

## Child Mortality in Malawi

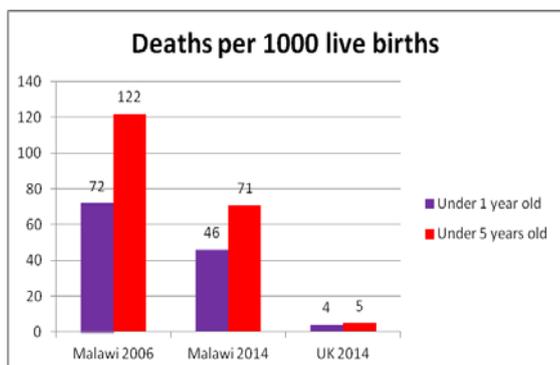
Did you know?

- [Infant, child and maternal mortality rates in Malawi](#) are amongst the worst in the world
- [Malawi nurse vacancy rate](#) in 2014 was 75%
- [Nurses trained in Malawi](#) tend to stay in Malawi

For the past few years our club has collaborated with the UK charity Friends of Sick Children in Malawi (**FOSCIM**), and supported the university training of Charity Kanyanda, an experienced nurse, to specialise in paediatric care. But we want to do more to help Malawi to create sustainable child healthcare and we need your help.



Put simply our proposal is, through our direct link with **FOSCIM**, to train more specialist child health nurses.



[Children in Malawi](#) are still dying from malnutrition and preventable or treatable diseases such as pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria and HIV. More medical staff will reduce these unnecessary deaths. The help of SIGBI Federation could fund not just one but **EIGHTEEN** specialist child health nurses over the next three years. This would increase the number of nurses being trained by **25%**. Training staff in Malawi creates a more sustainable health service for children throughout Malawi as nurses are more likely to stay and work in their own country.

**The training** - at Kamuzu College of Nursing (KCN), Malawi.

- For Diploma level practicing nurses
- BSc. Child Health 2 year degree course
- Cost of course, tuition and lodgings around £5,680 per student (this must be paid back if the nurse doesn't stay in Malawian public hospitals)

**After qualification**, the graduate specialist nurses will:

- be in charge of wards in hospitals across Malawi, supervising students and teaching child health skills to other nurses
- work with the Special Care Baby Unit practising Kangaroo Care to ensure that mothers are able to breast feed their babies. *SI Kenilworth has helped fund vital nutrition for mothers so that both mum and baby can thrive - Again part of the efforts to reduce infant (and maternal) mortality.*
- support the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital (QECH) One-Stop Centre for women and girls who are victims of abuse - *Another project which SI Kenilworth has helped with funding.*  
The One-Stop Centre was the focus of the recently launched 'violence against children' survey published by UNICEF and visited by the UN Secretary General's Special Representative for Violence against Children – Marta Santos Pais.

**For more details about our project including relevant facts and figures, our collaboration with [FOSCIM](#), and our friendship link with SI Blantyre visit our website: [www.sigbi.org/kenilworth-and-district/](http://www.sigbi.org/kenilworth-and-district/) Sharon, one of our Club members will be working in the Pharmacy at the QECH Hospital this September. You can follow Sharon's exploits on her [Malawi Madventure blog](#).**

## Key quotes from people involved:



“I do not take for granted the support I am receiving from Kenilworth Soroptimists and thank very much all those who are making this possible.”

*Sister Charity Kanyanda, Kamuzu College of Nursing, Blantyre, Malawi*

“Sick children are best cared for by specialist nurses. Although death rates amongst African children have seen a welcome fall, far too many still die as a result of inadequate care from well-meaning but poorly trained staff. This grant will provide nurses who can meet the challenges of caring for African children in a low-resource setting for the next 20 years. We want these children to survive *and* thrive; these nurses will help to make that happen”

*Neil Kennedy Associate Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health, College of Medicine, University of Malawi*



“My charitable trust has supported the work of Friends of Sick Children in Malawi for a number of years. We value their objectives and the fact that 99.7p in every £1 they receive goes to the ‘frontline’ of their work.”

*John Humphrys, BBC journalist and presenter, Founder - Kitchen Table Charities Trust*

“We have established a Friendship Link with SI Kenilworth and also support the QECH. Our club has made quite a few donations of equipment to this hospital and more specifically to the paediatric ward, such as children's beds and bonnets for pre-term babies.”

*Lennie Kamwendo, SI Blantyre member and past teacher at KCN, Malawi*



### How FOSCiM was founded

“When my wife Alexis and I first went to Malawi in August 2007 nothing had prepared us for the reality of sick children in a country where specialist paediatric medical services were not a national priority. This was a truly life changing experience for both of us. We just knew that we had to try to do something to help the small team of ex-pats with their ambitious but vital goals to address the high infant and maternal mortality rates. Our homeward journey was spent trying to work out ‘the what’ and ‘the how’. Developing Malawians with an aptitude for medicine is fundamental to a sustainable long term solution in Malawi and is a foundation stone of the aims of our charity, Friends of Sick Children in Malawi.

This focus *is* working but the human development needs are substantial and require a lot of funding. The Kenilworth Soroptimists’ bid is aimed at the very heart of this project and as such will be a hugely valuable step forward towards the ultimate objective.”

*Gordon Cowie MBE – Chair of Trustees, Friends of Sick Children in Malawi, based in the West Midlands*

### Legacy of the Project

- There will be more Malawian nurses with enhanced qualifications in child health making an invaluable contribution to establishing sustainable paediatric health services across the country.
- The Malawian women chosen to undertake the training will have achieved a highly regarded and prestigious nursing qualification and will have established a firm foundation for their own future working lives. They will also act as an inspiration and beacon for others to follow their example.
- Enable Malawi to achieve the [UN Millennium Development Goal 4](#) – reduction in child mortality

Within the Soroptimist movement this will be a living example of the impact of our strategic goals and how our combined efforts can make lives better for women and girls in a one of the poorest countries by **educating, empowering and enabling**.



SIGBI Federation Project 2016-2019 SI Kenilworth and District