US AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI, JEANINE E. JACKSON,

The United States Government is proud of its longstanding friendship and partnership with the people of Malawi. Our relationship with Malawi is rooted in mutual respect and a common purpose – to help the Malawians and their families to live better lives. We believe that a successful Malawi is one where the people are healthy, educated, and prosperous, and where the government is open and accountable to the people it serves.

Since its establishment in 1961, USAID has been a robust force for progress. It was created with the goal of seeking to "extend a helping hand to those people struggling to make a better life, to recover from a disaster or striving to live in a free and democratic country." USAID has officially partnered with Malawi since independence. Its assistance has touched most Malawians, whether in the classroom, in the field, in the hospital, or on Capitol Hill. USAID funded the building of both the Polytechnic University and Bunda College of Agriculture, was a prime mover in the development of the Malawi Broadcasting Corporation, and was one of three donors who funded the construction of the Lake Shore Road. USAID works with the people of Malawi to stop the spread of HIV, reduce malnutrition, prevent malaria, and vaccinate children to give them a healthy start in life. USAID paved the way for universal primary education by promoting female access to education in the early 1990s. It has sponsored and trained thousands of Malawians, equipping them with skills to help build a vibrant democratic country with a strong economy propelled by a healthy and educated populace.

To the Malawian people, we are honored to be your steadfast partner in strengthening democracy, spurring economic development, and confronting health and educational challenges. As a testament to our enduring partnership, our level of engagement continues to expand. In 2008, our U.S. bilateral assistance to Malawi stood at just over $100 million, now it is $200 million. In addition to our bilateral assistance, the U.S. is the largest single contributor to multilateral institutions like the Global Fund, the United Nations and the World Bank that play such important roles in the world.

I am proud that the United States is working so effectively with Malawi via USAID and Peace Corps to address the daunting health, education, governance, and economic growth challenges that face the country. In the process of taking on these challenges, we create opportunities for Malawi’s progress and development. At a time when many American families are tightening their own belts and managing more effectively, we are making this investment because we believe in Malawi’s promise. We are committed to its future. Americans understand that a stronger and more prosperous Malawi is good for the region and good for the world. We look forward to a continued friendship and partnership with Malawi and her people to realize our shared aspirations and shape a more prosperous future together.

R. DOUGLASS ARBUCKLE, UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID) MISSION DIRECTOR

Limodzi kutukula dziko la Malawi mu zaka makumi anasu (50). Together we have been helping the people of Malawi build a better future for themselves and their families for nearly fifty years. Today marks the official anniversary of the inauguration of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Fifty years ago today, then President John F. Kennedy signed the executive order to form this Agency. USAID was established with a long-range vision to help communities rise out of poverty and prosper. Development opens new opportunities for people in extreme poverty, hastens recovery in times of natural disaster, and helps transform zones of conflict into places where communities can regain security and hope for the future.

It has been my privilege to work with USAID in Zambia, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Honduras, Iraq, Sudan, and now Malawi. I continue to be inspired by the resilience, determination and optimism that poor and underserved people bring to the task of creating a brighter future for themselves and the next generation.

Today we celebrate our steadfast 50-year partnership with the government and people of Malawi. This partnership has cultivated solutions to address the root causes of poverty, hunger, illiteracy, and disease. Our greatest successes cannot be measured by the dollars that we have invested, but by the change that has resulted from our efforts. Working together, we have achieved a steady decline in maternal and child mortality; we have increased the number of children who benefit from the country’s education system; we have improved the lives of rural farmers by expanding their access to diversified crops and markets. The root of our success has been the will of the Malawian people. President John F. Kennedy once wrote “Human beings are the principal untaught resource in developing countries.” Nowhere has this statement been more true than in Malawi.

Our friendship with Malawi has worked to remove barriers so individuals can reach their full potential and become the solutions to address the daunting health, education, governance, and economic growth challenges that face the country. In the process of taking on these challenges, we create opportunities for Malawi’s progress and development. At a time when many American families are tightening their own belts and managing more effectively, we are making this investment because we believe in Malawi’s promise. We are committed to its future. Americans understand that a stronger and more prosperous Malawi is good for the region and good for the world. We look forward to a continued friendship and partnership with Malawi and her people to realize our shared aspirations and shape a more prosperous future together.

