

# Lifeline Malawi

*“Leading the way in Bringing life transforming hope and healing to Africa”*

Dear friends;

June 2009

## ***In Malawi, 70% of orphans are conscripted into child labour.***

More than half of the children within the Kasese Clinic catchment area are involved in child labour in one form or another. Out of Malawi’s one million orphans, 500,000 have lost one or both of their parents to AIDS. These young ones are classified as “Orphans and Vulnerable Children” and we work with hundreds of them every week.

Generally, children who lose their mothers suffer immense grief over the loss of love and nurturing that mothers typically give. Children who lose their fathers suffer especially from a decline in their standard of living, as the death of a father usually means substantial loss of income for the household – *thus the high rates of child labour.*

**The challenges that an AIDS orphan endures start even before a parent’s death.** Young children are put under tremendous stress when they care for their sick parents and assume other family responsibilities that are well beyond their years. They also suffer anxiety and depression as they watch their parents die.

True to the African tradition, the extended family and communities rise to the occasion and do what they can to take these children in. **A fifth of all households in Malawi take care of one or more orphans.** Of these, 49% have women as head of the households – statistically the poorest households.

The numbers of orphans and other vulnerable children in the Kasese area are so large it strains the traditional coping mechanisms of absorbing them into their communities. Resources are limited and households and communities are being overwhelmed.

The extent of vulnerability faced by AIDS orphans depends on many factors: whether they have been infected themselves, whether they have relatives willing to foster them, whether these relatives have the means of caring for them, whether they must work or are allowed to go to school, how they are treated within the new home and community, what degree of trauma they have suffered, what responsibilities they are left with to care for siblings...do you get the picture?



**In the Kasese district of Malawi, 57% of children in the 6 -11 age group are involved in child labour**

**Lifeline Malawi**

**210-1289 Highfield Cres. SE Calgary, AB Canada T2G 5M2**

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**[www.lifelinemalawi.com](http://www.lifelinemalawi.com)**

Given that the number of orphans is projected to triple over the next 10 years, it is tremendously important to address this problem and strengthen public capacity to take action. **This is where Lifeline's field programs make a tremendous difference!**

Lifeline has an extensive program supporting Orphans and vulnerable children that reaches out from both the Ngodzi and Kasese clinics into the surrounding villages four days per week. In these villages, Under Five Shelters are set up by community organizations for children who have no place to go. These children are cared for medically by Lifeline Malawi and are provided with food and shelter by other community based organizations. What is so important is that these children still remain within their communities. Families that have taken orphaned children into their homes receive special health care support to reduce the added financial burden. Other groups have mobilized as well to reduce child labour and encourage education.



Bringing hope, healing, and positive change into the lives of these little ones and the communities that try to support them is some of the most vital work that Lifeline does.

These children are going to play a big part in the future of Malawi. These village care programs help bring these children from trauma and deprivation into a new lease on life. It's wonderful to watch the fear and hunger melt away to smiles; to see a disease stricken child be renewed to health when otherwise they would receive little or no care. Your gifts make these transformations possible. Lifeline programs are at work every day meeting this challenge, and there is much more we could do as funds are made available. Please enable us to carry your compassion to an orphan today by giving generously.

Donating to Lifeline Malawi is easy: you can donate online at [www.lifelinemalawi.com](http://www.lifelinemalawi.com); you can arrange automatic withdrawals from your bank account or credit card on a semi-monthly or monthly basis. One thing you can be certain of is that your donations make a huge difference in the lives of so many people

***You can make that transformation possible.***

***Please give generously today.***

Kim Veness

Lifeline Malawi

*"The Lifeline Malawi Association is planning to raise an estimated amount of \$2,000,000.00 this year through its fund-raising campaigns. According to our governance policies our administration and fund-raising costs will not exceed 10% of revenues raised. The money raised will be going to leading the way in bringing life transforming hope and healing to Africa. For further information, please contact Mr. Kim Veness, (403)-214-7780. Our address is 210-1289 Highfield Cres. SE Calgary, AB Canada T2G 5M2" Registered Charity # 89804 6107 RR001*

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