



Outcomes of the work of the Mamie Martin Fund 2018-2022

Summary Report

Summary of the Outcomes Report prepared for the Mamie Martin Fund by Aiko Imamura, student of International Development at the University of East Anglia in 2022

The Mamie Martin Fund supports the secondary education of girls in Malawi.

In Malawi, many girls drop out of school due to financial hardship



We provide money to pay school fees for girls who have gained a place at school, but who cannot afford the fees.

Graphic by Helen Robbie

Outcomes of the work of the Mamie Martin Fund 2018-2022 (summary)

1. Summary of Activity

Between 2018 and 2022 the Mamie Martin Fund (MMF) supported 301 girls in eight schools in Northern Malawi, viz.,

- Bandawe Girls' Secondary School (BAGSS)
- Karonga Girls' Secondary School (KAGSS)
- Elangeni Secondary school
- Embangweni Secondary School for Deaf Children
- Ekwendeni Girls' Secondary School (EGSS)
- St Mary's Karonga
- Kaseye Girls' Secondary School
- Mchengautuba Community Day Secondary School

Support is mainly required because of poverty. For example, 100 of 301 girls have lost one or both parent(s) and live with other family members. Even when both parents are alive, most families are poor and cannot afford tuition fees.

2. What we do

2-1 School fees

MMF provides support in the form of school fees. Money is sent directly to Education provider partners in Malawi to cover the fees of those girls selected to receive a MMF scholarship. The selection of girls is made at school level on the basis of need only and not, for example, academic performance.

As well as core funding, MMF has [other funding streams](#) to support additional girls:

- The Cameron Endowment Fund

- The Thompson Scholarship Fund
- Lancashire West Methodist Circuit
- The Katy Fund
- The Pat Fund

These funds are administered and managed by the Mamie Martin Fund and the girls supported by those funds are supported in the same way as core-funded MMF girls.

2-2 Ready to Learn Fund

Even with the tuition fees covered, girls still have practical needs to keep going to school. Mercy Sibande, the Malawi Manager, holds a Ready to Learn Fund (R2L) from which girls are given small grants for items such as soap, transport cost, writing materials, calculators, and so on. This fund has had a significant impact on keeping girls in school. In these five years, the main demands made of this fund has been to provide transport costs for the girls getting to and from boarding school.

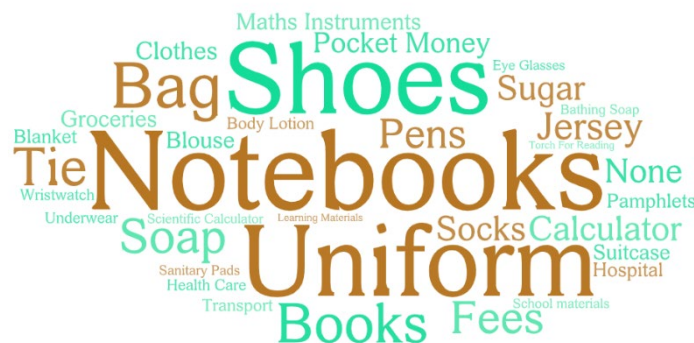


Figure 1 Practical needs of MMF pupils

Additionally, through [Supreme Malawi](#), MMF provides sanitary items to all the girls it supports. This company makes reusable sanitary wear using local materials and reinvests 100% profit into the business to help it grow and reach more women and girls.

2-3 Safeguarding

MMF recognises the need for strong safeguarding systems and the development of a healthy safeguarding culture. Therefore, MMF has a safeguarding policy and this policy is reviewed every year and any related procedures and their implementation are regularly monitored.

3 Where we get our money

MMF is primarily financed by individual donations. Donors can make a one-off donation, sign up to be a regular donor or donate specifically to a current project. In total MMF raised £164,201 (including Gift Aid) between 2018-2021. There was a slight decrease in 2020, possibly explained by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To raise funds, MMF holds fundraising events. These events change from year to year and have included cycling events, the Kiltwalk and Open Gardens. There is also [an online shop](#) on the MMF website

4. Marketing

MMF currently uses [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) as well as the official [MMF website](#) to raise awareness about its activities and about girls' education in Malawi. On each of these platforms, MMF publicises fundraising events, reports on progress, introduces volunteers and reports on the current status of girls' education in Malawi.

