



Membership Needs and Impact Survey 2020-21: Summary of Results

April 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Every year the SMP conducts a Membership Needs and Impact Survey, asking members what impact the SMP has had on their work with Malawi over the last year, and what members would like the SMP to do to support their work in the following year. In keeping with our core principles of transparency and accountability, and as a member-led organisation, we're happy to publicly share the results of the survey. This report details exactly what our members told us, with no edits or omissions.

96 SMP Members completed the online survey in April 2021. This is slightly less than previous years, most likely due to the impact of Covid-19 but the feedback we received was overwhelming positive from members.

IMPACT: 80% of respondents felt that membership of the SMP in 2020-21 *"helped strengthen, support or develop their links with Malawi"*. The most common words used when members described the SMP's impact were: "essential", "invaluable", "understanding" and "Malawi voices". The overwhelming majority of respondents felt all the SMP's strategic objectives had been met in 2020/21 (ranging from 92% to 100%).

SERVICES: Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with particular praise for the SMPs: Covid-19 response coordination work, information dissemination, guidance on appropriate support, networking and support for collaborations, youth engagements, digital innovations increasing inclusivity and amplifying Malawian voices, inspiration and positivity, helping members see the big picture, access to senior government representatives.

A number of members highlighted that this has been a challenging year for all and they haven't been able to attend as many events as they would have liked (while others said they were able to attend more than usual because of the shift to digital).

One person was disappointed not to have more member uptake when promoted and one felt the tone of our race and equality work was not right.

88% of respondents said the SMP had helped share members' experience and learning in innovative and useful ways. 93% of respondents said the SMP offers a welcoming, diverse and inclusive space for people to engage. Ideas for how to sustain/improve diversity included: listening to a diverse range of Malawian voices, continuing youth leadership

MEMBER NEEDS: Ideas for further strengthening the SMP's work included: think about shift to in-person/hybrid events when allowed, earlier notice of events, support getting goods to Malawi, access to government representatives, increased diaspora engagement, highlight members' work

Member priorities included: girls' education, Fighting vaccine misinformation, lobbying Scottish Government on transparency and role of civic society, impact of colonialism, re-opening Malawi travel.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S FOREWORD: **Actions and learning from the Survey Results**

As a member-led network, our Annual Member Needs and Impact Survey is perhaps the single most important dataset in assessing our work and planning our coming priorities.

I'm keen to extend my sincere thanks to the 96 members who took time to complete the survey this year. I can assure you that every word written has been read and digested by me, our staff team and our Board of Directors: the feedback members have given us will directly feed into our work and thinking in the coming year.

I am touched by the positive feedback and kind words of encouragement from the membership, especially given all the challenges everyone has faced in the last year. A great many respondents speak of the crucial, leading role the SMP has played in the last year, tailoring its support through the pandemic and offering inspiration, positivity and encouragement wherever it can.

There is always more we can do to increase our impact and better serve the needs of our members in Scotland and their partners in Malawi. Reading the feedback and input given in this report, I am keen in 2021/22 the SMP:

- Continues its Covid-19 coordination work, as most appropriate in this next chapter;
- Continues a strong focus on news and information dissemination, feeding in the ideas given here on how to further strengthen our weekly bulletin and other digital channels;
- Looks to capture and continue all the many benefits of the shift to digital, most especially Malawian participation, as we shift back to in-person and hybrid events;
- Offers support as Malawi fights vaccine misinformation;
- Looks specifically at the issue of girls' education, especially in light of the concerning rise in teenage pregnancy through the Covid crisis in Malawi;
- Finds innovative ways of helping members share updates, information and expertise;
- Offers opportunities for members to connect with senior government representatives;
- Continues active youth leadership, youth voice and youth outreach;
- Further increases diaspora engagement, diversity and inclusion;
- Looks again at the issues around sustainability;
- Prioritises the climate crisis, as Scotland hosts COP26;
- Looks to influence the Scottish & UK governments to make the positive case for an approach to international development underpinned by dignified partnership and civic activism;
- More actively promotes new members as they join the SMP.

Over the coming weeks, colleagues and I will continue to digest all the rich feedback in this report and will ensure this member voice is at the very heart of our thinking for this coming year.

David Hope-Jones, Chief Executive

FULL DATA:

1. Process and Participants:

The SMP Needs and Impact Survey 2020-21 was conducted during March and April 2021, using the online survey software, 'Survey Monkey'. 96 SMP Members completed the online survey. 42% of the respondents were individuals, 39% were organisations, 7% were schools, 5% were youth members, 3% was Local Authorities and 4% was "SMP Partners".

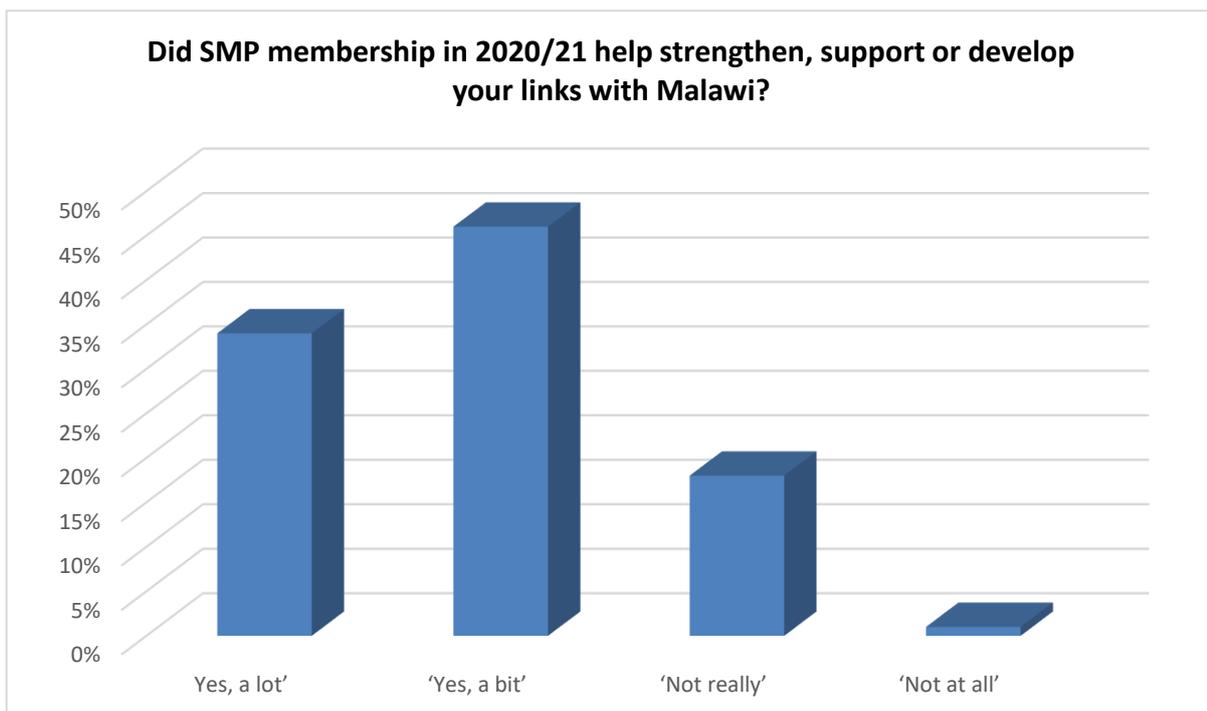
Members were encouraged to complete the survey, with a random selection of 10 respondents given a copy of 'The Spirit of Malawi' by Susan Dalgety.

There were 16 questions, surveying opinions on both the impact of SMP work in 2020-21, and membership needs for 2021 and beyond. Not all respondents answered all questions so, for accuracy, the percentages have been calculated against the number of respondents for that question.

2. Impact:

When asked if membership of the SMP in 2020-21 "helped strengthen, support or develop their links with Malawi", 76 members responded, of whom:

- 34% said 'Yes, a lot'
- 46% said 'Yes, a bit'
- 18 said 'Not really'
- 1% said 'Not at all'



Members could add supplementary comments/recommendations to their answer.

Collated responses:

- Praise for Covid work (x9)
- Praise for information dissemination / news (x8)
- Praise for bringing people/organisations together (x4)
- Current limitations in Malawi links due to Covid (x4)
- Praise for sharing/learning about members' work (x2)
- Praise for school links support (x2)
- Praise for closer ties/communications with partners as a result of SMP (x2)
- Praise for inspiring / positivity in challenging times (x2)
- Praise for useful new contacts (x2)
- Praise for university engagements (x1)
- Praise for many opportunities offered (x1)
- Progress not made from enquiry (x1)
- Praise for galvanising efforts (x1)
- Disappointed by poor member uptake (x1)

All responses:

- *“Really impressed with the efforts made during Covid pandemic to bring people together and galvanise efforts to support” - Jennifer Macalister Hall*
- *“Kept me very up to date with the impact of COVID in Malawi” - Charlie Bevan*
- *“I contacted SMP regarding a school near Dedza we had previously hoped to create links with, but progress was not made. We don't need to make links with that school (although I visited it personally as I was passing through), but would like to find out how to create links with a school.” - Mick McMillan, Denend Primary School*
- *“Very impressed with the health news from Malawi through the COVID-19 coordination meetings” - Denis Robson, Thondwe Community Partnership*
- *“Very good to keep up to date with what is happening in Malawi.” - Carol McGregor, SightSavers Int.*
- *“As a new member I have been learning what SMP does and I see how so many organisations are members doing great work to help Malawi” – Prof Tim Eden, University of Manchester/World Child Cancer*
- *“Very informative especially with respect to impact of COVID, needs and solutions” - Wendy McMullen, NHS*
- *“Through the membership, I am able to appreciate the different developments and support that SMP is focusing on in Malawi.” – Henry Kadzuwa, University of Edinburgh*
- *“Asked for help with feeding hundreds of malnourished children and, despite a link being put on your page, not one person made contact with me” - Sarah Black, Friends of The William Stewart Centre, Malawi*

