



Moni Abwenzi

Fall 2015

Chilanga Community Health Organization and Clinic

GOAL: Improve access to health care for the 20,000 people in the catchment basin around Chilanga. The Malawi health care system is seriously short staffed and lacking medications and supplies. This project is a grassroots initiative, involving local individuals from many villages, coming together to bridge a gap identified in the health delivery system. It has the enthusiastic support of the local Member of Parliament, the senior chiefs in the area, senior government officials and the Chilanga CCAP mission.



THE BACKGROUND

1. The building: Chilanga Community Clinic

This building is designed as an open multipurpose structure which will provide easily accessible health services to the local population, relieve congestion on the Kasungu District Hospital and actively promote health education and prevention. The clinic will provide all the free services supported by the government, will perform medical tests, diagnose illness and map issues of local concern such as sanitation and disease control.

2. The program: Outreach via the Chisomo Community Health Organization

This organization provides the “eyes and ears” in the villages. The village health workers will provide accurate health information, follow up on those who are ill and encourage people to seek help early. Each village in the area will have three volunteer health workers chosen by the people in their village who will be receive training in basic health interventions from Health Surveillance assistants.

PHASE 1: COMPLETE!!

1. The building: Chilanga Community Clinic

The Chilanga Mission has provided the land for the building and has been instrumental in mobilizing local resources. Local villagers have crushed rocks to produce the gravel needed for the foundation. They have made bricks from the local soil.



The full foundation and floor slab were installed by the middle of 2013. Walls and roof were then completed.



In May 2015 a fully serviceable building (one-third of the final planned structure) was completed and is already being used as a central meeting and teaching area for the village health workers.



2. The program: Outreach via the Chisomo Community Health Organization

Although originally conceived as serving 8 villages, the project has spread in the last year to include 50 villages. In March 2015, a health camp, attended by over 700 local villagers and the interns from the Vanier College nursing program, was held to introduce the project.



In July 2015 a graduation ceremony for 43 Village Health Workers was held. Each graduate was presented with a certificate, a first aid kit and a t-shirt and have now started to work house to house in their villages to spread the message.

A senior Health Surveillance Assistant has been appointed by the government and is currently working out of the clinic, seeing between 30 and 50 mothers and their babies every day.



PHASE 2: IN THE PLANNING STAGE

1. The building: Chilanga Community Clinic

Plans are being drawn up to build two houses for medical staff near the facility. This is essential to attract workers to the area. Funding has been secured and it is hoped that construction can begin in early 2016.

2. The program: Outreach via the Chisomo Community Health Organization

Three new Health Surveillance candidates have been identified and plans for their training are ongoing. Two more potential HSAs have volunteered for the past year providing support to the Village Health Workers and will be eligible to take HSA training as soon as facilities become available.

ZIKOMO!

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