



Newsletter Issue 1 - March 2021



MAHECAS, Medstrom Aid Malawi's COVID-19 Fight

MAHECAS-UK and Medstrom Healthcare UK have donated 1,025 new hospital beds and 781 new hospital mattresses valued at around K700 million to the College of Medicine (COM) in Blantyre. The donation was a response to a request by the medical college. Receiving the items, COM's acting principal Professor Mac Mallewa, described it as: "phenomenal and generous." "The beds are not just going to be used for COVID-19 patients. As they are robust beds, they can be used in the hospitals for years to come," Prof. Mallewa explained.

Since COM does not have a hospital (it has an outpatient clinic), the purpose in seeking the donation, was to support government hospitals which are in the COVID-19 battlefield, Prof. Mallewa explained. He touted the beds as being of the same calibre as those used by the National Health Services in the UK where Medstrom manages 20 per cent of the UK acute beds and mattresses fleet and products and services to 150 hospitals in the UK and Ireland.

COM Management in consultation with Dept. of Disaster Management will decide on the beneficiary hospitals, but Mzuzu Hospital, QECH, Kamuzu Central, Zomba Central are likely targets.

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Chairperson Statement



On behalf of the Malawi Health Care Support UK (MAHECAS-UK) executive committee, it is with pleasure that I welcome you all to UMOYO – our Quarterly Newsletter. The objective of the Newsletter is to keep our sponsors, members and well-wishers informed on how we are using their resources entrusted to us to support the Malawi Health System. Umoyo will also provide the status of the various projects in Malawi and future plans for MAHECAS-UK

In our first Newsletter, we have provided information on Malawi's efforts to fight COVID-19 and more especially how MAHECAS-UK is contributing to the fight against the pandemic.

Malawi has seen rising cases of and deaths from COVID-19 from the beginning of the year. MAHECAS-UK has joined the national efforts to protect lives and livelihoods from the COVID-19 pandemic. We are working in partnership with the various institutions in Malawi to ensure donations are put to good use, with accountability. In September 2020, MAHECAS-UK donated over K7.6 million worth of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to the Society of Medical Doctors, to support Malawi's response to the pandemic. The PPE was distributed to various hospitals and COVID-19 testing and treatment centres across Malawi.

In November 2020, MAHECAS, with the support of Medstrom, a UK company, donated 1025 special COVID-19 treatment beds and 781 mattresses to the College of Medicine (COM). We are grateful that COM has made these available to the Government of Malawi in its fight against COVID19. The financial value of the shipment was £600,000.00 which is around MK700 million.

The beds and mattresses have been distributed to covid-19 field hospitals established by the Government in Mzuzu, Lilongwe, Zomba and Blantyre. In 2019, MAHECAS sourced and donated 600 ICU beds and 400 mattresses. These were distributed in various district hospitals. We believe these beds and mattresses have made a great difference in the fight against COVID-19. I want to specifically thank the Management and staff of Medstrom for the generosity of their donation. I am also grateful to many individual donors through monthly contributions as well as those that responded to our call through JustGiving and GOFUNDME websites. Your donations have made a great difference to the lives of many Malawians.

Despite the limitations of covid-19, we look forward to 2021 as we continue to raise awareness of MAHECAS-UK work as well as and more importantly, the needs in Malawi health care systems. We will continue to depend on the invaluable support from our amazing coordinators in Malawi and many volunteers across the United Kingdom. Finally, let me thank the Malawi High Commissioner to the UK, HE Kena Mphonda, who has been an amazing supporter of MAHECAS-UK.

We look forward to his continued support. We look forward to having you all on board in 2021.

Together we will.

MAHECAS in Numbers

25

years and over

£2 million

and over raised

100+

active members

10+

hospitals helped

What we do

As a healthcare charity, we focus on assisting hospitals, health clinics, and other primary care organisations across Malawi.



MAHECAS donates MWK17 million for Mass Cervical Cancer Screening

MAHECAS-UK has funded MWK17 million cervical cancer screening exercise at various centres in Chikwawa. The centres include Makhuwila, St Monfort, Chapananga, Chipwaila and Ngabu. The screening exercise is targeting women of reproductive age group of 15-45 in various health facilities.

Speaking at St. Montfort Hospital during mass cervical cancer screening, Dr Dawel Mkandawire of Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital's Gynecology Department said most women present themselves to the hospital late when the disease has already advanced in the stage.

Chikwawa District Cancer Coordinator, Loveness Santo said the district registers more deaths of women due to cervical cancer as most of them live in rural areas where there are no facilities for early testing and treatment. Speaking on the exercise Lawrence Gogodasi, one of the Coordinators for MAHECAS in Malawi, said the exercise is crucial and of vital importance as most women in Malawi suffer from cervical cancer unknowingly.

Health experts say lack of interest among women in the country to undergo cervical cancer screening is compromising efforts to fight the disease.

This exercise is led by Dr Lewis Gadama of the Department of Obstetrics and gynaecology under the College of medicine in partnership with a team led by Professor Taulo of CHAMACA.

