



Scotland Malawi Partnership

2012

Annual Report

SUPPORTED BY



The year 2011-12 was nothing if not eventful for the Scotland Malawi Partnership. It began on a very encouraging note with the award of a three-year grant from the Scottish Government to support the implementation of the 2011-2014 Strategic Plan. This report will indicate the exciting progress made in the first year of turning dream into reality.



Foreword:

The year 2011-12 was nothing if not eventful for the Scotland Malawi Partnership. It began on a very encouraging note with the award of a three-year grant from the Scottish Government to support the implementation of the 2011-2014 Strategic Plan. This report will indicate the exciting progress made in the first year of turning dream into reality.

At the same time, it was soon apparent that the Partnership was entering the most challenging political environment it had encountered since its formation. The unprecedented expulsion of the British High Commissioner to Malawi in April 2011 was a signal that the Partnership was entering uncharted waters. Growing polarization between Government and people in Malawi reached a point of crisis in July when police opened fire on unarmed demonstrators who were calling for

Government accountability on a range of issues, resulting in 20 deaths and many serious injuries.

These developments posed a sharp question to the Scotland Malawi Partnership as to how it should position itself in what appeared to be a rapidly deteriorating human rights situation in Malawi. Through sometimes difficult discussions, key principles were established:

- The SMP does not seek to play a political role in Malawi. It recognizes that it is the prerogative of the Malawi people to elect a Government and hold it to account. While seeking to play its part in promoting good governance, the Partnership is clear that it has no direct role to play in the national politics of Malawi.

- The SMP will work with whatever Government is in office in Malawi at any given time, recognizing the legitimacy of its election. As in any other country, Government policy and performance will vary in quality over time. The SMP is not a fair-weather friend but recognizes that its people-to-people relationship with Malawi embraces the Government of the day.
- The people-to-people basis of the Partnership entails a commitment to the fundamental human rights of the Malawian people. Should these be jeopardized by Government policy and/or action, it is incumbent on the Partnership to raise its concerns, respectfully but firmly, with the Government.

These principles were clarified in the heat of the crisis which engulfed Malawi in mid-2011. Most importantly, it

became clear that the Partnership is able to weather the storms of political adversity and indeed make a positive contribution in times of national crisis.

The year ended in a most remarkable manner with the sudden and unexpected death of the late President Mutharika and the peaceful transition which saw Mrs Joyce Banda assuming the Presidency. It was very quickly apparent that Malawi's political direction was taking a decisive turn for the better.

For the SMP, another highly significant development was the award of a grant from the Scottish Government to support the development of the Malawi Scotland Partnership. Time and again, Malawians have expressed their eagerness to participate in a membership-based network which would promote best practice in building partnerships with Scottish counterparts. The grant provided the first realistic opportunity to make this a reality on the ground in Malawi.

Meanwhile, we are delighted to record the growing participation of Scots in the networks of the Scotland Malawi Partnership. This report provides the opportunity to summarise and celebrate the exciting range of initiatives which has fostered and encouraged a steady increase both in the depth and in the range of this mobilization of Scottish civil society.

The engine of the Partnership is found in the office team of David Hope-Jones, Charlie Ager and Angus MacDougall. The scale of their achievement is abundantly demonstrated in the pages which follow. We are greatly in their debt.

I am sure you will find this report to be inspiring reading. We are deeply grateful for all that you do for the Scotland-Malawi connection and look forward to working together to take it to new heights in the year ahead.

Rev Prof Kenneth R. Ross
Chairman
Scotland Malawi Partnership



**Members say,
in 2011/12 the
SMP has...**

**“Helped expand our network
and provided new links with
many other organisations
working in Malawi”**

**Will Jameson,
Lake of Stars**

Management & Governance



The Scotland Malawi Partnership is governed by a Board of Directors which met six times in the 2011/12 financial year. The office, Policy and Strategy Committee, Audit and Finance Committee, and Staffing Committee all report to the Board.

Trustees in 2011/12

- Kenneth Ross (Chair)
- Susan Dalgety (Co-Vice Chair)
- Andrew Parker (Co-Vice Chair)
- Elspeth Pentland (Co-Vice Chair)
- Una Bartley (Ret.)
- Chris Brotherton
- Isabel Bruce
- Colin Cameron (Ret.)
- Mizeck Chagunda
- Marlene Galashan
- Pat Hiddleston
- Burnett Lunan
- Claire Martin
- Yonah Matemba (Ret.)
- Cate Nelson-Shaw
- Jack Thompson
- Elizabeth Williamson
- Derek Young

Staff in 2011/12

- David Hope-Jones (Principal Officer)
- Charlie Ager (Member Services Officer)
- Angus MacDougall (Finance and Administration Officer)

