and allow possible farmer income to improve the local economy. This would be a big step in bringing people out of poverty and creating a sustainable quality of life.

“Malawi's educated adult literacy rate is 65.8%, which is low compared to the 84.1% global rate (“The World Factbook: MALAWI”).” This is a very important because it makes clear many things. It shows us that these people need more education than they are currently getting. “In Malawi, one in ten children don't even attend school. For the children that do attend school, only a quarter of them go on and attend a secondary school (“Education & Jobs”).” Most of the children that drop out of school are girls because they are married into arranged marriages at a very young age. When parents in Malawi arrange marriages for their daughters, they believe that they are helping them succeed in life more than just wasting their time in school. “The problem is, the husband can't care for his wife when times get tough, and she is usually the first to suffer (“Children Of The Nations”).” When the Malawi people do not get the education they need, especially the women, they are really hurting their success of fighting poverty with the next generation because that cycle of non-education is not broken. This increasing product would hopefully help them by decreasing their poverty rate through increased education and product potential. “Some of the major aims for this country with education are to improve things such as creating more classrooms, trained teachers, and learning resources (“Education & Jobs.”)” With my solution I can help solve some of these goals. I can help with learning about resources with my solution by teaching them how to take care for the goats with their local resources for a result of more products. We need to educate because we are the ones who have to teach the younger generation how to become the better next generation; we can do this by helping teach them as we are giving them foreign aid. I would suggest that experts from each Malawian community be trained in goat herd management and issues related to feed, trade, dairy production, and financial management. These trained individuals would take it back to the people in the communities so it is coming from someone of their own culture and background. Training updates would be available frequently through non-government organizations or partnerships with educational institutions.

Health care in Malawi is very important. Malawi deals with many diseases such as: malaria, measles, pneumonia, and others. Health care is so important mainly because, in Malawi, there is a significant outbreak of HIV/AIDS. “In Malawi, more than one in ten are living with HIV/AIDS. In total, there are over 90,000 people in Malawi living with HIV/AIDS.” There are four main hospitals in Malawi, which are all run by missionaries with a severe lack of supplies. Not only are they in a lack of supplies but they are also in dire need of doctors and nurses. “In recent years, around 50,000 people have died from these diseases in Malawi due to lack of available health care.” Most of the people cannot afford to pay for treatment with the limited health care available in the country. The lack of health care in Malawi is a

major problem and hopefully the foreign aid that is given to these people will help them improve in the health care department (“Education & Jobs”). Education and better nutrition provided through foreign aid would go a long way in creating a healthier Malawian population.

“In Malawi, their agriculture employs 80% (“Education & Jobs”).” Malawi’s agriculture is still off track of where they really should be. In Malawi, the average farmer owns around a .3 hectare plot. They mainly grow maize or cassava in the area that they own. The families that live in Malawi depend on their crops to feed their families and some do have animals to add protein to their diet, but most that are living in poverty do not own animals. “In Malawi, the more common animals include: cattle, goats, and poultry (“The World Factbook: MALAWI”).” A major problem is that when they get these animals, sometimes from the help of other countries with foreign aid, they do not have the education to take care of them to actually benefit from them. These people should be learning the possibilities they could have with an animal such as a goat. With a goat they can produce not only meat, but they can produce cheese, milk, fiber, etc. Goat milk is especially essential because goat milk is not prone to affect allergies. This is especially good for Malawi since there will be little digestive issues involved in consumption, and it would also help with their lack of protein quality. In giving foreign aid with goats, the people of Malawi can truly have a chance to improve poverty in their country. Goats would improve nutrition while providing products to sell. Income from sales would allow farmers to buy other products, thus boosting the local economy. Healthier people can work harder and longer. Healthier children can learn better with a more nourished brain. Education rates could increase because incomes would allow children to stay in school.

The biggest problem with giving goats to Malawi through foreign aid is that when they are given to them, these animals cannot just be given without education. Education must first be provided to make sure they start small, so they do not get overwhelmed in the care required to raise the animals. There are some cultural barriers as obstacles too. One of the major cultural issues that challenge this is education. One of the main obstacles is that girls are supposed to stay home and not go to school in the Malawian tradition. The women are to take care of the homes and the men are to go to school. This is a big obstacle because if they were to let the women go to school they might not be in as big of a need for foreign aid to come out of poverty. Some education may have to be provided to groups of women in villages by trained Malawian women. Starting with a non-traditional educational setting and bringing it to the women may help establish better farm production, better nutrition, lower disease rates, and eventually lead to more formal education of females. A method to do this may be similar to extension programs provided in the United States.

