

Welcome to the April 2021 Makupo Development Group News Update.  
 Thank you to Makupo's generous supporters and volunteers.  
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 Moni Abwenzi Updates. Thanks again for all your support!



# Moni Abwenzi

## April 2021

Version 2021  
 Rg 2 OT  
 LINE 1  
 Serial#: 01

**COVID-19 VACCINATION CARD**

SURNAME: BESTEN  
 FIRST NAME: MIKE NYAMA PROF./DR./MR./MRS./MS: MR  
 DATE OF BIRTH: 2/01/1977 NATIONAL ID: \_\_\_\_\_  
 RESIDENTIAL PHYSICAL ADDRESS (VILLAGE): CHILANGA H/C  
 T/A: KAOMBA  
 DISTRICT: KASUNGU VACCINATION PLACE (DISTRICT): CHILANGA H/C  
 HEALTH FACILITY: CHILANGA HF CODE#: 1037

COVID-19 doses	Product/ vaccine type	Batch number	Date vaccinated	Date of next vaccination	Vaccinator's Initials
COVID-19 Dose 1 (First contact)	ChAdOx1 nCoV-19	AH20 ED29	29/3/21	24/5/21	CM
COVID-19 Dose 2 (8-12 weeks after COVID-19 first dose)					

Note: This is not a vaccination certificate



### Coping with COVID

It has been a difficult year for everyone, coping with COVID-19, but thanks to generous donors and partners, and amazing staff and volunteers, the Chilanga Health Centre has weathered the year well. Our fundraising campaign surpassed its goals and through collaborations with Canadian partners, and local hospitals in Malawi, we have been able to fulfill many of our goals.

Although poorer countries like Malawi have had struggles receiving vaccines, on March 29, staff from the Kasungu District Hospital visited Chilanga and

administered COVID-19 vaccinations to over 100 Health Centre staff, volunteers, teachers at the three local schools, patients who are asthmatic or diabetic, and palliative care beneficiaries.

### **Respecting health directives and guidelines**

Health Centre staff and patients practiced social distancing and mask-wearing at all gatherings. And staff and volunteers showed their ingenuity by gathering leftover fabric from curtains and donated clothing and hiring two local tailors to make three-layer masks for village health workers, palliative care patients and Makupo villagers. Well done!



### **Improvements at the Centre**

COVID has not stopped our staff and volunteers from making important updates at the Centre. New locally made furniture has been purchased and two cleaners have been hired, Henderson Sakala and Vester Banda, two long-time volunteers who have taken over responsibility for cleaning, thus freeing medical staff to attend to patients.





Grass is growing around the clinic and the Village Health Workers have been working on bringing it under control. In the future, we hope develop a garden in this area where food can be grown for the clinic and the village, but this is a dream that will have to wait a while yet.

### Thanks to our partners

Thanks to the generosity of K2 Foundation and Health Partners International Canada, drugs valued at approximately \$500,000 CAN will be sent in mid-April for distribution to six rural health centres in Malawi, including Chilanga.

Although Malawi is expecting a good harvest this year, the period leading up to the harvest is known as the hungry season, and food is now scarce. To assist during this period, K2 Foundation generously provided food packages including 50 lb of maize, cooking oil, soya, salt and sugar to 42 palliative care patients.



### **A very special donation**

Mayamiko, a delightful 9-year-old palliative care patient at the Health Centre has very limited mobility. However, the Beit Cure Hospital in Blantyre, a UK charity that specializes in orthopedic surgery, has generously provided her with a new wheelchair that greatly facilitates her movements in and around her house. Unfortunately, the wheelchair cannot be used on the uneven terrain between her home and the school. However, thanks to generous MDG donors, we have been able to purchase an adaptive, all-terrain push chair which is being sent to Makupo along with the medication shipment being sent in April.



### **Ongoing training**

Both regular and special workshops are an important part of any health program. In March, the Village Health Workers attended their annual workshop covering topics including the prevention of COVID-19 transmission, palliative care, primary health care, and cervical cancer screening; cervical cancer, which is preventable and treatable, is the number one cancer to kill women in sub-Saharan Africa. Earlier in the year, following two incidents of potentially serious snake bites in the area, a snake bite workshop was held.



## **Update on government certification**

Good news and bad news on this front. The good news is that the newly elected government appears to be serious about revamping moribund aspects of the healthcare system in Malawi. The government is grappling with a serious problem of so-called "ghost workers," people on the payroll who are doing nothing, but given a lack of tracking and accountability procedures, they are nevertheless taking home weekly pay. The government is actively restructuring and centralizing the system in an effort to eradicate this problem and other inefficiencies in the system. The bad news is they have delayed bringing any new health facilities under their umbrella until the restructuring is complete. That said, the clinic has been resubmitted for government funding for the budget coming up this June, but our contacts on the ground in Malawi have told us it is very unlikely that we will see any funding for another year. We will keep you posted. We are confident that it is inevitable that the Chilanga Health Centre will be incorporated into Malawi's national healthcare system, it just may take a little more time. In the meantime, we continue to work closely with partners to get through this transition period.

### **Here is how you can donate:**

E-transfer: [hicksm@vaniercollege.qc.ca](mailto:hicksm@vaniercollege.qc.ca)

Personal cheque: Makupo Development Group, 160 Hébert, St-Laurent, QC H4N 2K5

PayPal: Visit our website at [www.makupo.org](http://www.makupo.org) and follow the DONATE links.

We issue tax receipts for donations of \$20 or more. Please provide us with your full mailing address.

Thank you once again for your vital support.

## **Zikomo**

*For generous contributions from the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, Social Justice Fund (OPSEU), Vanier College, Association des retraités et des retraités de la FNEEQ (AREF), MIC Sisters (Sister Missionaries of Immaculate Conception), EKM Architecture, Engaging Networks, K2 Foundation, Royal West Academy and Norton Rose Fulbright Canada.*