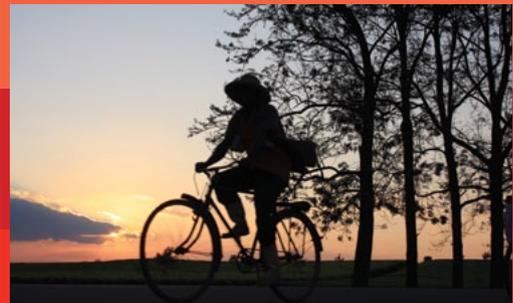
Interns in 2011/12

- Emma Austin
- Charlotte Mitchell
- Debbie Scott
- Jan Michalko
- Bumi Agoro

Vision:

The SMP exists to inspire the people and organisations of Scotland to be involved with Malawi in an informed, coordinated and effective way to the benefit of both nations.

The Scotland Malawi Partnership promotes a people-to-people model of development, rooted in the shared history between our two countries. It focuses on active relationships between people to foster a shared understanding of the development challenges facing Malawi and to support the development of practical, sustainable solutions. It is through this deeper understanding and shared human experience that the people of Scotland and Malawi will be able to effect real and lasting change, both through their own activity and by influencing the policies and actions of governments and institutions.



Mission:

We aim to foster links, consistent with our values, between the two nations, and encourage development of sustainable projects in Malawi by:

- Informing and inspiring civil society in Scotland about the work of the Partnership, the unique shared history between Scotland and Malawi, and the development challenges facing Malawi, in order to increase public support for extending and enriching the relationship between the two nations.
- Seeking to employ an alternative model of international development, based on mutually beneficial civil society partnerships and links, and advocating its wider employment elsewhere.
- Developing support mechanisms which can lead to an exchange of people and/or advance cultural, political or economic understanding between Scotland and Malawi.
- Acting as a forum for encouraging best practice amongst member organisations through the provision of training and the sharing of ideas, processes and information.
- Informing our members of activities, opportunities or items of significance arising in either Scotland or Malawi.
- Encouraging a reduction in the duplication of effort in Malawi by facilitating networking, promoting shared learning and raising awareness of existing initiatives.
- Demonstrating the relevance of Scotland's civil society contribution to the attainment of the Government of Malawi's Growth and Development Strategy and the Millennium Development Goals.

Values

Our Values describe our approach; our Vision and Mission can only be achieved if staff, Directors, member organisations and associate members hold these values:

Mutual respect – We recognise that the historic bilateral civil society relationship between Scotland and Malawi is built on trust and mutual respect and we celebrate its inherent reciprocity.

Cooperation – We foster a spirit of cooperation, building partnerships and alliances in pursuit of our objectives, avoiding duplication and forging creative ways to work together.

Internationalism – We stand in the tradition of Scottish internationalism, resisting isolationism and xenophobia, believing that Scotland's strength lies in building strong relationships with nations elsewhere in the world.

Service – Paramount in all our work is provision of the highest possible quality of service to our members. We strive to meet their expressed needs by offering relevant information, advice, training and resources.

Continuous improvement – We continuously strive to improve the quality of our service, as perceived by our members, to encourage viable, ethical development activity between our members and their Malawian counterparts.

Sector understanding – We understand the sector(s) in which our members are operating, both in Scotland and Malawi, and respond positively to situations which can advance developmental aspects of the Partnership.

Development – Staff, directors and members are committed to encouraging links between Scotland and Malawi, to reduce poverty, promote justice and relieve suffering in Malawi. To achieve that, we all have a role to play in managing our own development and in being supportive of others.

Members say, in 2011/12 the SMP has...

"Been good for making contacts"

Jennie Chinembiri,
Church of Scotland



Finances

The work of the Scotland Malawi Partnership is funded primarily from grants, membership fees and voluntary donations.

Incoming Resources in the year to 31 March 2012 totalled £276,352. This total includes the full amount of a Scottish Government grant of £264,386 awarded to the Scotland Malawi Partnership to cover the three year period from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2014. Only the first instalment of £84,145 of the total grant was actually received in 2011/12, but, as required by current reporting regulations, the full amount of the grant award is shown as Incoming Resources in the 2011/12 accounts, and the future grant instalments receivable in 2012/13 and 2013/14 are treated as debtors.

A total of £94,243 was expended on the work of the Partnership. SMP core operating costs amounted to £70,954. Expenditure on projects, events and activities accounted for a further £23,289, of which £17,698 was grant-funded and £5,591 was funded from the SMP's unrestricted reserves, as authorised by the Board of Directors, on activities in support of the company's objectives not funded by the Scottish Government grant, which included development of Malawi civil society links, and research activities in support of the Malawi Scotland Partnership.

