

ANNUAL REPORT

2016-2017



Village Poultry - Village Livelihoods

Contents

Who we are	3
Our Vision and Goals	3
Our Board of Trustees	4
Our Strategic Plan	4
Our Staff	4
Our Policies and Guidelines	4
Registration as a Non Governmental Organisation	5
What we do	5
Community Based Projects	5
Support for Newcastle Disease Control	5
Liaison and Networking	6
Communications	6
Key Projects	6
Ntchisi	6
Mchinji	7
Significant other activities	7
Chickens for Africa	7
CISANET	7
Education Program	7
Publications	8
Financial Picture	8

Cover Photo: One of the winning entries in our Chickens for Africa photographic competition, courtesy Julia De Bruyn. These chickens form part of a flock owned by Angelina, a poultry-keeper in Sanza Village in Tanzania, whose flock size has increased dramatically since the introduction of Newcastle disease vaccination programs two years ago.

Who we are

The Rural Poultry Centre
PO Box 81
Likuni
Malawi
Tel: +265 995 943034
rpc@ruralpoultrymalawi.org
<http://www.ruralpoultrymalawi.org>

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.

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.



Kids in Ntchisi jostle to get the attention of the camera.

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, Director, Natural Resources College, Lilongwe (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, Director of RPC, is Secretary to the Board.

Our Strategic Plan

The Board of RPC has developed a Strategic Plan which documents the long-term chosen direction of the organisation over the next few years. It outlines some of the current trends and the means by which RPC hopes to align its work with the needs and opportunities for socio-economic development in the country. The current plan covers the years up to 2020.

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

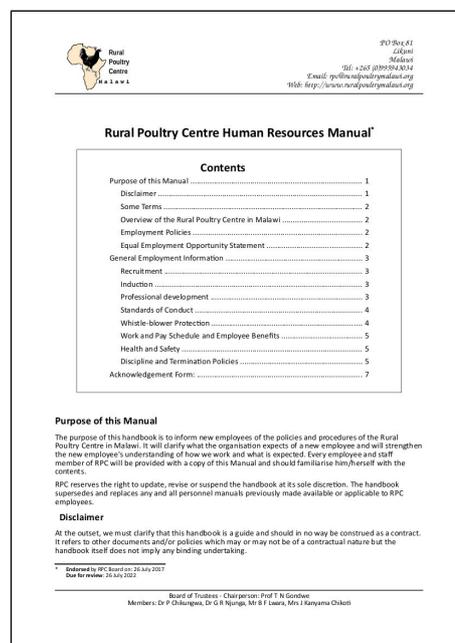
As a matter of principle, RPC adopts policies which ensure integrity, transparency and accountability in all of its operations. Typically, its policies are relevant for Malawi and encompass principles which are promoted and accepted by internationally recognised institutions.

The RPC Board of Trustees has endorsed the following policies applicable to the organisation on the following topics:

- Leadership Succession Plan
- Guiding Principles for the RPC Education/Training program
- Human Resource Management Plan

The latter policy was developed during the year with assistance from the KYEEMA Foundation. It encompasses some pre-existing policies (such as equal opportunity statement) which come under the umbrella of HR management. This document will be provided to all new employees and personnel contracted by RPC.

The development of policies covering other subject areas is an on-going process in response to the priorities imposed by activities in which RPC is involved.



Registration as a Non Governmental Organisation

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

What we do

Community Based Projects

RPC conducts activities and projects designed to improve rural livelihoods through interventions encompassing village poultry. Using time-honoured techniques, RPC assists rural communities to improve the production of their existing poultry flocks, especially through better control of Newcastle disease and other poultry diseases, better breeding techniques, and better housing, particularly of young chickens

We continue to monitor our previous work in Ntchisi. We have also embarked on initial activities with communities in Mchinji District. Details are elsewhere in this report. We are very optimistic that these initiatives are a step in the right direction.

Support for Newcastle Disease Control

Continued sustainable production of the I-2 vaccine as a means of Newcastle disease control remains a key element in the strategies promoted by RPC for rural areas of Malawi. Whilst other Newcastle disease vaccines are available and effective in commercial chickens, they lack characteristics such as thermo-stability and simplicity of use, which are required for use in the village. I-2 is unique in its overall effectiveness for prevention of Newcastle disease in village chickens, a fact often missed by some larger NGOs.



Accordingly, we continue to support and assist our key partner, the I-2 Newcastle disease vaccine production unit (VPU) located at the Central Veterinary Laboratory in Lilongwe. This government run facility 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.

We remain keen to support the establishment of a new dedicated I-2 vaccine production unit in a more appropriate location with a dedicated management and operational team. We are exploring means of ensuring that financial management of the VPU is independent of other competing government priorities so that production is better able to meet demand.

