

boNGO photo-report

December 2012

CURRENT SITUATION IN MALAWI

Malawi is going through difficult times. Based on the wish of the World Bank and other agencies, Malawi, led by the new female president Joyce Banda, has finally agreed to the painful step of devaluating its currency Malawi Kwacha. It was one of the conditions Malawi had to accept in order not to lose the support of foreign donors. Thus, within the last 6 months the exchange rate has increased from 160 onto 330 Malawi Kwacha per dollar. Prices of food and other goods are increasing and the most affected are like always the poorest ones. Lets hope that the upcoming rainy season will bring enough rains and a good harvest. Wishing you a beautiful Christmas and a joyful New Year. boNGO Team

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



boNGO PROJECTS

The two rural Model Childcare Centers - *Mango* and *Umodzi-Mbame* - continue to operate and within the new partnership with the city-based Mini-Me preschool start to implement the Montessori teaching methods. The *Happy Classrooms* project continues to grow and has reached almost 500 classrooms.

NEW PROJECT - NEW FILM

boNGO has finally started to work on the long intended project of producing the feature film *B'ella*, a secondary school drama exploring friendships, love, impact of HIV/AIDS and general lives of people in Malawi. The film intends to interest both African and non-african audiences and portray Malawi not as a poverty stricken country but rather a place of people of various characters and lives, just like anywhere in the world. General partner of the film is a Czech company Agrofert.

Greetings from rainy Malawi to all of you.

boNGO overview

boNGO is non-profit non-governmental organization in east-african Malawi established with the aim of increasing the standards of education in the country. Within its programs 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) Produces and spreads awareness-raising films for both African and non-African audiences. (**film Zion** and **film Bella**)

boNGO stands for “**b**ased on **N**eed-driven **G**rassroots **O**wnership” – expressing the importance of a self-help approach of the people at the grassroots which boNGO sees as fundamental for participatory and sustainable development.

Since 2009 boNGO has been active in the Czech Republic and Switzerland, home countries of two boNGO directors, where it does development education and raises funds for projects in Malawi.

boNGO Team – the three directors founded boNGO in 2007 after their practical experience from 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 Malawi, variety landscapes and people of good hospitality. It is considered as one of the economically poorest countries in the world.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Both Model Childcare (and Teacher-Training) Centers - *Umodzi-Mbame* and *Mango*, continue to provide exemplary education to altogether 150 children aged 3 to 6 years with the help of 16 teachers, a ratio that allows for work in small groups and individual attention paid to children who require it. At the moment teachers from the Model Centers undergo training on the Montessori teaching methods as they are starting an exchange project with the city-based Montessori preschool **Mini-Me**.



Mini Me - is a private preschool in the city of Blantyre combining the Montessori teaching methods with british curriculum. It is visited by children from well situated families.



Teachers from the Mini-Me preschool visiting the Umodzi Model Childcare center.

Within the exchange project between the boNGO's Model Centers and the Mini-Me preschool:

- ✓ Teachers from the boNGO's Model Centers learn about the Montessori methodology while watching the teaching in the Mini-Me preschool.
- ✓ Teachers from the Mini-Me preschool visit the boNGO's Model Childcare Centers in order to get inspired by teaching methods that require minimum of resources.
- ✓ City-based children from well to do families that visit the Mini-Me preschool make friends with the village children from the boNGO centers, a situation rather rare, helping the children to learn and get a deeper insight of life itself.



Both children and teachers in the boNGO Centers learn how to use the teaching materials inspired by the Montessori teaching methods.



project HAPPY CLASSROOMS

.. making the classrooms a happier place ...



project HAPPY CLASSROOMS

1 Happy Classroom = 250 USD or 200 EUR or 155 GBP = inspirational learning environment for hundreds of Malawi children

Get involved and support one or more Happy Classrooms in a primary school of your choice !



Since 2011 there have been 500 classrooms transformed into the Happy Classrooms.



Cost-effective and a long-term change.

The malawian non-profit organization **boNGO Worldwide** was founded in 2007 with the aim of raising the standards of education in Malawi. boNGO's projects are innovative educational concepts with the ambition to improve the Malawi educational system on a national level. Through our work we have already reached hundreds of thousands of Malawian children.



If interested we shall send you a photograph of the Happy Classroom supported by you with a sign on the wall:

THIS HAPPY CLASSROOM

WAS DONATED BY:

YOUR NAME OR LOGO



In the Happy Classrooms children learn and remember easier, and the teachers can use a wider scope of teaching methods.

The Happy Classrooms project improves the learning environments in primary schools through educational paintings on the walls. Since 2011 almost 500 classrooms were decorated. Join the project and buy for yourself or somebody else a Happy Classroom.

More pictures on: boNGO Worldwide Facebook

More info on:

<http://www.bongoworldwide.org/programs-projects/primary-schools-project-happy-classrooms/>



Malawian newspapers Daily Times about the Happy Classrooms

www.bongoworldwide.org

malawi@bongoworldwide.org

PRODUCTION OF AWARENESS-RAISING FILMS - new film 'B'ella'

In 2010 boNGO produced a low-budget film **Zione** with the aim of reminding the Malawian audiences of the importance of using condoms. The film was seen by thousands of Malawians through Malawi TV and local video-shows.

In 2012 boNGO comes with a new film, this time made by professional Malawian film-makers, called **B'ella**. The secondary school drama reflects on issues inherent to all people in the world no matter what the color of their skin is or where they come from searching one's identity, friendship, love, gossiping, respect towards one's culture, the desire to have a role in the society, the desire to be popular, peer pressure, developing self-confidence, parental respect and its borders, life and death

The film aims to understandably address the audiences in both the western world and Africa and:

in the western world:

1. let the audience step out of the cliché presented by the media of Africa being only a place of poverty, war, corruption, and instead, show Africa as a continent full of individuals with various characters and lives

in Africa:

2. inspire African girls to have faith in themselves and the importance of education
3. spread the HIV/AIDS awareness in an realistic, easy-to-understand and non-preaching way
4. remind audiences of the values of the traditional African life which is dying out because of the western culture that is stepping in a bit too fast!



In Malawi there are hundreds of video-shows. boNGO has recognized the possible educational capacity of these "cinemas" and distributes its film into them.



shooting of the new film B'ella started on 3rd December

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** (including 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**
- \$ 250 ... 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)

From abroad you can contribute to boNGO projects either through PayPal:

<https://www.paypal.com/ch/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=flow&SESSION=KDDnuR2QKISiOoSB7WNft3rp1OZgVuEu4Uvs6vA69sEPeaw6tcglFqggBKG&dispatch=5885d80a13c0db1f8e263663d3faee8db2b24f7b84f1819343fd6c338b1d9d60>

or through a bank transfer:

PAY: Citibank N.A., New York
111 Wall Street
Swift Code: CITI US 33
ABA Routing Number: 021000089

FURTHER CREDIT:
First Merchant Bank Ltd.
Blantyre, Malawi
SWIFT CODE: FMERMWMW
USD A/C NO: 36154853

BENEFICIARY:
boNGO Worldwide
A/C NO: 0200447017

on behalf of boNGO
Tereza Mirovičová
Managing Director
www.bongoworldwide.org



In Malawi boNGO has a Malawi Kwacha account with the First Merchant Bank in Blantyre a/c no: 0200447006.