- *“Being asked to present at the Schools forum allowed greater bonding between ourselves and our friends in Malawi” - Ian Mitchell, Beath Malawi Partnership*
- *“Kept us in touch with COVID developments in Malawi - especially when we have no response from our partners there who are working flat-out in the health service. Also, the positivity from the newsletters and events is inspiring, when we are downtrodden and exhausted trying to raise funds to maintain our projects and support our colleagues in Malawi- as well as try to retain our own sanity and physical well-being working like Trojans in the NHS.” - Catriona Connolly, Scotland Malawi Anaesthesia*
- *“I met lots of Malawian through the covid workshops on zoom, who might be useful contacts for our healthcare programme. As yet I don't know how strong or sustained any of those links might be. As Chair of SMP I felt my knowledge and understanding of all that SMP and MaSP can/could do has been strengthened considerably” – Heather Cubie*
- *“Our links with Malawi have been remote due to impact of COVID.” - Maureen McKenna, Malawi Leaders of Learning/Glasgow City Council, Director of Education*
- *“Due to COVID-19 I have not been in a position to need support from SMP.” - Mary Shaw, Glasgow City Council*
- *“I already had strong links, having worked with VSO Malawi in the past.” - Sheena Nicolson*
- *“SMP has been invaluable at keeping us up to speed with Covid developments etc.” - Ramsay McGhee, Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty*
- *“Covid restrictions prevented face to face networking.” - Individual Member*
- *“Useful connections for my professional partners at Heriot Watt University – Dr Janey Andrews, Heriot Watt University*
- *“I am now residing and working in Malawi” - Rachel Macleod, Baylor College of Medicine*
- *“Lots of opportunities to strengthen links were offered.” - Geraldine Fleming, St. Bernadette's Malawi Partnership*
- *“When communication with our twinned school became difficult regular SMP emails kept us informed with the situation on the ground and prompted us again and again to make contact with our partner school.” - Isla Lumsden, Kilmarnon Special School*
- *“COVID19 impacted on school partnership as pupils not attending school, so the committee did not achieve all that was hoped.” - Rosemary Harrison, Clydeview Academy*
- *“No criticism of the SMP is implied here at all with my reply, it was simply circumstance this year.” - Darren Watt, University of Edinburgh*
- *“The SMP played a vital role during the pandemic, bringing together groups involved in Malawi together with Malawian health leaders. We got bang up to date news about the situation on the ground.” - Mike Beresford, Zambesi Mission*

When asked, overall, what IMPACT has membership of the SMP had on their link with Malawi in the last year (how has the SMP been of assistance) members said:

Collated responses:

- Regular information/news dissemination (x39)
- Covid-19 meetings and support (x17)
- Guidance on appropriate support / appeal promotion (x10)
- Digital meetings (x9)
- Sharing information on members' work (x8)
- Inspiration, positivity and encouragement (x7)
- Supported/encouraged communications with Malawi partners (x6)
- Meeting senior stakeholders / government leaders (x5)
- Limited activity/engagement this year due to Covid-19 (x5)
- Weekly bulletin (x4)
- Higher education engagement (x4)
- Digital networking (x3)
- Youth leadership/engagement (x3)
- Limited impact due to Covid restrictions (x3)
- More connected with others / Collaboration (x3)
- Interactive digital youth engagements (x2)
- Oxygen work (x2)
- Disappointing lack of support from other members (x2)
- Taking on challenging subjects like race and equality/BLM well (x2)
- Lobbying and advocacy (x1)
- Sharing members' expertise (x1)
- Networking (x1)
- Supported collaboration (x1)
- No obvious impact (x1)
- Key touchstone (x1)
- Diaspora engagement and support (x1)
- Messaging around mutual trust and respect (x1)
- Great support in difficult times (x1)
- Climate change work (x1)
- Limited direct impact (x1)
- Fast response to enquiries/questions (x1)
- Staff leadership/facilitation skills (x1)
- Interactive digital discussions with Malawi and members (x5)
- SMP-MaSP interactions/services (x2)
- Business, trade and fair trade (x1)
- Parliamentary engagements (x1)
- Meeting members (x1)
- Chichewa training (x1)
- Maintaining people's interest in Malawi (x1)
- Sharing digital resources (x1)

All responses:

- *"Networking with other SMP members"* - Lillian Nseua
- *"Covid 19 roundtables were incredibly useful to keep us informed as to the situation in Malawi during the last year."* - Emma Duncan, The Global Concerns Trust
- *"SMP allowed me to have greater understanding of the Covid situation in Malawi and to then be able to offer appropriate help to those in Malawi such as access to posters & other support."* - Jennifer Macalister Hall



- *"It's been useful to have reliable information on the situation in Malawi through SMP. Connecting with the new British HC in Malawi through SMP has also been a huge positive."* - Kelly White, Malawi Travel Marketing Consortium
- *"Not much as there has been very little activity in relation to schools due to the pandemic"* - Robert Lamb, Inverclyde Council
- *"Providing background information"* - Ian Dickson, Rotary
- *"Keeping me well informed of current Malawian priorities and inspired by younger generations facing challenging and nuanced conversations around race, colonialism and poverty"* - Charlie Bevan
- *"I have been able to keep in touch with events in Malawi over the year by reading some of the newsletters and updates. I haven't yet seen anything I could suitably involve myself or the school with, but I am hopeful..."* - Mick McMillan, Denend Primary School
- *"Better informed about the health situation in Malawi."* - Denis Robson, Thondwe Community Partnership
- *"Helped lobby about international development strategy and raise awareness of impact of Covid."* - Emma Wood
- *"Information on what we are achieving."* - Georgina MacMillan
- *"No real impact on my link."* - Carol McGregor, SightSavers Int.
- *"Assistance with networking as well as raising brand awareness."* - Lyndsey Alexander, Link Education International
- *"Kept us up to date with the covid response and general situation within Malawi"* - Victoria Milne, Smileawi
- *"Indirect support through weekly email keeping us informed of developments in Malawi."* – John Elliot, The Jock & Mary Elliot Memorial Trust
- *"It has been so good to hear about all of the different organisations and individual people are linked in to support and work with SMP with clean water/protective Covid Equipment/ and many more aspects. WCC has done some of that for Children in Blantyre and as a Patron of the charity I would hope that we could link in with SMP in their work in future"* – Prof Tim Eden, University of Manchester/World Child Cancer
- *"Raised awareness of the need for oxygen during the covid outbreak"* - Mary Thomson
- *"Feel much more connected with others collaborating with projects in Malawi"* - Wendy McMullen, NHS
- *"I have identified an area of expertise that I fit in and I need to assist."* – Henry Kadzuwa, University of Edinburgh



- *“The SMP is an important ‘touchstone’ for colleagues in Malawi. It has helped to promote the image (quite correctly) of Scotland being a trusted partner.” - John Briggs, University of Glasgow*
- *“It has helped me to connect and interact with my fellow Malawians. In addition, it has been an income platform for me as a musician by connecting me with Scottish Organisations and schools.” - Davie Luhanga*
- *“Disappointed as I thought the idea was that members supported each other. There are no organisations in the far north of Malawi feeding children in schools. We do get a few bags of porridge periodically from Feed the Children ONLY for our 50 nursery children. Average of 600 children turn up on Saturdays, some walking 20km, for their one nutritious meal of the week. We’ve had to reduce portion size as we cannot sustain this on our own. It costs £9,000 pa to feed this many children once a week with a substantial, nutritious meal.” - Sarah Black, Friends of The William Stewart Centre, Malawi*
- *“Provided great support in what has been an exceptional time. Facilitated better communication with our colleagues in our partner schools in Malawi. Raised awareness of issues in Malawi re: Covid.” - Ian Mitchell, Beath Malawi Partnership*
- *“Kept us up to date with events and situations in Malawi” – David A. Thomson, FROP M Scotland*
- *“The constant updates and positivity from SMP has encouraged me to keep trying to make contact with my team in Malawi who are not great at responding to mail- for. variety of reasons. When I have been close to totally giving up on my project- which has been several times over the past couple of years- I feel inspired to just give it one last try, when I receive another newsletter.” - Catriona Connolly, Scotland Malawi Anaesthesia*
- *“Youth Congress being online I got to meet and talk like a lot of interesting people from all over was amazing to just talk and share idea/ point of views” - Ryan Ticcioni*
- *“The reports from the various segments have given me a fuller understanding of Malawi in this pandemic period.” - Karen Lynn Paarz, Independent*
- *“Our programme link has also been much strengthened by more digital connections and we are grateful to SG for allowing more funds to be vired to the costs of digital links. This could have a big impact for the future. The many digital events held by SMP over the year have also impacted on my thinking for the future, particularly in the areas of young people and climate changes even if they have not been as directly relevant for my project link in Malawi.” - Heather Cubie*
- *“Limited in terms of direct impact. The regular updates of information on Malawi has been exceptionally valuable.” - Maureen McKenna, Malawi Leaders of Learning/Glasgow City Council*
- *“Unfortunately, due to circumstances this has not been utilised.” - Mary Shaw, Glasgow City Council*



