

Welcome to the winter 2018 Makupo Development Group News Update.
Thank you to Makupo's generous supporters and volunteers.
Please add our email address to your address book to help ensure that you receive these Makupo - Moni Abwenzi Updates. Thanks again for all your support!



Moni Abwenzi

Winter 2018

MDG has been involved in several projects in the Chilanga area of Malawi and we continue to work on education, community sustainability and the environment. However, our main emphasis at this time is on our initiatives and progress on projects directly linked to health and for this reason we are devoting this newsletter to these projects. For updates on other projects, please go to our website at <http://www.makupo.org>

BACKGROUND ON THE CLINIC

Studies repeatedly show that frontline and preventive health care has a greater impact on local health outcomes than large centralised facilities. In keeping with this principle and the expressed wishes of the villagers in Makupo and surrounding villages, a plan was drawn up for a community health clinic. This is an entirely local project, being built by Malawians, run by the local community and staffed by Malawian trained medical staff. It will service a community of 15,000 people in an area where no facilities existed.

Once initial plans had been provided by EKM Architecture, the work began. Local villagers started by moulding and burning the bricks for the clinic in 2012 and a fully functioning clinic staffed by a local registered nurse is currently in operation. The clinic is supported by the work of volunteer village health workers who monitor health in 90 villages, identifying the health needs of the local population. Villagers are referred to the clinic for maternal and baby clinics, vaccinations and other services.



Artist's rendition
of finished clinic

In 2014/2015 we succeeded in building 1/3 of the clinic starting with the west end to provide a serviceable building and hasten our accreditation as a full health facility.



Work has begun on the next 1/3 of the clinic by adding treatment and examination rooms and covering with enough roof to provide a shaded waiting area for patients and their families.

The walls are up to the roof level. The three-year plan to complete the building of the whole clinic breaks the clinic's evolution into manageable phases.



Phase 1 (2017): Electricity and solar infrastructure work is continuing. In January 2017 work began on the walls for a waiting area and closed offices, as well as completion of the water tower and tank. Funding necessary: \$15,000

Phase 2 (2018): We will need \$50,000 to build staff housing and provide electricity, furnishings and waste water infrastructure.

Phase 3 (2019): Completion of clinic and staff housing, upgrading of access road. Fundraising goal: \$50,000

Since April 2016 clinics are being regularly held, especially for mothers and babies, specializing in vaccinations and weigh-ins. In addition, family planning sessions are offered. As of February 2017 we have been included in the budgetary agreement between CHAM and the Ministry of Health and have passed the key inspection by the Medical Council. We have been approved by the Medical Council and all other projects are nearing completion, so we hope that government funding will begin soon.



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Working together with a growing network of partners

The progress in improving health care and building a clinic has only been possible because of the contribution of our many partners who share our goals. To strengthen those ties and share accomplishments, in October, the Malawi Nursing Exchange program at Vanier College in Montreal generously hosted a meeting of partners from Canada, the USA and Malawi. Through sharing our projects and resources, we can work together towards making a difference in the lives of the people of Malawi.

Partners meeting Vanier College Oct.4, 2017



Partners from Kasungu, Vancouver, Boston and Montreal collaborate to implement projects and programs aimed at improving health in rural Malawi. Partners include Makupo Development Group, K2Foundation, K2TASO, Health

Partners International of Canada (HPIC), Bridges to Malawi, Teresa Foundation, Vanier College Malawi Nursing Exchange and Vanier College International Education Department.

Reunited from Coast to Coast to Coast!



Special guests, Peter and Jacquie Minjale (centre), came all the way from Kasungu East, K2TASO to share their work with us. Brian Lisse (second from left) joined us from Boston and Bert Clark (far right) flew in from Vancouver. Doug Miller (kneeling) represented MDG.

PROFILES OF OUR PARTNERS

Vanier International Education

Mission statement: **International Education at Vanier College** strives to foster in its students a passion for global perspectives and provide the skills to enable them to work in an ever-changing international community. They underline the need for global interconnectedness, and the values of respect for human rights and cultural diversity, civic responsibility, cooperation, and sustainability.

Website: www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/international-education

Working together: It was in 2008 that the International Education Department participated in a first visit to Malawi to research possibilities for collaboration with Makupo Development Group. Since then, they have been instrumental in organizing visits, fundraising and in hosting this important meeting of partners.

Vanier College Nursing Program

Mission: Since 2011, the **Nursing Department at Vanier** College has offered third-year Nursing students an opportunity to complete their final internship in Malawi. Aside from earning their diploma, the goal of this exchange is for students to become more culturally competent. Cultural competence is increasingly being seen as an imperative skill that Canadian nurses must possess in order to provide competent nursing care to our diverse Canadian population.

