

Shine Relief Prayer



No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help" Isaiah 58 v.6, 7

Quick overview of the problem

Malawi's children face a difficult future. The country is one of the poorest in the world 31.4% of the population lives in severe poverty, with serious consequences for children and women.

Life for many children and women in Malawi is characterised by poor access to healthcare and a high incidence of diarrhoea, malaria and other communicable diseases.

Malnutrition levels have remained high for over a decade. Like most countries in Southern Africa, Malawi is at the epicentre of the HIV epidemic. AIDS-related illnesses are robbing the country of people in their prime – life expectancy at birth now stands at 54.8 years.

The government and international donors have both made commendable efforts to increase access to treatment and to improve prevention initiatives. Factors such as the scale of the epidemic and the shortage of human and financial resources available however have hindered progress.



UNICEF defines an Orphan in Malawi as *"a child under the age of 18 years who has lost one or both parents through death."*

Information taken from UNICEF

- 180,000 children in Malawi are living with HIV.
- Nearly 50% of all children under 5 yrs old have stunted development.
- More than 6 in 10 children are classified as anemic.
- 7 out of 10 child deaths in Malawi are due to preventable causes such as malaria, diarrhea, pneumonia, anemia, malnutrition and neonatal causes.
- Only 6% of orphans and vulnerable children receive medical support.
- Almost 30% of poor children fail to start primary school, which is free in Malawi.
- Only 6% of orphans receive education support.
- More than half a million children orphaned by AIDS.

<http://www.unicef.org/malawi/overview.html>

According to the 2006 MICS, 29% of children aged 5-14 years are involved in the worst forms of child labour. Sexual exploitation, abuse and trafficking of children are believed to be increasing, but more reliable statistics are needed. Legislation related to child care, protection, justice, adoption and inheritance is outdated and not in line with international standards. Only in 2012 did Malawi celebrate the start of a universal and compulsory birth registration process guaranteeing Malawi's children full protection against trafficking, child labour, child prostitution, early marriage and other abuses. Birth registration hope to ensure an official system for verifying the ages of children and will, therefore, help enforce existing laws.

Lack of appropriate knowledge and skills, cultural practices, illiteracy, gender inequity and poor access to media all contribute to continued risky attitudes and practices at individual, household and community levels.

A Vulnerable Child is

"one who lacks proper care and support and basic necessities of life such as food, love and shelter and these include children living on the streets, children in families with sick parents and parents with disabilities or guardians, abandoned and neglected children that lack proper care even when parents may be alive as well as children in conflict with the law."

Deprived of their parents, orphans they lose their first line of protection. They also lose access to social services. Children without the guidance and protection of their primary caregivers run the risk of becoming victims of violence, exploitation, trafficking, discrimination and other abuses. There are numerous threats that orphans face each day: poverty, the direct and indirect effects of AIDS, lack of proper nourishment, and no access to healthcare, lack of resources to stay in school or inability to attend school due to household demands.

Current Prayer requests

Pray for the trustee boards for wisdom and strength as they work together to raise funds whilst helping to build the work on the ground in Malawi

Please pray for the Project Manager, Suzen and the support workers as they bring relief to the vulnerable.

Supporting orphans and vulnerable children in the community.

Praise God that the children's home is complete

We are now in the process of placing children and training the staff and committee.



The Early Years Group. Please pray for the Early Years team as it grows and supports the CBO teams in Nsondole and Chilambe. Praise God for answered prayer with resources and training provided this summer!

Discipleship and education of young people.

Praise God for our students and their focus during the past months as they have settled into College and school.



“Shine Assembly” Church

Pray for Pastor Lino and his wife and the team. Praise God for the bibles received and for those who recently came to faith and have been baptised. Please pray for these new Christians as some have challenges ahead as they come from Muslim backgrounds.

Shine farmland.

Praise God for a good harvest! Malawi experienced its worst food security crisis in over a decade last year so we are so relieved to see the stores full. With 6.5 million people, including 3.5 million children, in need of food assistance in 24 districts last year there is still a way to go to see households back on their feet.

Shine Village centre will be used to train more families in Farming Gods way over the coming year so they will harvest enough maize for the year.

Pray for funds to set up businesses at Shine Village – we want to have a maize Mill and start Moringa farming this year.

Praise God, for He is the God who hears our requests and grants us peace.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians v 6-7

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” James 1:27 (NIV)