- *“1. Speed of reaction to questions asked was outstanding 2. Leadership skills of CEO, and as facilitator, contributed a lot to the process of people engaging more in discussions 3. The contents shared were relevant, which improved continuous engagement” - Bart Rombaut, Mary's Meals International*
- *“My two main contacts have joined MaSP and have mentioned the insight they now have into various strands of SMP.” - Sheena Nicolson*
- *“Regular updates and online meetings” - Pam Wilson*
- *“We haven't really looked for assistance - in October last year we exported 23 crates of second-hand woodworking tools to Mountain View School along with two boxes of football strips and track suits - they all arrived safely in December. We have another four or five boxes of bits to go out but we'll hopefully get that under way when we can travel south with the goods.” - Ramsay McGhee, Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty*
- *“Insights into CDC's work in Malawi, and fair trade progress in Malawi” - Russell Salton*
- *“SMP published an article about ICCMs work, but sadly this did not generate any interest in Scotland about their work.” - Individual Member*
- *“I've appreciated keeping in touch with developments, although my work role is now less focussed on Malawi” - Janey Andrews*
- *“I have particularly appreciated SMP organising sessions where Malawian and Scottish people have been able to come together to discuss issues. Although we have a strong team of local Malawians that we work closely with, it has been really helpful to get that broader perspective, particularly where the SMP has brought in government representatives to meetings.” - Organisational Member*
- *“I have directed people towards the organisation both here in Malawi and those in UK” - Rachel Macleod, Baylor college of medicine*
- *“It has been a positive impact overall, giving us an ongoing broad picture of how the pandemic has been affecting Malawi. Good to get weekly reports of the work being done by groups here in support of partnerships in Malawi and we shared these with our partners.” - Geraldine Fleming, St. Bernadette's Malawi Partnership*
- *“Keeping up to date with news and maintaining interest in difficult times.” - Andy McKay*
- *“When communication with our twinned school became difficult regular SMP emails kept us informed with the situation on the ground and prompted us again and again to make contact with our partner school.” - Isla Lumsden, Kilmarnon Special School*
- *“It has kept us up to date with the work of SMP and news relating to Malawi.” - Rosemary Harrison, Clydeview Academy*
- *“Links with RARE scholars; greater awareness of covid impacts” – Prof Geoff Simm, University of Edinburgh*

- *“Helpful particularly on the state of play of Covid-19 and the information on potential charities to allow choice of donations” - Cam Bowie*
- *“None, but that is through no fault of the SMP. Your Covid response has been really impressive, its just that there was no opportunity for my unit to engage with it for various reasons.” - Darren Watt, University of Edinburgh*
- *“The information shared has been enormously helpful, in informing us about the latest situation, which allowed us to keep our supporters informed so that they could pray or give.” - Mike Beresford, Zambesi Mission*
- *“Just a way of keeping informed about a country I love” - Ashling Bourke*
- *“Exposure” - Nelson Nyoloka, Glasgow Uni*
- *“Very little in the last year, but normal years it provides a positive support. It’s good to meet like-minded people discuss ideas with others who share the same interests.” - Steve Taylor, Ideas ltd*
- *“SMP has been of great assistance in arranging student visits to Edinburgh office (virtually) and also to the CPG. Thank you for your help with this.” - Neil Merrylees, University of Dundee*
- *“On our actual links not much. It has been good for overall information.” - Jennie Chinembiri, Church of Scotland*
- *“Little impact. Bilateral arrangement” - John Calder, Cairns church Milngavi*
- *“Useful in drawing attention to current issues in the country. It has been difficult for schools to focus on anything other than qualification-related issues, but the newsletters from SMP have been easy to digest and informative.” - Archie Marshall, The Community School of Auchterarder*
- *“1. Enabled me to feel in touch with their reality & to speak to friends there in an informed way. 2. Provided a way of making a positive contribution thro' the Malawi Oxygen Appeal 3. Allowed me to reliably inform others in UK & RI with Malawi interests [& raise funds for the above]” - Helen Mein*
- *“Helped me see the link during the pandemic and has encouraged me to reach out more to friends in Malawi.” - Harriet Morley*
- *“Providing relevant news and information which we have been able to use when providing updates to our supporters and in our newsletters. You have provided opportunities like taking part in the Chichewa Challenge too and much more.” - Lindsey Barkham, Open Arms Malawi*
- *“Keeps us up-to-date with developments and provides guidance in relation to how we might react/respond to developments around Covid-19 and BLM” - Moira Dunworth, Mamie Martin Fund*
- *“Direct hard information, in real time, through its genuine connections with high level people on the ground in Malawi has been invaluable for our decision making.” - Olivia Giles, 500 miles*



- *“Circulated a gofundme sponsorship appeal for a project in Malawi.” - Andy Walker*
- *“It has helped maintain interest. It has provided vital information. It has offered encouragement and support. It has promoted our own activities.” - Andrew McKay, Saint Margaret's High School*
- *“In a difficult year, SMP has assisted us with different items. One of these was Covid-19 response. We were able to band together with other SMP members to help in Northern Malawi with masks and soap for schools and communities. Our partners in Malawi were able to engage in ways they could not previously have done - eg the Youth Festival and the series of covid-related meetings.” - Alan Laverock, Bananabox Trust*
- *“I am now retired. I have maintained a link with some of the staff at UoM and value that.” - Christopher Brotherton*
- *“SMP has helped me to realise the areas that I can be of assistance to the communities both in Scotland and Malawi. The involvement of various events in boosting the relationship between the two countries, the SMP has been very helpful, professional and very informative for the communities in these two countries to get wider picture of the special relationship of Malawi and Scotland. The impact of SMP has achieved more opportunities for the people of both countries to begin engaging in various development and social activities. That is why Youth Empowerment Forum would like to get engaged with Scottish youth to establish short , middle and long term projects that will benefit both countries, especially in modern farming, education, health and modern technology.” - Ediwn Gollie Makaranga Ngwira, Youth Empowerment Forum (YEF) Malawi*
- *“I have learned so much about Malawi through the Covid update meetings and others organised or supported by the SMP. This has informed all my interactions with our specific partners in Malawi. Seeing first hand the involvement of senior government figures has been very inspiring also.” - Jane Gebbie, Kondanani UK*
- *“The COVID-19 meetings have enabled us to corroborate information received informally about the impact of COVID-19 in Malawi, and at times advise and inform our partners of priorities. Hearing from other members helps us confirm we are making reasonable proposals and useful support to our partners. Connection with another member has led to a significant collaborative project in renewable solar energy, now starting to move ahead.” - Dr Jonathan Groves, The Kerusso Trust*
- *“News and information.” - Peter Howson*
- *“2020 has been a difficult year with lockdown (I put myself in lockdown) two weeks before the official lockdown; I am very physically challenged but I can rely on what the SMP disseminates on Malawi plus. In short, SMP is informative and reliable.” - Rosemary Argente*

Members were asked if they think the SMP has achieved its intended impact in the following areas for 2020/21:

- Increased knowledge of, participation in, and impact of Scotland's civic links with Malawi
 - 64% said 'Yes, a lot'
 - 36% said 'Yes, a bit'
 - 0% said 'Not really'
 - 0% said 'Not at all'

- Maintained mutual understanding, coordination, effectiveness and impact as a result of SMP-hosted activities
 - 72% said 'Yes, a lot'
 - 25% said 'Yes, a bit'
 - 1% said 'Not really'
 - 1% said 'Not at all'

- Maintained awareness and understanding amongst key stakeholders of governmental and civil society work with Malawi
 - 63% said 'Yes, a lot'
 - 36% said 'Yes, a bit'
 - 1% said 'Not really'
 - 0% said 'Not at all'

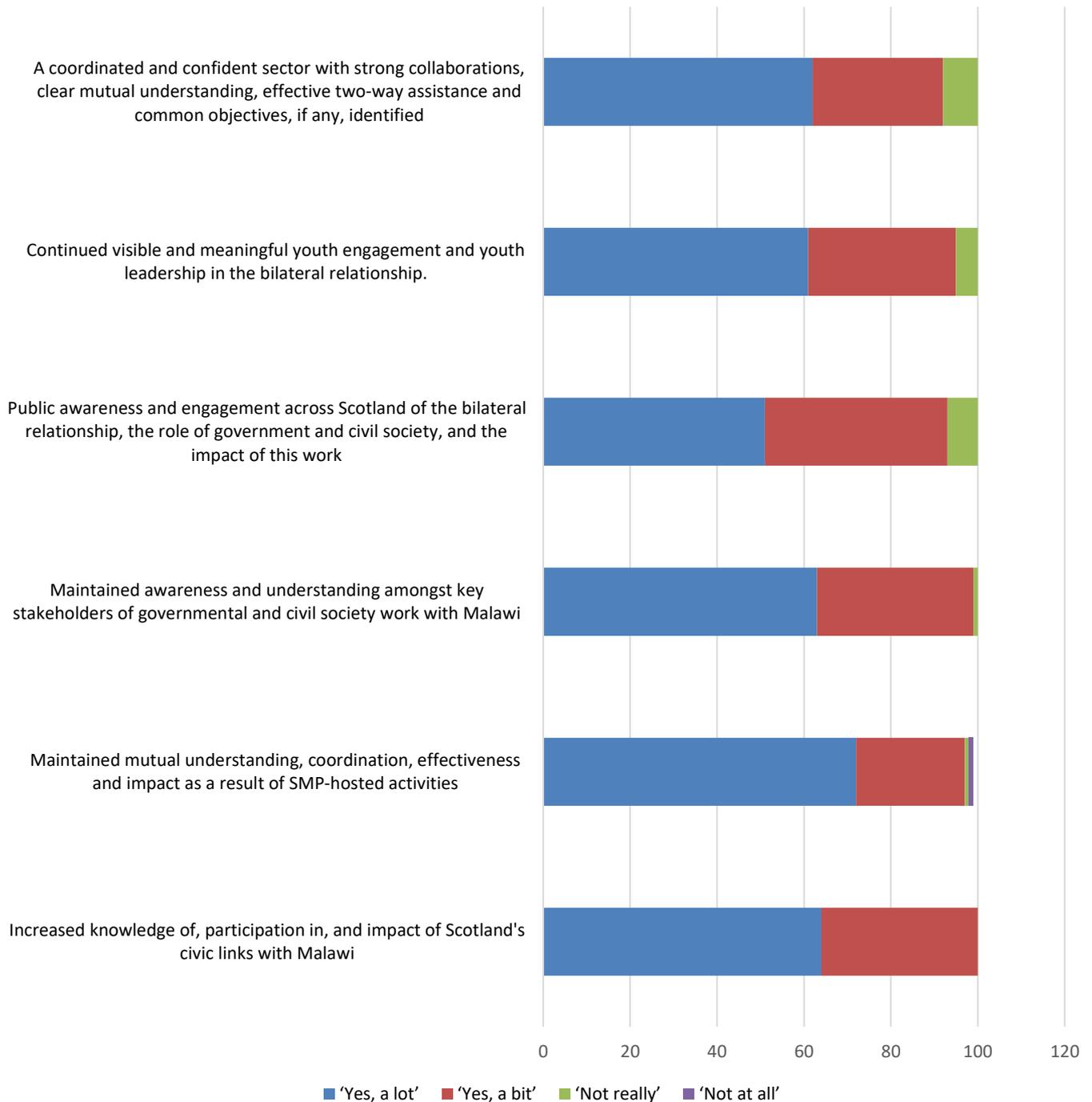
- Public awareness and engagement across Scotland of the bilateral relationship, the role of government and civil society, and the impact of this work
 - 51% said 'Yes, a lot'
 - 42% said 'Yes, a bit'
 - 7% said 'Not really'
 - 0% said 'Not at all'

