

boNGO update May 2012



Greetings from Malawi to all friends and supporters of boNGO

We are sending you another update about **boNGO's** programs. In Malawi it is now a time of change - Malawi's former president Bingu wa Mutharika unexpectedly died and the country has a new president - a woman! Let's hope that Joyce Banda will bring the much needed changes that the nation is calling for



boNGO Team

- Tereza Mirovicova - Managing Director
- Simone Fuchs - Education Director
- Justin Namizinga - Program Director



boNGO overview

boNGO is a Malawian NGO established with the aim of raising the standards of education in the country. Therefore boNGO:

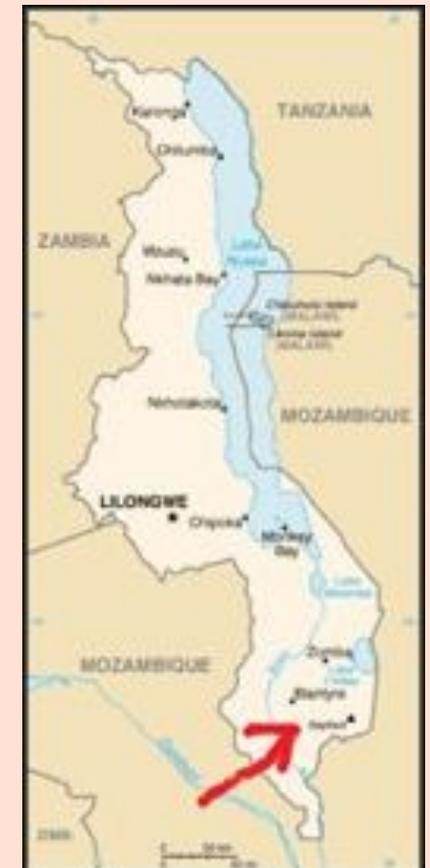
- (1) Increases the quality of early childhood education (project **Model Childcare Centers** and project **Teacher Training**).
- (2) Improves the learning environments in primary schools (project **Happy Classrooms**).
- (3) Introduces an innovative way of HIV awareness through film (project **Zione**) and supports youth in out-of-school activities (project **Youth Education**).

boNGO stands for “**based on Need-driven Grassroots Ownership**” – expressing the importance of a self-help approach of the people at the grassroots which boNGO sees as fundamental for participatory and sustainable development.

boNGO Team – the three directors founded boNGO in 2007 after their practical experience of developing the first Model Childcare Center Umodzi-Mbame in the South of Malawi.



Malawi is a little country in south-east Africa famous for its beautiful lake and considered as one of the economically poorest countries in the world.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

boNGO has two **Model Childcare Centers** - **Umodzi-Mbame** and **Mango**. Both provide example pre-school education in a child-friendly learning environment in the rural area of Blantyre. In each center eight trained teachers are working with 80 children aged three to six. The centers also serve as training facilities for teachers from other schools and organizations.



Umodzi-Mbame Center was opened in 2006; since then the teachers have gained extensive knowledge and skills in nurturing and educating young children. Recently a TV reportage was shot and featured at MBC TV as a part of the famous development program “Tikuferanji”.



Last month the Umodzi-Teachers attended a **Montessori Training** where they learned about (1) the importance of children’s self-motivated choices and working; (2) the teacher’s role as a facilitator and (3) the structured use of selected materials to support the children’s practical experience and understanding.



The Teachers are now busy to implement the newly acquired knowledge and skills. **Linda, boNGOs current Volunteer from Switzerland**, is working with the teachers on this exciting and challenging task.

THROUGH LINDA’S EYES:

The teachers and I are trying to transform the new gained knowledge to fit the given environment at Umodzi – a challenging task. We are picking out the best things and adapt them in a suitable way. It is fascinating to see how fast children learn something new, while adults need much longer to change their habits. I enjoy learning from the children.

(Linda is a boNGO volunteer from Switzerland)



The playground was built by the youth and boNGO’s former Volunteer, Simone from Switzerland. It provides a stimulating environment for the children to develop balance, gross motor skills and have fun. The parents regularly come to clean the ground.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

In September 2011 boNGO opened the second Model Childcare Center, **Mango**, a spacious and beautifully decorated school facility surrounded by an extensive piece of land.



The experienced teachers from Umodzi Center in co-operation with the boNGO Directors are training and supervising the new teachers at Mango on weekly basis. Thanks to this 'team teaching approach' and consistent support Mango school is developing rapidly.



Mango, like every Model Childcare Center has a variety of teaching materials such as wooden blocks, puzzles, numbers and alphabet cards etc ... made by local carpenters, tailors, boNGO Volunteers and the teachers themselves.



The school has a garden providing for the daily meals of the children. Parents and the community help to care for the school garden and also contribute from their own harvest. Every day parents come to cook porridge for the children. Mango is exemplary for the village's active participation in the development of the school.



Mango is built on a vast and beautiful piece of land provided by the community and the traditional chief. The playground in front of the center is still under development. Both Model Centers serve in the afternoons as a meeting place for the local youths.

HAPPY CLASSROOMS

The project **Happy Classrooms** brings better learning environments into primary schools. Local artists decorate the dark rooms with educational and stimulating pictures. Since July 2011 almost 300 Happy Classrooms in the South-Malawian area of Blantyre were painted. They are an enormous success, loved both by children and teachers.



BEFORE DECORATION ... Classroom walls are dark and bare without any visual teaching aids.



boNGO works with 12 painters. They are able to transform an ordinary classrooms into a **Happy Classroom** within 10 days.



