

AQUAID LIFELINE FUND NEWS FROM MALAWI



Forming an Orderly Queue!

Pictured above is one of the cutest queues ever seen - the nursery class from our centre at Phalombe waiting patiently for their lunch. Sadly it is very common for children to come to school each day without having eaten breakfast or even dinner the night before. This is a huge challenge for the children as they often have to work in their family garden before school even starts. Add to that the walk to school which can be up to 8 miles each way, an empty stomach....it's no surprise when they fall asleep at their desks. Luckily the children who attend our centres have no such worries as they are provided with breakfast before school and then a hot lunch after their lessons have finished.



□ *Teamwork!*

Even the rainy season mud was no match for the determination of these Dawn Centre students and the mission to get their pal to school on time! The Dawn Centre is home to children with varying disabilities both physical and learning disabled. Along with the residences for boys and girls, we have also built 2 classrooms and a building used for physiotherapy. We always strive to provide the same opportunities for education and, where possible, the children are integrated into our mainstream primary school just up the road. They truly are one big happy family, always willing to lend a hand to one another whenever needed.

□ *Award Winning Lawyer*

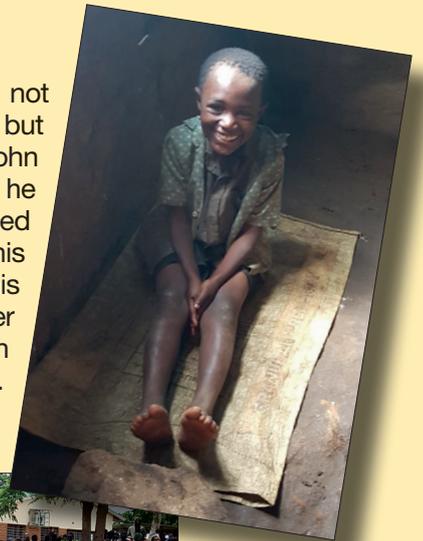
We proudly introduce Vincent Lanjero who has been an **AquAid Lifeline** beneficiary since the year 2006 when he was selected to study at a very good secondary school. Being visually impaired didn't stop Vincent from becoming a top student but sadly his family were unable to pay his school fees as they were struggling to find even food. Vincent took the initiative to approach our office and we were glad to assist him initially with his school fees and, following on, his law degree at Chancellor College, Malawi. After graduating in Law in 2015, Vincent went on to win 2 nationally acclaimed awards, the second presented to him by the President of Malawi where he was awarded a Masters Degree Scholarship to study Constitutional Law at Harvard University. What a great example of triumphing despite great challenges. *Congratulations Vincent.*





□ Our New Driver!

Madalitso (*translated means Blessings*) was delighted to not only experience his first ever ride in a motor vehicle but also to take a turn at driving under the watchful eye of John Kang'ombe, our Executive Administrator. It was only when he insisted on taking us to visit his house that we learned of his story. Madalitso lives in a small mud hut with his siblings in a child headed family, the oldest being his sister, who, at 16, has the responsibility for the 4 younger children. Here he is proudly showing off his 'bed' which is an old fertiliser sack that he crawls inside at night. **AquAid Lifeline** will do all we can to assist this young family to achieve their full potential.



□ Desperate Food Shortage

'It was with great sadness that I witnessed more than 750 desperate people flock to our centre at Namisu in one day, all looking for food', reports Josie Charter, Fund Co-ordinator. Some people had walked more than 15 miles in the hope of receiving even a small amount of maize to feed their families for a few days. Following the devastating cyclone last year, many people were left starving due to their crop being washed away by the rains. 'I saw a mother boiling just leaves in some water and telling her children it was soup, it was truly heart-breaking', she said.

□ Malaria Testing

Pictured above is an anxious mother who has brought her very young baby into our clinic to be tested for malaria after she became ill. Unfortunately malaria is responsible for many thousands of deaths in Malawi so early detection and treatment is vital. Mosquito nets provide excellent protection but sadly not many can afford to buy one. The test is very simple, just a pin prick to obtain a drop of blood to place onto the malaria testing strip. The baby in this photograph tested positive for malaria but, happily, made a full recovery following the treatment prescribed by our nursing staff.



□ Say 'Cheese'

I think we just about managed to squeeze all of the children from our Phalombe Centre into the photo. They are proudly showing off their new uniforms kindly funded by Hasland Baptist Church. With a total of 2969 children needing school uniforms, it's a bit like painting the Forth Bridge. We discovered that, for many of the children, the school uniform was the only clothes they had. It's a time of huge excitement when they are given 2 sets of clothes - uniforms (which are tailor made for every individual child) and casual clothes to wear when not in school.

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: info@lifelinefund.org.uk