

Winter 2022



Be part of his future



Molima Home, Dedza, is run by Wezi, Ruth and George Banda. Ruth set up the home originally with her late husband, Isaac.

When Isaac passed away, Ruth 'retired'. However, our trustees who visited Dedza before the Covid

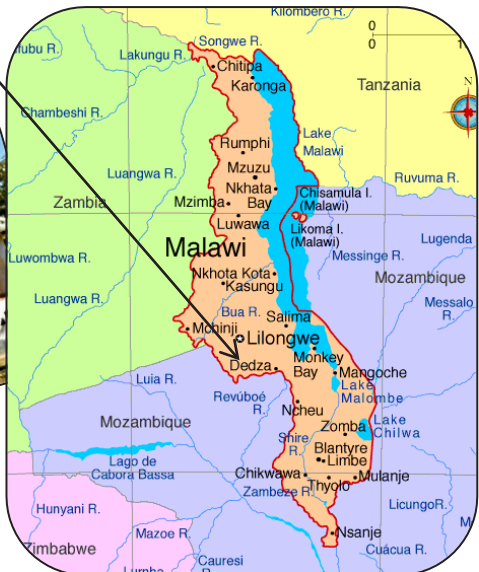
pandemic reported that Ruth was still a very busy, active and loving influence in Molima! Wezi, their daughter, is now the primary manager of the home, ably supported by George, her brother. The family and their work are well respected in Dedza and are supported by both the Social Welfare Department and village chiefs.

They face major economic, health, education and environmental challenges in Malawi. We are so thankful for their commitment to providing happy, healthy lives for the children in their care.



Molima

Dedza





Above - Blessing, just a few months later.

Right - He is with his new friend **Joshua**, Wezi's great nephew, who loves to play with him. As you can see Blessing has really 'found his feet' and is thriving under the care of the Banda family. He is also accepted well by the older children – particularly when he tries to play football with them!

Meet *Blessing*

This little boy is the *youngest* and *newest* addition to Molima. We were informed that he had been abandoned by his mother at the Town Hall in Dedza and was taken to Molima by police and social welfare. There was no record of his name or date of birth but it is thought he was around eighteen months on arrival. He has been named Blessing and all at Molima certainly feel very blessed to have him with them.



We apologise for the quality of some photos – there are technical issues in Malawi which have an impact. We are trying to address them

School news – congratulations!



Malikebu, Henry, Howard, Witness and Yamakani have passed their exams, qualifying them for a place in Secondary School this year. Last year, ***Witness*** said he had been working hard for his exams and hoped he wouldn't let himself or anyone else down. Well, his efforts have paid off! He says that he has been trying his best in all subjects and likes to take part in group discussions. He particularly enjoys sport despite the shortage of equipment.

Orfund has been able to provide the money needed for new uniforms and school equipment, including pens, books, and mathematics items. The school fees are also paid by Orfund, as a result of the generosity of sponsors and donors. We are delighted that through your giving that the Molima Home is making such a difference.

School news – congratulations and a challenge



Four other children took their exams for Secondary School this September – Angela and Stella, Evance and Tendai. All four children passed but unfortunately none were selected for Secondary School.

It was a big disappointment as they have been working very hard. Wezi says they will repeat the exams next year. Sadly, there is no automatic age or exam progression in the education system in Malawi. It must be very hard for the young people to stay motivated and to resit their exams.



Thankful for crops

Torrential wind and rain in February 2022 led to floods and the displacement of many people in Malawi. Molima experienced some damage to their wall. Food costs have risen by 32% and there is significant scarcity of food for people in Malawi.

Thank you to all who have given to Orfund which has enabled:

- * *the rental of 6 acres of land*
- * *payment for 35 workers to harvest the maize from May – July.*
- * *food for the workers*
- * *transport costs*

As you can see,
the maize has
flourished really
well.



Wezi has confirmed that they have enough maize stored for the year. Maize costs at least 50% more than last year. This harvest has made them much more self-sufficient.



Thank you for making this possible!



Above: Maize stock tower ready for harvesting



Left: Wezi is preparing Nsima for the 35 workers who helped with the harvest.

What is Nsima?- a thick porridge prepared with maize and water and a staple diet in Malawi

Carri, our trustee who visited in 2019, says that stirring Nsima is very hard work!


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**A Thanksgiving Service** is held at Molima for the abundant harvest and the firewood which is laid out to dry. Nothing is taken for granted! We thank Wezi and her team, which included the children and young people, for their very hard work.



*Sorting the harvest*





## Chikondi and Charity

You may remember Chikondi from last year's newsletter. She had just returned to the Molima Home after spending a difficult few years with relatives. We are delighted to see how she has flourished over the past eight months. She has not only passed the entrance exams for Secondary School but is doing very well at English and Maths as well as enjoying the opportunity to study a wider variety of subjects.

Charity is also in her first year of Secondary School and we are proud to hear how hard she has been working. She said she is finding Maths and Biology difficult but is having extra lessons to help bring her up to speed. She also mentioned that she has enjoyed making lots of new friends.



*Left-  
Chikondi*

*Right-  
Charity*

## ~~~~~ Chair – Sophie Hodge

I have been Chair of Orfund during 2022, following the unexpected death of Graham Young who had been chair for 8 years. I visited Molima Home, Dedza in 2019 with my husband and with trustee, Carri Hall. Little did we know then what challenges lay ahead for the world with the pandemic. Fortunately the children and carers at Molima have survived Covid so far, but they face other huge challenges with inflation rising to 25.5% in July 2022, petrol pumps running dry, food scarcity and spiralling food costs. Wezi Banda and her team work tirelessly to ensure a clean, healthy environment for the children, together with food, fun and good education. We thank them for that.

As trustees, one of the other issues that challenges us is how to strengthen the life chances of the young girls who can sometimes be expected by extended family or others to return to their villages, to take up caring responsibilities and face poverty and hardship.

Sponsorship and donations are always a challenge. In spite of the 'good story' that we can give about work at Molima, we still need to increase our income and still would like to build a dining room/homework room. Currently donations are just sufficient to enable us to continue revenue costs. We know that it is a very difficult time in the UK with rising energy costs and high inflation. However, we still have so much compared to those in Malawi. (See Page 10) Putting aside the cost of a coffee twice a month, would enable you to donate about £60 in a year. Small contributions and donations from larger fund raising events are all very much valued.

Let us know if you need any extra newsletters for a local event or whether we can help you further. **Thank you** for your support and please consider your giving for 2023.

## Orfund spending during 2022

**£1083 per month** - Molima's running costs, including £15 monthly bank charge

**£900** - fees for Dickson's final university year, including graduation ceremony

**£1500** –rental of 6 acres of land, seeds, fertiliser and pesticides

**£500** – harvesting and transport costs

**£640** – school uniforms and school fees

**£170** – annual car insurance and service

**£250** – special meal and gift for children and staff at Christmas

**Total expenditure 2021/22 - £17,307.88**

**98.2%** spent directly on Molima. Remaining £312.88 on postage, newsletter printing and website maintenance

## Malawi

**12<sup>th</sup> poorest** country in world

Food inflation -**32%**

Fuel prices increase – **19%**

Inflation -**25.5%**

Cholera – October 2022 – in 26/28 districts

Average gross national income per head per year -  
**£550**



**Please give generously**



*.and their futures*



**Charity Registration:** 289546

**Website:** [www.orfund.org](http://www.orfund.org)



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Please email us to let us know about any bank transfer as we may be able to claim an extra 25% Gift Aid. Email: [office@orfund.org](mailto:office@orfund.org)

