

# Orfund NEWS

Winter 2023



Help  
make a  
**difference**  
to his life



## Dickson update



You may remember Dickson from an article featuring him in our newsletter two years ago. He was Molima's first ever University student.

Well, it has been a busy year for him as in January he received his Diploma in Journalism, (see above) and in November he was awarded his Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Mass Communication, (pictured below).

We are particularly proud that Dickson was one of only two students to receive a 'distinction' for their degree. A great achievement for Dickson and we are all very grateful for the funding which has made this possible.



Dickson



Dickson and Wezi



## Another first for Molima!



This year Promise took his exams for Secondary School and passed with exceptional results (achieving the highest results ever recorded in the Dedza district).

This earned him a place at the Mayani Boarding School in Lilongwe. He is the first child from Molima to have been selected and we are delighted for him and proud of his achievement.

Here is Promise along with Witness, Evance, Chikondi, Howard and Henry, all of whom have succeeded in progressing into the next class of their Secondary School.



Here are some of Molima's most recent admissions



Pasulani  
age eight

Efnes  
age six

Gift  
age six

Dickman  
age nine

Alfonso  
age nine

As you can see, they appear very unsure of what the future holds for them but Wezi assures us that they are settling in well.



Here they are again a few weeks later dressed ready for their new schools.

## Dick and Christopher



Dick was brought to Molima back in October by Social Welfare. Tragically, his mother was run over by a bike and killed whilst she was selling food in the street.

She left behind four children, two of whom were too young for Wezi to take on and so have been returned to their extended family.

This is just another illustration of how hard life can be in Malawi, particularly when families are faced with such traumatic situations.

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This is Christopher, (featured on the front cover) Molima's latest recruit. Sadly, his parents were no longer considered fit to look after him and so he was brought to Molima by Dedza police.

His cheeky smile seems to infer that he has already found his feet amongst his new friends at Molima.





## Malawi Evening



This year we held a **Malawi Evening** hosted at the Gateway Church in Poole.

It turned out to be a very enjoyable evening which was well supported by friends as well as our local sponsors. We were delighted to have Nora from Malawi joining us and she was very positive about the evening.

Trustee – Sophie Hodge, Chair of trustees led the presentation, giving us a glimpse into life at the Molima Home.



We even learned how to sing a popular children's song - 'Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes,' in Chichewa – the most widely spoken language in Malawi.

## Malawi Evening

...The children  
were soon  
joining in



The Poole Me Hearties Sea Shanty Group came along to give us some entertainment.

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And we gathered around tables together to enjoy a Malawi meal.

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As well as having a fantastic evening we also raised £385.00 in donations and acquired six new sponsors, whose giving, with gift aid, should generate £2,556 in recurring annual giving.

## First hand news of Molima

We were fortunate enough this year to gain first hand news from Billy Williamson, a member of the Norwich Dedza Partnership Team and friend of Jackie Last, who recently stood down as trustee.

Whilst visiting Dedza in Malawi, he took some gifts to the Molima Home and passed on our greetings to Wezi and the children.

We also benefitted from his many wonderful photos which he took during his visit.



Billy commented on the fact that the children seemed happy and that they appreciated the gifts.

He is going out to Malawi again next year and expressed his willingness to make another visit.





## Chair's Report

Through all the problems Molima has had to cope with this year we have much to be thankful for.

Wezi, family, staff and children have generally been in good health. Malaria is a constant threat, particularly when the children go to visit their villages. Fortunately, this has not been an issue for us this year. There was also a surge of cholera earlier in the year affecting Lilongwe, Blantyre, Mangochi and Nkhata where schools had to close to stop infection spreading. Fortunately, the epidemic did not reach Dedza.

Back in March Malawi saw their fair share of storm damage.

At this time Wezi told us they often had no signal and their communication was affected. Fortunately, Dedza suffered relatively lightly and their crops weren't affected.

This year we have funded a cultivation programme, put together by Wezi .

