



THE NCHIMA TRUST

*A Source of help for
the people of Malawi*

Newsletter – 2013

This year has again been a tough one for Malawians. Political and economic uncertainty has been abundant, with the death of the incumbent President and the accession of Joyce Banda. Devaluation of the currency has halved its value against sterling and there have been frequent fuel and power shortages. The Kwacha: Sterling rate is now at levels above 500:1

More than 10 per cent of Malawians aged between 15 and 49 are living with HIV - <http://www.msf.org.uk/malawi.focus?gclid=CJiC3MGMSbQCFXHLtAod3jQAXQ>

Malawi now has a population of nearly 16 million and an economic growth rate which has varied between 2% and 10% in the past five years. Of the 16m population, an estimated 1m are thought to be orphans. Orphans are largely cared for by grand-parents, siblings or other relations, but many are heavily reliant upon charities and other organisations for support.

Advances in modern medicine mean that HIV can now take fewer years off one's life than some types of Diabetes and a compliant HIV patient is able to live a virtually normal life. However, compliance is heavily influenced by the stigma attached to HIV and there is no doubt that the positive effect that drugs should be having, will take time to materialise.

Nevertheless, Nchima Trust (NT) continues to thrive and this year has seen the successful graduation of a relatively large number of NT sponsored University students. Most were delayed by almost a year due to the closure of Chancellor College following fears that the Arab Spring would spread South.

We have received funds from new and regular donors all of which help us to continue our work. We have also been very fortunate to have linked up with two Dutch donor organisations (Medulawi and the Apeldoorn Soroptimist Society) both of which made very significant contributions and both of which were keen to sponsor educational activities.

It is surprisingly difficult to give away or spend charitable funds effectively, but NT has volunteers on the ground who find and assess suitable applicants and follow their progress. Below is a sample of recent emails indicating the importance of the support which is provided. We also ask reputable educational establishments to provide us with information about good students who are having financial problems. Failure to pay fees will normally result in expulsion and we are fortunate to have solid relationships with

schools and universities, which enable those under threat of expulsion to be made known to us.

Our volunteers will also interview prospective students to ensure that they really are deserving of sponsorship.

We were also fortunate this year to be able to support the construction of a community hall/school at a place called Lwafwa, near Mzuzu. Support came through an Australian connection and the project appears to be running very smoothly. A report is attached and also available on our website Blog.

NT has always tried to move with the times and we are now beginning to support solar power and other initiatives such as rain-water harvesting. Solar panels are now commoditised and there is a world market price quoted by the watt. This price has fallen by over 60% since 2008 and is now more affordable in developing countries. In 2013 NT plans to install solar lighting in its Community Centre in Thyolo to facilitate evening classes for the local community. We are also investigating the installation of a solar powered borehole.

We would like to thank all of our supporters and donors this year. We do our best to ensure that as much money as possible is directed to beneficiaries and to date this year over 90% has been spent on school fees. The remainder supports the NT Community Centre in Thyolo, other smaller projects such as the one at Lwafwa and administrative expenses which are largely made up of petrol and car maintenance. We currently support some 20 University students, 20 vocational training students and nearly 100 school pupils.

We are very grateful to our volunteers in Malawi, Jeannie Phillips, Robin Broadhead, Frank Mkumba and Rosena Kazembe.

We are currently looking for one or two additional members to serve on our Board. Meetings are held quarterly and take place in London on a weekday afternoon, though we have held meetings by phone conference. Board members are required to be familiar with Malawi and its challenges. If you are interested please email Josie Quinn at adminuk@nchimatrust.org.

We wish you all a prosperous 2013

From: Chikondi Khowoya [<mailto:chikondikhowoya@yahoo.com>] **Sent:** 22 December 2012 12:51:11 **To:** Nchima Trust Malawi **Subject:** Closing of School

Hello Mrs Phillips

From deep down my heart may I thank you and Nchima Trust for the timely assistance that you rendered to me during period of study. I have now completed my final year in Environmental Health. Results will be out next year. Am leaving for Zomba today.

