

HOPE CLINIC MID-YEAR REPORT, 2022

BACKGROUND

The Hope clinic opened its doors to serve patients in August 2020 and more recently on May 5th, 2022, the clinic was officially opened. The opening ceremony was graced by the Deputy Minister of Local Government Hon. Halima Daudi, the Salima District Commissioner's office, Salima District Hospital staff members, Traditional Authority of Ngolowindo and surrounding chiefs from other villages. Also, Peter Bell and Chris Knott were present from the UK to represent Starfish. The event was beautified with traditional dances from the people of Ngolowindo village and was helpful in communicating that the clinic offers a free service rather than being private – this has reflected in an increase of numbers attending since the event.

The clinic has proven to be a significant help to the lives of people living in senior sub-T/A Ngolowindo village and far beyond as people are receiving good care provided by government health workers in partnership with Starfish. In fact, this model is the first in the country whereby medical workers and drugs are provided by the local health authority with the infrastructure – admin, pharmacy, security, gardeners, cleaners and driver staff along with the construction and maintenance of the clinic buildings and staff housing being provided by Starfish. Thus, enabling the patients to be offered free medical consultations and treatment.

In 2020 the clinic received 11,179 patients, then in 2021 the complete year saw 45,191 attendances. In 2022 the number (so far) is 20,533 indicating that people are still opting to use Hope Clinic for medical services than having to travel a long distance to the district hospital.

Referring to the attendance figures stated above, the reason for the large increase between 2020 and 2021 was predominantly due to the construction of the clinic only being completed in September 2020. However, during 2021 the Covid 19 pandemic impacted upon the clinic which stretched the clinic's resources but to which the clinic responded by establishing hand washing stations and teaching patients better hygiene to minimise contamination risk. In 2022 the pandemic has thankfully subsided but due to the trust in the clinics staff and services, attendances remain high.

The importance of Hope clinic has been proven through the grateful smiles of different women, men, boys, and girls who are proud of the services they receive at this clinic including HIV testing, AIDS treatment, malaria testing and treatment, pregnancy testing, Family Planning, TB testing, physio, and nutrition, as well as many other health issues handled in the Outpatients Department. In fact, it is one of the most recommended clinics across the Salima District as people from as far as T/A Kalonga are known to have travelled to receive its excellent service.

The clinic has 21 staff members, which includes 2 Medical Assistants (government), 1 intern Public Health Assistant (government), 1 Nurse (government), 7 Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs Government), 2 Gardeners/attendants (Starfish), 3 Cleaners/attendants (2 government and 1 Starfish), 1 Pharmacy Assistant (Starfish), 1 Data Clerk (Starfish), 1 Driver (Starfish), and 2 Watchman (Starfish).

UPDATE ON PROGRESS

Recently a vaccine fridge has been installed at the clinic which has enabled doctors to keep different vaccines and drugs safe on the premises.

The clinic also received new notice boards which are used to post various information (clinic and community) in the waiting area.

Bukhar Omar moved to Salima in 2018 and has seen the impact of the clinic on the people of the village and surrounding villages. He said he once witnessed a woman giving birth to a baby by the roadside as she couldn't afford transportation to get to Salima District Hospital.

"It was in the middle of the night, and I heard a cry from the road, I quickly rushed to find out what was causing such a horrific cry, only to see a woman struggling for her life and asking for help to deliver a baby, I had no clue on how I could help her, so I called out my elderly mother for assistance."



Omar continued saying the lady was helped by a couple of elderly women and was later rushed to the district hospital for further medical attention. So, after hearing the good news of a maternity wing to be soon constructed at Hope Clinic he said he felt the happiest person on earth as he believes this new development will help women with all maternity issues to receive any sort of medical attention right at their doorstep.

He added, "I would like to appeal to Starfish Malawi, to have a day where doctors could visit patients even after their hospital treatment, to make sure they are still feeling better even when they stop coming to the clinic, as some patients don't continue taking medication after and continue to get sick, home visits would improve patients' health, physically and mentally."



Country Director for Starfish Malawi, Emmanuel Uwaezuoke and Chief T/A Maganga breaking the first ground for the maternity wing

On July 11 a ground breaking ceremony was held at Hope Clinic where Starfish Malawi plans to also construct an MK18,000,000.00 (approx £18,000) maternity wing. Speaking at the ceremony the Country Director of Starfish limited, Emmanuel Uwaezuoke, said that they thought it wise to construct a maternity wing to remedy the various health issues that affect expectant mothers in the area.

"We are donating this wing to alleviate the problems that pregnant women face like traveling long distances for delivery and labour services," said Emmanuel.

Commenting on the same issue the Salima Central Constituency legislator, Gerald Kapiseni, commended the great work that Starfish is doing through promotion of health services delivery in the district. He said, “As government we are so happy and excited for the development implemented by Starfish for this will ease the challenges of traveling long distances to access health services.”

Also the Director for Health and Social Services (DHSS), Dr.Yonas Chise, said that as a health department they are also happy for the initiative that will impact so many communities in the district. “We have so many hospitals, but maternity wings are rarely found since the materials are far more expensive, so we don’t take it for granted.”

He further pledged to work hand in hand with Starfish in district’s health promotion targets and said, “We are so excited to see the facility and will contribute towards improved health services in the district.”

Regarding the maternity services initiative, Traditional Authority T/A Maganga also hailed the organisation for the health development they are implementing. He said, “We are so proud of Starfish for the health facility they gave us and for the wing to be constructed with houses for the prospective maternal service givers.”