5. Outcomes

5-1 – providing opportunity for secondary education

Students in Form 4, their last year at Secondary School, take the Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) as a final examination of secondary education. Most students who were

supported by MMF successfully passed this exam and completed Form 4. 90% of students at the KAGSS, BAGSS, and Elangeni schools passed the exam between 2018-2022.

This figure suggests that MMF has made a significant impact on the life chances of these girls.

In Malawi, the completion rate for girls' lower secondary education is 22.76%. For upper secondary education girls' completion rate is 15.24% in 2020 (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2020). In rural areas, the completion rate for lower secondary education is 15.46% and for upper secondary education 9.58%. So the MMF-supported girls perform much better than average.

5i-2 reducing barriers

The education dropout rate of the girls whom MMF supported during this period was 5.3%. In the 2020/2021 academic year, the overall female dropout rate in Malawi was 9.1% (Malawi Ministry of Education, 2021). While main reason for dropout in Malawi is generally their financial situation, the one for MMF girls was pregnancy and marriage. Five MMF girls got pregnant, and one got married while they were in secondary education although MMF supports government policy to allow readmission of girls and keep the funding for them.

One protective factor for this lower rate of dropout is the support for health and wellbeing which MMF offers. All girls are offered counselling or opportunities share anxiety. Strategies to overcome anxiety, fear or pressure are developed.

5-3 – further opportunities after secondary education

Former MMF pupils have gone to university to study nursing, agribusiness, soil science, journalism, economics and teacher training. Although it is not always easy to find employment, many former MMF pupils act as mentors to current pupils.

5-4 Partnership with the Soko Fund

To expand girls' opportunities after their completion of secondary school, MMF has a partnership with [Soko Fund](#), a Scottish based charity which enables women students who are unable to pay fee to complete vocational degree courses in Universities in Malawi. Between 2018-2021, 5 MMF girls gained Soko Fund support.

6. Challenges

MMF achieves a high level of support to many girls in Malawi. However, there are challenges both for the girls and MMF to maintain girls' education. For girls, pregnancy, marriage and health issues are the main challenges. For MMF, there are five main challenges:

6-1 Needs gap

MMF provides essential products to girls through the Ready to Learn Fund. However, it is difficult to know which students need those products because some students hesitate or do not ask for them. As funding is limited, it is not easy to provide essential items to all MMF girls to cover their practical needs.

6-2 Management

Currently there is only one Trustee and one manager in Malawi. MMF has been trying to recruit more Trustees in Malawi to support the organisation. Formal volunteering is not common in

Malawi and MMF is currently unable to support additional paid opportunities.

6-3 Data management and standardisation

The management of data sent from Malawi needs to be standardised and refined. MMF stores a range of types of data and is working towards the standardisation of storage and management.

6-4 Raising awareness

To raise the awareness with younger people and support the fundraising, it is important to use social media more effectively. Additionally, MMF needs to consider how to gain more followers and 'likes' to publicise its projects and the importance of supporting girls' education more widely.

7 COVID-19

7-1 Impact in Malawi

During the pandemic the Malawian government closed schools and universities. They reopened in a staged way from September 2020. After schools reopened many MMF girls needed money for transport. The R2L Fund was not sufficient to support all the demands.

7-2 Impact in Scotland

MMF has been supporting MMF girls during the pandemic by buying face coverings, buckets and soap for washing hands, hand sanitisers and sending them to schools.

In Scotland, the negative impact of the pandemic was a decrease in donations even though the amount raised in that period was enough to support current MMF girls. Because of travel restrictions, trustees were unable to visit Malawi to meet

and talk to girls. However, the pandemic brought a positive impact to MMF regarding to communication. Communication with Malawi and within the board was increased through the use of videoconferencing.

8. Impact

MMF has supported girls' education in Malawi since 1993. Although there are challenges as described above many students who received the MMF bursary studied successfully, completed secondary education and some went to university.

The ripple effect means that MMF makes an impact not only on the girls who are supported but also their family and communities and future generations. As mentioned above, some former pupils got job opportunities. Those women can be good role models that encourage current MMF girls to gain the confidence to pursue their dreams and accomplish their education.



The many [stories of ex-pupils](#) demonstrate how great the impact of funding secondary school education can be.

Malawi Manager, Mercy Sibande, speaking to a group of MMF girls

Photo credit: @NelzPhotography

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The Mamie Martin Fund is registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO).

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