The net movement in funds in the year totalled £182,109. At the end of the year, funds carried forward amounted to £224,028, of which Restricted Funds totalled £180,015 including future grant instalments receivable, and Unrestricted Funds were £44,013. The cash balance at 31 March 2012 was £49,929.

The accounting treatment for grant income, although complying strictly with regulations, makes it difficult to compare underlying revenue and costs in the year. Charts 1 and 2 opposite attempt to give a more realistic picture by showing revenue and costs on a matched basis – i.e. the Global Community Links grant expenditure was incurred in 2011/12 so the whole grant of £10,000 is shown, and only the first year's Scottish Government

grant of £84,145 has been included. Revenue and costs are therefore more directly comparable. Despite a small overspend on the Global Community Links grant and expenditure of over £5,000 from SMP's own reserves mainly on Malawi Scotland Partnership research, this shows a healthy surplus of around £12,000 for the year, calculated on a matched basis.

Subsequent to the year-end, the Scottish Government awarded a total grant of £192,473 over the three years from 2012/13 to 2014/15 (subject to decisions reached by Scottish Ministers in the Annual Budget Act) to the Malawi Scotland Partnership with the aim of advancing the development of vulnerable, isolated and impoverished communities in Malawi by inspiring, facilitating and strengthening existing and new civil society links with Scotland, through advocacy, capacity building and coordination of effort. Scottish Government funding will be partially matched by in-kind contributions from the Government of Malawi, and Scottish and Malawian civil society.

A full copy of the Report and Accounts covering the 12 month period from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012 is available on request.

Comparison of 2011/12 revenue and costs on a matched basis

Chart 1

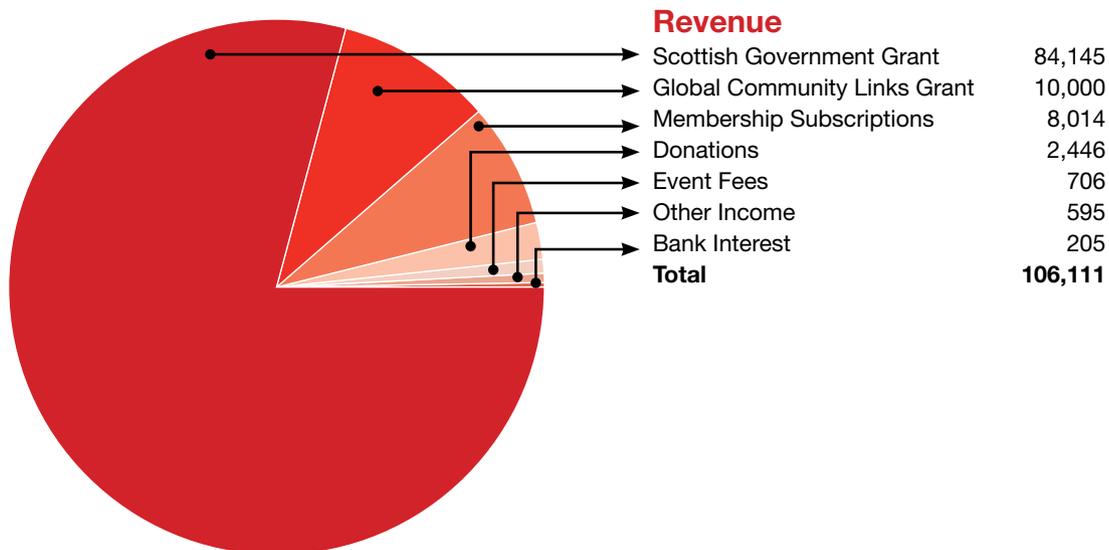
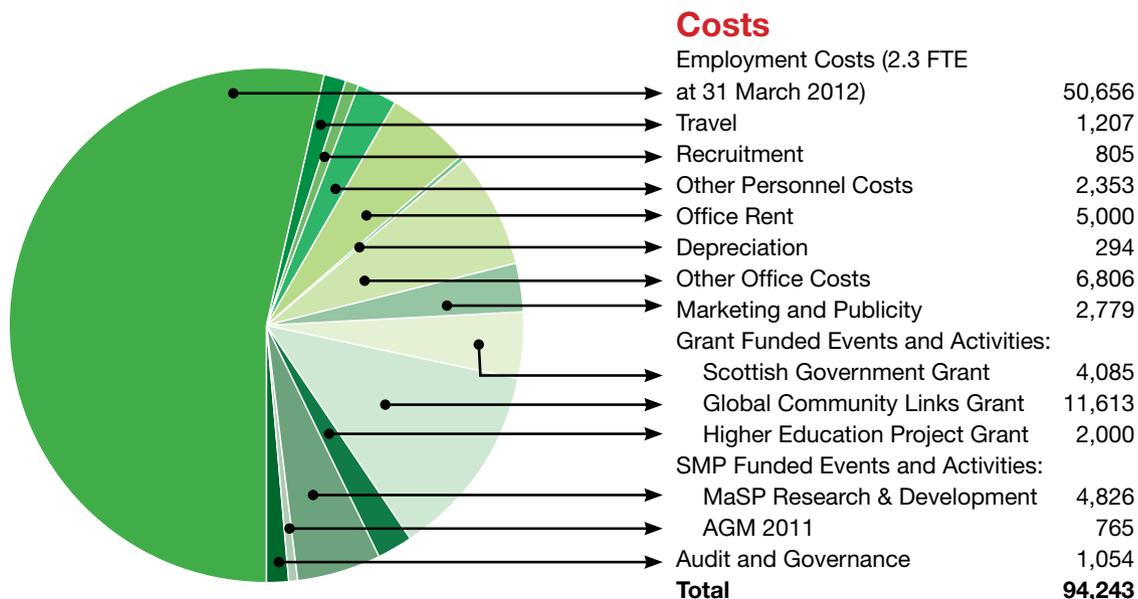


