



**SUPPORT FOR COVID-19 IN MALAWI
FINAL REPORT – MAY 2021**

Overview

Donor Name:	Fondation Eagle
Project Name:	Ripple Africa – Portable Oxygen Concentration Machines for rural health facilities in Malawi to treat patients with Covid-19.
Grant Size	up to £15,978
Grant Period:	Grant awarded 25 th Feb 2021
Reference Number	0578 - 221

Project Overview

This funding was to enable us to purchase 13 oxygen concentrators to support rural hospitals in treating patients with breathing difficulties caused by Covid-19. The machines use water to produce the oxygen and hospital staff have some of these already so most staff are familiar with how to use them and with their maintenance. The machines can run on solar power when mains electricity is off and each machine can support two patients at once.

Our initial plan was to provide 11 machines at Chintheche Rural Hospital and one each at Kachere and Kanda clinics. However, following discussions with the Health Department, we subsequently agreed to provide them as follows:

- 4 to Chintheche Rural Hospital
- 3 to Nkhata Bay Central Hospital
- 3 to Nkhotakota Central Hospital
- 3 to Salima Central Hospital

All district hospitals in Malawi are currently experiencing difficulties in securing supplies of oxygen, and the central hospitals in each district are where the most seriously ill Covid patients are being taken for treatment so it is vitally important that they have the best chances of treating them.

Progress

We managed to secure 13 oxygen concentrator machines from a company recommended to us by a medical charity in Lilongwe at a slightly cheaper price than originally estimated but incurred additional costs in transporting them to the hospitals in Nkhotakota and Salima. However, we have secured funding from another trust to cover the additional cost. The machines were delivered to Chintheche.

We have also recently been in touch with an organisation in Lilongwe who are sending repair teams around the country to get broken oxygen concentration machines working again which will further improve the chance of treating Covid patients. We made the District Health Officers in the districts in which we work aware of this so that they could take advantage of the opportunity - we know that many broken machines are also now back in use which is fantastic.

Project Beneficiaries

As each District Hospital serves all of the most serious patients in their district, the project could potentially benefit any of the people living in these three districts. In the 2018 census, the populations of each district were as follows:

Nkhata Bay District	285,795
Nkhotakota District	395,897
Salima District	478,346
TOTAL	1,160,038

The machines will also be used for patients suffering from other respiratory diseases such as pneumonia and asthma and will also assist those recovering from malaria and heart problems.

Successes

- We were fortunate to have been able to find a second supplier of the machines based in Lilongwe who managed to secure them at a cheaper price for us than the Blantyre supplier who provided our original quote.
- Another donor provided some funding towards this project, enabling us to fund the additional transport costs.
- We have been able to ensure that the DHOs were all made aware of the opportunity to have broken concentrators that they already had in their hospitals repaired. In Nkhata Bay District, 14 concentrators are now operational again.

Challenges

Our only real challenge was the time that it took to import the machines into the country and the cost of getting them to the hospitals to the south of us once they had been delivered.

Expenditure

Item	Cost Malawi Kwacha	Cost Sterling
Purchase of 13 Dual Flow Oxygen Concentrators (OLV10) @ MK 1,200,000 each plus 52 Masks for use with these at MK 2,500 each (cost included transport to Chintheche from Lilongwe)	15,730,000	£15,272
Training and handover to staff at Nkhata Bay Hospital and Chintheche Hospital	105,000	£102
Transport 3 units to Salima Hospital and train staff	375,000	£364
Transport 3 units to Nkhotakota Hospital and train staff	215,000	£209
Coordination of project by Ripple Africa - monitoring and evaluation of project	350,000	£340
TOTAL COST	16,775,000	£16,286

Exchange rate was £1= 1029.98 MK



Handover of Machines at Nkhotakota Hospital



Handover of machines at Salima Hospital



Training session for hospital staff on use and maintenance of equipment

We are very grateful for the support of Fondation Eagle for this vital project and on behalf of all you have helped through your support, we would like to say:

TAWONGA UKONGWA! Thank you very much!

Pam Haigh,
UK General Manager
11th May 2021