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/vanierintl/>

Working together: Each year a team of 6 to 8 student nurses with their teacher, Melodie Hicks, spends three weeks living in Makupo village, thus providing income for the villagers. During their stay, they work in the local Chilanga clinic, a rural hospital nearby and offer mobile clinics in the area bringing much needed medical help to the region.



K2 Foundation

K2 Foundation is a volunteer run, registered Canadian charity in Burnaby, B.C. The Foundation focuses on providing a variety of services to HIV affected individuals, as well as patients in need of palliative care services in Malawi. They work in collaboration with Malawian NGOs and hospitals to provide these services for free to rural villagers living in poverty.

Website: <https://www.k2foundation.ca>

Working together: K2 Foundation has sponsored training and provided supplies for the MDG Village Health Workers and their coordinators. K2 Foundation has recently announced that Peter Minjale will be responsible for all their programs in Malawi.

K2 TASO

Mission: **K2-TASO** is the Malawian branch of K2 Foundation. It is an NGO established by doctors from St. Andrews Hospital and K2 Foundation representatives in 2007. They work in the Kasungu District of Malawi to address rural health issues such as HIV and malaria.

Website: www.k2foundation.ca/k2-taso

Working together: This group provides much-needed medical support and pharmaceuticals for the Chilanga clinic staff.



Bridges to Malawi

Bridges to Malawi is a small secular nonprofit organization dedicated to helping the people of the Kasungu District of Malawi. Their numerous programs include: indoor residual spraying (to prevent malaria), donation of medical supplies, famine relief, micro-credit bank and a number of educational initiatives.

Website: <http://bridgestomalawi.org>

Working together: The Malawi Nursing exchange student nurses and Bridges to Malawi collaborate to offer mobile clinics in Njale, Chilanga and other villages in the Kasungu area.

Theresa Foundation

Mission: Established in 2007, the **Theresa Foundation** is a registered charity based in Montreal which is devoted to meeting the needs and improving the lives of grandmothers and orphaned children of AIDS victims in the village of Mnjale, and its surrounding communities.

Website: info@theresafoundation.com

Working together: In 2014 and 2016, the Theresa Foundation and MDG filled a container for shipment to Malawi. MDG contributed science equipment, over 50 computers, and hospital furnishings. Sister Gisele Leduc of the MIC (Missionaries of Immaculate Conception), the Foundation's representative in Malawi, was an essential contact that helped ensure the safe passage of the container through the many administrative and bureaucratic hoops of international borders and regulations.



HPIC (Health Partners International of Canada)

Mission: HPIC is a Canadian registered charity dedicated to increasing access to medicine and improving health for the most vulnerable people in the world. Canada's pharmaceutical and healthcare industry works with HPIC to equip medical mission teams, stock clinics and hospitals in impoverished communities, mobilize medical relief during emergencies and build local capacity.

Website: <http://www.hpicanada.ca/>

Working together: Every year the Malawi Nursing exchange student nurses carry physician packs (each one containing several thousand dollars worth of essential medicines) provided by HPIC. The contents are distributed to hospitals and clinics, much of it to the Chilanga clinic. In addition, K2Foundation with HPIC have begun to air freight essential drugs to keep their various projects stocked.

Zikomo – Thank you

Over the last decade, Makupo Development Group has received generous contributions from many supporters. We want to thank the Jewish Community Foundation (Montreal), Vanier College, Association des retraitées et des retraités de la FNEEQ (AREF), MIC Sisters (Missionary Sisters of Immaculate Conception), EKM Architecture, Engaging Networks, Royal West Academy Social Justice Committee as well as many big-hearted individuals.

We offer a special thanks and retrospective of the partnership between Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) and Makupo Development Group

A decade of solidarity

OPSEU AND MAKUPO

September 2007 – Makupo Well and house renovation for hosting visitors

April 2008 – OPSEU President's visit and solar lighting for village houses

June 2008 – Kawamba Farm youth employment and income generation

June 2009 – Tiyanjane Organisation for the Disabled in Kasungu Training Workshop

April 2010 – Makupo Guesthouse, Makupo Piggery for income generation, Chiwayu Well

October 2011 - Guesthouse Kitchen, Composting Toilet, Nguwo Well

September 2012 - Southern Africa Solidarity Tour

September 2013 - Chilanga Community Clinic foundation

September 2014 - Chisomo Community Health Organisation, Chilanga CCAP
Community Clinic Phase One

July 2015 – Chilanga Community Clinic and staff houses

April 2018 – Chilanga Community Clinic Phase Two

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