Chart 2



Member Engagement

Global Community Links

In 2011/12 the SMP delivered its series of DFID supported Global Community Links events, focussing on four strategic areas: HIV and AIDS; agriculture and water; environmental sustainability; and gender equality. These four areas of Scotland-Malawi engagement are priorities within the Millennium Development Goals and the Government of Malawi's Growth and Development Strategy.



In 2011/12:

- The SMP organised 31 core events , attended by 903 Scottish organisations and key individuals.
- 45% of SMP members attended an SMP event and said they found them “very useful”.
- 41% of members said attending an SMP event had been “very useful” in reducing duplication of effort.
- 88% of members say that SMP membership has helped strengthen, support or develop their links with Malawi.

Of those who attended the SMP's 2011 Global Community Links series of events:

- 92% rated the overall organisation 'very good' or 'excellent';
- 84% rated the venues 'very good' or 'excellent';
- 82% rated the workshops 'very good' or 'excellent';
- 79% rated the programme content 'very good' or 'excellent';
- 79% rated the networking opportunities 'very good' or 'excellent';
- 77% rated the speakers and presentations 'very good' or 'excellent'.

As a result of attending one or more of the conferences:

- 43% said they would learn more;
- 35% said they would become involved in a new international link;
- 26% said they would strengthen an international link;
- 23% said they would take part in campaigning/lobbying;
- 22% said they would start volunteering.



**Members say,
in 2011/12 the
SMP has...**

***“Given contact
Information and
funding advice
which has helped”***

**Dr David Corner,
University of St Andrews**



HIV and AIDS

On the 7th September the SMP brought together 49 organisations and key individuals to share experience and learning around the prevention and management of HIV and AIDS in Malawi. Dr Sam Phiri (Executive Director of the Lighthouse Trust in Malawi) was the keynote speaker, with additional talks from the Institute for International Health and Development, HIV Scotland, the Scottish Government, Waverley Care, and the Church of Scotland.

The day discussed the determinants of HIV, cultural challenges, human rights and homosexuality, gender, maternal health and the Millennium Development Goals.

The full report from the day is available online at www.tinyurl.com/SMPHIVAIDS.

Feedback included:

- *“Great event, well organised and extremely interesting”* Amy Irving, Developing World Health;
- *“Great organisation and great venue”* Stuart Smith, Developing World Health;
- *“Intensely interesting”* Ian McAdam, Department of Health and Social Care;
- *“Great job! Keep it up!”* Denboba Natie;
- *“We are now more excited and driven than before to start our charity’s work in Malawi”* Amy Irving, Developing World Health.
- *“The day gave me further clarity about the responses to HIV and AIDS and the related issues, such as gender inequality. This will further help us to ensure that our projects*

and programmes focus on activities that are aimed at addressing these challenges” James Wells, CEO EMMS International;

As a result of attending:

- 53% increased their knowledge of HIV and AIDS activities in Scotland and Malawi.
- 47% increased their knowledge of the Millennium Development Goals.
- 37% increased their knowledge of HIV and AIDS as a global development issue.

Food Security and Water Access

A total of 35 organisations came together on the 21st September to take part in the SMP's conference looking at agriculture, food security and water access in Malawi and Scotland. This was the culmination of a four-month consultation exercise in Scotland and Malawi. The day brought together experience, enthusiasm and expertise across Scotland and Malawi.

The SMP hosted Andrew Namakhoma, Community Development Programme Officer at the National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi, to address the conference as keynote speaker. Other speakers came from the Scottish Agricultural College, Strathclyde University, and the Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland.

Six workshops explored Scotland-Malawi contributions to Millennium Development Goal 1 (to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger), and Goal 7C (to reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation). Agro-processing, nutrition, agricultural state support, irrigation, sustainable water management and cash-crops in Malawi were key areas of discussion.

