

AQUAID LIFELINE FUND

NEWS FROM MALAWI

*20 Years of **AquAid Lifeline** and Still Going Strong.....
Thanks to our Loyal Supporters!*

It's hard to believe that it's been 20 years, but as the saying goes, time really does fly when you are enjoying yourself! It has been such a huge privilege to work alongside our very loyal supporters to ensure that every penny is well spent directly at the point of need in Malawi. Without you, we are nothing and could not have achieved any of the amazing accomplishments which have transformed thousands of lives in Malawi. Whether you give regular donations, knit a blanket or teddy, support students through their college and university lives, or help in some other way, your kindness and generosity is much appreciated. A special mention must go to **CoolerAid** who, in total, have donated an astonishing £6,963,809.12. What an achievement! On behalf of every single beneficiary in Malawi, we thank you.

Here are just a few photographs demonstrating how we have carefully spent the money. The smiles on the faces of the beautiful children say it all. If you would like any further information on any of our projects, we would be delighted to hear from you - our contact details are printed overleaf.





❑ **Remember Aaron?** He appeared in our Summer 2015 Newsletter holding a bright yellow teddy bear that he had borrowed from his friend. Aaron was one of the residents at **AquAid Lifeline's** Dawn Centre, one of the very few facilities in Malawi that accommodates, educates and encourages children with a special need or disability. Well, he definitely has the need for a teddy bear now as he is happily married and has a beautiful baby, Isaac, to take care of. Without the opportunity to reside at the Dawn Centre, Aaron's future would have been very different. Disabled children and adults face many challenges in Malawi but here is Aaron demonstrating that, with a little assistance, he manages to hold down a full-time job and supports his very own family.

❑ Pictured right is Gracious, one of our employees who looks after our farming and agricultural department. **AquAid Lifeline** takes deforestation extremely seriously and we are constantly striving to think of new ways to address the huge loss of trees throughout Malawi. With most households relying on firewood and charcoal to cook their meals, the trees are declining at an alarming rate. One initiative that we have taken, to address this worrying problem, is to grow our own giant bamboo. Here is Gracious holding some bamboo charcoal with a young bamboo plant in the background. Once we have completed our trials, we are hoping to switch from traditional charcoal to bamboo charcoal which is far more sustainable and beneficial to the environment. We will also be looking at how we can use it as a building material. Watch this space!



❑ Nothing could have prepared **AquAid Lifeline** Co-ordinator, Josie Charter, for the condition of the 'house' that a family of 5 were living in close to our main Administration Centre at Namisu. The young children are students at our primary school and they were desperate enough to approach Chisangalalo Ntonio, our Children's Welfare Officer (*pictured left*), to tell him that they were hungry as they had no food at home. They were completely reliant on having breakfast at our centre before school followed by a hot lunch after school had finished. A huge part of Chisangalalo's role is assessing children who are at risk and taking the appropriate action to bring them to safety. "I was not prepared for the state of the house, it had no roof and the children all slept with their mother on the dirt floor using dirty rags and a mosquito net as their mattress and blanket. There was no evidence of any food anywhere." he reported. I am pleased to report that all 4 children are now resident at Namisu and have settled in very well indeed. They maintain contact with their mother who is residing in a small house with extended family members. Josie Charter was worried that the children would be anxious about moving somewhere new but, on the contrary, when the truck came to collect them, they were literally dancing for joy!

The **AQUAID LIFELINE** Fund offers grateful thanks for continuing magnificent support from **COOLERAID** U.K. Ltd. and the many other donors, which has enabled us to rescue so many and offer hope to those who had none. For further information Tel: John Searle, on (01223) 276710, or Josie Charter, Co-ordinator, on (01480) 351059 or 07827 296275 E-Mail: info@lifelinefund.org.uk