- Continued visible and meaningful youth engagement and youth leadership in the bilateral relationship.
 - 61% said 'Yes, a lot'
 - 34% said 'Yes, a bit'
 - 5% said 'Not really'
 - 0% said 'Not at all'

- A coordinated and confident sector with strong collaborations, clear mutual understanding, effective two-way assistance and common objectives, if any, identified
 - 62% said 'Yes, a lot'
 - 30% said 'Yes, a bit'
 - 8% said 'Not really'
 - 0% said 'Not at all'

Perceived success in achieving desired impacts

members were asked whether they felt the SMP had achieved each of its intended impacts/outcomes in 2020/21



Members could add supplementary comments to their answer. Members said:

Collated responses:

- Cannot comment / do not know (x3)
- Challenging time for members, especially schools (x3)
- Praise for news/info dissemination (x2)
- Praise for Youth Festival (x2)
- Praise for digital inclusivity (x1)
- Praise for high-quality communications, raising awareness of links (x1)
- Praise for collaborations (x1)
- Want more leadership on race and equality (x1)
- Question of assessing impact with non-members? (x1)
- Lack of time to be able to engage SMP activities (x1)
- Vital lifeline (x1)
- Academic links (x1)
- Demonstrable impact (x1)

All responses:

- *“The Youth Festival was hugely successful”* - Denis Robson, Thondwe Community Partnership
- *“I think SMP have demonstrated it is possible to be digitally inclusive even during a pandemic. Maybe this is at least as relevant as in person visits”* - Wendy McMullen, NHS
- *“Communications have been at a high level, ie Govt which has raised the profile of the links between Scotland and Malawi.”* - Ian Mitchell, Beath Malawi Partnership
- *“I wish SMP could have more influence on SG IDF to help them do their job liaising and influencing Malawi government more effectively- especially to look at accountability and actual hard-nosed results from healthcare projects.”* - Catriona Connolly, Scotland Malawi Anaesthesia
- *“Collaborations across sectors regarding health have met my objectives for membership”* - Karen Lynn Paarz, Independent
- *“I am not so sure how we have impacted across the Scottish public other than SMP members, similarly in engaging non-members in Scotland. Can we measure the connections from non-members?”* - Heather Cubie
- *“The main benefit we saw was in your constant updating of information - excellent.”* - Ramsay McGhee, Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty
- *“I can't comment on youth engagement”* - Russell Salton
- *“In this I am answering for myself only here, I cannot answer for others and I do see that much admirable work has been done with others. I may simply lack the time to*

become more involved. For me, if it doesn't involve the pupils at our school, there's not much I can justify the time for, I'm afraid! Sorry!" - Mick McMillan, Denend Primary School

- *"I don't know than answers - I have no way to judge."* - Individual Member
- *"An organisation is only as good as its members. This has been a difficult year for us in Scottish Education as well as for those in education in Malawi."* - Isla Lumsden, Kilmaron Special School
- *"COVID19 and concentration on Health and Wellbeing of pupils alongside core skills left little scope for maintaining the partnership as we would have liked."* - Rosemary Harrison, Clydeview Academy
- *"I cannot say - not sure"* - Cam Bowie
- *"Hard to say about youth from our perspective as we have been less involved in such meetings"* - Mike Beresford, Zambesi Mission
- *"Difficult for everyone this year, so very few 5 star reviews!"* - Steve Taylor, ideas ltd
- *"Not sure about statement 4, but the Youth Council has been positive for some of our former pupils."* - Archie Marshall, The Community School of Auchterarder
- *"The Youth Festival was a triumph of engagement and communication"* - Moira Dunworth, Mamie Martin Fund
- *"A vital life-line"* - Andrew McKay, Saint Margaret's High School
- *"My fellowship was academic and did not develop collaboration"* – Prof Christopher Brotherton
- *"I don't feel that the SMP has provided strong enough leadership in the area of racism, decolonisation and inequalities. There is a lot of focus on hearing the voices of middle class Malawians and white Scots and not enough focussed on hearing from the vast majority who live in poverty."* - Emma Wood
- *"Overall, your works have spoken and the results are seen in both countries"* - Ediwn Gollie Makaranga Ngwira, Youth Empowerment Forum (YEF) Malawi
- *"I have been very well updated with efficient and reliable information"* - Rosemary Argente

3. Services:

When asked, if they have attended an SMP digital meeting/forum in the last year, what impact this had on their link with Malawi, members said:

Collated responses:

- News / information dissemination (x7)
- Increased understanding / widened perspectives / see the big picture (x7)
- Information and guidance on Covid-19 response (x4)
- Well organised, positive digital meetings (x4)
- Use of digital allows increased Malawian voice/participation (x3)
- Positive (x3)
- Understand members' work (x2)
- Talk openly and honestly about important issues (x2)
- Digital events (x1)
- Climate change and environmental issues (x1)
- Inspiration / motivation / solidarity (x1)
- Chance to meet / hear from others (x1)
- Access to high-level speakers (x1)
- Strengthened the link (x1)
- Unable to attend due to pressures (x1)
- Helpful (x1)
- Sometimes info not up to date (x1)

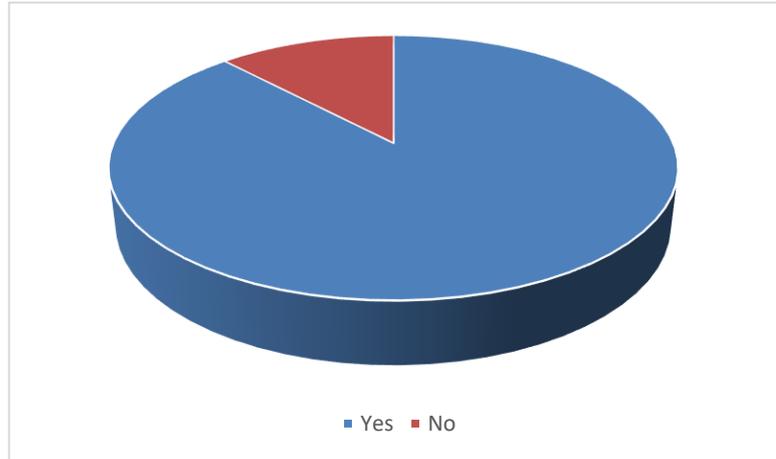
All responses:

- *"Informed ongoing project response to Covid 19."* - Emma Duncan, The Global Concerns Trust
- *"Developed my understanding and made link closer."* - Jennifer Macalister Hall
- *"Yes - a very positive impact."* - Kelly White, Malawi Travel Marketing Consortium
- *"Inspired my continued engagement with Malawi"* - Charlie Bevan
- *"I didn't attend one as I couldn't see how I would meaningfully contribute."* - Mick McMillan, Denend Primary School
- *"Much better informed"* - Denis Robson, Thondwe Community Partnership
- *"We already have strong links but these events have given us a platform to talk about some important issues and we're very grateful for that."* - Emma Wood
- *"Great to see other people involved in the SMP"* - Carol McGregor, SightSavers Int.
- *"Increased my knowledge of the situation"* - Victoria Milne, Smileawi
- *"Increasing understanding of the work of SMP"* – Prof Tim Eden, University of Manchester/World Child Cancer
- *"Widened my perspective on the bigger picture"* - Wendy McMullen, NHS
- *"It enabled me to understand the projects that are taking place in the field of forestry, Climate Change and environment and more importantly provided the platform for collaboration."* – Henry Kadzuwa, University of Edinburgh
- *"Improved links with our partners as they were also able to attend the meeting. This has not been possible in the past."* - Ian Mitchell, Beath Malawi Partnership

- *“Just inspired me to engage again. I am the lead for our project and it is a one-man band in terms of all the organisation/ grant applications everything apart from the actual delivery of the project on the ground in Malawi. I am exhausted and tired trying to inspire colleagues to be interested. They are all close to burn-out after the past year. The NHS was difficult enough to work in before COVID, but staff are hanging on by their fingernails atm, in terms of their mental health, and nobody has bandwidth to think of Malawi in any meaningful way.”* - Catriona Connolly, Scotland Malawi Anaesthesia
- *“Tackles a lot of difficult and important issues moving forward I think we need to keep going this to overcome them and not let them keep being seen as things we can’t talk about openly.”* - Ryan Ticcioni
- *“Yes, the zoom of the annual general meeting allowing to communicate in real time with Malawi colleagues”* - Karen Lynn Paarz, Independent
- *“Pleasure at the greater involvement and empowerment of Malawians through this medium; increased respect for their achievements on minimal resources and sensible covid actions from Government , including SG in allowing funding for PPE and oxygen supplies”* - Heather Cubie
- *“It clarified a number of issues pertinent to my field of working, especially because of the input by high-level speakers.”* - Bart Rombaut, Mary’s Meals International
- *“Provided more comprehensive information about the COVID pandemic. My contacts were also impressed.”* - Sheena Nicolson
- *“Strengthening the link.”* - Pam Wilson
- *“I attended the main digital meeting and found it very interesting.”* - Ramsay McGhee, Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty
- *“Positive”* - Russell Salton
- *“Helped me know the bigger picture.”* - Individual Member
- *“Unfortunately, was unable to engage with those on offer due to personal constraints.”* - Geraldine Fleming, St. Bernadette’s Malawi Partnership
- I feel informed and able to share relevant information in the future. - Rosemary Harrison, Clydeview Academy
- *“Improved understanding of covid impacts”* – Prof Geoff Simm, University of Edinburgh
- *“Helpful”* - Cam Bowie
- *“An enormous impact, as stated above.”* - Mike Beresford, Zambesi Mission
- *“Not much for me since am a Malawian based in Scotland for studies”* - Nelson Nyoloka, Glasgow Uni
- *“I have found the events useful and very well organised. However I don’t think they have had any direct effect on our links with Malawi”* – Dr Neil Merrylees, University of Dundee
- *“Information gathering, although the info given isn’t always up to date. For example the education sector in Malawi spoke about schools reopening but at the time the government schools had not gone back due to staff requesting protection allowance.”* - Jennie Chinembiri, Church of Scotland