The full report from the day is available online at: www.tinyurl.com/SMPagric



Feedback included:

- *"This event has given me the opportunity to learn a lot more about links and project work with Malawi, and provided ideas about useful methods of communicating results"* Anne Bray, Scottish Agricultural College
- *"Definitely picked up a lot of information"* Elspeth Pentland
- *"I'm now better informed"* Tony Murray
- *"I now feel more informed about the challenges of other aspects of rural life in Malawi... it was particularly interesting to hear the contributions from Malawian partners"* Morag Paul, Inverkip/Malawi School Partnership
- *"Sharing ideas and experiences has increased my level of understanding of various situations"* Don Osbourne, SMP Member

As a result of attending:

- 93% increased their knowledge of agriculture and water sector activities in Scotland and Malawi.
- 64% increased their knowledge of the Millennium Development Goals.
- 57% increased their knowledge of agriculture and water sector activities as a global development issue.

Members say, in 2011/12 the SMP has...

"Offered the chance to link with other groups"

Dr Tracy Morse,
University of Strathclyde



...manage and supervise correct use of the ...
...and undertake income generation ...
...issues and to record all the above in log ...
...worker who is supported by skilled ...
...expert advice and coordinate ...

**Members say,
in 2011/12
the SMP has...**

**“Raised awareness of other
projects currently being
undertaken in Malawi and
supported networking and the
sharing of ideas and challenges.”**

**Noreen Kent,
Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO)**

Environmental Sustainability

On the 20th October, the SMP hosted a conference exploring the contribution of Scotland-Malawi links towards Millennium Development Goal 7 – to ensure environmental sustainability. 31 key delegates attended the day and an estimated 3,000 heard about the day through the SMP website and emails, The List, and Third Force News.

The SMP welcomed contributions from: Mr Khumbolawo Lungu (Chief Energy Officer, Department of Energy Affairs, Malawi); Professor Graham Ault (Senior Lecturer, Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering at Strathclyde University); Laura Nicolson, (Development Officer, Community Energy Scotland); Charlie Henderson (Director, Climate Futures) and Elaine Muir (Programmes Manager, Plan Vivo).

Three workshops explored Scotland-Malawi links to MDG 7 in critical areas of debate, including biofuels, carbon offsetting and renewable energy. Finally, the plenary session brought together threads of discussion from the day, identifying areas in which the SMP could assist existing links to be strengthened, and new partnerships developed.

The full report from the day is available online at: www.tinyurl.com/SMPenv

Feedback included:

- *“Great event, very interesting, important and well organised”* Ben Wilson, SMP Member
- *“Learnt a lot”* Jane Drummond, Glasgow University
- *“Impressed by vibe of Scotland-Malawi relationship via partnership”*
- *“Very well run and informative”*

- *“Great idea to bring people together to share their different experiences in Malawi. Great venue for networking and knowledge-transfer which could really benefit our work on the ground.”* Lisa Ostenson, A Rocha UK

As a result of attending:

- 82% increased their knowledge of environmental sustainability activities in Scotland and Malawi.
- 55% increased their knowledge of the Millennium Development Goals.
- 45% increased their knowledge of environmental sustainability as a global development issue.



Gender Equality

The SMP was proud to invite Hon. Dr. Jean Kalilani, Chair of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus in the Malawian Parliament and the Malawian Minister for Health, to Scotland to speak at the Partnership's Gender Equality and Female Empowerment conference on the 1st November.

Other key speakers came from the University of Edinburgh, the Scottish Government, Link Community Development, the Open University and Calcutta University. Four workshops explored Scotland-Malawi links to MDG 3 in critical areas of debate, including: the MDGs and gender policy; political representation and decision-making; culture and sexuality; and gender and education

The full report from the day is available online at: www.tinyurl.com/SMPgender

Feedback included:

- *"It enhanced my learning as a student and Malawian so I have something to take back home."*
- *"I have updated my broader knowledge and understanding on gender equality and will use this in our own programme."* Charles Fawcett, Healthy lifestyle Project
- *"Thanks for this opportunity to get to grips with and discuss the situation in Malawi. Really good to have such a great chance to engage with Malawi."* Heather Morgan, CSID
- *"Informative and educational"*
- *"Networking is always very useful and thanks to the supporters of this event for enabling this"*
- *"Today has supported our work to take into account the wider context of gender equality in the Malawian context and thereby making our project more effective."*



Of those who attended:

- 57% increased their knowledge of activities promoting gender equality in Scotland and Malawi.
- 40% increased their knowledge of gender equality as a global development issue.
- 37% increased their knowledge of the Millennium Development Goals.





