

Rural
Poultry
Centre

M a l a w i

ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019



Village Poultry - Village Livelihoods

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Cover Photo: In every village, chickens like these contribute to welfare and livelihoods. Our aim is to enable better outcomes by reducing losses. We have done the research and we know that here in Malawi, we can have a real impact. (Photo: Pat Boland)

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 conceived 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.



Bali, Indonesia, where village chickens are known as ayam kampung. (Photo credit: Juan Pablo Villanueva Cabezas)

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 remains 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.

Our Staff

The current staff of RPC consist of the Director, Dr Pat Boland, and the Technical Adviser, Mr Luka Tumbwe. Both are working on a voluntary basis.

In addition, RPC engaged a short-term volunteer, Mr Victor Goliath, and an intern, Mr Pemphero Kalengo, during the year.

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.

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.

RPC Board meetings include as permanent agenda items conflict of interest declarations; complaints register; status of policies.

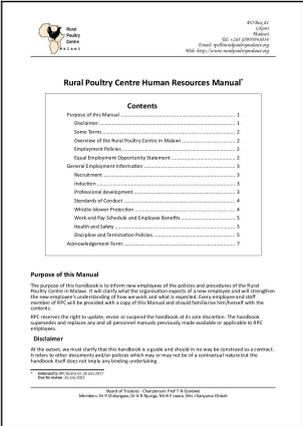
This year, RPC reviewed and revised several policies and finalised some outstanding issues. Risk management was subject to review and a new manual on Complaints and Grievances was prepared.

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.



The image shows the cover of the 'Rural Poultry Centre Human Resources Manual'. It features the RPC logo at the top left, which includes a map of Malawi and the text 'Rural Poultry Centre Malawi'. At the top right, it lists the contact information: 'RPC, P.O. Box 1000, Lilongwe, Malawi', 'Email: info@ruralpoultrycentre.org', and 'Web: www.ruralpoultrycentre.org'. The title 'Rural Poultry Centre Human Resources Manual' is centered. Below the title is a 'Contents' table with the following items and page numbers: Purpose of this Manual (1), Disclaimer (1), Governance (1), Vision, Mission and Objectives (1), Overview of the Rural Poultry Centre in Malawi (2), Employment Policies (2), Equal Employment Opportunity Statement (2), General Employment Information (3), Recruitment (3), Indigeneity (3), Professional Development (3), Standards of Conduct (4), Workplace Harassment (4), Work and Life Schedule and Employee Benefits (5), Health and Safety (5), Discipline and Sanction Policies (5), and Acknowledgement (6). Below the table of contents, there is a 'Purpose of this Manual' section, a 'Disclaimer' section, and a footer with the text 'Rural Poultry Centre in Malawi - Annual Report 2018-19' and 'Members: Dr P. Gondwe (Chairman), Dr P. Chikungwa (Vice-Chairman), Dr G. Njunga, Mrs J. Kanyama-Chikoti, Mr B. Lwara, Dr P. Boland (Secretary)'.

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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 this 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 which is the only source of this vaccine in Malawi. Other Newcastle disease vaccines cannot match the effectiveness of I-2 in the village because of its advantage of thermo-stability and ease of use required in the village situation.



Harvesting vaccine 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.

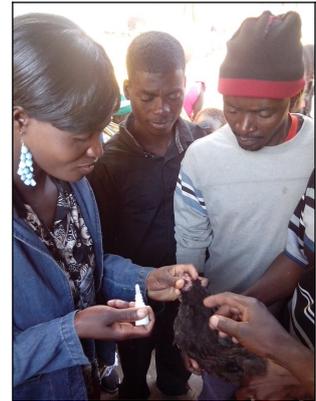
This year, we have collaborated with the following institutions:

Villages in Partnership, Emmanuel International	Supply of I-2 vaccine, following past training of community based vaccinators for VIP assisted villages.
BASEDA/Inter-Aide	Supply of I-2 vaccine. Joint liaison with the vaccine production unit and the Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development.
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.

Communications

The principal channels of communication by RPC remain its website, its e-newsletter, and its social media page. Five 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 continuously updates and augments 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.



Practical training on vaccination

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". During the year under review, more than 77,000 chickens have been vaccinated in Ntchisi by community based vaccinators trained and supported by RPC.

RPC will continue to monitor vaccination in Ntchisi at strategic intervals. In this way, a realistic assessment of the enduring impact of the project can be made.



Newcastle disease vaccination training, Ntchisi

Mchinji

Since 2016, RPC has assisted the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) in its work in Mchinji. RPC has rejuvenated the Dzithandizeni Women's Group, an organisation located in five different zones within Mchinji District and set up a pilot scale vaccination program in the five zones.

In view of that experience and the successful accreditation of the Kyeema Foundation under the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), RPC submitted a proposal entitled "Village Poultry for Better Livelihoods" with a focus on Newcastle disease vaccination and improvement of management for young chicks. This was approved and scheduled to start in the second half of 2019.



Luka Tumbwe discussing poultry with women from the Dzithandizeni Women's Group.

