

CHURCH OF CENTRAL AFRICA PRESBYTERIAN

SYNOD OF LIVINGSTONIA LILONGWE EAST PRESBYTERY **KASAMBA CONGREGATION**

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SCOTLAND COVID-19 SUPPORT REPORT



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INTRODUCTION

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), an infectious disease caused by corona virus has caused adverse effects on the population worldwide. The pandemic has claimed lot of lives in the world including Malawi as a country. The pandemic has not only affected the population through illnesses and deaths but has had an adverse effect on the world economy resulting in many people losing their jobs and others sources of income. The loss of income has resulted in some households failing to put in place preventive measures for their safety.

As at 30th August, Malawi has had 5,536 confirmed cases cumulatively from the time a first case was identified in March. Of these 3,147 have recovered and 2,215 are still active where as a total of 174 have died of the pandemic. Despite the high cumulative figures, the infection rate has currently started declining, a situation that gives hope to the general public as this will ease pressure on the already inadequate health facilities and services in the country.

Following the outspread of the pandemic and its effect on general population in the world and Malawi to be specific, Kasamba CCAP Congregation of the Synod of Livingstonia received financial support from their partners in Mid Argyll Community in Scotland. The total financial support was sent in two tranches; **MK3, 390, 690.00** and **MK985, 744.86** respectively, summing up to **MK4, 376, 435.36**. The support was aimed at helping Kasamba congregation in its efforts to adhere to measures put in place by church management and Synod office to prevent and control spread of infections among church members and surrounding community. This report therefore covers the utilization of the funds received, which was done through support to church prevention measures, outreach to Kawale Health Centre and outreach to Mitundu Community Clinic.

A. CHURCH CIVID-19 PREVENTION MEASURES

Following the pandemic outbreak, the church management came up with prevention measures in line with World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines, to be practiced at church as a way of curbing the spread of infection among church members and communities surrounding the church

in a way of supporting measures that were put aside by the Synod office and government. These included:

- i. Increasing the number of services from two to three to avoid overcrowding in the two church halls
- ii. Using both church halls during service by beaming live the service which is taking place in the Main Multipurpose Hall.
- iii. Having hand washing facilities and hand washing soap on every entrance into both halls for washing hands by members as they into the church halls.
- iv. Compulsory use of face masks by all members attending church services
- v. Use of hand sanitizers by those using microphones.
- vi. Use of disinfectants for furniture surfaces and mopping the floors of the church building and Offices frequently.



Church service showing social distance in the Main Multipurpose Hall

To make sure that the above measures are being adhered to as well as to make sure that right safety items are procured, church management

instituted a Health and Safety committee comprising of health experts to champion the task. The aim was to gain from their expertise and experiences in the hospitals. The following items were recommended and bought for the church:

- i. **Video Camera:** To be used for beaming the church service in the upper small hall, the church uses a big screen in the upper small hall for members to follow the live service taking place in the Main Multipurpose Hall.
- ii. **Cloth mask:** A total of 800 cloth masks were tailored and distributed to all members including those in the prayer houses for use every time they attend church service or meetings as shown in some pictures in the photo gallery.
- iii. **Procurement of Protective and Prevention Items:** Several items including surgical masks, gloves, face shields; handwashing facilities, handwashing soap, sanitizers, and disinfectants were bought and are being used at church.



A service in progress in the main multipurpose hall.

B. KAWALE HEALTH CENTRE OUTREACH

Part of the first tranche donation was channeled to outreach activities as advised by the partners. Looking at how the pandemic has affected communities within Lilongwe city thereby providing pressure to the inadequate health facilities within the city. The church agreed to support the local health facility (Kawale Health Centre), which is mostly being accessed by the church members.

Kawale Health Centre is located within the Kawale location where Kasamba Congregation is situated. The clinic serves the communities within the Kawale location as well as other areas surrounding Kawale from where church members reside. The locations include Mchesi, Biwi, Chilinde, Kaliyeka, Chipasula and many more.

The clinic was supported with a number of medical items such as sanitizers, infrared thermometers, surgical masks, gloves, handwashing soap and basins, aprons, gumboots, disinfectants and other medical requirements. Members from the church guilds led by the Moderator, Rev C.V.K. Mwale and the Session Clerk, Mr Duncan Mwafulirwa and the Health committee delivered the items to the clinic on 29th July, 2020.



Kasamba CCAP Guilds members at Kawale Health Centre donating COVID-19 PPEs

Staff from the health centre appreciated the good gestures as they explained how the items were to fill the gap on protective and preventive items on the shortfalls being experienced by staff at the clinic. (Refer to video clip in zipped folder)



Some of the donated items to Kawale Clinic.

C. OUTREACH TO MITUNDU COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

On 30th August, 2020, Rev C.V.K. Mwale accompanied by the Session clerks led some church guild members visited Mitundu Community Hospital to finalize the outreach support donation as stipulated in the second donation tranche. During the visit a cheque worth **MK985, 744.86** was delivered to the doctor heading the hospital and the Administrator who represented all staff at the hospital.



2nd Deputy Session Clerk and some Christians at Mitundu Community Hospital.

The Church Health and Safety Committee identified Mitundu Community Clinic because it is one of the major rural health clinics in the city that supports a large community in the outskirts of the city. The hospital is located about 45 kilometers from the city of Lilongwe and is within the area where two of the Kasamba prayer houses are located namely; Chipoka and Mitundu . It covers a radius of 74 kilometers in its community outreach for health service provision. Members from the Mitundu and Chipoka Prayer houses of the Kasamba congregation as well as surrounding communities access their health services from this hospital.

In response to the support provided, the Doctor expressed great appreciation to the cash support and thanked Kasamba church and the reverend for their consideration to support Mitundu community hospital. He further explained that the support will go a long way in narrowing the gaps and sorting out some of the challenges faced by them as hospital staff working in the rural areas. Among other things, he explained that the funds will be used in intensifying the community sensitization and awareness of COVID-19 and other diseases which has been a big challenge due to low literacy levels.



Rev CVK Mwale and team at Mitundu Community Clinic

CONCLUSION

The Kasamba Congregation of the CCAP Synod of Livingstonia greatly appreciates the support rendered by the Mid Argyll Community in

preventing the spread of COVID-19 pandemic in the country. The support is helping the church in controlling spread of the pandemic among its members at church as well as in their households. The donation made to hospitals will not only support the church members but all communities that access health services at the hospitals as well as hospital personnel through provision of their protection from COVID-19 as they deliver their duties.

The balance amounting MK678, 998.35 will be channeled to procure extra COVID19 items for the church and the report will follow.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Reconciliation Summary

COVID-19 DONATION FUNDS RECONCILIATION SUMMARY	
CASH INFLOW	AMOUNT (MK)
First Donation	3,390,690.00
Second Donation	985,744.86
SUB TOTAL	4,376,434.86
OUT FLOW	
Video Camera	670,000.00
Kawale Clinic Outreach	1,106,014.65
Church & Prayer houses	875,677.00
Mitundu Community Hospital Outreach	985,744.86
Publicity	60,000.00
SUB TOTAL	3,697,436.51
NET BALANCE	678,998.35

Note: The balance of MK678,998.35 will be used to make some more cloth masks for the prayer houses.

More photos...



Some of the donated items







