

HOPE CLINIC MID-YEAR REPORT JULY 2023

BACKGROUND

Hope Clinic supplies one of the most comprehensive ranges of free health services in the area of Chief Ngolowindo and surrounding areas. The Clinic was established in August 2020 but was officially opened in May 2022.

The clinic offers different services such as family planning, nutrition, physiotherapy, antenatal, HIV testing and Counseling, Anti-Retroviral therapy and general outpatient.

The clinic has 21 staff members which include 2 clinicians, 1 nurse, 10 health surveillance assistants (HSA`S), 3 hospital attendants, 1 pharmacy assistant, 2 groundsmen and 2 security guards. Approximately 13,768 patients have benefited from the clinical services to date.

The clinic operates from 7:30am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday, but the clinicians are always available to treat emergencies that come in after 5:00pm. On Saturdays and Sundays, the clinic is open but deals with emergencies only. The nurse and clinicians live in the houses provided by Starfish within the clinic compound.

UPDATE ON PROGRESS

Since the time the clinic was opened the impact has increased because the clinic has attended to more patients than before. It is at the clinic where people are receiving treatment, without having to walk very long distances to the Salima District Hospital which is the next alternative free health service provider.

Construction of the Maternity Wing at the clinic is still in progress. When it is completed, it will be of great benefit to the community. From March to June, plastering has been done inside and outside of the building, the roofing is completed, and window frames have been installed.



MATERNITY WING UNDER CONSTRUCTION

On 14th June 2021 the Malawi Government, through the Ministry of Health, installed solar panels and a solar fridge in the clinic. The fridge has been of great help at the clinic as vaccines and other medications that need to be stored in cool temperatures are safe and the fridge runs 24 hours due to the large solar panels.



Chifundo, Clinical Officer in charge of the clinic, showing the fridge received from the Government.

WHAT DIFFERENCE ARE WE MAKING?

Nelson Kabango was diagnosed with HIV when he was born, transmitted from his mother. Nelson comes from Kunyenga village. He was born at Salima District Hospital where he has been receiving his treatment.

All has not been well for Nelson due to his mother being unable to keep appointments because of the transport costs and distance from his village to Salima District Hospital. Ruth Hara, Nelson's mother explains how Hope Clinic has changed their lives, thanks to Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) that they can access from the Hope Clinic.

Ruth shared,

“Before Hope Clinic it was very hard for us to get the treatment as I could not manage to walk long distances to Salima District Hospital to get the drugs for me and my son. We come from a poor background and I cannot afford to source money for transportation and I am a single mother because my husband and I separated 5 years ago. I am very grateful for the clinic because before then I could only get HIV information and drugs at the District Hospital, but it is very far from where I stay. When Hope Clinic came, my son's life and my life changed because it is very close to my village. We no longer skip appointments, we are doing fine now and we have more knowledge.”

Once a month Ruth and Nelson join other HIV+ patients at Hope Clinic to receive their ART treatment and advice on how best they can live their lives.

“When we go to the clinic, we receive the drugs and other teachings that really help us to adhere to drugs. Now I no longer look sickly, neither does Nelson. We feel comfortable because we receive treatment close to our home and we look healthy. I can see a greater change compared to years back when I was skipping appointments because of the distance. Thank you, Starfish Malawi, for building Hope Clinic as you have saved thousands of lives and people who were in a situation like mine.” says Ruth.



Ruth and her son Nelson, beneficiaries of Hope Clinic

Leah Mwenda, who works at the clinic as a Data Entry Clerk says the clinic has been of great use to the people of Ngolowindo and other surrounding areas, including those that are employed by the clinic.

“People can now provide for their families as they have been employed at the clinic as ground labourers, security guards, hospital attendants (cleaners). etc. By the end of the month we are assured that we will get something to support our families. Not only us, but the clinic has brought a big positive difference in the community as they have a clinic nearby that treats them on several medical issues.”



Leah Mwenda, Data Entry Clerk of Hope Clinic

IN CONCLUSION

Hope clinic has significantly improved healthcare in the area of Chief Ngolowindo and surrounding communities, by offering their patients improved accessible health care.