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Passport, Inc. launches Watering Malawi an effort to irrigate a country in Central Africa.

“Malawi is facing its fourth draught in a decade. Five million people are in danger of dying in the next twelve months and the world doesn’t even know it yet,” says Colleen Burroughs Executive Vice President of Passport, Inc. The situation is complicated by a high percentage of the population infected with HIV Aids. Burroughs grew up in four countries in Africa living the longest in Malawi.

Only two percent of arable land is irrigated in Malawi and up to forty percent of its population is infected with HIV Aids. In the past fifty years the people of Malawi have lived under British colonization, a life president who built palaces instead of infrastructure, and only two new democratically elected presidents since him. Neither of which has been able to turn the country’s economy around. Malawians are mostly subsistent farmers who depend on the rain to fall for crops to grow. If the rain fails, so do the crops and then people become dependant on a fragile government to feed them. People are left to find work as day laborers for less than a dollar a day, if they are well enough to work, and children orphaned by HIV/AIDS are at the highest risk of hunger and disease.

“Help is trickling in and awareness is low,” says Burroughs “The world is tapped out from Pakistan to New Orleans. Understandably, there is compassion and donor fatigue contributing to the lack of coverage and lack of relief headed to Malawi. But Burroughs believes there is a long-term solution.

We just visited a village in Malawi in August where Passport camper’s offering has irrigated an entire village’s crops with an inexpensive pump and the intervention of World Vision. “We saw fat babies and proud people growing crops. It has given life to hundreds of people...including a room full of children orphaned by HIV AIDS.”

Watering Malawi is a two-phase plan. It seeks to lobby for immediate hunger relief, but will concentrate long-term solution efforts on providing irrigation systems to as much of Malawi as is possible. We probably won’t be able to immediately help the five million people in a critical phase of this fourth hunger cycle in a decade, but the vision is to try and avoid this scale of hunger for decades to come.”

Passport is a national non-profit that seeks provides life-changing opportunities globally for students grades three through college. It is partnering with World Vision, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and African Exchange, among others, in this endeavor.

More information available at www.wateringmalawi.org.
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