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Every day, all over the world, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) brings peace to those who endure violence, health to those who struggle with sickness, and prosperity to those who live in poverty. It is these individuals — these uncounted millions of lives — that are the true measure of USAID’s successes. Today, November 3, marks the date of when the United States committed itself to becoming a quiet force for progress, fostering a more peaceful and secure world through the use of its people, technology, resources and global imperative to meet the challenges of improving lives around the world.

**Investing in the Malawian People**

After Malawi obtained independence, the country was dependent on expatriates to fill most of the middle and high level manpower needs. During the early part of our assistance to Malawi, USAID focused on building the human capital resource base. Education programs were the first official programs initiated in Malawi, supporting mathematics education and curriculum development, and developing testing systems to identify high achievers.

USAID invested heavily in the Malawian people by supporting the construction of the University of Malawi, the Malawi Poly-technic, Bunda College of Agriculture, and the Malawi Broadcast Corporation. USAID has supported scholarships for undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degree study in the United States for hundreds of Malawian professionals, many of whom today hold senior positions within government and academia.

**Infrastructure Development**

During the 1960s and 70s USAID invested heavily in connecting people, markets, and communities within Malawi. USAID was one of three primary donors who funded the construction of the Malawi Lake-Shore Road, a key conduit for commerce and transport that has dramatically stimulated trade and economic development between the Lake and the rest of Malawi since its completion in 1974. USAID focused on diversifying trade routes through the development of Ports in Chipoka and Karonga, to restructure and commercialize regional railway systems, and make them more efficient, reliable, competitive, and economical. USAID helped railway authorities in Malawi to improve operational efficiency and freight carrying capacity. USAID continued its support to linking people to markets during the 1980s to enable Malawi to engage freely in international commerce by developing the country’s international trucking industry, providing related training institutions, and supporting the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

**Rural Water Access**

USAID invested heavily in rural community development, helping increase access for communities to potable water. Under its water initiatives, USAID was a key player in ensuring that rural Malawians enjoy access to safe water. Beginning in 1969, USAID worked with local communities, government and contractors to expand the rural water supply. This joint effort resulted in increasing access from 39 to 70 percent of rural Malawians to potable water by 1992. During the 1980s, USAID focused on improving irrigation and access to water for farmers by providing equipment required to install 2,450 kilometers of piping and 3,200 water taps for gravity-fed water systems for Malawian villages.

**Agricultural Development**

Starting in 1979, since Malawi had neither the mineral resources nor immediate industrial infrastructure, USAID focused on developing the agricultural sector, to increase both smallholder farmer incomes and foreign exchange. USAID funding provided a scientific basis for continued increases in smallholder farmer food production, as well as diversification into higher income generating cash crops. USAID particularly advocated for smallholders’ ability to grow and sell tobacco, Malawi’s number one export earner, so as to increase rural incomes for thousands of Malawians even more. USAID was also instrumental in the establishment of the National Association of Smallholder Farmers (NASFAM), which continues to be a strong farmers’ organization today.

**Girls Education**

In the 1990s, USAID supported the Government of Malawi to improve access for girls’ education. The Girls’ Attainment in Basic Literacy and Education (GABLE) project was established, and the United States, through USAID, became known as a champion for girls’ education. USAID has continued its support of girls’ education through awarding over 27,700 scholarships through the Africa Education Initiative-Ambassadors Girls Scholarship Program.

**Supporting Democracy**

USAID was actively engaged during the politically charged period between the 1993 referendum and the first multi-party election in 1994. USAID supported the first multi-party election in 1994 by providing voter education programs and election night radio coverage. USAID monitored as political parties were organized and an electoral commission was formed. USAID continued its support of Malawian democracy through support of the 2004 and 2009 General Elections. USAID continues to work with emerging NGOs, political parties, the media, and civil society in promoting Malawians objectives of democratic governance.
Malawi has some of the highest infant and child mortality and morbidity rates in the world, but USAID continues to help Malawi combat these negative statistics in many innovative ways. USAID has supported integrated management of childhood illness, community case management, nutrition, supply chain management, and information systems programs that have saved thousands of Malawian women and children’s lives. USAID Maternal and Child Health programs support the Government of Malawi to accelerate the reduction of maternal, neonatal and child mortality toward the achievement of the country’s Millennium Development Goals.

