

Malawi Report – 2019.

In 2019 there were four teams:

Lilongwe, Dedza, Mangochi, Blantyre and Zomba:

Professor Brian Kelly, Project Leader, Lord Provost's Malawi Project
Gillian Walsh, International Officer, Lord Provost's and International Office

Lilongwe and Dedza:

Maria Quintas Zon, Service Development, DRS
Mark Murphy, Problem Coordinator, CGI

Blantyre and Zomba:

Robert Mc Phee, Senior Technical Analyst, CGI

Lilongwe:

City Building (Glasgow)

Scott McEwan, Team Leader
Graham Robb, Construction Manager
Martin Bredin, Construction Manager
Shelley Sutherland, Electrician

Apprentices:-

Phoebe Ali,
Cameron Moir
Craig Butler

Malawi Overview Report, 2019
Lilongwe IT Report, 2019
Blantyre Report, 2019
Lilongwe, City Building Report, 2019

Malawi Overview Report, 2019

Sunday - 1st September

It was agreed that all the volunteers would meet at Glasgow Airport at 2.00 pm to check in for our first flight to Amsterdam which was scheduled to take off at 4.55 pm.

It transpired that there were some air traffic control problems and our flight was subject to a 45 minute delay. We left Glasgow shortly after 6.00 pm and arrived in Amsterdam at 8.15 pm. On arriving into Amsterdam we were advised that we had missed our connecting flight to Nairobi.

We spent the next few hours trying to get our flights rearranged in order to get the group to Lilongwe in the quickest way possible. The flights were arranged such that we had to re-route via Dar es Salaam. This meant that we had to spend the night in Amsterdam. Passes were issued by KLM for the overnight for the hotel accommodation and bus passes. We reached our hotel close to midnight and managed to get something to eat. It was well after midnight when the Deputy Hotel Manager alerted us to the fact that KLM had only provided 10 vouchers for the Crowne Plaza. Two vouchers were for the Bastion Hotel which resulted in another transfer for two members of our group.

Monday - 2nd September

We had to have an early breakfast since we were being picked up at 7.30 am for the return trip to the airport. Whilst awaiting our flight we learned that there was an ongoing baggage handling dispute which was due to end at 10.00 am. We eventually took off at about midday. The flight to Dar es Salaam was of around 8 hours duration with a stop-over at Kilimanjaro. We arrived at Dar es Salaam at 22.40 pm local time. We made contact with the KLM ground staff to ascertain the whereabouts of our luggage, where we would be spending the night and what transport arrangements had been put in place. On entry to Dar es Salaam we were advised that we would have to obtain visas at a cost of \$30.00 per person. Fortunately, we were able to collect our luggage. We were then faced with a 30 minute drive to the hotel which had been arranged for our overnight stay. We arrived at midnight and some decided not to go to bed since we were to be picked up for the return to the airport at 4.00 am. Our flight to Lilongwe was timed for 7.00 am.

Tuesday - 3rd September

Picked - up at 4.00 am for transfer to airport. Flight took off at 7.15 am for our final short flight to Lilongwe. It was a great relief to be finally in Lilongwe and at our accommodation. We had lost one full day as a result of the rearrangements to our travel plans.

We arranged to meet the building team at Dynamic Freight's premises at 11.00 am to check out the kit and to make arrangements for the delivery of the required tools and materials to the Prosthetics/Orthotics Clinic.

We then met with Olivia Giles at her bank. Money had been transferred to Olivia's bank in advance of our visit. This arrangement had been utilized in the past with Olivia and we are indebted to her for her assistance in this regard. We had to divide up the money in order to allocate sums for Robert (working in Blantyre), Maria and Mark (working in Lilongwe), Scott's building team, which was the largest sum and a small amount for use by Gillian and I.

Wednesday – 4th September

We undertook visits/meetings at Bwaila Hospital, the Prosthetics/Orthotics Clinic, the Interdenominational Pastoral Care Centre and Lilongwe Civic Headquarters where we met the recently appointed Chief Executive Officer, John Chome and the Director of Health and Social Welfare Services, Vitto Mulula. We also took the opportunity to meet with Mirriam Manyozo, the IT Manager, and checked with Maria and Mark on how they were getting on with the preparation of the IT kit.

We discussed the printer requirements of the P/O clinic, agreed that six desktop computers would be provided to Bwaila Hospital and confirmed that the clothing used for packing the IT kit would be donated to the IPCC. We visited the College of Health Sciences where we learned that Dr Masache had recently retired. His replacement had not yet been appointed.

Thursday – 5th September

We set off and travelled to Dedza where we met with Gloria. We visited BOMA, the Registration office and the school. We also spent some time at the prison checking on the equipment which was previously installed in various offices. In the afternoon we travelled to Mangochi and arrived in the late afternoon.

Friday – 6th September

Meeting to discuss the provision of desktop computers for the police at Makokolo police station. We were able to make an initial donation of two desktop computers. In addition, we were able to provide a laptop computer for the CID. We also donated two mini iPads to a local acquaintance who is teaching her children at home.

Saturday and Sunday were taken as time off.

Monday – 9th September

We visited Nkhudzi Bay to check on progress at the building site.

Also visited the primary school and the tailoring project.

Visited Mangochi General Hospital to establish if we could be of assistance with the provision of computers.

Tuesday - 10th September

Left Mangochi to travel to Blantyre. On route, we stopped at the Open Arms Orphanage where we established that there is a need for one further desktop computer, a washing machine and a tumble dryer. The existing equipment in the laundry area is causing problems and should be replaced.

We checked in with Robert, at the Education Department Headquarters, regarding progress with installs and training.

Wednesday – 11th September

Travelled to Zomba and visited the Prison Headquarters. Miss Phiri had been called away but we met the IT Officer and visited all the offices where computers had been installed previously. We called at the office of Insieme per il Malawi Onlus. The office had been vacated and Michael, the Project Coordinator had been relocated, we believe to Mangochi.

We then called to the site of the Internet café which Michael had previously established at Matawale Trading Centre. The premises have been closed down. A neighbouring shop occupier had no knowledge of the whereabouts of the coordinator or if the café had been located elsewhere.

We called in to Zomba Central Hospital and, thereafter, the College of Health Sciences where we met with Sylvester Chawala and discussed the IT support required.

Thursday - 12th September

Visited the Police Headquarters at Blantyre and discussed the IT position. Our normal contacts were unavailable. We had a chance meeting with a gentleman who works with Interpol who was visiting the Police Headquarters.

We visited the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital for our meeting with Dr.Mallewa. Dr Mndolo is currently acting as hospital director since the departure of Dr Gonani.

We met Robert at the Education Headquarters and also met seven head teachers who were attending in order to collect their allocated computers.

We then visited the Open Arms Orphanage. We discussed our findings with the Administrator with regard to the needs at Open Arms, Mangochi.

Friday – 13th September

We left Blantyre, early in the morning, by the originally planned routing of Blantyre to Lilongwe.

By lunch time we were able to visit the now renovated 500 Miles Prosthetics/Orthotics Clinic. The works which had been completed by City Building were splendid.

Visited the Interdenominational Pastoral Care Centre and found that Sylvester had been called away. We left some clothing and mosquito nets with two nurses who were visiting at that time.

Saturday – 14th September

We started our homeward journey, the entire team, shortly after midnight. The original routing remained unchanged, being Lilongwe, Nairobi, Amsterdam, Glasgow. All flights were as scheduled and we arrived back in Glasgow shortly after 10pm, having been travelling for 22 hours.

Exhausted, but feeling happy with the final outcomes of all our efforts!

BK/GW