Liaison and Networking

RPC liaises and collaborates 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. RPC is able to play important advisory and training roles in such cases.

As in previous years, we have collaborated with NGOs such as the US Peace Corps, Inter-Aide, Villages in Partnership and others, to bring improvements to the village poultry sector.

We have taken steps to become a member organisation within CISANET (Civil Society Agriculture Network). In this way we expect to improve our standing in representing the smallholder poultry sector and ensuring their interests are well served. The move will also assist our work with the Consultative Group on Newcastle Disease Control in Village Chickens.

We have contributed to the activities of the "Malawi Poultry Forum", a loosely connected group of over 200 individuals consisting mainly of small scale commercial poultry producers. We have provided advice and assistance with training on feeding and diseases of poultry.



Training front line staff - Villages in Partnership, Zomba

Communications

RPC has an active communications program involving its web site and its network of contacts. The organisation regularly updates its network members on news and issues of relevance to its work with rural poultry.

Via its web site, RPC provides a 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 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". To date, well over 100,000 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.

Visits to the project sites have revealed continued vaccination of chickens and commitment and enthusiasm on the part of the trained community based vaccinators. As RPC reduces its involvement with the program, it will be important to pay attention to ensuring sustainability in the long term.



Village chicken owner, Malomo, Ntchisi

Mchinji

We have also embarked on initial activities with communities in Mchinji District, about 100 km west of the capital Lilongwe. This work began with a collaboration with the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) at Bunda. It involved a pilot scale project to improve breeding and marketing systems for village poultry with support from Friends of Malawi, a US based group founded by returned Peace Corps volunteers. Through our strengths in dealing with rural communities, we play an important role in assisting LUANAR in implementing the project. We have rejuvenated the Dzithandizeni Women's Group, which has sub-groups in five separate zones in the District. We plan to build upon this initiative to bring lasting impact to the communities concerned.



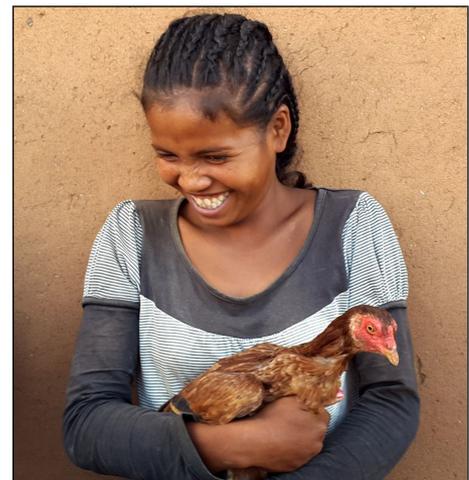
Wome learn vaccination technique - Mchinji

Significant other activities

Chickens for Africa

In early 2017, we got together with our colleagues at KYEEMA to undertake a "Chickens for Africa" fund-raising photography competition. This was a great success which brought many submissions from all over the world. Ultimately, 28 photos were short-listed and judged by an independent panel.

The exercise attracted a total of \$8,830 in donations which were collected via the KYEEMA Developing Country Relief Funding (DCRF) for support primarily for RPC but also other programs in Africa.



An entry in 'Chickens for Africa'
Photo courtesy Julia de Bruyn

CISANET

RPC has held discussions with 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 has enabled support for one female student to undertake a degree course in Animal Science at the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) Bunda Campus. The candidate, Ms Adija Masambo, has now successfully completed her fourth and final year and is due to graduate in late 2017. RPC is examining further opportunities for education support with an emphasis on outcomes which benefit the rural poultry sector.

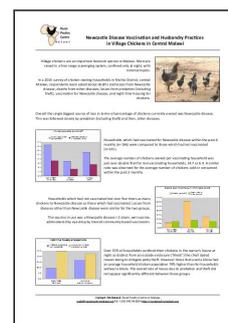
Publications

RPC has published a one page 'user-friendly' version of its evaluation of the impact of I-2 vaccination in communities in Ntchisi. The document has been published on the RPC web site.

<http://ruralpoultrymalawi.org/resources/ndv-poster-170913.pdf>

Our sponsored Animal Science student, Adija Masambo, has undertaken a research project on marketing value chain analysis of local chickens and eggs in Mangochi. The report of that project has been published on the RPC web site.

<http://ruralpoultrymalawi.org/resources/supply-chain-analysis-adija-masambo.pdf>



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 and incorporation of RPC, the organisation has relied 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) facility control of which is vested in the DCRF Management Committee.

This 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	9159.55		
Expenditure			
Ntchisi project monitoring			978,410
Education program			1,091,000
Other activities			1,793,633
Closing balance at 30 June 2016	13,126.78	1,354.90	-1,544.59

Pat Boland,
Director

23 January 2018