

bloom is an ideal organisation offering food, protection and education to orphans and vulnerable children in Malawi. The organisation was established in 2005 in Norway. Here all work is unpaid, except costs for accountancy and auditing.

In 2007 **bloom** established the centre in the Zomba district of Southern Malawi. Since then hundreds of children have been helped. Since July 2012 we have included 375 children from 15 villages into the bloom-centre.



bloom is organized and controlled by a Norwegian board, and a solid, local sub-organisation in Malawi. In Norway we are based on regular volunteer's assistance and financial help from businesses and private donors.

This is done by bloom until 2015:

- ✓ Built a care centre for 375 children
- ✓ Established food supply
- ✓ Built two wells
- ✓ Made toilet facilities
- ✓ Installed solar power
- ✓ Established a library
- ✓ Established a school and have the teachers assistance even outside school hours
- ✓ Started a teen-school in 2013-2014, with one classroom at this point in time. More will come
- ✓ Started kindergarten activities
- ✓ Established a large farmland for maize production and a goat house for meat

Why

- Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world
- Average lifetime is 55 years (UNICEF 2012)
- 1,3 millions of children have lost their parents, and 770 000 deaths were caused by AIDS (UNICEF 2012).

Children in the village need help. Bloom does not want them to leave the village and go to town. We want to help them in a place where they still have friends and family, and to avoid the very serious possibilities of criminality, slavery and prostitution in town.



Working like this

In Norway we have worked by counting inventories, making concerts and we have done other types of work. And we tell about bloom and spread the words. Whatever we do or make – all the income goes directly to the centre and the children. We have several fixed donors, but need more to improve and extend the centre. By donating 25 US\$, you can give a child food, school and clothes for a month.



Our vision

Our vision is to let the **bloom** children in the village grow up in freedom and safety. They should learn to manage on their own, have improved health, solid education and a good life. In the future they should be nice and efficient people that will be able to help and to contribute with the future development of the local community.

The road ahead – bloom will

- Build and establish :
 - More classroom houses for the teen-school
 - Kindergarten housing
 - Enable more girls to be properly educated, and to protect them from misuse and abuse.
 - Support higher education for the clever girls and boys to let them all grow and prosper
 - Make a health centre where both the children and the poor locals can be helped. This is done in co-operation with local health services
- Extend farming to enable bloom self-supply, and to give the children good training in local work

Hands

On stairs she sits,
who used to hold another hand,
until it was cold and no longer a comfort.

Lamed - but not helpless,
they need her now.
Oldest of five she must make sure,
that they are fed for some days,
begging, searching, working, praying.

She is eight,
already lost many good hands.
They are all gone now.
Tiny and thin was the brother.
Only a few weeks before he left.
Maybe this is how it should be?

Playing does not help,
when she is the oldest one.
Alone on the stairs she wipes her tears.
Standing, looking again at her hands.
Are they strong enough?

I really wish I could hold them in mine.
Fill them with the abundance in my world,
So she can feel the hope,
so she can believe in the future
So some of her dreams can come true --

Lene Mørch-Kerrison