



## Progress Report for Sathamapira School, Malawi



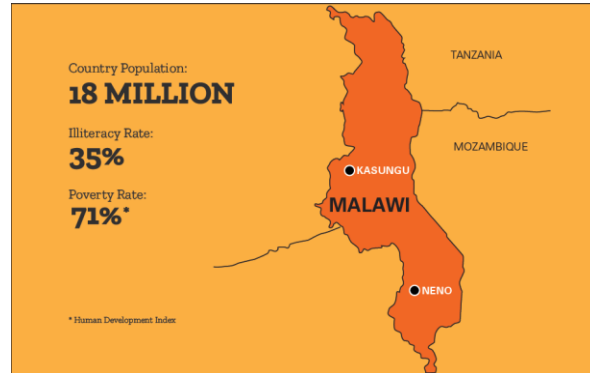
Supported by:



مدرسة جيمس جيرا الابتدائية  
GEMS JUMEIRAH PRIMARY SCHOOL



Malawi, a landlocked country in southeast Africa, is home to nearly 18 million people. It is one of the most densely populated and least developed countries in the world. Malawi claims one of the highest rates of HIV/AIDS, with 15 percent of adults age 15-49 already infected, and a growing number of children orphaned as a result. The vast majority of people live in rural areas and nearly 80 percent of people in these areas are unable to read and write.



The community of Sathamapira is located 6 km from the main road and 115 km from the offices of Dubai Cares' implementing partner. A majority of the community members come from the Chewa ethnic group whose income is generated from small-scale farmers, who grow crops such as corn, millet and groundnuts.

With your help, the people of Sathamapira now have increased access to education that will help change the lives of their children, parents, and grandparents for generations to come. Each new school helps Malawi increase literacy rates one community at a time.

### Built by Community

Before the support of Dubai Cares and GEMS Jumeirah Primary School, the community in Sathamapira lacked adequate classroom space for their students and teachers. The men and women of Sathamapira, and Malawi's Ministry of Education deemed this situation to be unsuitable for learning because teachers were teaching multiple classrooms and grade levels in the same room at the same time.

Before breaking ground on a new school, every member of the Sathamapira community, both men and women, signed a Covenant. This Covenant was a solemn promise between Dubai Cares and the men and women of Sathamapira outlining their respective contributions to the project.

Each Covenant embodies the consensus of an entire community, and for many of the women in Sathamapira, it was the first time they have been asked to sign their name. Whilst many must sign with a thumbprint, everyone was overjoyed to pledge their commitment to a school that will improve access to education and literacy skills for their children, their grandchildren, and themselves.



Dubai Cares' implementing partner contributed the engineering materials, skilled labor, and project supervision for each project. Each village provided the land, local materials such as sand, and the unskilled labor to build the school. Additionally, every village promised to send girls and boys to school in equal numbers.



Sathamapira community members volunteer to help build a new school for their village.

### Sathamapira, Malawi School

Because of your support, a new two classroom school was completed the Sathamapira Village in Malawi on September 14, 2018. The school will contain two gender specific latrines, new desks and chairs, and permanent chalkboards.

The project broke ground in December 2017 and the parents and grandparents of Sathamapira contributed a combined 2,614 volunteer workdays to help build the school for their children and grandchildren. Today, 160 children (79 boys and 81 girls) receive classes at the new school in Sathamapira, and there are four teachers who teach four grade levels at the school.

Dubai Cares' implementing partner has begun working with the community of Sathamapira to identify out of school children in the village and enroll them in primary school classes with anticipation that enrollment will exceed its current amount by the beginning of the 2019 school year. Additionally, Dubai Cares' implementing partner will work with the community and partners at the local Ministry of Education to add additional grade levels and classrooms as they are needed. The entire community has not only reported increased morale of the students and parents of the community, but they have expressed their excitement for a vastly improved working environment for teachers. Most significantly, community members are overjoyed that students will no longer have to hold classes on the ground or in a structure that is unsuitable for learning.



On behalf of the children of Sathamapira, Dubai Cares would like to convey its heartfelt thanks to GEMS Jumeirah Primary School for sponsoring the new school in Malawi. With your help, Dubai Cares is breaking the cycle of poverty, illiteracy, and low expectations through service and education.



Students celebrate inside of their new school funded by GEMS Jumeirah Primary School



Completed Primary School in Sathamapira, Malawi