



If you want to go fast, go alone.
If you want to go far, go *Pamoza*.

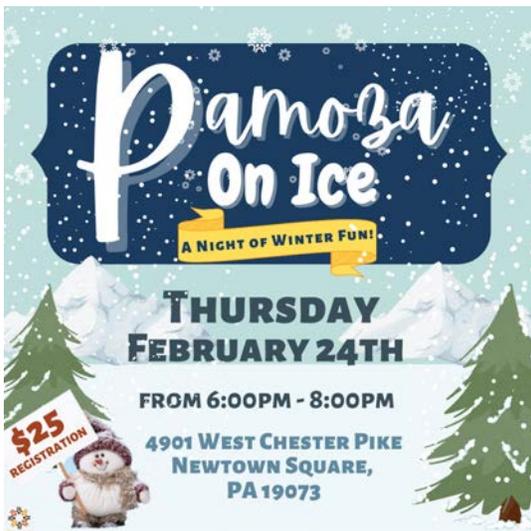
Upcoming Events!

Visit www.pamoza.org to register



MEALS FROM MALAWI

THURSDAY | MARCH 3 | 6PM ET
VIRTUAL COOKING CLASS



Ending Child Marriage

Malawi has one of the highest child marriage rates of any country in the world. In fact, it ranks in the "Top Ten" worldwide, with **9% of girls married before they are 15 and 46% of girls before they are 18.**

Although child marriage in Malawi became illegal in 2017, the law has been challenging to enforce, especially in rural areas where girls have few options for their lives after 8th grade.

At Pamoza, we believe one of the most effective ways to end child marriage is to develop a wraparound approach to the problem. This includes forming community structures like our Girls Rise clubs, SASA (Start Awareness, Support Action) women's group, and the Chiefs' Caucus. These have been critical in helping us end child marriages.

In 2021, Pamoza rescued 252 girls from **child marriages**, using an effective three-step process that involves peer advocates, the SASA women's group, the child's parents, and the village chiefs. We also trained local leaders on children's rights and were able to give 11 vulnerable girls scholarships for high school, which is not free in Malawi.

Our approach is working. Earlier this month, **members of the Chiefs' Caucus and SASA Women confronted a 53-year-old man for marrying and impregnating a 13-year-old girl.** They had him arrested and brought the case to court.

The training these child advocates received from Pamoza, along with the support of the new law, gave them the tools to rescue that girl, and many more, from child marriage. We are committed to expanding this work, with your support.

Behind the Scenes

It takes many people to make Pamoza's work successful. Some of these people work behind the scenes and never seek any recognition. This quarter, we want to highlight **Roger Shi** (pictured on left). He's our graduate intern from University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Policy and Practice. Find out more about him at www.pamoza.org/behind-the-scenes.

Exciting News!

Our Executive Director, Temwa Wright, is celebrating a milestone birthday in February. Join us in celebrating her by making a donation in her honor. Give \$40 or any increment of 40 in recognition of her 40 years of life. We will be sharing some of our favorite pictures of Temwa during her eight years with Pamoza. Stay tuned on our social media pages.



Health Care

We had **1,627 client visits at the Zowe Clinic** from October to December 2021. Most of the patients came in for malaria and respiratory issues. Unfortunately, we experienced a shortage of medicine due to insufficient funds.

37% of children in Malawi have stunted growth due to malnutrition. Because of this, we offer growth-monitoring services. Last quarter, we **assessed 250 children** and taught their mothers the importance of providing a balanced diet. Most Malawians eat starchy foods that make you feel full but don't always provide essential nutrients.



Education

We continued providing tailoring classes at our Skills Development Center. We currently have **15 vocational skills students** learning to sew (14 women and 1 man). This provides economic opportunities for community members who have little or no formal education.

We also **provided farming supplies and agricultural support to parents of our scholarship recipients** so they can learn to generate income and support their children's school fees. This approach has been very effective in building the capacity of parents to take care of their own children's education.

Education continued....

Our **adult literacy classes** are open to any community members who never learned to read or write. We had 15 out of 40 learners pass the exam to graduate from the class. Those who did not pass have already started retaking the class.

Providing **school breakfast** helped keep attendance high at our partner elementary schools. When kids are fed, they are better able to focus on learning. Pictured below is our Education Coordinator teaching students at Zowe Primary School about hygiene and sanitation during their breakfast.



Economic Empowerment

We continued operating the **Zowe Grinding Mill**, a community business where women can get their corn ground into flour instead of having to pound it over multiple days.

Almost **180 members of the Pamoza Cooperative received loans in the form of seeds and fertilizer**, which they will repay with interest. Members who received farm loans, like the group pictured below, were encouraged to implement farming techniques and agribusiness strategies taught at our Pamoza Farming Institute so they can lead by example in their communities and encourage others to do the same.



Christian Outreach

This past quarter, we reached **3,738 men, women and children with the Gospel!** Our work included:

- **Praying** with people at the clinics
- Facilitating **weekly fellowship** meetings in various communities
- Supporting **80 village Bible study groups** (like the one shown above)
- Hosting youth group meetings for **133 young people** in 5 communities
- **Visiting** with individual households to personally witness to families
- Engaging **74 couples in our marriage ministry**

Our staff also host devotions on Mondays and Fridays and these are open to everyone in the community.

Agriculture



It's peak farming season, so we have been very busy teaching local farmers effective agricultural practices. This year, we plan to grow 25 acres of peanuts and 5 acres of beans at the Pamoza Farming Institute, and we have a goal of **reaching 1,000 farmers to demonstrate how they can profit from their farming.**

Most important, we have been **praying for good rains.** Farming in rural Malawi is overly dependent on rain, so inadequate rain could mean the difference between being fed and being hungry. Please join us in praying for enough rain for a good harvest.



Together transforming the lives of children and families in Malawi

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