Support for the I-2 Vaccine Production Unit

The government run unit at Central Veterinary Laboratory is the only source of Newcastle disease vaccine suitable for use in village chickens in Malawi. RPC has continued to play a key role in supporting the vaccine production unit (VPU).

This year, a critical failure in fertile egg production at the unit threatened to halt supply of vaccine at the period of peak demand. RPC played a key role in undertaking a projection of forward estimates of vaccine supply/demand which demonstrated that the situation was indeed dire. After consultation on what options were available, RPC secured an alternative interim supply of commercial eggs on behalf of the government to cover the period till the dedicated layer flock could be replaced. The emergency action certainly averted a serious shortage of the vaccine.



Mr Precious Dzimbiri displays the new autoclave for the VPU

Significant other activities

RPC Board of Trustees

A meeting of the Board on 2 November 2018 provided an opportunity to review progress to date, plan future activities, review existing policies and release new ones, and consider matters such as Board membership and succession plans for senior RPC staff. The Board agreed to attempt to diversify its funding sources in order to widen its sphere of influence. It endorsed a new document "Guidelines Regarding Complaints or Grievances" which applies to both RPC staff and other stakeholders. It also agreed to foster better engagement with other stakeholders such as CISANET (Civil Society Agriculture Network) and the Consultative Group on Newcastle Disease in Village Poultry.

The RPC Volunteers Program

In 2018, 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.

To date, the program has facilitated a collaboration with Wildlife Action Group (WAG) in west Thuma on the border of Lilongwe and Salima districts. The activities, funded principally by WAG, have been to distribute chickens and set up Newcastle disease vaccination programs in several villages bordering the protected area of Thuma Forest Reserve.



Women supply chickens for the Kusamala Thuma Poultry Project under the RPC Volunteers Program

In addition, the program enabled a small survey to be conducted in areas close to Lilongwe in an attempt to ascertain what are the main diseases of concern other than Newcastle disease for village poultry. The survey did not succeed in determining what are the diseases in question but it did reveal that poultry owners have little knowledge of the diseases which affect their chickens. There is a need for follow up on both these questions.

Chickens for Africa Photographic Competition 2018

Once again, RPC assisted in coordination of the Chickens-for-Africa Photographic Competition. The winning entry shows a community based vaccinator working with village chickens, in company with a government field officer.

The competition was again a success this year and resulted in entries from many parts of the world. 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 and elsewhere.



Prize winning photo entry from Laetitia Stroesser in this year's photographic competition. A community based vaccinator at work in company with a government field officer.

Collaboration on ANCP accreditation for Kyeema

During the year, RPC put considerable effort into reviewing its policies and procedures with a view to assisting its affiliate organisation, the Kyeema Foundation, to obtain accreditation under the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). As a downstream partner in Kyeema's programs, RPC was required to demonstrate good governance in several areas. This had two-fold benefits for RPC: an incentive and encouragement to develop policies and procedures which are important for the purposes of attracting support from anywhere, and the ability to participate in the direct financial benefits of accreditation which Kyeema would enjoy.

The effort was successful and Kyeema was advised that ANCP accreditation would take effect from 1 July 2019. This enabled RPC to put forward a proposal for more serious work in Mchinji to be funded largely through ANCP funds.

Summary of RPC work-plan objectives and activities: 2019-20

	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: Village Poultry for Better Livelihoods project in Mchinji	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Objective 8: Ntchisi project monitoring				■				■				■

Publications

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

- "Promotion of Poultry for Egg Production"
Technical manual for small scale poultry farms engaged in egg production. (English and Chichewa versions).

Financial Picture

Provisional Statement of Comprehensive Income for Year Ending 30 June 2019¹

Incomes		
DCRF Support - Kyeema		MK3,612,719.26
SLLP - Balaka Project		MK160,000.00
Other Income		MK16,063.25
Total Income		MK3,788,782.51
Expenses		
Allowances Account	MK755,508.00	
Bank Charges Account	MK160,353.86	
Computer Repairs & Accessories Account	MK15,000.00	
Fuel Account	MK579,850.00	
Insurance	MK30,150.00	
Motorbike Repair Account	MK91,500.00	
Other Admin Costs	MK277,000.00	
Phone & Internet Account	MK240,000.00	
Refreshments Account	MK155,846.00	
Stationery Account	MK394,210.00	
Transport Account	MK90,000.00	
Volunteer Allow Account	MK600,000.00	
Unrealised Losses	MK28,916.03	
Total Expenses		MK3,418,333.89
Net Income for Period		MK370,448.62

¹ These financial statements have been prepared on historical cost and using generally accepted accounting principles ie IAS and FRS.

Income not received and expenditure not paid for has been accrued.

The trial balance has a balancing figure of unrealised losses which is a result of previous activities since this is the first year of production of such statements. The second factor could be the dollar conversion rates since there were no reconciliations.

The financial statement prepared is only the income statement as RPC does not own fixed properties of their own.

The statements has been prepared from the list of accounts of which some are in US dollars and are converted in Malawi Kwacha (MK) on the date of preparation of the statements using the nearest exchange rate.

RPC Bank Account was opened in February 2019 and started transacting in April 2019.