**Members say, in
2011/12 the SMP
has...**

***“Connected me with
other organisations
working in Malawi”***

**Karen Roberts,
Angels International**

Member Forums

In 2011/12 the SMP established five member forums, in: primary and secondary education; further and higher education; health; water resource management; and gender equality. Replacing earlier committees, these national forums are open to all SMP members and interested external stakeholders, strengthening Scotland-Malawi people-to-people links through active, informed and sustained two-way dialogue. Each forum meeting actively sought input from Malawian civil society to inform discussions, through video-conferences, teleconferences and written submissions.

Each member forum is linked to an online forum, where discussions continue between meetings, and where those who are not able to attend meetings can feed in. The forums are all member-led, deciding their own Terms of Reference, and being chaired by members on an annual rotation.

In 2011/12 the Member forums have:

- Raised awareness of existing Scotland-Malawi engagements;
- Helped reduce duplication of effort;
- Promoted best working practice;
- Disseminated and engaged Malawian priorities, views and policies;
- Explored potential areas of new activity;
- Encouraged, facilitated and supported collaborative working;
- Informed, fed into and supported SMP engagements.



Training and building capacity

Between April 2011 and March 2012, the SMP hosted or co-hosted 7 training events, attended by over 200 organisations and key individuals.

Of those who attended the SMP's five Chichewa language courses in 2011:

- 93% rated the content "excellent" or "good";
 - 90% rated the organisation "excellent" or "good";
 - 87% rated the teaching "excellent" or "good";
 - 84% commented on the positive impact these courses will have on their links with Malawi:
- *"When I get a chance to return to Malawi, I will be able to communicate more ably and can make more of a connection with the people I meet."*
 - *"It has encouraged me to return to Malawi."*
 - *"Having knowledge of the language will greatly help my project out there"*
 - *"The information I gained from this will help me get involved more with the children who do not speak English, especially when a translator is not available."*
 - *"It will help me communicate with individuals and help me show the respect due to Malawians"*
 - *"Very useful in integrating into the culture a little better!"*
 - *"It will help me with basic greetings and show that I am making an effort."*
 - *"Much more confident in speaking Chichewa... so, if in a village location with non-English speakers, could probably get by with the aid of a dictionary."*

Youth Engagement:

In 2010 the SMP developed a new Youth Engagement Strategy to help facilitate greater involvement of young people in the work of the Partnership and wider Scotland-Malawi links. The Partnership recognises the value of the many unique and dynamic links that are shared between young Scots and young Malawians.

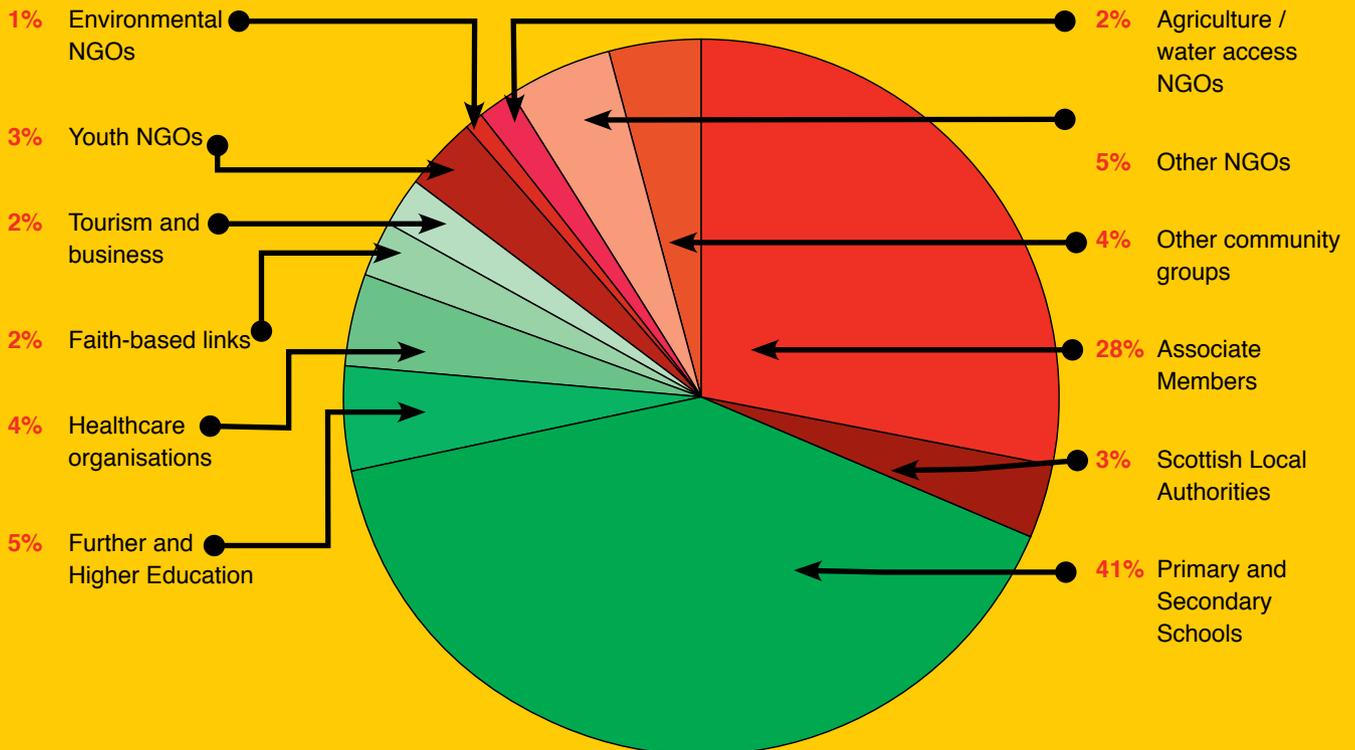
In November 2011 the SMP established a Youth Steering Group, bringing together a range of existing youth links between Scotland and Malawi. The Group has worked with the office and Board to support existing youth partnerships by building on experience, sharing enthusiasm and helping sustain commitments with Malawi; and to encourage and inspire more young Scots to learn more about, and become involved with, Malawi.

