

Aquaid Lifeline Fund



The Lifeline story

While visiting friends in Malawi in 1998, John Searle saw at first hand the desperate need that threatens so many orphans there, and in June 1999 he founded the Lifeline Fund. Since then, donations have been put to very good use in bringing relief to poverty, famine, and the abandoned. It's a big task, but equally Lifeline has made a big difference to the lives of thousands.

The work of Aquaid Lifeline is mainly concerned with the care and education of orphaned and needy children. It is a shocking fact a Malawian woman lives with a 1 in 7 chance of dying in childbirth, which leaves a large number of orphan infants with relatives who often cannot feed themselves and their own families.

Aquaid Lifeline operates an infant rescue programme, so that support begins for some of our 3000+ dependents virtually at birth.

Since the charity was founded in 1999, we have built an orphan village at Namisu, built 2 schools, both of which are the top schools in their zone; we have also built and staffed 2 clinics, and 9 day-care centres, with an average of 120 orphans at each. Each day-care centre benefits from its own clean water supply, its own agricultural projects, and in some cases a simple solar powered irrigation system for the year-round growth of vegetables.

In addition, facilities have been provided for the manufacture of clothes at each centre, so that the emphasis is on self-sufficiency. The staff at our centres includes a trained qualified teacher, an administrator, cooks, cleaners, security guards and assistant teachers. Regular healthcare visits are made by our experienced paediatric nurse.

Due to the importance we place on self-sufficiency, we are able to care comprehensively for a day-care orphan for a cost of just £6 per month. None of the contributions which are made to Aquaid Lifeline Fund are used for administration. All the co-ordinator's expenses are privately paid for by family members, so that every penny goes directly to the point of need.

The Lifeline Fund is currently responsible for the creation and building of 13 support centres throughout Malawi. This includes an Infant Rescue centre, disabled centre, nurseries, and secondary schools along with literally hundreds of boreholes.

The village at Namisu cares for orphans, near Blantyre. The orphanage is home to over 115 children and another 400 benefit from day care. The village provides healthcare, schooling, agriculture and vocational training.

Further schools have been built, including one at Namarita, near Zomba, where no educational facilities had ever existed. As many as 500 pupils enjoy these facilities, and a further 120 children benefit from a thriving nursery school.

Under the Scholarship Scheme, young people are studying agriculture and irrigation at University, while others undertake training in nursing, teaching and various trades such as carpentry. To date 600 young people have benefited from the program, many are now professionals such as doctors, teacher and mechanics. Lifeline has not only built hope for them but also support for their extended families.

What the Charity Does

Orphan Care

The Lifeline Fund has built two orphan care villages in Namjsu just outside Blantyre and Namaitha in the Zomba district between them these two centres care for many children.

Residential and Day Care

Most of our children are looked after on a day care basis. This enables them to remain in their communities, not isolated in an orphan village and keeps them connected to their home communities. We are able to supplement the work of their guardians, often members of their extended family. Depending of each child's needs we can provide two meals a day (breakfast and lunch), the safety and security of a day-care centre with nursery education, access to primary and secondary education, training in agriculture and access to healthcare.

We have found that there is a minority of children who because of abuse by their guardians or because they have been completely abandoned need residential care. To provide for this we have begun building small residential units to run alongside our day-care centres.

Here is some information on each of our day-care centres:

Bethel: Here we have a total of 106 day-care children.

Funsani: Here we have a total of 176 day-care children and 15 in residence.

Gomani: here we have a total of 153 day-care children and 17 in residence.

Kambilongo: Here we have a total of 138 day-care children and 11 in residence.

Khombwe: Here we have a total of 114 day-care children.

Lisungwe: Here we have a total of 215 day-care children.

Maliya: here we have a total of 151 day-care children and 18 in residence. We are in process of building an additional residence so that we can take in xx more children in desperate need for residential accommodation.

Mwanza: Here we have a total of 116 day-care children.

Namaritha: Here we have a total of 118 day-care children.

Namisu: Here we have a total of 312 day-care children and 115 in residence.

Ngabo: Here we have a total of 219 day-care children.

Thyolo: Here we have a total of 122 day-care children and 16 in residence.

Infant Rescue

Due to the high levels of mortality and low employment many infants are in desperate need of help so Aquaid currently runs a project providing food and medical care to many of the infants located around its orphan villages and day care centres

We are providing 100 infants in the area around Namisu with Lactogen Milk Power each month. In addition, Feed the Children are helping us with the cost of supplying 50 toddlers with Vitameal Soya Porridge.

Primary Education

We run two primary schools, one located at our headquarters at Namisu Orphan Village near Lunzu north of Blantyre, the other at Namaritha, north east of Zomba. The enrolment at Namisu is 460 children, at Namaritha is 465 children.

Secondary Education

We provide secondary school scholarships for 686 students who would otherwise not be able to afford to continue their education. This is costing us £11,000 a term at the moment.

We have an ambition to build a secondary school at Namaritha. The high cost of building materials at present means we have decided not to proceed just yet. However, we have been given some land and have submitted land lease documents to the Ministry of Lands for approval.

Vocational Education

We are supporting 117 students in vocational training.

We have had students complete their training in the following fields.

- Welding
- Vehicle management
- Brick laying
- Plumbing
- Carpentry
- Hotel and catering
- Computing
- accounting

Care For Disabled Children

We recently opened a day-care and residential facility for severely physically and mentally disabled children, known as The Dawn Centre in memory of the late mother of one of our benefactors. It provides for 20 day-care children and 32 in residence.

The children are divided into three classes, nursery, standard 1 and standard 2. Since attending the centre, many of the children have made good progress in areas of improved health, communication and language ability, motor skills and crawling and walking ability.

Aged Project Trust

We have recently supplied 312 elderly people in desperate need with monthly maize supplies. This amounted to 62 x 50kg bags a month. It is likely that since the harvest is poor this season, a significant amount to maize will be needed again for such relief from September onwards.

Under the Age Project Trust we are giving 371 elderly people help. Most recently we gave them new maize bags and chemicals in order to store their maize harvest safely. They have now requested blanket as the winter season fast approaches.