



TRANSFORMING EDUCATION IN MALAWI
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES, TRANSFORMING SCHOOLS

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES, TRANSFORMING SCHOOLS

Link has been working in Scotland and Malawi since 2006, and we're proud of all we've achieved through our partnership to strengthen education in the warm heart of Africa. In 2015 we helped to develop Malawi's first ever National Education Standards – a set of minimum requirements for teaching, learning, school leadership, community participation and child protection which every school in the country must meet.

Since the Standards were launched, we have been working hard to raise awareness and implement them to guide school improvement in Malawi. Through building accountability and community support, we are creating sustainable change in Malawi's education system.

“There is a higher quality of education because of the good relationship between the school and the community”

HEADTEACHER



MALAWI PROJECTS OVERVIEW



446 SCHOOLS



(COST £615 PER SCHOOL PER YEAR)



357,692 CHILDREN



116,330 COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS



KEY PROJECTS:

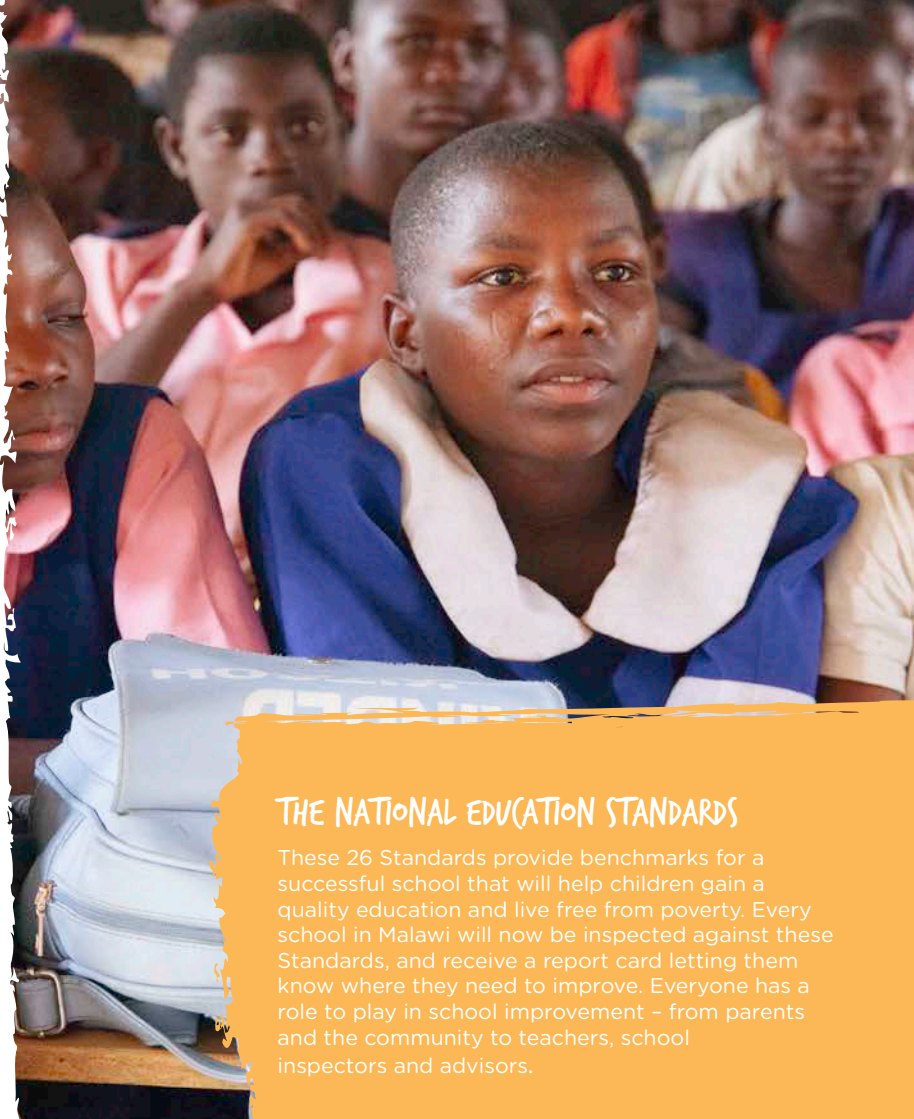
INSPIRE - Integrated School Performance Improvement, Review and Engagement (2015-2018)

IPGEM - Increasing Participatory Governance in Education in Malawi (2017-2018)

OUR WORK

Working in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology we introduced the National Education Standards to classrooms and communities to create sustainable, lasting change.