This has included providing costs for the rental of seven acres of land, seeds, fertilisers, transport, as well as workers to plant and harvest the crops. This has proved to be the most cost-effective way of coping with soaring inflation and ensuring that Molima has the means of being self-sufficient. Malawi has recently devalued its currency which is likely to cause a significant increase in prices -in a country which is already experiencing annual inflation of over 25% and food inflation of over 35%. The first rains have arrived in Dedza, and we join Wezi and her team in praying for more, sustained rain in the weeks ahead.

On an educational front...

It is also important to note that while the success of some of the children has enabled them to move on into Secondary School or into the next year group, others have struggled and have had to redo the year. Many children find this discouraging. Orfund has helped by providing the funding for part-time teachers in the holidays to help the children get through their exams but this is not a guaranteed solution.

## Chair's Report

We've also seen success at different ends of the age spectrum.

You may remember Blessing from the front cover of last year's newsletter. Blessing was adopted earlier this year and is now enjoying a different kind of family life. And we have been celebrating the success of Molima's first graduate following Dickson's award of a BA in Journalism and media studies.

This summer, it was with great sadness that we said goodbye and thank you to two of our trustees, Jackie Last and Michelle Willshire.

Both Jackie and Michelle brought valuable expertise to the team through their social work backgrounds and had served Orfund diligently for nine years and two years respectively. Jackie and Michelle are both looking forward to spending more time with family in this next chapter and we wish them both well and very much hope they will continue to stay part of the Orfund family.

We continue to be tremendously grateful to all who support Molima financially, and especially those who give regularly by standing order.

I am always personally impacted by the stories of the young children who join Molima Home, and an influx of new admissions to Molima this year is a poignant reminder of the tremendous need there is for this work in Malawi.

Yet, covering the day-to-day costs of the Molima Home continues to be a real challenge, especially in the context of the high inflation mentioned earlier! How grateful I am for the six individuals who started supporting Molima financially on a monthly basis following our highly successful 'Malawi evening' in Poole. If it wasn't for this extra monthly income, Orfund would be operating at a significant deficit this year.

As costs continue to rocket in Malawi, I would humbly ask all our sponsors to consider again if they are able to increase their monthly giving. A few extra pounds each month goes a long way in Malawi!

## Chair's Report and Finance Update

### Thank you

To everyone who has helped us to give Molima all that it has needed to provide the children with the care and education that they need. I know that the increase in our cost of living has had a big impact on us all, so your generosity at this time is particularly appreciated.

On behalf of all the trustees thank you very much for your interest in, and support for, the work of Orfund.

*Sophie*, Chair of Trustees

### Orfund spending during 2023

£1070 per month – Molima's running costs and bank charges

£920 – school fees and school uniforms

£1200 – land rental, seeds fertilisers and pesticides

£820 – cultivating, weeding, harvesting and transport costs

£300 – new phone for better communication and photographs

£170 – annual car insurance and service

£250 – special meal and gifts for children and staff at Christmas

Total expenditure in 2023 on Molima will be £16942

98% of our money is spent directly on Molima.



The cost of postage, newsletter printing and website maintenance in 2023 is expected to be £330.

### Malawi

9<sup>th</sup> poorest country in the world

Food inflation – September 2023 – 36.8%

Non-food inflation – September 2023 -17.2%

Year on year inflation – September 2023 – 28.6% (up 3% from last year)

Average gross national income -\$643 (£551)



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# GIVING TO ORFUND

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**Charity Registration:** 289546

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

**Email:** [office@orfund.org](mailto:office@orfund.org)



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Orfund Registered Address:

17 Westham Close POOLE Dorset BH17 9HW

**Tel:** 01202 383128

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**Trustees:** Sophie Hodge | David Joannides | Carri Hall |  
Hannah Venning | Jen Webb

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## Bank details:

**Sort Code:** 20-68-79

**Account Number:** 60678902

Giving via [stewardship.org](http://stewardship.org):

<https://www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20239962>

Please email us to let us know about any bank transfer as we may be able to claim an extra 25% Gift Aid. Thank you!



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