

ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018



Village Poultry - Village Livelihoods

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Cover Photo: Rachael Msiska is from the village of Mtekera and received chickens through a Self Help Africa project with the objective of fighting malnutrition and raising incomes. RPC assists in the sourcing of I-2 Newcastle disease vaccine for this work.
Credit: One of the many professional photos kindly provided by Richard Nyoni.

Who we are

The past year has seen no changes in our identity, structure or *raison d'être*. The Rural Poultry Centre (RPC) in Malawi is a local NGO registered under the Trustees Incorporation Act of 1962. It was formed in early 2013 as an affiliate of the International Rural Poultry Centre, a subsidiary of the KYEEMA Foundation based in Brisbane, Australia.

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RPC exists to promote the needs of smallholder poultry farmers throughout Malawi and to improve livelihoods and contribute to improved nutrition in rural areas of Malawi. It focuses on improvements in the smallholder poultry sector.



Leah Msumba from Mtekera Village in Karonga shows us her chicken and some eggs.
(Photo kindly supplied by Richard Nyoni)

Our Vision and Goals

Our **vision** is:

- Improved livelihoods amongst resource poor and vulnerable families.

Our **mission** is:

- To sustainably improve rural livelihoods through interventions encompassing poultry.

Our **goals** are:

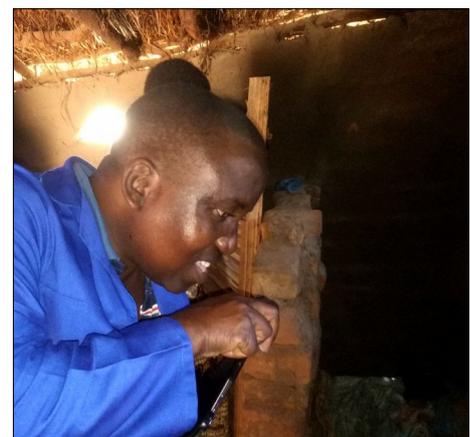
- To empower, educate and motivate individuals and communities;
- To contribute to the socio-economic development of resource poor families;
- To advance village poultry health and production;
- To prevent and control diseases of poultry;
- To act as an information centre on rural poultry.

Our Board of Trustees

Overall policy development and strategic direction of the RPC is vested in its five member Board of Trustees which is comprised of:

- Prof Timothy Gondwe, Professor of Animal Breeding, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources. (Chairperson)
- Dr Patrick Chikungwa (representing the Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development)
- Dr Gilson Njunga
- Mrs Judith Kanyama-Chikoti
- Mr Bernet Lwara

Dr Pat Boland, as Director of RPC, is Secretary to the Board.



Prof Timothy Gondwe examines chicken 'mother units' in Mchinji

Our Staff

The current staff of RPC consist of the Director, Dr Pat Boland, and the Technical Adviser, Mr Luka Tumbwe.

Our Policies and Guidelines

As a matter of principle, RPC adopts policies which ensure ethical integrity, transparency and accountability in all of its operations. Typically, its policies are relevant for Malawi and encompass principles which are promoted and adopted by internationally recognised institutions. Relevant policy documents such as our Code of Conduct (including our Child Protection Code of Conduct) and our Human Resources Manual, are posted on the RPC website.

Rural Poultry Centre Human Resources Manual	
Contents	
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Purpose of this Manual
The purpose of this handbook is to inform new employees of the policies and procedures of the Rural Poultry Centre in Malawi, to clarify what the organisational structure of the employees and to explain the new employee's understanding of how we work and what is expected from employees and staff members of RPC will be provided with a copy of this Manual and should therefore be familiar with the contents.

RPC reserves the right to update, revise or suspend the handbook at its sole discretion. The handbook represents only policies and procedures that have been previously made available or applicable to RPC employees.

Disclaimer
At the same time, we must clarify that this handbook is a guide and should in no way be construed as a contract. It does not constitute an employment contract which may or may not be of a contractual nature but the handbook does not imply any binding undertaking.

Approved by the Board of Trustees
Date: 15/01/2018

Approved by the Director
Date: 15/01/2018

Members of the Board of Trustees: Prof T. Gondwe, Prof P. Chikungwa, Dr G. Njunga, Mrs J. Kanyama-Chikoti, Mr B. Lwara

RPC strives to ensure its policies conform with contemporary standards with respect to common cross cutting issues. It advocates equity and respect across spectra such as gender, race, colour, religion, ethnic or social origin or disability. It advocates respect for the environment through engaging in environmentally friendly work practices.

The development of new policies covering other subject areas is an on-going process in response to the priorities imposed by activities in which RPC is involved. Additionally, policies are regularly subject to review in the light of emerging trends and changes in public values and priorities. This year, in response to external factors, reviews were initiated of several RPC policy documents to ensure they are consistent with contemporary standards.

