



Friends of Sick Children in Malawi



('FOSCiM' and 'FOSC')

[FOSCiM registered charity number 1140578]

[FOSC registered charity number (Malawi) C647/2013]



and

Birmingham Commonwealth Association T&B Group

Malawi is one of the very poorest nations of the World.

Our mission is to support the establishment and development of sustainable paediatric healthcare services in Malawi for the 50% of the population under the age of 18 years. Sustainability in this context means a service that in due course will be managed and run by Malawians in their own nation rather than a service that continues to be dependent upon foreign human and financial resources and interventions.

Covid-19 arrived later in sub-Saharan Africa compared to most of the World. Before it arrived, many of the NGOs and other bodies repatriated their staff which left our cadre in Paediatrics stretched beyond the norm. *Our* expats all chose to stay. For their own safety we chose to release a number of our more vulnerable Malawian ward staff. Malawi as a nation was not prepared for the pandemic and there was no PPE in the Country. We launched an appeal for our colleagues and friends in paediatrics and were humbled and overwhelmed by the response from various corners of the globe.

Medical Devices Technology International Limited (MDTi) via the **Birmingham Commonwealth Association Trade & Business Group** offered help and quickly provided consignments of Medical Equipment and PPE and paid for the delivery to our 'front line'. Despite the best efforts of the Carriers to frustrate the process the packages arrived securely and safely! Zikomo MDTi/BCA!

Current Covid-19 statistics for Malawi:

The pandemic began to be recorded in Malawi towards the end of May 2020. By mid September there were 5,690 reported cases and 177 deaths followed by a low flat-lining effect until the end of the year when a large spike began such that by mid January 2021 reported cases shot up to 13,027 with 321 deaths.

Even allowing for the vagaries of data capture in a nation such as Malawi, and the impact will always be devastating for affected families, the overall impact in a population of just under 20 million appears less than in so-called First World countries. The various theories as to why this should be will probably be tested in due course but for now the Malawi experience is not unique in poorer nations.

Cooperation, nibbleness and practical application is what will set UK companies apart from many of their competitors, this is especially so where it applies to Commonwealth trade.