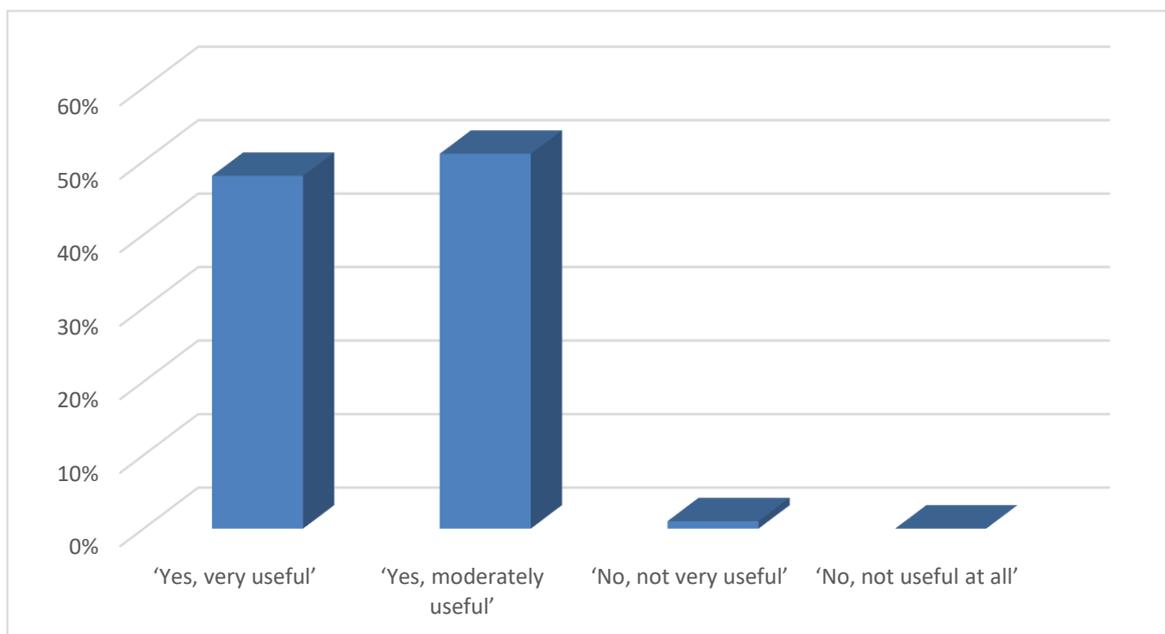
When asked if they feel the SMP has helped share members' experience and learning in innovative and useful ways, 75 members responded, of whom:

- 88% said 'Yes'
- 12% said 'No'



The 66 members who said 'Yes' to the above question were asked how useful this was, to which:

- 48% said 'Yes, very useful'
- 51% said 'Yes, moderately useful'
- 1% said 'No, not very useful'
- 0% said 'No, not useful at all'



When asked how they would describe the value/impact of this sharing by the SMP, members said:

Word cloud of collated responses (operative words):



All responses:

- “Essential” - Emma Duncan, The Global Concerns Trust
- “Unique - really impressed at what has been achieved in terms of sharing. Innovative too.” - Jennifer Macalister Hall
- “Valuable to be kept informed of developments” - Robert Lamb, Inverclyde Council
- “I’m sure it has had an excellent positive impact on those able to use that learning and experience. I haven’t been able to - yet!” - Mick McMillan, Denend Primary School
- “Exchanging knowledge and ideas is helpful” - Denis Robson, Thondwe Community Partnership
- “Very strong” - Carol McGregor, SightSavers Int.
- “Again, helping to keep informed” – John Elliot, The Jock & Mary Elliot Memorial Trust

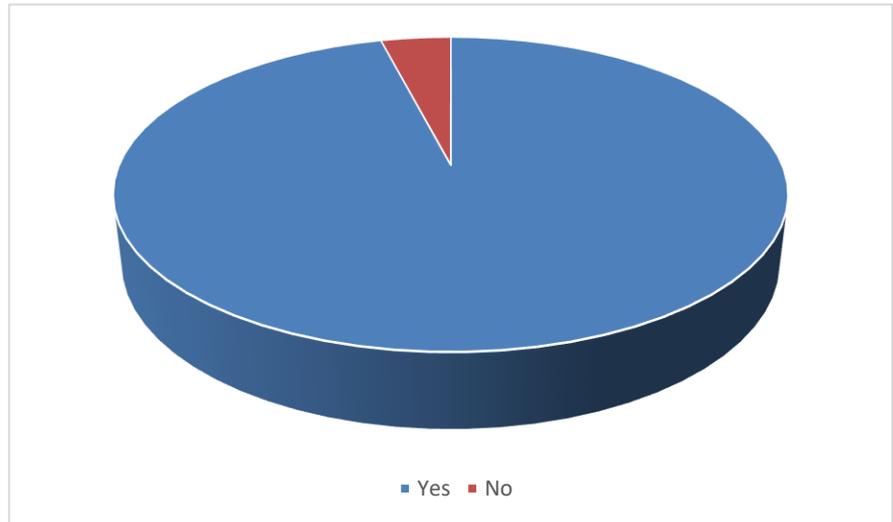
- *“Excellent”* – Prof Tim Eden, University of Manchester/World Child Cancer
- *“Allowed me to financially support an identified need”* - Mary Thomson
- *“Pivotal”* - Henry Kadzuwa, University of Edinburgh
- *“Educative/informative”* - Davie Luhanga
- *“Provided a platform for all to raise issues and discuss matters relevant to both societies.”* - Ian Mitchell, Beath Malawi Partnership
- *“Good to know what other organisations are doing any the effect this bid having on the ground”* – David Thomson, FROM Scotland
- *“It's inspiring to read success stories and be kept up to date with news of partnership developments”* Catriona Connolly, Scotland Malawi Anaesthesia
- *“This the current pandemic situation it's been hard to even have meaning conversation with others it was good to see everything other people were doing and helping each other that we wouldn't have know was going on it happening without your regular updates”* - Ryan Ticcioni
- *“Research projects and study designs were facilitated by SMP”* - Karen Lynn Paarz, Independent
- *“Better understanding, empowerment and therefore creation of better global citizens”* - Heather Cubie
- *“Keep ideas fresh - good to know what others are doing”* - Maureen McKenna, Malawi Leaders of Learning/Glasgow City Council Director of Education
- *“Good”* - Allan Mandindi, Malawi Heritage UK
- *“Interesting to hear other people's experiences.”* - Mary Shaw, Glasgow City Council
- *“Essential, because information from the ground has been made visible to a larger audience”* - Bart Rombaut, Mary's Meals International
- *“Information quickly disseminated and acted upon.”* - Sheena Nicolson
- *“Invaluable - we were having communication problems - more severe than normal - so the SMP information being shared through regular bulletins was great.”* Ramsay McGhee, Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty
- *“Opportunities to learn from each other. Although the membership is diverse we share many common aims.”* Geraldine Fleming, St. Bernadette's Malawi Partnership
- *“Invaluable”* - Andy McKay
- *“Provides impetus to keep our partnership alive - although on a much reduced scale”* - Isla Lumsden, Kilmaron Special School



- *“It is like a resource centre of information and advice and provides a forum for sharing good practice. It is very thorough and a genuine passion for the development of successful and meaningful partnerships is genuine.”* - Rosemary Harrison, Clydeview Academy
- *“High”* – Prof Geoff Simm, University of Edinburgh
- *“It allows people to have a better perspective on the lives of others, what affects and matters to them, and perhaps what they would like to see as an outcome of various events, as opposed to your interpretation of what the outcome should be.”* - Darren Watt, University of Edinburgh
- *“useful to some”* - David Stevenson, University of Edinburgh
- *“It has been great to listen to predominately Malawian voices, which really help with our ethos and way of working.”* - Mike Beresford, Zambesi Mission
- *“I think people got linked to each other and also rejuvenated the relationship between these two countries”* - Nelson Nyoloka, Glasgow Uni
- *“Small, but I liked the sustainability forum youth festival”* - Steve Taylor, ideas ltd
- *“Quite valuable”* - Jennie Chinembiri, Church of Scotland
- *“Think that there could be a more structured approach for sharing information for different sectors. I believe that there is a schools section in the website, but I can never remember how to get there.”* - Archie Marshall, The Community School of Auchterarder
- *“It strengthens stakeholder relationships”* - Beth Sheehan

When asked if they feel the SMP offers a welcoming, diverse and inclusive space for people to engage, 73 members responded, of whom:

- 96% said 'Yes'
- 4% said 'No'



When asked what the SMP could do to make its work more welcoming, diverse and inclusive, members said:

Collated responses:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can't see how could improve / already diverse and welcoming (x9) • Listen to a diverse range of Malawians (x2) • Sustained youth voice / outputs (x2) • Don't know (x1) • Continue focusing on accountability (x1) • Activities to benefit people from different backgrounds (x1) • Promote new members (x1) • Continue digital meetings (x1) • Meetings outside working day (x1) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue strong leadership / skilful use of language (x1) • More space to share/discuss (x1) • Continued diaspora voice (x1) • Technical support to record videos (x1) • Less focus on youth (x1) • Continue open, positive, approach (x1) • Keep going (x1) • Shorter emails with more digital images (x1) • Case studies of members (x1) • YouTube posts or podcasts (x1) • Competitions (x1) |
|---|---|

All responses:

- *“I doubt it could do much more. To be honest, I thought I might simply offer ourselves as a contact school and then be told with which school we’d been paired and how to contact them. It seems more complicated than that, and I see now that I’ll need to look more closely into how to achieve this. Maybe after the pandemic...”* - Mick McMillan, Denend Primary School
- *“I would have rather answered 'don't know' to this question. Make sure you draw on a diverse range of Malawians who understand the impact of poverty and structural inequality and call out people who say we just need to focus on the future and what we have in common. It feels out of step with the zeitgeist to allow these views to stand without at least being debated.”* - Emma Wood
- *“It’s already welcoming.”* - Carol McGregor, SightSavers Int.
- *“I think that it is doing so much already”* – Prof Tim Eden, University of Manchester/World Child Cancer
- *“I personally found the meetings very inclusive and the random breakout rooms broke down barriers”* - Wendy McMullen, NHS
- *“Continue focusing on accountability and credibility of the partnership”* – Henry Kadzuwa, University of Edinburgh
- *“Bring in activities to benefit people from different backgrounds and statuses.”* - Davie Luhanga
- *“Highlight new small members more so we get an equal chance at support, not just the select few.”* - Sarah Black, Friends of The William Stewart Centre, Malawi
- *“Continue with online/virtual meetings as this has allowed more to be involved in both countries. Perhaps arrange meetings at times which are not during the working day (after 1800), especially difficult for schools at present.”* - Ian Mitchell, Beath Malawi Partnership
- *“I don't know. I feel welcome. I feel David and the team do everything possible to make everyone feel welcome. I am white skinned, but have my own reasons to feel out of place. I often do feel responsible for the actions of our ancestors and the resultant lives our Malawi colleagues live. But at the SMP meetings I feel the SMP do everything possible to make everyone feel welcome and valued. In particular, David's use of language is so skilful, irrespective of the circumstance in which he is chairing/ leading/ commenting/ facilitating sessions. I think he is an amazing lead for this group in terms of his knowledge, skills, empathy and ability to inspire.”* - Catriona Connolly, Scotland Malawi Anaesthesia
- *“More space to share, talk and discuss. Lots of feedback about people wanting more of the youth podcast and maybe even a regular blog to answer people’s questions and share stories”* - Ryan Ticcioni
- *“Inclusion of young people is particular strong, as is the inclusion of Malawians living in Scotland!!!”* - Karen Lynn Paarz, Independent

- *“Often asks for video clips - need more advice, help and support for creating and editing good short clips rather than just asking for them. Knowledge in Scotland could even be less than in Malawi”* - Heather Cubie
- *“Identify and work around barriers why some participants would not share their experiences”* - Bart Rombaut, Mary's Meals International
- *“Not a lot - you do a good job already”* - Ramsay McGhee, Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty
- *“Stop focussing on youth so much - it alienates us older ones. Equity means we are all in this together.”* - Individual Member
- *“They are always open to new ideas, to sharing good practice, to celebrating success - they should maintain this very positive approach.”* - Geraldine Fleming, St. Bernadette's Malawi Partnership
- *“Keep going.”* - Andy McKay
- *“Shorter emails with more digital images. Case studies of the experiences of individuals or partnerships. Case study of companies. Indexed data base of the above. Do you do Youtube posts or podcasts? Competitions”* - Rosemary Harrison, Clydeview Academy
- *“I think this is an area of excellence for the SMP, and can't think of any improvements.”* - Darren Watt, University of Edinburgh
- *“Yes, but there is always room for improvement. The challenge is particularly internet capacity in our age of Zoom. But keep inviting different groups from Malawi to share with us.”* - Mike Beresford, Zambesi Mission

4. Member Needs:

When asked what the SMP could do to improve its impact / offer better support in 2021/22, members said:

Collated responses:

- Think about how to return in some form to in-person meetings and travel when restrictions allow (x3)
- Can't see how could improve (x2)
- Earlier notice of events (x2)
- Support getting goods to Malawi (x2)
- More from political leaders / engage governments (x2)
- Highlight members' work (x2)
- Increased diaspora engagements (x2)
- Support / advice on sustainability (x1)
- Support tourism (x1)
- Up to date information on travel restrictions (x1)
- More on race and equality (x1)
- More on nursing in Malawi (x1)
- Continue to focus on accountability (x1)
- Continue to support diversity (x1)
- Keep in touch with Covid and COP26 implications (x1)
- Learn from digital to inform mass participation hybrid events (x1)
- More cross-cutting work, not just separate 'health' and 'education' single issues (x1)

All responses:

- *"It could support projects that seek to promote sustainable development in Malawi."* - Lillian Nseua
- *"The SMP always raises the bar in terms of the quality of the way they engage with members and events organised. This last year has proved their role in terms of communication and information sharing within the sector as essential to support the international development community in both Scotland and Malawi."* - Emma Duncan, The Global Concerns Trust
- *"As ever, our focus is tourism promotion, so any events or initiatives to that end would be welcomed (when possible and sensible)"* - Kelly White, Malawi Travel Marketing Consortium
- *"Let me know which school we could partner..?"* - Mick McMillan, Denend Primary School
- *"Provide up to date information on travel restrictions or opportunities."* - Denis Robson, Thondwe Community Partnership
- *"Address issues of race, inequality and decolonisation in an intelligent, informed way."* - Emma Wood
- *"Would like to hear about nursing impact in Malawi"* - Georgina MacMillan

- *“Hopefully after this COVID year we can get back to actually meeting in person” - Carol McGregor, SightSavers Int.*
- *“Informing us as far in advance as possible of upcoming events” - Victoria Milne, Smileawi*
- *“Re all of these points, our trust donate £12,500 each year to Mary’s Meals for two schools in Malawi & we are also likely to donate to Stekaskills so we do not have direct links with Malawi. The weekly email is our main link for general information.” – John Elliot, The Jock & Mary Elliot Memorial Trust*
- *“I think you are doing a very good job in very difficult times but we must all consider what to do once we have brought the pandemic to the lowest level to think how and when visits to Malawi and those from Malawi can travel” – Prof Tim Eden, University of Manchester/World Child Cancer*
- *“Our cervical screening programme is already well supported” - Wendy McMullen, NHS*
- *“Besides focusing on accountability and credibility of the partnership, keep promoting and monitoring the diversity of developmental ideas from members and service users/beneficiaries” – Henry Kadzuwa, University of Edinburgh*
- *“Continue on its present path, but needs to be aware of the rapidly changing environment within which we operate, not least the impact of Covid on economic development in Malawi going forward, and the impact of the outcomes of COP26 on countries such as Malawi (and UK and elsewhere) and what this means for our collaborations in the future.” - John Briggs, University of Glasgow*
- *“Understanding what the members need, apart from links to Malawi there are other important things that Malawians living in Scotland would find them beneficial.” - Davie Luhanga*
- *“Highlight the work we are doing for these starving children. Get more help in the far north.” - Sarah Black, Friends of The William Stewart Centre, Malawi*
- *“Maintain the high level of communication but try to provide greater warning of event dates/times so that we can prepare better and hopefully attend more meetings.” - Ian Mitchell, Beath Malawi Partnership*
- *“Keep us informed about what other groups are doing. For instance, if anyone is planning on shipping goods out.” – David Thomson, FROM Scotland*
- *“Help us get more of a voice for our front-line health care workers about their equipment and drug needs. This needs co-operation with government and their approach to international NGOs. It’s a massive ask, but our impact in Malawi is impeded because we are not going in offering loads of cash to local hospital managers and other clipboard wielders.” - Catriona Connolly, Scotland Malawi Anaesthesia*
- *“Take what we’ve leaned from 2020 with using online facilities more to reach more people even for in person events have an online options as well” - Ryan Ticcioni*



- *“As covid restrictions decrease, will the format return to in person or to a combination of in person and zoom.” - karen lynn paarz, Independent*
- *“I would like more contact with Malawians in Scotland, to hear their stories and make new links” - Heather Cubie*
- *“Engage with Malawians in the Diaspora” - Allan Mandindi, Malawi Heritage UK*
- *“I do work in Malawi and would like to hear more about the opinion of the politicians Scot-Mal, development strategies.” - Bart Rombaut, Mary's Meals International*
- *“Negotiate better transport facilities to get materials out to Malawi” - Ramsay McGhee, Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty*
- *“Institutions like schools, universities (education), hospitals (health) are easy wins. I would like to see more effort put into harder to reach and joined up community initiatives with multiple issues - not just single issue topics.” - Individual Member*
- *“Continue to engage with the international development community and the Scottish and Malawian Governments on a wide range of issues.” - Organisational Member*



When asked if there are any particular topics, themes or services they would like the SMP to address/offer in the coming year, members said:

Collated responses:

- Travel advice / tourism promotion (x2)
- Fighting vaccine mis/dis-information (x2)
- Renewable energy (x1)
- Gender equity (x1)
- Lobbying SG on role of partnerships and civic activism (x1)
- Impact of colonialism / decolonizing language and imagery (x2)
- Different perspectives on Scotland-Malawi links (x1)
- School links (x1)
- Vocational training (x1)
- Nursing environmental health (x1)
- Covid information (x1)
- Children’s cancer (x1)
- Bulletin of events/needs in Malawi (x1)
- Climate change (x1)
- Further/Higher education scholarships (x1)
- “All lives matter” not “Black Lives Matter” (x1)
- Educational equity (x1)
- Support for young people / youth mental health (x1)
- More events outside central belt (x1)
- Support local consultations on donation of medical equipment (x1)
- Health partnerships (x1)
- Learn from Malawi on climate sustainability (x1)

All responses:

