

# Project #MW96253 - AEC Home Based Care – Malawi

## Vision of the project

To equip the Africa Evangelical Church in Malawi to show God's love by meeting the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of the sick or suffering members in their community in their homes, and support their families, through a program of regular visiting, advocacy, counselling and practical assistance. The original strategy commenced five programs in 5 different locations over the period 2002-2006. The project was extended in 2007 to expand to 3 additional locations over the next 3 years. A continuation of the project was approved in Jan 2017 to continue operations in the different locations but with an intentional move towards more self-sustainable operations by end 2018.

## Project background

As the AIDS pandemic spreads across Malawi, the already stretched health system is unable to care for the influx of patients suffering from AIDS related illnesses. Inability to cope with the large numbers has hospitals sending many patients home to be cared for by family members. Most families do not know how to care for their sick and often leave them to suffer alone while they attend to other responsibilities.

## Progress

**Refresher trainings (inc distribution of shoes to all volunteers)** – refresher trainings were completed in Sani, Chapananga, Lulwe, Chididi & Sankhulani. The final annual refresher training for 2017 will be held at Naotcha in October. Various items of interest were covered during the trainings in the various locations including the government program promoting male circumcision as an HIV prevention program at Sankhulani, new services in specific locations eg the Child abuse centre at Fatima (near Sankhulani), and updates on the IGA initiatives eg the moringa powder at Chapananga is now being sold to the local game park for higher price than we were paying to use within our program, the Naotcha soap is now also being sold at the Tiyamike Sewing Project shop at Blantyre market!

**Transition Planning** – Following on from the project evaluations at end 2017 we have continued to work on a suitable transition plan including discussions regarding the AEC proposed employment of a full time AEC Project Officer. Jacky was invited to be part of the AEC interview panel in August and the preferred candidate accepted the post and will start on 9 October. HOPE for AIDS will provide funding support for this post (through the Master Project) to the end of 2018 so that the Projects Officer is able to spend approx 50% time working on mainstreaming HOPE for AIDS related projects including Home Based Care.

The HBC co-ordinator has also had some discussions with Mai Bilifi, who was AEC Head of Ministry and now moved to be Head of Social Services (working in a voluntary role) as part of hearing more of the AEC future plans particularly as they might related to HIV/AIDS issues. Unfortunately, limited resources within the AEC and lack of time availability of Mai Bilifi (due to her full time employment commitments) means that the AEC has not been able to make any significant progress in implementing its own additional HIV/AIDS ministries.

**Patient Welfare:** We are thankful for the good harvest this year such that over the last 6 months there has been greater food security with maize prices remaining low.

One patient, a young woman at Naotcha, was extremely unwell and the program agreed to provide additional funding support for her to have various costly tests not available at the public hospital primarily related to thyroid functioning. However, since all the results returned normal, doctors are still at a loss as to know what the real problem is.

## Future Plans

Complete the Naotcha HBC Refresher Training

Provide roofing plastic to beneficiaries prior to the rainy season.

To work with the new AEC Projects Officer on implementation of the transition plan.

To plan operations so that they will continue smoothly during the Hammond's Home Assignment (Nov 2017-Jun/Jul 2018).

## Stories - 10 Years of Faithful Volunteering

Pictured are our faithful HBC volunteers at Chapananga, many of whom have been compassionately visiting the sick every week since the program started there over 10 years ago. The refresher trainings we've been holding at each of our 6 locations over the last few months not only build volunteer capacity but also provide an opportunity to thank them, acknowledging that we couldn't do this ministry



HBC Volunteers, Sani, helping to roof a beneficiary's house

without them! To encourage and show our appreciation we also provide a few items to help them as they do the visiting, like polo shirts & new shoes (being modelled in the photo!).

Not only do our volunteers make home visits each week and deliver much needed food parcels we often hear stories of how they have gone 'the extra mile'. For example, recently the volunteers at Sani helped re-roof the house of a beneficiary who was too sick to do it herself. We pray that many will see the love of God through such faithful acts of service and praise His name.

HBC volunteers, Chapananga



### Prayer requests

For good working relationships with the new AEC Projects Officer.

For HBC operations to continue smoothly while Hammond's are on home assignment.

For volunteers to receive the transition plan positively and maintain a ministry heart.