Registration as a Non Governmental Organisation

RPC is incorporated in Malawi under the Trustees Incorporation Act of 1962.



It is a registered member of the Council for NGOs in Malawi (CONGOMA).

RPC is registered by the NGO Board of Malawi under the Non-Governmental Organisations Act of 2001.



What we do

Community Based Activities and Projects

RPC conducts activities and projects designed to improve rural livelihoods through interventions encompassing poultry. Specific projects are covered below.

Affiliation with Kyeema

Much of the work currently being undertaken by RPC is facilitated through its affiliation with the KYEEMA Foundation, a like minded non-profit NGO based in Brisbane, Australia. Funding for the activities undertaken by RPC are largely channelled through Kyeema which assists with fund raising for those activities.

Support for Newcastle Disease Control

Without the I-2 Newcastle disease vaccine, control of disease in village chickens would be a far more daunting task. That is why RPC gives such strong support to the vaccine production unit at the Central Veterinary Laboratory in Lilongwe. Other vaccines cannot match the effectiveness of I-2 in the village. The commercial vaccines are well suited to commercial chickens where control of feed, water and housing is easy. But I-2 has the advantage of thermo-stability and ease of use required in the village situation.



Harvesting vaccine at CVL



Eggs inoculated with seed virus - CVL

RPC has always been keen to support the I-2 vaccine production unit. It has assisted in procurement of ancillary equipment and supplies in an effort to ensure a steady production of I-2. The government run unit at Central Veterinary Laboratory is the only source of Newcastle disease vaccine suitable for use in village chickens in Malawi. Through its contacts and networks, RPC has assisted with the sourcing and procurement of key inputs for the VPU thus ensuring continued production and supply of the vaccine. Such support is important - at one stage during the year, an unfortunate series of delays in procurement of vaccine bottles incurred a 10 week hiatus in the supply of I-2 vaccine.

RPC was delighted to see work beginning during the year on a new dedicated I-2 vaccine production unit (VPU) at the Central Veterinary Laboratory. The present location of the vaccine production unit within the main diagnostic laboratory building has long been recognised as highly unsuitable. The Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development within the Ministry of Agriculture is leading this effort by rehabilitation of a building previously used on trypanosomiasis research. The new VPU will be an isolated and dedicated facility within the CVL premises at Bwemba in Lilongwe. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is expected to assist with equipment for the new production facility.



New VPU facilities at CVL

Liaison and Networking

RPC continues to liaise and collaborate with other NGOs in poultry related interventions. Poultry are often one component of a multi-strategy approach to improving rural livelihoods. However, lead implementing agencies do not necessarily have the requisite experience and technical expertise to efficiently bring about lasting improvements in rural poultry production. As a more specialised organisation, we are able to play important advisory and training roles in such cases.

This year, we have collaborated with the following institutions:

Villages in Partnership, Emmanuel International	Supply of I-2 vaccine.
BASEDA/Inter-Aide	Training of some 60 community based vaccinators, supply of I-2 vaccine.
Malawi Poultry Forum (>250 farmer members)	Technical advice on poultry diseases, feeding, management.
Lilongwe Society for the Protection and Care of Animals (LSPCA)	Development of guidelines on animal welfare pertaining to poultry production.
Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development	Technical advice and updates on HPAI in Eastern and Southern Africa. Coordination of development of animal welfare guidelines for poultry.

In its role as a centre of expertise, RPC continues to provide advice for rural and peri-urban poultry producers via its website and through direct contact from individuals and small institutions. RPC is an active participant in several social media networks which support smallholder poultry in Malawi.

We also support smallholder poultry producers through the development of a least cost ration program tailored specifically for poultry and feed ingredients which are commonly available in Malawi.

Communications

The principal channels of communication by RPC are its website, its e-newsletter, and its social media page. Six e-newsletters have been distributed and posted on the website during the year on topics ranging from the Chickens for Africa photographic competition to our experiences and findings in the field.

RPC has added to the list of on-line publications which are of relevance to institutions working in the rural poultry sector. In addition, it has produced its own publications, many of which can be obtained free of charge from its web site.

Key Activities and Projects

Ntchisi

During the year under review, RPC continued to monitor its project based in Ntchisi and entitled "Improving Rural Livelihoods in Malawi Through Village Poultry". Since 2014, over 305,000 chickens have been protected against Newcastle disease as a direct result of the project and an additional (difficult to estimate) number as an indirect consequence of our presence in the District.

RPC will continue to monitor vaccination in Ntchisi on a monthly basis till the end of 2018 after which visits will continue to be made at intervals. In this way, a realistic assessment of the enduring impact of the project can be made.



