

Date: July 5, 2017

## NEWSLETTER Q2-17

Friends of Stichting Beter Malawi,

Again, a report of developments in Malawi that have been made possible by your support. Dick went to Malawi in April to see what the current projects are like. We are very enthusiastic about this. Below is a short summary.

### **Leading Farmer Project (LFP)**

This is a good thing to mention. Last year, 42 farmers started a little skeptical with an experiment to get more maize from the field. The bad things, like burden of termites and worms in the ground, are overcome. The farmers also found that the use of NPK (fertilizer) before sowing has a positive impact on agriculture, although it is not logical for them because there is yet nothing to grow.

You can imagine it has been a new experience and the most remarkable is that a lot has been harvested!

For example: Normally, a piece of land of 39 x 16 meters delivers 63 kg of maize. The purpose of the new method was to double this to 126 kg. The minimum they have reached is between 125 and 451 kg (yes it's true!). And the average for the whole group is 263 kg. That's just 200kg more than normal. You can imagine how surprised and proud the Malawians are about this result. Most people still do not understand how they've become this result, so it's difficult to apply on more land.

Each participant gives half a bag of maize to the nursery schools in the community so that porridge can be made to feed the children. Hopefully, the number of children that are going to school will increase again. This project is further expanded by more participants, for which an Expert Team is composed. They're gonna follow a course to learn to make compost so that they don't have to buy fertilizer in the future.



The maize in all its wealth



The land when harvested



The Expert Team

### **Computer lessons at Namadidi Primary and Secondary school**

After receiving 3 laptops in 2016, computer lessons have been started at the Namadidi Primary School. With this visit, Dick also gave 2 laptops (with stand-alone wikipedia) to the Secondary School and provided a projector. This makes it easier for more children to watch what happens to the laptop during the lesson. At the school there were a number of teachers who knew exactly what to do with the laptops and the beamer. It did not take long before they had everything working and a life-sized image was projected on the wall. It's nice to see that they can do this by themselves.

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One of the teachers starts the laptop and the projector ..... and then there's a picture

Dick also visited the Groups within the Mawa Community.

The **Support Group** has slightly less good results in tomato cultivation. They would like to expand with keeping goats. This way they can use the manure on the land and redistribute the little goats among the members.

The **Disabled Group** is doing very well with the goats. They now want to expand with a trade in 2nd hand clothes. They'll buy a bale of clothes, which they can sell again within the community. The **Mawa Group** is distributing the maize of the Leading Farmer Project to schoolchildren. Then washing hands is followed by eating porridge. We hope that the number of schoolchildren will increase to 300, as before.

The **Youth Group** has built a dam with Dick (pilot dam) to save water. It was an easy job they said. Now we will see what they are going to do with it.



Kids in line to wash their hands



The Youth Group has cleaned the books in the library

Dick has also talked with the Chiefs about their wishes for the future. Based on this, we will create a new 5-year plan in the coming months.

For the full travel report of Dick, see our website [www.betermalawi.nl](http://www.betermalawi.nl)

The Better Malawi Team  
Manon, Nico, Erik and Dick