- *“Renewable Energy and Gender Equity”* - Lillian Nseua
- *“Continued cross sector engagement between Scottish and Malawian links in regards to future Scottish Government funded programs and lobbying for the role of partnerships established between Scottish and Malawian organisations and civil society groups within future Scottish Government funded programs.”* - Emma Duncan, The Global Concerns Trust
- *“Continue to provide advice on travel & access to and in Malawi.”* - Jennifer Macalister Hall
- *“Tourism promotion”* - Kelly White, Malawi Travel Marketing Consortium
- *“Continuing the conversation around the impact of colonialism on contemporary links and perspectives on Scotland and Malawi links”* - Charlie Bevan
- *“I feel as if there may have been a great deal I have missed. Maybe I need to find more time (post-pandemic) to explore what exactly is on offer to primary schools.”* - Mick McMillan, Denend Primary School
- *“School links and vocational training”* - Denis Robson, Thondwe Community Partnership
- *“How we are supporting nursing environmental health in Malawi”* - Georgina MacMillan

- *“How is Malawi managing to cope with the current situation.” - Carol McGregor, SightSavers Int.*
- *“Decolonising language, imagery etc.” - Lyndsey Alexander, Link Education International*
- *“to promote pro vaccine in Malawi and encourage education of health care workers in vaccination to help dispel myths about vaccinations” - Victoria Milne, Smileawi*
- *“My interests are firstly for Children with Cancer and Haematology diseases with WCC and secondly with the SOS Children's Villages of which my wife and I are Patrons of the organisations. We would like to expand Help across the Country by working with others to help” – Prof Tim Eden, University of Manchester/World Child Cancer*
- *“Send out bulletins of current events and needs in Malawi” - Mary Thomson*
- *“Vaccine hesitancy & delivery (COVID and HPV)” - Wendy McMullen, NHS*
- *“Tertiary education/international scholarships, jobs and internships, climate change” – Henry Kadzuwa, University of Edinburgh*
- *““All lives matter” to replace “black lives matter” because it sounds too bias and encourages racism instead of discouraging it.” - Davie Luhanga*
- *“Educational equity; support for young people re: Covid. These appear to be of great concern to our Malawian colleagues and would help us support young people here as well through the common goal approach.” - Ian Mitchell, Beath Malawi Partnership*
- *“Just keep doing what you are to keep is informed. When conditions allow hold more events outside the central belt.” – David Thomson, FROM Scotland*
- *“Oxygen supplies- thanks for the amazing work you have already done. Operating theatre equipment and critical care equipment that is ordered by the anaesthetists and surgeons and not donated by someone who has not consulted with the clinicians on the ground.” - Catriona Connolly, Scotland Malawi Anaesthesia*
- *“How is youth mental health deal with in Malawi” - Ryan Ticcioni*
- *“Continue with health projects, especially those that meet World Health Organization Sustainment Goals.” - Karen Lynn Paarz, Independent*
- *“Topics which might address 'learning from Malawi'. I think the Malawians could be ahead of the Scots in thinking about/acting on local climate change needs and sustainability. We are still a throw-away society interested in our personal comforts. There is a lot of education needed and of course on-going in many settings. Can SMP promote further using Malawian actions?” - Heather Cubie*

When asked what training/development the SMP could offer which could help support their link, members said:

Collated responses:

- Direct interactions with people in Malawi (x2)
- Training / info on vaccine misinformation (x1)
- Climate Change mitigation and adaptation (x1)
- Sustainable Development Goals (x1)
- Encouragement of interpersonal contact with SMP members (x1)
- Introduction to government representatives (x1)
- Tech support to make videos (x1)
- SIDA collaborations (x1)
- Identifying needs (x1)
- Seasonal farming info (x1)
- Governance for small orgs (x1)
- Health (x1)
- Agriculture (x1)
- How to be heard in digital world (x1)
- Good practice in partnership agreements (x1)

All responses:

- *“We need more training to help eradicate energy poverty in Malawi.” - Lillian Nseua*
- *“No link as yet.” - Mick McMillan, Denend Primary School*
- *“Connect us with other members who feel vocational training and business skills are needed to increase the impact of the link.” - Denis Robson, Thondwe Community Partnership*
- *“Email links with nursing staff” - Georgina MacMillan*
- *“We do training in country normally by visiting but for the present time it is being done by Webinars which is not ideal but better than nothing . Keeping in touch country to country is crucial. We must respond to the needs.” – Prof Tim Eden, University of Manchester/World Child Cancer*
- *“I’m not sure. Is there a SMP vaccine task force that works alongside COVAX and WHO ? Would it help? There are a lot of political and scientific sensitivities around vaccines and patents. Maybe it is outwith our remit” - Wendy McMullen, NHS*
- *“Climate Change mitigation and adaptation” – Henry Kadzuwa, University of Edinburgh*
- *“More connections and advocates of my work in schools.” - Davie Luhanga*
- *“Greater work with SDGs both in Scotland and Malawi. These really do underpin all that we should be doing for each other.” - Ian Mitchell, Beath Malawi Partnership*
- *“How to maintain enthusiasm when the chips are down, you cannot get funding for your project, you watch the work you dedicated the best years of your life to just go down the pan because you are held responsible for the fact that the Malawians are unable (completely understandably) to sustain the project that you embedded. Sorry to be so selfish, but I am finding it very difficult to maintain any energy for our project, and despite the involvement of*

more than 100 colleagues from here and Malawi, nobody with the required skillset has the energy to answer calls for support.” - Catriona Connolly, Scotland Malawi Anaesthesia

- *“Allow people to meet and talk with some of the main groups in Malawi to get an insight first-hand” - Ryan Ticcioni*
- *“Encouragement of interpersonal contact with SMP members. Introduction to Scottish Government and UK Government patrons and stakeholders” - karen lynn paarz, Independent*
- *“As above, support to make video clips. I am a dinosaur in this area!” - Heather Cubie*
- *“Leadership” - Allan Mandindi, Malawi Heritage UK*
- *“Nothing specific at the moment. We have been involved with Mountain View School since 2008 and we have good networking with the school through the Scottish Masonic Lodges in Blantyre” - Ramsay McGhee, Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty*
- *“I doubt whether SMP will!” - Individual Member*
- *“A question and answer TEAMS meeting for the committee.” - Rosemary Harrison, Clydeview Academy*
- *“Access to relevant parties in country.” - Darren Watt, University of Edinburgh*
- *“Perhaps collaborate with SIDA to deliver training - they did an excellent short course on making videos with a smart phone” - Mike Beresford, Zambesi Mission*
- *“Proper identification of areas requiring support and bringing the awareness to potential sponsors” - Nelson Nyoloka, Glasgow Uni*
- *“Not involved in training” - John Calder, Cairns church Milngavi*
- *“Provide bite sized learning on seasonal events perhaps - eg making food depending on harvests.” - Lindsey Barkham, Open Arms Malawi*
- *“Governance - how to work out what aspects of governance are most important for small orgs” - Moira Dunworth, Mamie Martin Fund*
- *“We have always been given the necessary support asked for.” - Andrew McKay, Saint Margaret's High School*
- *“Training in above sectors, especially Health and agricultures are crucial for the development of Malawi despite the need in investing in energy.” - Ediwn Gollie Makaranga Ngwira, Youth Empowerment Forum (YEF) Malawi*
- *“How to make your voice heard in the new online world?” - Jane Gebbie, Kondanani UK*
- *“Training event on good practice and preparation of partnership agreements and MOUs for smaller organisations.” - Dr Jonathan Groves, The Kerusso Trust*
- *“I am not in the field of training/development.” - Rosemary Argente*

When asked how the SMP could improve the weekly news bulletin, members said:

Collated responses:

- Already very good / fine as is (x16)
- Ability for members to share updates (x3)
- Put back exchange rates (x2)
- Include tourism (x1)
- Time to read! (x1)
- Share members' success stories (x1)
- Less wordy, more links for detail (x1)
- Continuing diverse issues (x1)
- Direct targeting / personal touch (x1)
- Modern and engaging (x1)
- Table of contents at start (x1)
- More inviting lay-out (x1)
- Keep it short and to the point (x1)
- Pupil contributions (x1)
- Learn from "The Day" (x1)
- Keep maintaining the vibrancy (x1)
- bite sized fun or interesting facts (x1)
- Easier to scroll on phone (x1)

All responses:

- *"I think it's already very good especially for access to news articles re Malawi."* - Jennifer Macalister Hall
- *"Include a tourism element - not necessarily a tourism company but maybe a series of 'location guides' for visitors - just a few words and strong image each issue about a 'tourist attraction' in Malawi."* - Kelly White, Malawi Travel Marketing Consortium
- *"Supply it with the time to read and digest it!?"* - Mick McMillan, Denend Primary School
- *"A members section for short success stories."* - Denis Robson, Thondwe Community Partnership
- *"It's fine"* - Georgina MacMillan
- *"It's excellent as it is"* - Carol McGregor, SightSavers Int.
- *"It is fine already -thank you doing it so well"* - PROFR TIM EDEN, University of Manchester/World Child Cancer
- *"Perhaps make them less wordy but with links to click for more information of items of particular interest."* - Mary Thomson
- *"Continue capturing a diverse of issues"* - HENRY KADZUWA, UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
- *"Content seems appropriate. Perhaps targeted articles from members on an aspect of their link/work in Malawi - personal touch?"* - Ian Mitchell, Beath Malawi Partnership
- *"I think it is fine as it is, thanks."* - Catriona Connolly, Scotland Malawi Anaesthesia
- *"Just try to make it as modern and engaging as possible"* - Ryan Ticcioni
- *"perhaps list table of contents on the first page"* - karen lynn paarz, Independent