Once the maternity wing building is completed Starfish have funds to fully equip it. Starfish will also be constructing a house for the maternity medical staff and an outside latrine.

Hope Clinic Attendance Totals 2022

	General	Ante Natal	Family Planning	ART	HIV Testing	HIV test positive	Phyiso	Nutrition	Kudimba Outreach
Jan	3348	29	96	64	45	0	1	66	5
Feb	3846	62	10	52	45	2	8	68	7
March	3637	89	196	27	54	3	5	79	12
April	2818	80	185	49	50	1	6	84	Now looked after
May	2622	74	94	38	51	2	1	86	by a clinic in
June	2022	69	195	29	57	3	13	59	Lifuwu
July									
Aug									
Sept									
Oct									
Nov									
Dec						11			
Totals	18,293	403	776	259	302		34	442	24
								TOTAL	20,533

HOPE CLINIC STATISTICS

HOPE CLINIC
Total population: 13,768
Number of Gazetted villages:18
Number of HSAs (health surveillance assistants):7
Number of SHSAs (Senior health surveillance assistants):2
Number of households under 5's: 2,060
Number of under 5 children: 2,484
Number of village clinics: 2, but many travel from villages further away

PHYSIOTHERAPY

Since the physiotherapy clinic programme began for adults as well as children the attendance has been low due to mobility issues, however there is a new initiative to pick up patients from different bus stops closer to their homes using the clinic ambulance and it is hoped that attendance will now improve. Shalom Boston is a child who has been attending Physiotherapy sessions at Hope Clinic for the past 9 months. She has cerebral paralysis which affected her legs in her movement. She struggles to walk and has difficulty in speech. When she first came in, she was unable to move a single muscle in her legs, 1 month later she started moving them more, and now months later she can stand up and walk a few steps by herself. Her mother stated that since she brought her child to Hope Clinic for physiotherapy, she has seen her child become more active and willing to move around. This has enabled her to start going to a nearby nursery school and play with her friends more.



A physiotherapy session at Hope Clinic

HIV TESTING AND COUNSELLING (HTC) Service

The number coming into the hospital to get tested for HIV has increased rapidly this year as more people are now seeing the importance of knowing their status, to live a healthy life. According to Hope Clinic's Medical Assistant, Chifundo Katunga, he has observed that more younger people are coming in to get tested compared to last year. He said, "To come into a hospital and opt to get an HIV test is the scariest and most embarrassing act to do in Malawi, as most people still don't understand that there are so many ways to contract the virus other than engaging oneself in sexual activity, but when a person gets tested allegedly, they are believed to be sexually active".

People used to be afraid to travel to Salima District Hospital as everyone in the community would be there but since the clinic started offering the service right at the people's doorstep more people are comfortable getting their HIV status checked. So far in 2022, 7 people have tested HIV positive and 237 people have tested negative.

The medical staff have requested that the local health authority provide the clinic with a full-time HIV Testing/Counsellor so that a service can be offered any time a patient presents with an STD. Presently this service is only available twice a week ran by an HSA.

HIV TESTING STATS 2022

Month	Male	Female (pregnant)	Female (not pregnant)	Positive	Negative	Male Negative	Male Positive	Female Negative	Female Positive
Jan	9	16	20	0	45	9	0	36	0
February	3	28	14	2	43	3	0	40	2
March	8	29	17	3	51	8	0	43	3
April	3	25	22	1	49	3	0	46	1
May	7	23	21	2	49	6	1	43	1
June	13	28	16	3	54	12	1	42	2
July									
August									
September									
October									
November									
December									
Totals	43	149	110	11	291	41	2	250	9

HIV TESTING STATS BY AGE	Male 1-14 years	Male 15-24 years	Male 25+	Female 1-14 years	Female 15-24 years	Female 25+
Jan	0	7	2	0	16	20
February	0	0	3	1	24	17
March	1	5	2	2	31	13
April	0	2	1	0	27	20
May	0	1	6	0	28	16
June	2	7	4	1	29	14
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
Totals	3	22	18	4	155	100

NUTRITION CLINIC

The nutrition clinic is run once a week to assist mothers with babies that are underweight and referred from the Under 5s clinic or General clinic. The mothers are provided with a peanut paste supplement and/or instructed how to make a soya porridge. The medical staff have requested that the local health authority provide them with a full-time nutritionist, rather than a part-time HSA who is therefore available everyday to assist the mothers as any delay in helping in this area is critical to the health and development of the babies.

NUTRITION ATTENDANCE

MONTH	Number of Babies Attended
JAN	66
FEB	68
MAR	79
APRIL	84
MAY	86
JUNE	59
TOTAL ATTENDED	442

“My name is **Agness Chaponda**, I was born on 18th June 1980 at Salima District Hospital. Ever since Hope clinic opened, I’ve been able to get access to hospital treatment more easily than having to go all the way to Salima District Hospital, SDH. My younger sister once had an asthma attack in the middle of the night, we couldn't find any sort of transportation to take her to SDH but luckily Hope Clinic’s ambulance was around, and we ended up using it to travel to SDH at 2 am. Hope Clinic saved my sister's life. The benefit of Hope Clinic is that it’s open to everybody of all ages. Since my child was born, he's been coming to the clinic during the nutrition programme every Tuesday to receive medication and to get a check-up on his growth spurt.”