The decorations are connected to the syllabus and make an exciting, long-lasting visual teaching tool. Learning and teaching are more fun and successful.



Happy Classrooms is an interesting project and Malawi newspapers like to write about

HAPPY CLASSROOMS

Many classrooms have been sponsored by local Malawian companies. They have a chance to support schools of their choice and promote themselves through displaying the company logo on the walls.



Dulux is one of the local paint companies supporting the project. The others are Monolux, Valmore and Plascon.



Out of each **Happy Classroom** at least 1 000 children will benefit in the following 10 years !



Some classrooms, especially in rural areas, are supported by individuals - people that have personal connections with these places.



So far the project was only implemented in the lower classes - St. 1 and 2; boNGO intends to introduce it up to Std. 8.

project ZIONE - HIV/AIDS awareness through film

Film **Zione** (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3FUxOKI_UZE), produced by boNGO in 2010 is now being watched by thousands of people. Through the story of 17-years old Zione they are learning about the importance of using condoms as protection against HIV-AIDS. The DVD with the story about a young prostitute Zione was distributed to 70 video-shows in the areas of Blantyre, Mulanje and Thoylo.



Through **Zione's** story people learn about responsible behavior and communication in relationships.



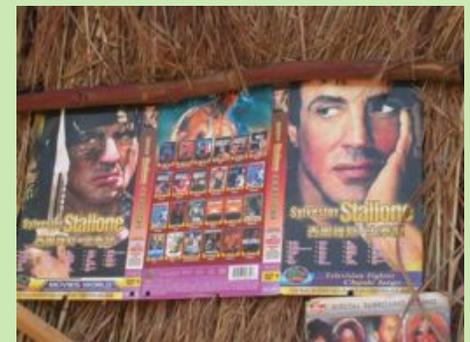
14 % of Malawi's population is HIV positive.



Film **Zione** is watched in a local video-show. People find the film fascinating - it is in the local language Chichewa and shows the usual situation in the communities.



In Malawi there are hundreds of video shows. They usually show valueless films from Nigeria, USA or China. boNGO has recognized the possible educational capacity of these "cinemas" and distributed amongst them 70 DVDs with **Zione**. Within a couple of months it will be possible to fully assess the impact.



YOUTH EDUCATION

Umodzi and Mango Childcare Centers are both a meeting point for the local youth club. Primary and secondary students meet twice a week for discussions, studying, sports and HIV/AIDS prevention activities. **boNGO's Volunteers - Linda from Switzerland** and **Mary from Malawi**, are actively working with the two Youth Groups; supporting the leaders in enhancing their facilitation and planning skills and providing new ideas for activities.



The library at the Umodzi Center has been opened for one year, serving the community and especially youths. The place is well looked after but the active use needs to be further encouraged. The villagers have not yet developed a strong reading culture. Last month the Umodzi librarians ran a training workshop for the Mango Youth Group that wants to develop a library at their



Members of the Youth Club developing a garden - a chance to plan and carry out projects as a team and realize one's dreams. The harvest will be sold to raise money for their activities and help them to buy the long awaited football.

THROUGH MARY'S EYES:

Being part of the Youth Club has helped me to learn new ideas, observe, share, plan and report. I have realised the importance of communication among all members involved in order to create a team and unity. The biggest challenge is absenteeism and time keeping among the youth members – often activities cannot take place as planned and therefore development goes slowly.

(Mary is a boNGO volunteer from Malawi)

PROMOTION AND FUNDRAISING

boNGO's activities run thanks to the financial support from YOU – friends, families, well-wishers, companies, organizations...
Over the last months boNGO has received sponsorship from a variety of local sponsors ...



Music video 'Chikondi' features boNGO and its Happy Classrooms project

Fundraising through singing

Tereza Mirovičová, boNGO's Managing Director, continues using innovative ways of raising funds and promoting boNGO's projects. Get inspired:
videoklip Chikondi: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XV1iRIlaulE>
interview on Malawi TV: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sCR3UNuj58U>

receiving paint from
DULUX
(70 litres a month)



receiving a cheque
from **GROUP ONE**
K 1,000,000



receiving a cheque
from **NBS BANK**
K 225,000



YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED !

This is how your contributions can be used

- \$ 1** one Malawian student will be able to watch the film **Zione** and participate in a discussion forum and workshop
- \$ 4** monthly expenses of one child learning at boNGO's **Model Childcare Center** (incl. a daily nutritious lunch)
- \$ 20** monthly salary of a junior teacher at the **Model Childcare Center**
- \$ 30** monthly salary of a senior teacher at the **Model Childcare Center**
- \$ 275** ... decoration of one **Happy Classroom** (over 1000 children will benefit within the next 10 years)
- \$ 500** ... monthly running expenses of a **Model Childcare Center** (salaries, food for children, teaching materials)

The easiest way to contribute to boNGO projects from abroad is through PayPal:

https://www.paypal.com/ch/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_flow&SESSION=KDDnuR2QKISiOoSB7WNft3rp1OZgVuEu4Uvs6vA69sEPeaw6tcgIFqggBKG&dispatch=5885d80a13c0db1f8e263663d3faee8db2b24f7b84f1819343fd6c338b1d9d60

In Malawi boNGO has an account with the FMB Bank in Blantyre nr: 0200447006.

Tereza Mirovicova
on behalf of boNGO and Grassroots

www.bongoworldwide.org