- *"It is good- keep it going!"* - Heather Cubie
- *"Lay-out could be improved - more inviting"* - Bart Rombaut, Mary's Meals International
- *"Keep it coming."* - Ramsay McGhee, Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty
- *"It's good."* - Individual Member
- *"Good to keep it short and to the point."* - Organisational Member
- *"I've always found that the weekly news bulletin covers many aspects of SMP and features interesting updates of the work of its members."* - Geraldine Fleming, St. Bernadette's Malawi Partnership
- *"You could look at "The Day" for ideas. It is an excellent resource and would give you lots of pointers. They always have links to research the topics in more depth. They also have caption competitions. Ultimately pupils could contribute their pieces to the bulletin."* - Rosemary Harrison, Clydeview Academy
- *"Its good as it is - simple to the point, and easy to digest. - Darren Watt, University of Edinburgh*
- *keep exchange rate in it [put it back]"* - David Stevenson, University of Edinburgh
- *"It's perfect as it is, not too lengthy, but it has all the important news and information."* - Mike Beresford, Zambesi Mission
- *"I hope maintaining being vibrant can do a lot"* - Nelson Nyoloka, Glasgow Uni
- *"I think the weekly news bulletins are very useful"* - Neil Merrylees, University of Dundee
- *"Include some bite sized fun or interesting facts each week."* - Lindsey Barkham, Open Arms Malawi
- *"Impossible!"* - Moira Dunworth, Mamie Martin Fund
- *"It's excellent but I miss the currency value information."* - Olivia Giles, 500 miles
- *"Perhaps highlight the activities of a school each week."* - Andrew McKay, Saint Margaret's High School
- *"So far so good"* - Ediwn Gollie Makaranga Ngwira, Youth Empowerment Forum (YEF) Malawi
- *"Easier to scroll through on your phone."* - Jane Gebbie, Kondanani UK
- *"Online facility to report activities by member organisations?"* - Dr Jonathan Groves, The Kerusso Trust
- *"The weekly news bulletin is comprehensive, informative, and interesting. I would not wish to change that."* - Rosemary Argente

When asked if there are any particular issues or topics they would like the SMP to represent/champion, members said:

Collated responses:

- Girls' education / Teenage pregnancy (x4)
- Vaccine access, support and info (x3)
- Education access in Malawi (x2)
- Rabies awareness (x2)
- Access to government contacts (x2)
- Tertiary education/international scholarships (x2)
- Re-opening Malawi travel (x1)
- Raise awareness of Malawi links (x1)
- UK visa support for visiting Malawians (x1)
- Nursing partnerships (x1)
- SightSavers (x1)
- Cervical screening (x1)
- Jobs and internships (x1)
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation (x1)
- Education no longer first language in Malawi education (x1)
- Support for Mzuzu Coffee (x1)
- Better/cheaper internet connection in Malawi (x1)
- Transport assistance (x1)
- Lobby Scottish Government for transparency and value of working with civic society (x1)
- Youth Development Programs in Malawi (x1)
- Business development in Malawi (x1)
- Funding (x1)
- Debt cancellation (x1)
- Maternal health (x1)
- Governance strengthening (x1)
- Issue of *Per Diems* (x1)
- Dual citizenship (x1)

All responses:

- *"Access to Malawi. For tourism to re-start Malawi needs NOT to be on the UK gov red list. UK Gov at least needs to be making decisions about which countries have travel restrictions in a fair and balanced way based on the current data."* - Kelly White, Malawi Travel Marketing Consortium
- *"I've often thought European countries should 'twin' with African countries and that Malawi seemed the natural choice for Scotland. Maybe New Zealand might like to get involved in a 'triplet' scheme? I'm not sure how we could make links between our countries stronger, but I've always thought that it should be a given thing that everyone in Scotland was fully aware of the strength of bond between them. Malawi should be our sister state! Could we have adverts in local media and get BBC Scotland and ITV more involved - making documentaries and furthering information? Might the Church of Scotland wish to become more involved, given shared religious values? Could SMP seek out certain on-side members of Scottish Government for general support?"* - Mick McMillan, Denend Primary School
- *"Visas for visitors from Malawi"* - Denis Robson, Thondwe Community Partnership
- *"Nursing partnerships with all above"* - Georgina MacMillan

- *“SightSavers and their work in remote areas of the country. UK Gov.” - Carol McGregor, SightSavers Int.*
- *“We must continue with close contacts with the Scottish and UK Governments and if funding is reduced we should try to fund raise through all areas of the media Etc.” - PROFR TIM EDEN, University of Manchester/World Child Cancer*
- *“Always cervical screening and Women’s Health & education” - Wendy McMullen, NHS*
- *“Tertiary education/international scholarships, jobs and internships and climate change mitigation and adaptation” - HENRY KADZUWA, UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH*
- *“I would really appreciate if you could find a way to help Malawi to start using its own language in education instead of English. English should be there as a subject but not as a must.” - Davie Luhanga*
- *“Yes, our starving children in the far north. Access to coronavirus vaccines in rural far north. We are working with Fair trade Scotland for the Mzuzu coffee farmers in the same area as the Foundation...£2 from every bag of coffee goes back to vulnerable people in same area. Mzuzu coffee needs to be supported by SMP.” - Sarah Black, Friends of The William Stewart Centre, Malawi*
- *“Better/cheaper internet provision to improve communications aligned with improved energy/electricity supply.” - Ian Mitchell, Beath Malawi Partnership*
- *“Bring to attention of all the above the importance of ensuring all children are fed and education is available to all but especially to girls.” - DAVID A THOMSON, FROM Scotland*
- *“Scottish government. It would be helpful to understand who is involved in the discussions where the joint priorities are agreed- what their background is in global health and who advises them in different specialties. If that is not possible, it would be helpful for SG to get a meaningful update from MG on the hard facts about outcome on the ground of health projects and where the Scottish contribution fits in, in their view. As I write this, I realise it is an impossible ask. Nobody is ever going to be totally transparent about any of this, irrespective about how much they say they will be. I am probably just uncovering my frustration with the process and the distance that the MG seem to have from its clinicians, and how little understanding the SG has about the individual health projects- apart from the budget management which seems to be all they are interested in.” - Catriona Connolly, Scotland Malawi Anaesthesia*
- *“Youth Development Programs in Malawi” - karen lynn paarz, Independent*
- *“Business development in Malawi - what happened to SG investment in business development. Perhaps hearing about entrepreneurs. start-up businesses.” - Heather Cubie*
- *“Jokes by UK Gov members on Brexit are not very much appreciated or appropriate for this forum, or in the Malawian context. This creates uncertainty/unease.” - Bart Rombaut, Mary's Meals International*
- *“Facilities for students in rural schools especially girls.” - Donald Osborne*

- *“The only major problem we have is transport - not sure if Government assistance would be available?” - Ramsay McGhee, Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty*
- *“My wish would be to reduce aid red tape. A Kenyan recipient of UKAid he was accountable to people in his village, not to the UK taxpayer - no one in his community would understand the complexity of paperwork associated with aid projects. Transparency to the UK taxpayer...but what about transparency to the villagers?” - Individual Member*
- *“The Scottish Government does not seem to value the contribution of the International Development sector in Scotland and seems to be leaning towards funding institutions and multilateral agencies more in the future. Please continue to champion the value of the sector in Scotland and the importance of continuing to fund best practice work by the community.” - Organisational Member*
- *“Teenage pregnancies that have risen hugely as a result of COVID restrictions and closing of schools” - Rachel Macleod, Baylor college of medicine*
- *“1. The growing number of early marriages/pregnancies due to Lockdown and the negative impact on education for girls. 2. Lack of clarity around the "abolition of secondary school fees". What exactly is free? What fees still have to be paid? What is the actual cost now for students?” - Geraldine Fleming, St. Bernadette's Malawi Partnership*
- *“Rabies awareness.” - Andy McKay*
- *“Vaccination support Period product support Creative subject support Easier and safer money transfer support.” - Rosemary Harrison, Clydeview Academy*
- *“As for question 13. Access to Malawian Gov. departments would be very valuable.” - Darren Watt, University of Edinburgh*
- *“Overseas project funding for healthcare, WASH and education work” - Mike Beresford, Zambesi Mission*
- *“Yes. The support required for educating rural mass in Malawi is imperative at the moment. This should be represented to Scottish/UK government” - Nelson Nyoloka, Glasgow Uni*
- *“One big concern I have concerns the COVID vaccination programme and the huge disparities in the roll out of the vaccine across the world. Some countries like the UK with enormous financial resources have monopolised vaccine supplies and others like Malawi have only so far got very limited supplies. I therefore think that despite talk of 'partnership' and governments working together, the reality is that when the 'chips are down' it is everyone for themselves. I personally feel shame at the way the UK Gov has acted, but unfortunately it goes wider than that and there seems to be a narrow and parochial view of many in this country that needs to be challenged. I would love it if the SMP could be part of a collaboration championing a more outward looking UK. I know that is a difficult problem!!” – Dr Neil Merrylees, University of Dundee*
- *“Debt cancellation! [see Jubilee Debt et al] UK Gov.” - Helen Mein*

- *“Accessible maternity facilities in rural areas to try and reduce maternal mortality especially. Not sure who best to support this. Local Gov? Thanks” - Lindsey Barkham, Open Arms Malawi*
- *“No more than you are doing already thanks” - Moira Dunworth, Mamie Martin Fund*
- *“The practice of giving per diems and allowances on top of salaries.” - Olivia Giles, 500 miles*
- *“Again, rabies awareness and perhaps the work of the charity Mission Rabies in Malawi.” - Andrew McKay, Saint Margaret’s High School*
- *“Dual Citizenship and transparency in educational sponsorships and funding information. Malawi has been derailed in achieving meaningful development due to corruption and lack of will by governments to persecute those involved in corruption and stopping corruption in all public institutions. The diaspora community played a crucial role in the fighting for democracy after the mismanagement of elections. To deter citizens who have found another home away from home the right of dual Citizenship is not only unfair but it reduces the rate of economic growth and community development projects because difficulties in travelling between the two countries due to visas and other policies. It is understandable that there should be policies to deter the influx of immigrants but we all know and have learnt that Malawi and Scotland have special relationship. How can there be special relationship if there are some policies which challenges the relationship to be meaningful reality in nature.” - Edwina Gollie Makaranga Ngwira, Youth Empowerment Forum (YEF) Malawi*
- *“Funding to access to undergraduate tertiary education - Scottish Govt.” - Jane Gebbie, Kondanani UK*
- *“Removing the patent constraints on production of COVID-19 vaccine production by third parties, so Malawi can get more than 10% of its population vaccinated.” - Dr Jonathan Groves, The Kerusso Trust*
- *“The SMP is a “Champion” in all it represents. Here is my quote: “It is said that a man is judged by the company he keeps. I say: A company/organisation is assessed by the calibre of its personnel.” - Rosemary Argente*