Members say,
in 2011/12 the
SMP has...

*“Been very helpful
in our networking
with other agencies
working in Malawi.”*

**Joe Connelly,
Venture Trust**

BREAKDOWN OF MEMBERS



Information Sharing



Website and Online Forum:

By March 2012, 494 Scottish organisations and key individuals were promoting their work with Malawi through the SMP online database and mapping tool.

In April 2011 – March 2012, compared to the previous 12 months, the number of people accessing the membership database increased by 18%, from 3,258 to 3,842.

35% of members said the SMP had been “very useful” in promoting their Malawi links.

41% of members said the SMP had been “very useful” in reducing duplication of effort.

By the end of 2011/12, the SMP Members’ Online Forum had 26 topics, 39 posts, and 983 separate views

In April 2011 – March 2011, compared to the previous 12 months:

- The number of unique visitors increased by 86%, from 34,153 to 63,667
- The number of visits increased by 110%, from 57,002 to 119,779.
- The number of pages visited increased by 97%, from 370,625 to 729,020.
- The number of hits increased by 90%, from 1,007,257 to 1,912,327

Bulletin:

50 news bulletins were disseminated between April 2011 and March 2012, to over 500 organisations and key individuals, 67% of whom said it was “very useful”.

In April 2011 – March 2012, compared to the previous 12 months, the number of people downloading the news bulletin online increased by 34%, from 961 to 1,286.

Responding to enquiries

In total, 643 separate enquiries were handled by the SMP in 2011.

24% of members singled out the SMP’s funding advice and support as being “very useful”;

71% of members said the SMP had been “very useful” in information sharing in 2011/12.

41% of member said the SMP had been “very useful” in reducing duplication of effort in 2011/12.

Members say, in 2011/12 the SMP has...

“Been useful for contacting other groups”

**Dr David Corner,
University of St Andrews**

Publications:

Between April 2011 and March 2012, the SMP released eight publications:

- [Gender Equality and Female Empowerment;](#)
- [Environmental Sustainability in Scotland and Malawi: a community-based approach](#)
- [The Prevention and Management of HIV and AIDS in Scotland and Malawi;](#)
- [Agriculture, Food Security and Water Access in Malawi;](#)
- [Higher Education;](#)
- [Maternal Health in Malawi: Members’ Report](#)
- [SMP 2011-14 Strategic Plan](#)
- [SMP 2010-11 Annual Report](#)

In April 2011 – March 2012, compared to the previous 12 months, the number of PDF downloads of SMP publications increased by 37% from 13,028 to 17,828.

65% of the SMP’s 496 members feel that SMP publications are either “very useful” or “quite useful”.

The SMP is committed to embracing partnership working. It hosts regular Networking Forum meetings with relevant umbrella organisations across the sector, including: NIDOS, IDEAS, Scottish Fairtrade Forum and SCVO. In 2011/12 the SMP co-hosted a number of very successful events, including: a nationwide Diaspora consultation with BUILD; 'Expanding Community Partnerships' with Global School Partnerships; NIDOS best practice training; Scottish Government grant information, networking and training day; a Martyrs' Day talk with UPDATE; and 'Linked Solutions to Linked Problems', an event looking at female education in Malawi, with The Healthy Lifestyles Project.

