If you want to go fast, go alone.
If you want to go far, go *Pamoza*.

PAMOZA

Meet Jennifer Gard

Return to Malawi - by Temwa Wright

It's been 6 years since I went to Malawi! Before COVID, I went every year. I spent my time visiting community members, observing programs, encouraging staff, meeting with local chiefs, co-planning for the future, and **walking A LOT** (like in the picture above, when I walked with a live chicken on my head).

As Executive Director of Pamoza, a highlight of my job is hearing stories of transformation from the field. When I first met **Jessie** (pictured above, on the right), she told me about the challenges she faced growing enough food to feed her family. So Pamoza started training her on improved agricultural practices like when to plant, weed, and apply the fertilizer mix we taught her to make.

Two years later, Jessie's household was not the same. ***"I used to be a laughing stock because my household was always hungry. Since Pamoza came in, I am now a queen in my village."***

Wow, queen status! Hearing that put a smile on my face.

This year, I'm returning to Malawi and will be there from **May 20 until June 30, 2024**. Please pray for safe travels, sufficient energy to do all the necessary work while I am there, and a wonderful time getting to talk to our Malawi team members and the people we serve. I look forward to updating you on the "kings and queens" I'm sure to meet during my visit.

Behind the Scenes

It takes many people to make Pamoza's work successful. Some of these people work behind the scenes and never seek any recognition. This quarter, we want to highlight **Jennifer Gard** (pictured on the left). Jen has been connected to Pamoza since 2015 when she was a graduate student working on her master's degree in public health. More at *pamoza.org/impact/behind-the-scenes.*

Christmas in July

You don't have to wait until December to celebrate Christmas! Consider having **Christmas in July** at your church or local business. All you'll need is an artificial Christmas tree, some tags listing donation amounts that can buy badly needed supplies and services, and some willing participants. To learn more, please contact Donna Hislop at donna.hislop@verizon.net.

Christian Outreach

We discovered that **90% of the people in our service area are not praying or studying the Bible regularly and 55% are not going to church**.

So this quarter, we targeted **300 families** and trained them on the theme "*Growing in God's kingdom and righteousness*". This training focused on improving prayer life, Bible study time, and fellowship with others.

Our five Christian Outreach and Community Development Facilitators (like Saul, pictured above with the Bible) have been instrumental in discipling families to help them grow spiritually while also addressing their physical needs.

Health Care

We hired our new clinician, George, in March, and he was immediately met with a surge of patients at our clinic.

We treated more than 2,000 cases of malaria over the last quarter. Patients have been traveling as far as 15 miles to be seen at our clinic because there is a shortage of medicine all around our service area. Our clinic still has medicine, so people come from far away to get it, but we are quickly running out!

You can see patients in our waiting room pictured above. George's case load is not sustainable, and we need your prayers and financial support.

Income Generation

We are excited to report that **our shelling and grinding mills are operational again!** Thanks to the Rotary Club of Gig Harbor, Washington, we were able to purchase new machines and equipment after months of mechanical breakdowns.

Word is getting around that the mills are now working again, and people are returning to use them. We charge a nominal fee, and the funds are used to cover operating costs so the business can sustain itself.

This quarter, the **cost of diesel fuel accounted for 73% of the cost of operating the mill.** Pamoza is currently seeking funding to transition to powering the mill with solar energy. If you would like to learn more about this project or have an idea of how we can get funding for solar energy for the mills, please contact us. We would love your support.

Education

We are celebrating some recent college graduates including Mynes, pictured above. Mynes just got her degree in Banking and Finance and has been one of our education champions.

Education, continued...

When asked about the impact Pamoza has had on her education, Mynes told us, ***"Pamoza helped me do greater things even beyond my education. By encouraging others to pursue their education, I saw I was capable of making a difference in other people's lives and that really helped me."***

When Pamoza started our scholarship program, we only had one person go on to college. That was more than 10 years ago. **Now we are supporting 15 college students!** The average cost of **$600 a year** for their college education is way too much for their families to afford, but with your help, we are able to provide scholarships to students like Mynes so they can achieve their education dreams and become agents of change in their own communities.

Food Security

This season, weather was a challenge for growing groundnuts and beans. We experienced some **dry spells,** but most of the corn grew well. Community members who planted on time and followed the agricultural practices we recommended were less impacted by these dry spells.

We **trained 300 people** on how to ensure their corn has dried enough to harvest. This prevents rotting and reduces food insecurity.

At our Pamoza Farming Institute, we have had great success selling eggs. We will be **adding 500 chickens** to our existing 180 chickens so that we can increase egg production and use the funds to support our programs.