With the goat solution in particular, training on how to care for these animals in case their crops fail and they are left with no food source is essential. Secondly, we should then teach them how they can use the goats in other ways to help them overcome poverty, such as using what they produce to make products for themselves. Experts in dairy management, soil management, marketing, human and animal nutrition, and financial concerns could be established. Thirdly, we should finally check on them by providing ongoing educational partnerships to make sure they are doing well and improving as a result of the addition. This is the main reason for giving foreign aid. It is meant to help not hinder in the people’s goal of improving their economics for the country.

Obviously the poverty is not getting any better in Malawi and they need some foreign assistance to improve conditions there. Jumpstarting the economy through increased individual incomes and new economic products is the goal of foreign investment. Other products may be introduced or evaluated, however a huge lack of protein quality and adequate access to good nutrition holds them down. If we do not help them in some sustaining way, they will just keep going downhill. It is more of a hit or miss situation depending on the season that they are going through at the time. Children suffer the most from this unpredictability because the head of the household will try to get as much food for their family first

and any extra kids that he or she had to take in might not even get an adequate food diet. This is another reason why they really need our help in Malawi.

Improving lack of protein quality and diseases in Malawi would help them not only learn more but build their country stronger. In solution to this problem, they would have lower death rates and also lower orphan rates because they would be able to take care of each other (“The World Factbook: MALAWI”). These improvements would have a drastic positive effect on this country that is severely suffering with poverty. Malawi’s economy needs to be transformed so why wouldn’t we try this when it could have a huge impact?

If the Malawi people truly want to overcome poverty then they should turn to their country’s government to get on board with this foreign aid solution. The government should stop importing the things that they don’t need and they should rather keep their money to get back on track of trying to get them out of poverty. This plan with foreign aid could greatly increase production for this country that is in desperate need for help. With these changes in education and an initial investment in livestock, the people would become a lot healthier because they would be solving two of their greatest challenges. Governments, local and international organizations, and ordinary citizens can help implement my solution by discussing and coming up with a plan to getting the first goat to families. Once we find out how to do that and implement the solution we could gradually build markets and improve economies. Collaboration is very important with this because we need all the help we can get to make this work because if we don’t all work together and make some sacrifices in the end we will be left with what we started with. With this being said certain people would have to have different roles to make it all work. The men should be in charge of maintaining the animals because they are the ones who would be educated with the information to keep the animals alive and well as is acceptable in the current cultural situation. The women would be the ones in charge of making the products and distributing them appropriately. Finally the children could also help out with feeding the animals and doing some basic chores that come with having animals. With these ideas many pieces of the broken puzzle can be put back together to solve the needs of the struggling population in Malawi. Eventually increases in formal education and better markets might change the roles of males and females in Malawian society. A greater and more adequate overall country can be created for Malawi. The products that these people would be able to make would be sold at market. Eventually farmers could support not only their family through rough times, but also other people’s families too.

If the people of Malawi truly want to overcome poverty they will need to turn to foreign aid for help. The current government is not able to fix the problem on its own for varying reasons. Encouraging the government to assist in the foreign aid process efforts will boost the possibility of long term change in Malawi. Hopefully successes shown in animal aid will help motivate the government to get on board. Through the education and provision of a goat industry, the farmers will build a better life and economy. If they do this they could save millions of lives each year that would be originally suffering. However, this will not be easy and it will take a lot of hard work for this to be a success. Organizations like Heifer International have helped provide animals for families in other countries and have shown some success with the boost in nutrition and cash flow. “Thanks to help from Global Impact charity partner, Heifer International, anyone visiting the village of Msonthi, Malawi, today will see ox carts, bicycles and healthy children going to school, but this was not always the case.” A man named Daniel received a cow from Heifer International and Daniel says, “In the past my family was malnourished, but now, with milk to drink, they are not.” He adds, “They were getting ill frequently, but now that has all stopped.” (Heifer International) In addition, Daniel was able to add to the soil quality with manure produced by the cow. This led to increased crop productivity as well. Many people are not truly aware of the things they need when they are suffering from poverty and don’t know how to break the bad cycle to improve it. By providing these people with goats to produce more products for them, they can grow independently and help the country reach its goal of overcoming their severe poverty. With everyone on board with this idea

they can truly do wonders to this country. Through foreign aid, agriculture in Malawi can change for the better. Lack of protein and diseases are a huge problem in our world today and it is time for people to stand up now and make a difference to finally end world hunger in countries like Malawi that are suffering greatly.

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