

AQUAID LIFELINE FUND

NEWS FROM MALAWI

Many of you will be aware of the devastating floods that have recently swept through Southern Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe resulting in many losing their lives and hundreds of thousands of the most vulnerable people being left destitute. Pictured right are just a few of the many families and children who rely on [AquAid Lifeline](#) for their daily provision of food but now have another worry as their homes have been washed away in the flood water. Sadly most rural houses are made from mud (cement is just too expensive) so when they experience such heavy rainfall, the weak buildings merely revert back to mud. Thousands of the poorest people have been left with absolutely nothing and are currently forced to shelter in makeshift camps, churches and school blocks. To add to the disaster, the maize crop which had looked so promising, has also been completely destroyed which will mean a shortage of food again this year. [AquAid Lifeline](#) is committed to assisting as many people as possible with supplies of maize, clothing and plastic sheeting to protect houses that have managed to avoid collapse. All of our centres are located in Southern Malawi and, sadly, we also suffered structural damage to some buildings along with the complete collapse of many of our pit latrines. We are working very hard to ensure that all 3,209 children who rely on us for food and assistance each day continue to receive the very best care possible.



Here are 3 happy grandmothers who have been to our centre at Namisu to collect maize in order to provide for their families. It is a sad fact that many elderly relatives have been left with the responsibility of bringing up their orphan grandchildren. Unable to work to raise money for food or school fees, they turn to [AquAid Lifeline](#) for assistance. Along with providing maize relief for the most needy, we also encourage the grandparents to send the children to school in the hopes that they will receive a good education which will, in time, break the terrible cycle of poverty.

That Friday Feeling!

These children from Namisu Primary School can't hide their joy after being released from their classes at the end of the school week. Josie Charter managed to get this delightful snap as they hurried towards the communal kitchen to queue up for their lunch. [AquAid Lifeline](#) provide a varied menu including plenty of fresh vegetables, fish, meat, soya and, of course, the staple food of Malawi - Nsima.





3 New Additions to our **AquAid** Family

We are pleased to welcome Forias, Frank and Richard, aged 11, 8 and 4 to our ever expanding family. These brothers are now resident at our Funsani centre after being found living completely alone in a very remote village in the bush. Sadly both their parents have passed away and when their older sister married, they were left to fend for themselves, often scavenging for any food scraps they could find. They had an elderly grandparent living quite close by but it was a huge struggle to find any food or clothes for these beautiful children. What a

privilege it is to lift the burden of such a hard life off their young shoulders and give them the freedom to enjoy their childhood. They will now benefit from good food, a warm bed and safe home to live in, regular schooling and the friendship of all the other children who live at the centre. They look pretty happy and comfortable already!

Josie Charter, **AquAid** Co-Ordinator writes, "I recently had the pleasure of joining our Form 1 students from Umodzi Secondary School on the first ever trip away from their rural location near Zomba. Most of the students you can see in the photograph had never travelled on a 'big bus' before, they had never seen a house with an 'upstairs' and all but one had never visited Blantyre. We visited the Museum of Malawi where we were all thrilled with the various exhibits and fascinating talks about the history of Malawi. We then drove out to Machiri Mountain Reserve where we met up with rangers who explained the effects of deforestation, poaching and much more. These trips are hugely important to open the minds of the students and to educate them about all the various careers which exist outside their limited lives in the bush. It's hard to dream big if you don't know what to dream about! Judging by the very loud singing on the bus all day, the trip was hugely successful!



Pictured above are the Form 2 students learning about deforestation and the importance of protecting all the wildlife in Malawi. The rocks they are sitting on act as a shelter to hundreds of hyenas living beneath them.

The students are always keen to show off their sporting prowess and this young high-jumper from Lisungwe was no exception! With no crash mat to soften the landing, he was very keen to clear the rope and land safely on his feet the other side! It's a total joy to witness such exuberance and to see the children happy and thriving under our **AquAid** family umbrella.



The **AQUAID LIFELINE** Fund offers grateful thanks for continuing magnificent support from **COOLERAID U.K. Ltd.** and the many other donors, which has enabled us to rescue so many and offer hope to those who had none. For further information Tel: John Searle, on (01223) 276710, or Josie Charter, Co-ordinator, on (01480) 351059 or 07827 296275 E-Mail: josiecharter@hotmail.com