- At the community level, we raised awareness of the Standards and helped parents and communities to hold their local school accountable for delivering quality education to their children. Targeted work with marginalised groups amplified their voices to advocate especially for vulnerable children's needs, ensuring no child was left behind.
- In schools, we provided training in the Standards and school management, and supported the development of School Improvement Plans.
- We helped improve school inspection and planning, supporting government to implement the Standards in schools and across whole districts using accurate data.



THE NATIONAL EDUCATION STANDARDS

These 26 Standards provide benchmarks for a successful school that will help children gain a quality education and live free from poverty. Every school in Malawi will now be inspected against these Standards, and receive a report card letting them know where they need to improve. Everyone has a role to play in school improvement – from parents and the community to teachers, school inspectors and advisors.

HOW WE DID IT

“We are thankful [to Link] for opening our eyes to things that really matter for our children to learn”

PARENT LEADER IN MALAWI



Local language translations of national policies



Improved education data capture and analysis



Accessible reports on school performance



Engaging with communities to strengthen accountability



Increasing participation of marginalised people and people with disabilities



Low-cost school inspection and performance review



Capacity building with government partners



Bringing solar power and internet to remote areas



Evidence-based school improvement planning



Effective and accessible school management training for headteachers and school governing bodies

RESULTS FOR COMMUNITIES

500% 

increase in community members who felt their local school is managed well

270% 

increase in headteachers who agreed their school had an effective improvement plan

100% 

of project schools achieved half of their long-term planning targets within two years

88% 

increase in marginalised people (people living with disability, albinism, extreme poverty or otherwise vulnerable youth) participating in school management activities

22% 

increase in primary school leaving exam pass rate

446 

teachers trained in evidence-based school improvement planning

SITORO PRIMARY SCHOOL



Located in rural Mchinji, Sitoro is home to 1,400 pupils and 20 teachers. Before working with Link, no-one was sure when the school was last inspected, despite inspections being crucial to guide improvement in teaching and support for children. Internal learner assessment was flagged as an area for concern. With our support, Sitoro implemented the School Performance Review process and improved teacher training; invested in learning and teaching materials; and identified problem areas. The school has now improved against the learner assessment Standard and has moved up to the next level!

'This data is vital for my work because it makes me effective. When I visit a school I now know exactly what to focus on rather than conducting a general unfocused visit. In this way schools are benefitting more from my support visits.'

- Primary Education Advisor for Sitoro School



GRISERIA:

Griseria lives in Dedza. She supports her local school through the School Management Committee, where she has shared her passion and knitting skills with the pupils, including teaching them how to make a sweater. She now also helps the school to embed good behaviour in the classroom, ensuring the children gain a quality education and aren't held back by their circumstances or physical ability. Griseria believes, like her, people can overcome adversity and disability, **'there is no difference, we are all the same, we can manage'**.

"Despite my disability, there are things I can do. I can act as a role model to others"

COMMUNITY MEMBER LIVING WITH DISABILITY

WHAT NEXT

We have achieved exciting results through work in our two pilot regions, Dedza and Mchinji, but other districts are in desperate need of support. We are committed to our partnership with the Ministry of Education and supporting the delivery of National Education Standards in every school in Malawi. We want every school to receive the training and support they need to strive for continued improvement and help Malawi's next generation transform their future.



ABOUT LINK:

Link Community Development is a grassroots charity working to transform education across some of the poorest rural areas of sub-Saharan Africa. We focus on improving teaching and learning as well as building up life skills and inclusion for the most marginalised.



Link Community Development International
Dolphin House, 4 Hunter Square
Edinburgh
EH1 1QW

Tel: +44 (0) 131 225 3076
Email: link@lcd.org.uk

 [/linkcommdev](https://www.facebook.com/linkcommdev)
 [@LinkCommDev](https://twitter.com/LinkCommDev)
 [/link-community-development-international](https://www.linkedin.com/company/link-community-development-international)
www.lcdinternational.org

 MALAWI

link@lcdmalawi.org

 ETHIOPIA

lcd@lcdethiopia.org

 UGANDA

lcduganda@lcduganda.org

 GHANA

link@lcdghana.org

 RWANDA

link@lcdrwanda.org

DONATE NOW

Support our work. Donate now at
www.lcdinternational.org/donate



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot



OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS

Registered Charity Numbers: 1048007 (England & Wales)
SC045011 (Scotland)

Company Registration Number: 03069329