Partnership Working

Malawi Scotland Partnership:

The SMP has always been committed to supporting its sister organisation in Malawi, the Malawi Scotland Partnership. In 2011/12 the SMP developed a funding application, its fourth, to secure funding for the Malawi Scotland Partnership's effective operation. The application was designed by 30 key Malawian organisations and individuals all of whom were consulted face-to-face in January 2011, and was based around the needs assessment conducted in 2009/10 which 250 Malawian organisations fed into.

The Scottish Government has approved the application and will fund the Malawi Scotland Partnership to 2015: this funding will be matched by in-kind contributions from the Government of Malawi, and Scottish and Malawian civil society.

Media:

The SMP continues to represent Scotland's many links with Malawi in the local, national and international press. Through 2011/12 the Partnership continued to pro-actively generate positive coverage and respond to media enquiries.

Local Authorities

By March 2012, 15 of Scotland's 32 Local Authorities were members of the SMP, receiving regular updates to support their links with Malawi. SMP staff meet with LAs around Scotland offering advice and support.



Livingstone at 200

The legacy of David Livingstone, the first Scot to arrive in what is now Malawi, remains an integral part of the Partnership. It is hard to overstate the warmth with which he is held in Malawi, where he is fondly remembered for fighting the slave trade. Through 2011/12 the SMP has been the lead agency coordinating preparations for the bicentenary of Dr Livingstone's birth in March 2013. Early preparatory work with the National Trust for Scotland, National Museums Scotland and the David Livingstone Centre in Blantyre was followed by the SMP hosting three meetings which brought together more than 40 Scottish organisations and key individuals who will be involved in the bicentenary.

The SMP has secured a significant joint investment from the Scottish Government, National Trust for Scotland, South Lanarkshire Council and the David Livingstone Centre in Blantyre which will fund effective national coordination of the bicentenary and the continued operation of the David Livingstone Centre (without this rescue package the centre would have closed in March 2012).

Government engagement

While remaining studiously non-governmental and entirely apolitical, the SMP continues to work closely with the Scottish, UK and Malawian Governments, and Local Governments across Scotland and Malawi.

In 2011/12 the SMP worked alongside the Scottish Government, supporting maximum transparency, sector engagement, forward planning and accessibility within its Malawi Development Programme. It assisted with Scottish Government visits to Malawi, and with the call for International Development Fund grant applications.

In the Scottish Parliament, the SMP continued to have an active role, organising five Malawi Cross Party Group meetings looking at: UK-Malawi diplomatic links; youth engagement; promoting diaspora involvement; mental health; and the criminal justice system. Scotland's links with Malawi continue to enjoy cross party support across the parliament.

Through the year, the SMP became increasingly involved with the UK Government and Parliament. It submitted evidence to the International Development Committee's enquiry in to the Development Situation in Malawi, it assisted with the creation of the All Party Group on Malawi and Zambia, and successfully lobbied for assurances that the total UK development assistance to Malawi would not decrease.





Closing remarks

2011/12 will be remembered as a challenging year for Malawi, and perhaps also for the UK's relationship with Malawi. However, it will also be remembered as a key moment when the people of Scotland stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the people of Malawi, unflinching in their shared desire to work together in a partnership which continues to benefit over 1.38 million Malawians and 280,000 Scots each year.

As domestic and international concern mounted over governance and human rights in Malawi, the role and value of such civil society partnerships only increased. Through this period there was an increased interest across Scotland and Malawi in the Partnership. The SMP website saw a 90% increase in the number of hits it received compared to the previous twelve months: from one million to almost two million.

The SMP, with an increased staff base, was able to organise more, larger and higher impact events than ever before. In total, the Partnership hosted and co-hosted more than 30 member events through the year, attended by over 900 Scots and visiting Malawians.

The series of Global Community Links events warrant specific mention. These four high-profile events exceeded all expectation in bringing the sector together, building new partnerships, developing a sense of best practice, and advancing Malawian priorities.

Perhaps the biggest breakthrough in 2010/11 for the SMP was in securing triennial funding for our sister organisation in Malawi. This has been one of the Partnership's highest priorities but also perhaps its greatest challenge. Over the coming three years, with this funding, the Malawi Scotland Partnership will develop as a strong, independent, Malawi-owned and Malawi-led organisation; supporting the estimated 148,000 Malawians with active links to Scotland.

2012/13 promises to be another ground-breaking year for the SMP: a year in which we will see ever increased youth engagement, gender mainstreaming and Malawian ownership. It is with genuine excitement that, together with our friends and colleagues in Malawi, we look forwards to another year of growth, development and an ever strengthening partnership.

David Hope-Jones
Principal Officer

“Simply being part of a network so ably supported by SMP staff gives me the security of knowing that I can get advice and support on any issues that may arise. I was particularly grateful for the information, discussions and lobbying the SMP undertook during the recent political difficulties in Malawi.”

Rita Hopper, Sense Scotland

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