HIV and AIDS
USAID has been supporting efforts to fight HIV and AIDS since the early 1990s. To help the Malawi Government develop the institutions needed to forecast, plan, and manage its AIDS prevention programs, USAID, under the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), provided short-term and long-term advisors to develop capacity within the Ministry of Health. USAID encouraged behavior change and adoption of low risk behavior through education, training, and the provision of condoms. USAID has funded NGO work with community and clerical leaders in an attempt to increase public awareness of the problem. In May 2009 Malawi was the first country to create a Partnership Framework with the United States, to form a more coordinate the response to the epidemic.

Food Security
Between 2001 and 2005, USAID provided food aid and emergency relief funds that assisted over 500,000 people to mitigate the impact of several severe droughts in Malawi. USAID provided over $70 million to assist over 120,000 drought affected farming households transition from food relief aid, to subsistence agriculture, to eventual commercial agricultural production. These efforts protected hundreds of communities’ productive assets, and supported and strengthened resilience and improved nutritional and health status for hundreds of thousands of smallholder farmer households.

Supporting the Dairy Industry
USAID has provided over ten years of support to the Malawi dairy sector to increase domestic milk production and processing capacity. This effort has reduced the cost of dairy products to consumers and stimulated the local dairy industry. Investments in the dairy sector have increased domestic milk production and helped over 6,000 rural farmers and their families make enough income to meet their basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, as well as to provide schooling for their children and extra income to start new businesses.

Environmental Protection
USAID has provided support to mitigate and reverse ongoing environmental destruction which ultimately affects all Malawians. These efforts have been achieved at multiple levels including support to the Government of Malawi to develop environmental legislation, and empowering communities to take responsibility, stewardship and protection of their natural resource base. USAID helped the Government of Malawi to establish a policy framework and an enabling environment that allowed Malawians to attack and reverse the destruction of the nation’s natural resource base. USAID targeted institutional restructuring and people-oriented action programs in cooperation with local and international NGO’s in environmental education, agroforestry, conservation agriculture, and wildlife management and conservation.

Health System Strengthening
The US Government, through USAID and partner agencies, was the single largest discrete donor to the health sector between 2004 and 2011, providing life-saving interventions related to maternal and child health, family planning, malaria, tuberculosis, HIV, sanitation & hygiene, addressing health infrastructure and equipment challenges, increasing human resources for health and quality of care, and health system strengthening. Under the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), US programs enabled tens of thousands of people living with HIV to access life-saving care and treatment, and have prevented tens thousands of new infections. Under the President’s Malaria Initiative, USAID has procured and distributed 4.5 million Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs) and over 16 million doses of Artemisin-based Combination Therapies (ACTs), and has educated over 8 million people about preventing and treating malaria in their communities.

USAID Going Forward
USAID has embarked on an ambitious reform effort, USAID Forward, so that U.S. foreign assistance can place greater emphasis on developing local capacity and achieving high-impact, long-lasting results. Under USAID Forward, USAID will cultivate, develop and sustain new partnerships within Malawi and within the Southern African region, so that communities can reclaim their place as the drivers of development. USAID will strengthen its monitoring and evaluation efforts, to ensure that programs have real impact on the lives of the Malawian people. USAID will promote transparency in its programs and across the development process, and promote the application of science, innovation and technology to find new ways to increase the effectiveness and reach of its development assistance. These reforms will help unleash Malawi’s full potential to achieve its goals and aspirations.
Let us celebrate Peace Corps’ 50th anniversary together and congratulate both the people of Malawi and the Peace Corps Volunteers. Today, Peace Corps Malawi volunteers do the same thing; they try to help others. This perhaps defines the Peace Corps. Peace Corps Volunteers continue to help countless individuals who want to build a better life for themselves, their children, their communities, and their countries.

I’ve often asked Volunteers what they are most proud of during their service. Most reply… “I am most proud of the relationships and friendships I have made in my village… with my amayi, my abambo, my sisters and brothers, with my students, and with my co-workers. This is an important and interesting response in many ways. The Volunteers’ response demonstrates the true meaning of the Peace Corps and the core American ideals of altruism, honesty, integrity, equality, compassion, and freedom. Our Volunteers, eat, live, and breathe these ideals, mostly on a 24-7 basis, when living in their communities. They show the wonderful face of America without even thinking about it. But they have touched the lives of tens of thousands in Malawi. Their amayi, sisters, brothers, students, co-workers, and yes, even the children, understand that their Volunteer cares…and that Americans care.

