

UNAI MEMBER ACTIVITY REPORT 2016/2017

UNICAF University

Malawi

During the 2016/2017 reporting period, UNICAF University undertook a number of activities that underscore its commitment to UNAI and its principles. The following examples stand out as particularly noteworthy:

1) SCHOLARSHIPS

Through the award of generous UNICAF scholarships UU increases access to higher education in Malawi, providing educational opportunities for all citizens in the country and in Africa as a whole, regardless of gender, race, religion or ethnicity. In co-operation with Malawi newspapers UU has offered full scholarships to qualified, needy students to study for a Master's degree. A large number of events are organised by Unicaf University in Malawi to contribute to the pursuit of knowledge and dissemination of ideas as tools for national development, like the Open Lecture Series, hosting distinguished speakers presenting their views on hot topics, which can be attended by any interested citizen. Many charity events are also sponsored by Unicaf University in Malawi to tackle the issue of poverty, especially events which concentrate on helping mothers and children in need



2) UNICAF UNIVERSITY STAFF NEAR NEW MUMS AND THEIR INFANTS

Unicaf University Malawi (UUMA) Campus staff, headed by the University's Rector Professor Kuthemba Mwale, visited new mothers and their infants at the Bwaila District Hospital's Maternity Unit in Lilongwe, at the beginning of March 2017, bearing special gifts. For this Unicaf University in Malawi action of corporate social responsibility, 60 packages were delivered to an equal number of new mums at the hospital.

Each of the packages contained a packet of sugar, a Chitenji cloth, a bar of bath soap, 2 bars of washing soap and two cloth nappies.

The packages handed out were very useful; bath soaps are scarce and new mums may go for days without a bath. Reusable cloth nappies, and soap to wash them in, are also very welcome presents. The Chitenji cloth is 2 meters long and can be used to cover the baby or to carry it on the mother's back. The sugar can be added to the porridge new mothers are served every morning, while in hospital. Sister Elistiner Kayange, in charge of the ward the UUMA team visited, said: "While we can give our patients medical assistance, there are other, important things, which we cannot give them, and you have fulfilled that.... All we can



Figure 2 Exterior of Bwaila District Hospital in Malawi.

say is thank you very much and may God bless you all.... We hope to have more visits from you in the future."

Unicaf University Malawi Campus Vice Chancellor, Professor Kuthemba Mwale stated: "Unicaf University is here to stay. It is a citizen of Lilongwe, a Citizen of Malawi. Whatever other citizens of Malawi experience we share; when they are in hospital and sick we are with them. When they are in the maternity wards giving birth to the new generation, we are with them. As



Figure 1 Vice Chancellor of UU in Malawi Professor Kuthemba Mwale visiting a new mother at Bwaila District Hospital

conscientious citizens, we try to support them in whatever they are going through. Young mothers and their infants are our present and future students, so we have to care about them; they will be a part of us when they become Unicaf University students. We have to attend to their needs, help them from the start, make them realise that in Unicaf University they have a family, which cares about them and can prepare them for a bright future..... Unicaf University is not only interested in them as individuals, but also as representatives of the body of Malawi citizens, who will help the whole country to grow, develop and become self-sustaining..... We wanted to show that, in Unicaf University, all Malawi citizens have a family; that this new

university has the welfare of the people at heart."

Although some of the new mothers were in discomfort, as they were recovering from C-section operations, they expressed real joy when they were handed the UUMA gift package. Mrs Banda, one of the recipients, said that the items in the package would help her and her baby a lot, and sent blessings to everyone at Unicaf University.

Disclaimer: This activity report has been submitted by UNICAF University and does not necessarily reflect the views of or represent an endorsement by the United Nations Academic Impact.

3) UNICAF UNIVERSITY SPONSORS “MOTHERS' FUN RUN” TO RAISE FUNDS FOR QUEEN ELIZABETH CENTRAL HOSPITAL

(Press Release dated September 30th, 2017)

Unicaf University is a proud sponsor, for the second year, of Nation Publications’ “Mothers Fun Run”. The event was held on Saturday, 7th of October 2017, and was designed to generate much needed funds towards the purchase of maternal and neonatal healthcare equipment and supplies for the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital and its 26 Health Centres in Blantyre District. Every month 4 mothers and 54 babies lose their lives, because of delivery related complications, in the Blantyre district alone. Under the banner “Safe motherhood: together we can make a difference”, Nation Publications Ltd organises this charity event, calling on volunteers to take part in the sponsored run, aiming to mobilize resources and save lives. Last year the event’s beneficiary was the Mzimba District Hospital. According to children’s charity UNICEF, despite progress in reducing child mortality, one in eight children in Malawi are still dying, mostly of preventable causes, such as neonatal conditions, pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria and HIV-related diseases.



Figure 3 Vice Chancellor of Unicaf University in Malawi Professor Kuthemba Mwale hands the cheque with UU's donation to the representative of NATION Publications to be used for the purchase of maternal and neonatal healthcare equipment and supplies for the Queen

Unicaf University, a pan-African, multi-campus educational institution, which aims to contribute to development and progress in all communities where it is present, through teaching, learning and research, through the empowerment of its students and graduates to become agents of change for themselves, their country and Africa as a whole, as well as through direct support of actions and events which contribute to a better quality of life for all citizens, of all ages. All undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes of Unicaf University are registered with and approved by the National Council for Higher Education of Malawi. The generous UNICAF Scholarship Programme offers generous scholarships covering a large part of tuition fees, and has already awarded over \$70 million worth of scholarships to needy, qualified students.

Link: <https://unicafuniversity.com/malawi/>

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