Newcastle disease vaccination, Nthenje

Mchinji

In 2016, RPC began work in collaboration with the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) at Bunda to trial a novel model of production and marketing of local chickens based on a similar model already developed in Uganda. This work was funded by the Friends of Malawi, a US based group founded by returned US Peace Corps volunteers.

RPC has played a leading role in rejuvenating the Dzithandizeni Women's Group, an organisation of some 1,500 women located in five different zones within Mchinji District. RPC has played a key



Kimba Mutanda Andersen, who gives strong support to the Dzithandizeni Women's Group founded by his late mother, Joyce Andersen.

role in supporting the 'mother unit model' for production of village poultry and in setting up a pilot scale vaccination program in the five zones. It is hoped to secure funds in order to significantly expand this vaccination program.

Significant other activities

The RPC Volunteers Program

In April, RPC launched a new initiative to use local volunteers, people living here in Malawi, to undertake short term assignments which are important for village poultry. The program was designed to assist in the personal development of those volunteers while at the same time filling some gaps which will assist RPC, government and other institutions to better address the needs of rural poultry owners in Malawi. A preliminary list of potential volunteer assignments together with estimated costings was prepared and this will be amended and augmented as needs arise. RPC has sought support from medium level donors who may wish to support a specific assignment or even play a part in the design of the assignment.

Chickens for Africa Photographic Competition

Following on from a successful competition in early 2017, we got together with our colleagues at KYEEMA to repeat the exercise in 2018. The competition was yet again a success and resulted in entries from many parts of the world. Photos were short-listed and judged by an independent panel. Donations associated with the competition totalling over AUD \$6,000 were collected via the KYEEMA Developing Country Relief Funding (DCRF) for support primarily for RPC but also other programs in Africa.



A competition entry. This woodcut was produced by Sumani from the KuNgoni Art Centre located at Mua in Malawi <http://kungoni.org/>
Photo courtesy Mary Young

CISANET

The RPC Board of Trustees has agreed to apply for membership of CISANET (Civil Society Agriculture Network) with a view to becoming a corporate member of the organisation. An immediate priority for this initiative is to use the CISANET platform to promote Newcastle disease control in village poultry in accordance with the wishes of key stakeholders through the Consultative Group on Newcastle Disease in Village Poultry.

Education Program

The education program administered by RPC achieved a milestone this year. Under this program, Ms Adija Masambo graduated as a Bachelor of Science (Animal Science) from the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) Bunda Campus. Ms Masambo has started her own small scale chicken production enterprise and it is anticipated that she will participate in RPC programs as suitable opportunities arise.

RPC continues to seek funds specifically for its education program. Further activities on the program will depend on availability of support.



Adija Masambo B.Sc. (An Sci)

Publications

During the year, RPC has added the following documents to its repository of documents available via its website.

- "A comparison of Newcastle disease vaccines available in Malawi"
A brief summary of some of the more important features of the live Newcastle disease vaccines currently available in Malawi.
- "Vaccination for Small Scale Commercial Poultry"
Examples of indicative vaccination schedules used by some small scale poultry producers in Malawi.

Summary of RPC work-plan objectives and activities: 2018-19

	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J
Objective 1: Promote RPC programs	■		■		■		■		■		■	
Objective 2: Institutional Development			■	■	■				■	■	■	
Objective 3: Collaboration with other NGOs	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Objective 4: Support Consultative Group on ND in Village Poultry						■					■	
Objective 5: Education program							■					■
Objective 6: Collaboration with Government of Malawi	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Objective 7: Mchinji Crop Livestock Integration Project (CLIP)	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Objective 8: Ntchisi project monitoring	■	■	■	■	■	■		■		■		■

Financial Picture

Once again we extend a big thank you to the generous people and institutions who have contributed to the work of RPC through donations and in-kind support!

Pending registration of RPC by the NGO Board, the organisation has relied primarily on funding channelled through its affiliate organisation, the KYEEMA Foundation. This has enabled the proper financial management of activities in Malawi with all expenditure being acquitted to the satisfaction of KYEEMA. The KYEEMA funds are managed under its Developing Country Relief Funding (DCRF), control of which is vested in the DCRF Management Committee.

As for last financial year, most RPC revenue was derived from the Chickens for Africa photographic competition with some extra through private direct donations.

Revenue and expenditure breakdown was as shown in the following table:

Revenue	AUD	USD	MWK
Donations via DCRF	7,483.57		
Other contributions	953.13	99.00	107,840
Expenditure			
Ntchisi project monitoring			520,620
Education program			77,500
Mchinji (CLIP)			238,030
Other items/services	953.13	99.00	2,003,043
Closing balance at 30 June 2018	16,665.24	299.90	122,231

Pat Boland
Director

23 November 2018