

Welcome to the October 2021 Makupo Development Group News Update.  
Thank you to Makupo's generous supporters and volunteers.  
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## Moni Abwenzi

### October 2021



### **Very good news from the government of Malawi!**

We are very excited to share with you the news that the Chilanga Health Centre has been accredited as a Malawian health institution, a status we have been working on and dreaming of since the first plans were drawn up and the first bricks laid. This is a permanent status and has enormous implications for the future since the Centre has now been included in the national budget.

Starting immediately, funding for certain programs and for basic medications will be taken over by the government. And, as of November, the government will begin a search for additional staff for the centre. There will be 19 new staff, including a second medical assistant, a second nurse and an administrator. Once hiring is complete, the government will pay all salaries. As salaries have been our major expense since the Centre opened, this development will allow us to turn our attention to other aspects of running a rural health centre. This process may take some time but we are off to an exciting new start!



Meeting of staff, the Chilanga board of directors and Ministry of Health officials

### **Our immediate priorities**

In order to attract and retain the additional staff who will be joining Mike and Susanna at the Centre, we will need to provide at least two more houses. We also need to upgrade the centre's water infrastructure. We have a well that currently supplies the centre and the nurse's house, but with increased use of the facilities, we need to install a water tower, which was part of our original mandate when the Centre was built. As infrastructure is not the government's responsibility, our fundraising will focus on these key aspects.

We also want to ensure that the Centre continues to offer services not covered by centres solely funded in-country. Services including palliative care, cervical cancer screening and the all-important outreach program of volunteer village health workers have only been possible through your donations and will continue to be the responsibility of Makupo Development Group. In addition, the government's current plan is based on a mix of free and fee-based services and medications; we want to ensure that everyone in the catchment area has access to all the services offered by the Centre.

## In the last six months ...

The Centre has continued to offer COVID-19 vaccinations and many local residents have now received their second dose. Here, two village elders, Enos Saka and Ernst Chikapa get their jabs.



Through the generosity of our partners, K2 Foundation and Health Partners International, drugs valued at approximately C\$500,000 have arrived in Malawi and have been distributed to six rural health centres, including Chilanga. We will continue to work with these partners to supply drugs not available in country.



Along with the shipment of drugs, we were able to include a new chair for Mayamiko so she can attend school and a walker for Ernst Chikapa to give him increased mobility.

Following meetings with the Ministry of Health, Health Centre staff and the Chilanga board of directors, important supplies were delivered to the Health Centre. These include chairs, tables, shelving, buckets and more. These items will make the waiting room much more comfortable and professional.





Our cleaning staff, Vester and Henderson, have received uniforms and are keeping the Centre and grounds in great shape. This allows our other staff, Mike (medical assistant), Susanna (nurse), and Ted (palliative care) to focus on patient care.

We sincerely appreciate any donation, big or small. The Chilanga Health Centre has already saved many lives and—with support from donors like you—will continue to contribute to improving the health of thousands of rural Malawians.  
**Thank you!**

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

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

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***Zikomo***

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