

KEEPING GIRLS IN EDUCATION

So many boys and girls in Malawi are unable to stay in education. They have to keep dipping into and out of their years, find some money, go back to school and hopefully complete their school lives in this way. Many don't make it, but the majority try. They know that if they don't, they will not only lose their dreams for a better future, but the boys may end up getting into trouble, and for many of the girls it means an early marriage or prostitution.

Levison knows all this very well. In and out of school. Learning, earning a little at piece work, back at school, out again – his whole educational life. And that's why he wants a better life for the children who are under the Foundation's wing.

A couple of weeks ago we were asked about sponsorship, and we've given this a great deal of thought. The team discussed the fact that there are 700 children. We thought about the nursery kids whose educational lives are just beginning but in the end we had to give the subject of sponsorship to those who have striven to stay in school.

A while ago Telina Munthali came to see Levison at the Centre. She was in despair because she was having to drop out of school as her mother was ill in hospital. You'll see that she's 20 and in Fourth Grade. Compared to our children in 4th year in the UK, she's much older, as are the other girls whose photos and stories are here. She's older because she's had to keep dropping out and re-sitting a year.

At 4th grade the children take their final exams which, if they pass, means that they can go on to further education.

Levison found Telina work, looking after the pre-school children in the nursery project, to ease her mind. We asked him if there were others of a similar age who had to drop out and there are four others apart from Telina herself.

And so we are asking for sponsorship for the girls. A breakdown of cost is at the end of this piece.

As an older lady of the village said to Levison on the day that the lights went on: 'No-one can tell what a child will bring in the future.

No-one can tell what these girls will bring to theirs, with a little bit of help.



I am Tamiwe Nyondo a form 2 student at Chisenga Community Day Secondary School.

I am 18 years old. I am currently out of school due to school fees problems.

I like sewing and love The William Stewart Foundation.

God bless you.



My name is Jean Kaonga. I am in Form 3 at Chisenga Community Day Secondary School. I am 18 years.

I have stopped going to school due to school fees and uniform. My mother was not able to manage sourcing my school fees from the piece works due to being ill.

My dream is to become a teacher.

I like knitting at the Resource Centre



My name is Telina Munthali. I am 20 years old and in form 4 at Chisenga Community day Secondary School.

I'm a single parent orphan and my mother who was supporting me is critically ill in hospital. So I have had to drop out of school due to shortage of school fees.

I have been helping as a part time teacher at the nursery at the William Stewart Foundation.

I love teaching children and I would like to be a teacher. But I need to finish my education.



My name is Milliam Mbale a dropout of form 3.

I am 17 years old and I am a double orphan and staying with my grandmother.

I can be a very happy person if I can go back to school. What I need is fees, school uniform and books. God bless you.



My name is Dinales Kabaghe. I am an orphan and live with my mother and grandmother who is also in the photo.

I am in Form 3 at Chisenga Community Day Secondary School. I am 17 years old. I am a single parented girl as my father went missing before I was born.

When I finish my education I would like to be a social worker so that I help and support all orphans. I like going to the Mrgaret and Jean Resource centre because it is where I feel safe. I am in need of financial and material support for me to finish my education. Thank you all for your support to us.

Item	Annual	Term (4 months) Malawian Kwacha	Month
School fees		47,000	11,750
Uniform	10,000		833
School bag	8,000		667
Note books		10,000	2,500
Sundries Soap Sanitary items.			4,800
Stationery items			4,800
Total			25,300

£25 per month to keep a girl in school