



FOL Newsletter

Fountain of Life

ISSUE 8

KCH ONE STOP CENTRE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

After almost three (3) years of waiting for the construction of the One Stop Center (OSC) at Kamuzu Central Hospital in the capital city of Malawi, Lilongwe, construction finally began in August 2015.

The Plan is to have an One Stop Center in every district or district hospital. So far, the One Stop Center at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Blantyre is the only fully functional OSC in Malawi but there are buildings in other areas like Zomba, Mchinji, and Mzuzu.

Fountain of Life (MW) Ltd is the NGO that is providing trauma counseling, follow ups, support group sessions at the OSC in Blantyre and some members of staff of FOL are also in the OSC team for Lilongwe OSC. Now that the building is under construction, we hope Lilongwe will have a fully functional OSC soon.



Pictures of the KCH OSC under construction

The construction foreman Mr. Ziwoya said the plan is to finish construction by December but water supply is limited and so are other supplies so it may delay. As seen on the photo, at least construction has begun and we have hope it will be finished as planned. The building is located next to the skin clinic, away from the main hospital.

Did You Know?

- Lilongwe, the capital city of Malawi does not have a “building” for the OSC but the team is available. Mzuzu and Zomba have buildings for the OSC but they are not functioning.
- One of the support systems for victims of defilement and rape is their “church” but most churches and church leaders do not know how to respond to the victims needs effectively.
- All the One Stop Centre Stories published in our newsletters are not fictional but FOL asks for consent to tell the story from the clients.

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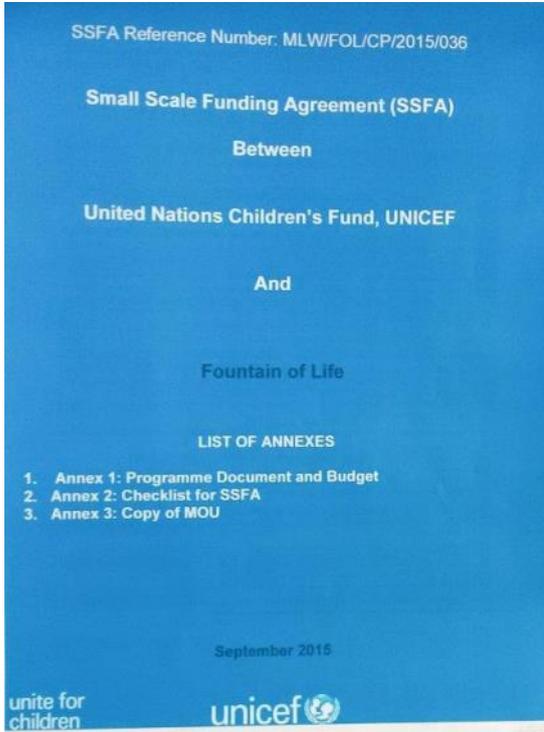
EAM TO HELP WITH DISSEMINATION OF TOOLKIT

Fountain of Life, with the help of the Evangelical Association of Malawi (EAM), is planning on disseminating the church tool kit that was published to help church bodies and leaders respond effectively to victims of defilement, rape and sexual assault this coming month (October).

EAM is expected to mobilize church leaders all over Malawi who will participate in a training workshop where FOL will train the leaders on how to use the toolkit. We hope to carry out the training in Lilongwe, Blantyre and Mzuzu and hope to train at least hundred (100) church leaders.

Participants will be given the toolkit as a hardcopy and as a soft copy on flash drives.

UNICEF PARTNERS WITH FOL



The Cover Page

On 21st September 2015, FOL's country director officially signed the Small Scale Funding Agreement between UNICEF and FOL.

There is one fully functional One Stop (Chikwanekwane) Centre (OSC) in Malawi which is at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Blantyre but Government, UNICEF and UNFPA are working to renovate or build OSCs in all major district hospitals in Malawi. After observing that the FOL model implemented at the Blantyre OSC is very effective, FOL will be working to replicate this in Zomba, Lilongwe and Mzuzu. The FOL trauma counseling model works closely with the OSC teams and provides trauma counseling, follow ups, and support groups.

Some of the expected results for this partnership are increased client numbers at OSCs through awareness of the service and increased quality service, a strategy to recruit volunteer lay counselors developed and tested and delivery of trauma counseling at the OSCs for victims of sexual violence.

We are looking forward to working with UNICEF to launch the OSCs in Lilongwe, Mzuzu and Zomba so that we have fully functional OSCs in all three districts in Malawi. Mzuzu and Zomba have OSC buildings but Lilongwe OSC at Kamuzu Central Hospital is under construction. We thank UNICEF for believing in us and entrusting us with this task.

ONE STOP CENTRE STORY

Kamuzu Central Hospital in Lilongwe has no OSC building but the OSC team is available and functioning. Whenever there is a client at the hospital, they are referred to Fountain of Life. Either a counselor goes to the hospital or the client comes to the FOL offices for a counseling session.

One of the clients who came to FOL was a sixteen (16) year old girl with a disability who came in with her guardian. The girl (victim) could not narrate properly because of her condition but the guardian could. The guardian said the girl was raped by a stranger but after asking a few questions about her routine, it was discovered that it was a man who was watching her and observing her daily movements. He followed her one day and attacked her. Since the girl has a disability, she was very vulnerable, and she couldn't scream.

When her guardian returned home, the girl reported to her guardian and no one else because she is the only one who can understand her. They were referred to Fountain of Life for counseling.

Children with disabilities are more vulnerable to abuse. They require extra effort to protect them from all forms of abuse.



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**MALAWI'S ANSWER TO THOSE
SUFFERING FROM SEXUAL ASSAULT**