This year Peace Corps is 50 years old. 50 years of extending America’s heart and spirit around the world. 50 years of helping others. 50 years of friendships, of hardships, of sharing ideas, and of learning life-long lessons. 50 years of agonizing over shortcomings, or basking in the successes, large and small, that will affect villagers and communities for a lifetime. 50 years of humility, bravado, laughter, adventure, and indelible memories. 50 years of respecting others not for their wealth or their power, but for their humanity. 50 years of engendering a passion for peace. 50 years of love for your fellow man.

It is an honor and privilege to be a Peace Corps Volunteer. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as a Volunteer in Etterwitz, Germany – a small rural village or large urban city and are located in every region of Malawi. Volunteers work in the language of their host countries, and are often the part of Americans. All Volunteers help to prevent HIV/AIDS, but our health program addresses other Government health priorities such as nutrition, maternal child health and malaria prevention and treatment as well. Volunteers help to plant trees, promote permaculture, and preserve the environment and our Education Volunteers teach English, biology, physical science, and life skills at CDSSs. Through all of this, Peace Corps’ success is founded on relationships, friendships that span oceans, instilling a piece of Malawi in every Volunteer.

Supporting Education

Relationships are formed through teaching and mentoring both inside and outside the classroom. Jessica Griffin (Kalumbe-Natherje, CDSS Lilongwe) and Jamie Hamilton (Kasamba CDSS, Nkhotakota district), Peace Corps Malawi Education Volunteers worked with their students to paint an accurately-scaled World Map on the wall of their schools. The students meticulously worked on the map, and discussed world geography and global issues while painting. The Map serves as an education tool for both the school and their communities, and will remain an educational tool long after the volunteers leave. The discussions and mentoring have left impressions on all that were carried forward for another 50 years.

Supporting the Health Sector

Volunteers work at the community level to improve the health of mothers and children. One example is Lauren Goodwin, a Peace Corps Response Volunteer in Mangochi District who collaborated with the District Assembly and UNICEF to develop a GPS/GIS database for all the Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) in the District. Over 300 TBAs are in the database. The database is being used to identify and assess the work of TBAs and assist in improving safe births in the community. Lauren’s efforts will help the district to improve the health of mothers and newborns in Mangochi and other Districts.

Supporting the Environment

Twila Cutlip - "The Plant the Tree" project is a community-initiated reforestation program, designed and managed by local people living in and around Chipelera, Nkhokotaka. In August 2010 Twila helped start a local committee to promote tree planting and environmental conservation. During the rainy season of 2010-2011, the committee distributed seeds, polyethylene tubes and watering cans to 45 community groups and over 60,000 trees were planted. In addition, the community groups planted at least 1,000 mango tree seeds and polyethylene tubes. During the coming 2011-2012 season, the project plans to plant an additional 150,000 trees. The "Plant the Tree" project is a fine example of community mobilization and ownership. The short, medium and long term benefits represent the essence of Peace Corps and the dedication and commitment of Peace Corps Volunteers.

Peace Corps at 50

Peace Corps is a timeless idea – a personal and professional commitment to make the world a better place through a desire to serve others. The motivation, passion, hope, empathy, and enthusiasm that inspired Volunteers in the 1960s, still moves Volunteers today to serve as Peace Corps Volunteers in Malawi.

Over 2,447 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in Malawi since the first volunteer arrived in 1963. Currently, 130 Volunteers are serving in Malawi. Volunteers are placed where their skills match the needs of their host communities. They live in the communities they serve, be it a small rural village or large urban city and are located in every region of Malawi. Volunteers work in the language of their community in the areas of education, environmental and agricultural conservation, and health and HIV/AIDS awareness.

Volunteers live in communities, share customs and cultures, work, and make lasting friendships embracing Peace Corps mission to promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served and helping to promote a better understanding of peoples on the part of Americans. All Volunteers help to prevent HIV/AIDS, but our health program addresses other Government health priorities such as nutrition, maternal child health and malaria prevention and treatment as well. Volunteers help to plant trees, promote permaculture, and preserve the environment and our Education Volunteers teach English, biology, physical science, and life skills at CDSSs. Through all of this, Peace Corps’ success is founded on relationships, friendships that span oceans, instilling a piece of Malawi in every Volunteer.

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