Donation of Assorted Medical Supplies to the Society of Medical Doctors



MAHECAS-UK has donated over K7.6 million worth of assorted supplies to the Society of Medical Doctors (SMD) to help support Malawi's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The donation will be used by SMD members and other frontline healthcare workers at various hospitals including Mangochi District Hospital and the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in Blantyre. Speaking during a symbolic presentation of the donation in Lilongwe, SMD President Dr Victor Mgonjetsi Mithi said the gesture is consistent with the goals on which the society was founded

“We will continue to be engaged in such activities because they feed into what we exist for,” said Mithi.

Meanwhile, Secretary for Health in the Ministry of Health Dr Charles Mwansambo who is also SMD co-founder has lauded the two groups for the support. “As a country, we've been hard hit. With donations like these from well-wishers like Malawi Healthcare Support, it makes our burden bearable,” he said.

SMD also recently partnered its efforts with the Malawi UK military Community to donate over K8 million worth of PPEs to Karonga and Dedza district hospitals.

Our COVID-19 Response



We acknowledge with great concern the rising cases of and deaths from COVID-19 in Malawi.

This is an unfortunate situation for the country, and we hope that the situation will be contained. MAHECAS-UK is throwing its weight behind the national effort to protect lives and livelihoods from the COVID-19 pandemic.

We know that the situation might get worse before it gets better, but together, we will win this fight.

[Click here to visit our website](#) and find out how MAHECAS is helping and how you can help too. We appreciate your support.

Join our Fight against COVID-19 in Malawi



The Covid-19 pandemic continues to hit Malawi hard. For a country with a fragile economy and overstretched healthcare system, the situation is getting worse by the day. Doctors, Nurses, other Medics and all other front-line healthcare workers are being exposed to the dangers because of a lack of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The rate of virus contractions by front line workers is alarming.

Our healthcare service can simply not deliver the desperately needed care for everybody. The current situation calls for togetherness in the fight against COVID-19.

MAHECAS-UK is fundraising for sourcing equipment to be provided to the hardworking healthcare workers and will assist the health services in Malawi cope with or alleviate the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

To ensure that the needed assistance reaches the targeted front-line healthcare workers, we are directly working with the Secretary for Ministry of Health, Society of Medical Doctors (SMD), and District Health Offices (DHOs), and also the Covid-19 Unit Response Team at Queens in Blantyre and will contact many more DHOs through the Chief of Health Services and SMD.

All the equipment to be bought will be the one asked by the front-line workers themselves and preferentially sourced locally. Some of the items to be sourced are: N95 Face Masks, 3Ply Face Masks, Face Shields, Face Goggles, Surgical Gowns, Disposable Overalls, Medical Isolation Overalls and Infrared Thermometers.

How to Help

Please donate to this hugely important cause through our Just Giving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mahecas-uk> or the button below.

[Donate](#)

Stats in Malawi

To find out more about the current COVID-19 situation in Malawi please visit <https://covid19.health.gov.mw/> or click on the button below.

[See Stats](#)

Fundraising Events

MAHECAS-UK undertakes various fund raising activities throughout the year including dinner dances, big walks, etc. Below are examples of past activities.



The 2018 Annual MAHECAS-UK Open Charity Golf Tournament was held on Saturday 18th August at the Top Meadows Golf Course in Upminster, UK.

The event was organised to raise funds for hospital projects in Malawi through the Malawi Health Care Support (MAHECAS-UK) charity. Mr Kaliati also extended the charity's appreciation to individuals and organisations for their continued contribution, to support the work of MAHECAS-UK.



On 30th June 2018, Eddie Gondwe, Charles Nasoro, Jailosi Gondwe and Mphatso Lizi cycled 68 miles (109 km) across Lincolnshire from Scunthorpe to Boston to raise money to support efforts by the Malawi Health Care Support UK at facilitating the provision of medical and other equipment to rural health units in Malawi.



A group of Malawians based in the UK participated in the 2018 Great Bristol 10k run to raise funds for hospitals and medical projects in Malawi through the Malawi Health Care Support (MAHECAS-UK) Charity.

With a target of £1,000, the 10k run raised £4,000.

How Your Donations Help

Over the years, we have responded to a variety of medical request needs from Malawi hospitals. Some of our latest donations to the health sector are below.



Medstrom Supports MAHECAS Malawi Hospitals Project (Video)

Medstrom worked closely with MAHECAS to provide beds to hospitals in Malawi.



Donation to Mbulumbudzi Health Centre in Chiradzulu (with Videos)

Donation of a range of equipment and supplies worth around 4.2 million Malawi Kwacha.



Mulanje Shelter Project

A guarding shelter built for the Mulanje Hospital in 2015 to assist carers rest, prepare food and look after their patients better.

[More Projects](#)

Become a Member

At MAHECAS UK, our members and volunteers work together in all our focus areas.

Our people bring to us an enormous range of skills and expertise to make our organisation stronger, with the knowledge that their support will go a long way to help improve healthcare services in Malawi.

[Click on this link](#) to find out how to become a member of MAHECAS-UK and other benefits.



More About MAHECAS

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Contact us

Email: info@mahecas.org

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