Regards
Chikondi

-----Original Message-----

From: rachel gambatula [<mailto:drgambatula@yahoo.com>]
Sent: 03 November 2012 21:06
To: nchimatrust@africa-online.net
Subject: VOTE OF THANKS

Dear sir/madam,

I am one of the students that your organisation, Nchima, had been sponsoring since 2008 up to 2012. Was at University Of Malawi, College Of Medicine, doing MBBS Program and have currently graduated. I thank you for the financial support you gave me, and even the encouragement sometimes in writing (emails). May the good lord bless you abundantly.

I will be working at Kamuzu Central Hospital from November this same year, and will try my best to be the best doctor that i can be, that your sacrifice & contribution to health & education be not in vain. Your spirit of giving will emulate at the scale i can afford, and may you continue in well doing. I am sincerely grateful for what you've done to me and others as well.

Yours faithfully

Mercy Gambatula

28th Oct 2012

Dear All

This is the Sibford Form 2 2012 girls, with the Headmistress (on the right wearing white top) and Deputy Head, and The Teacher in charge this year. The project is working so well that the school has more girls in school now.

Altogether there will be 76 girls writing JCE (Junior Certificate of Education - public exam) and MSCE (Malawi School Certificate of Education).

Last year form 2 JCE passed at a rate of over 99% meaning only one girl and two boys failed.



From: "Lony Mandiwa" <lmandiwa@yahoo.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 13, 2012 8:58 AM

To: adminuk@nchimatrust.org

Subject: ACADEMIC UPDATES

Dear Madam,

I write this email to let you know that I have completed first academic year. I am currently on a two month holiday up to 26th November, 2012. I will send to you my academic report when results are out. In the just ended semester a lot of things have happened. I would like you to know that Bunda College has been delinked from University of Malawi and now is one arm of the newly formed university called Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR). We were also sent home for six weeks from July to mid September this year because of a fracas that happened as a result of the delinking of Bunda from UNIMA. Students were not happy with the change as a result they started protesting against the move and we were sent home. The other news is that university fees has been hiked from k25,000 to k55,000 per academic year. This has come in due to the devaluation of Malawian Kwacha. Finally, I am wishing you and the entire Nchima Trust all the best,
GOD BLESS YOU.

Regards,
Lony


From: "Swilanga Padambo" <swilangap@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 8:21 PM

To: "adminuk@nchimatrust.org" <adminuk@nchimatrust.org>

Subject: Re: re:

Dear Josie

Am trying to write on the blog but can't get through so thought I would just write this to you and if you may please write it for me.  My name is Swilanga Padambo and I have just finished my Community and Rural Development course. I have obtained my Advanced Diploma. I have managed to finish my course because of Nchima Trust. Without them I don't know what I would have done. I would have been staying home doing nothing. I salute you Nchima Trust. Please accept my gratitude from the bottom of my heart

From: "Felix Magwira" <fmagwira@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, September 21, 2012 1:50 PM

To: "Josie Quinn" <adminuk@nchimatrust.org>

Subject: Fwd: FW: Nchima Trust

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am glad to let you know that I have passed my 3rd Year in Health Management Course at Malawi College of Medicine. Final academic year starts on 8th October, 2012 through July, 2013 but lack of fees still stands my challenge.

Yours faithfully,

Felix Magwira

Health Management Student

3rd Sept 2012

Dear Mrs Quinn,

I just wanted to let you know that I am at University of Liverpool here in the UK as an Exchange student between Malawi College of Medicine and University of Liverpool. I will be here until 21 September. Every year, University of Malawi selects the top 16 students based on the end of 3rd year medical rotation exam and these students come to the UK at the end of fourth year so I happened to be among the selected students.

My end of 4th year results are out and I have also made it to final year.

Regards,

Maynard Kondowe