

Home of Hope Clinic

This update is from medical student Alysha, who was part of the team who visited Home of Hope in the summer.

It was really insightful spending time at the Home of Hope Clinic (Chipatala). On my first day I had a tour of the facilities and was warmly greeted by the staff. The clinic consists of several rooms, including a waiting area, pharmacy, consultation room and testing rooms for malaria and HIV. There was also a HIV 'quarantine' mini ward and treatment room. Dolly, Rev Chipeta's daughter-in-law is resident manager and nurse at the clinic. I had the opportunity to interact with the staff and understand their roles. Blandina is the resident government hired Doctor for the clinic, she has patient consultations and may refer patients to the hospital for further investigations or treatment. The clinic operates a first-come-first-served policy which is managed by the reception staff recording temperature and weight of patients upon arrival (paper records). Many patients travel several kilometres to see a clinician and receive medication. The common conditions treated at the clinic include: malaria, respiratory tract infections e.g. pneumonia, urinary tract infections, STI's and skin conditions such as ringworm. The ability for the clinic to conduct rapid onsite malaria testing (results in 20 minutes) is very beneficial due to the high incidence of the condition in rainy season, resulting in the clinic being very busy. The HIV practitioner conducts onsite HIV viral load checks and HIV testing, whilst also providing contraception for patients. Health education is very important for patients, as it informs their behaviour and minimises transmission of certain conditions e.g. STI's. The clinic also provides vaccinations to children under 5 years old once a month. Unfortunately, due to the fuel shortage the August vaccinations had to be postponed because the vaccinator was not able to travel to the clinic. This highlights the impact of resources in providing healthcare to a community.

From the cleaner maintaining the grounds, to the Health Diploma and Nursing students to the qualified Nurse and Doctor, every staff member is valued and took pride in providing healthcare to the patients. It is evident that the free healthcare provided by the clinic greatly serves the children and staff of Home of Hope and the wider community; it was a pleasure to witness.

New website for Home of Hope

Lerato spent 6 months as an intern from her course at University, during which she has developed a new website highlighting the amazing work of Home of Hope. [Home of Hope orphanage\(homeofhopechildrenshomemw.org\)](http://homeofhopechildrenshomemw.org) or there is a link from Malawi Orphan Fund website.



Dr Blandina at the clinic

Introduction of Fish Farms

Staff at Home of Hope are looking forward to areas where they can grow income generating enterprises. MOF has been working closely with Home of Hope in developing fish farms in the ponds above the main village. During the summer visit the local Government fishing representative Gertrude came to Home of Hope to advise on best practices. Since September Phil and Alex from MOF have had a weekly meeting with Joseph and others at Home of Hope to work through issues that have arisen and releasing funds at appropriate times. It was an exciting day when the fingerlings were released! Now it's a 6 month wait while they grow and can be harvested - some to be sold to release funds for the next batch and some to add to the children's food.

Prepared fish pond with fencing to keep the frogs out



Meeting with Gurtrude to discuss fish ponds



Introducing the fingerlings



MOF Team

MOF is delighted to welcome Chris who is helping with the website and Emily who is helping with social media. We always welcome help, so if this is something you can help with please contact us.

Due to a poor harvest this summer, after discussion with Lucy, MOF was able to send funds to buy maize and beans before prices rocketed, giving food security until the next harvest is due. Thank you to all who contributed to this appeal, over £4000 was generously donated.

MOF is happy to visit groups interested in learning more about Home of Hope.

We are visiting St Peter's Bexleyheath on Sunday 18th February at the 10.30am service. All welcome!

Protection for Education

Money is sent to enable Cynthia purchase waterproof and other materials to continue making the washable sanitary pads which allow the girls to stay in school every week of the month. Alongside this valuable work informal emotional support is available as the door is always open to girls who come to help and chat. If you would like more information on this project please contact protectionforeducation@gmail.com. The plan is to take another suitcase of teenage girls knickers to Hope of Hope before the start of the new school year on September. Donations can be raised at no extra cost to yourself via easyfundraising.



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For more information about us or how you can support Home of Hope, please visit our website at <https://malawiorphanfund.uk/>