



Soko Fund Scholars



The Soko Fund supports women into higher education. Our students study vocational subjects that can contribute to the long-term development of Malawi



The Fund works in 5 universities across Malawi

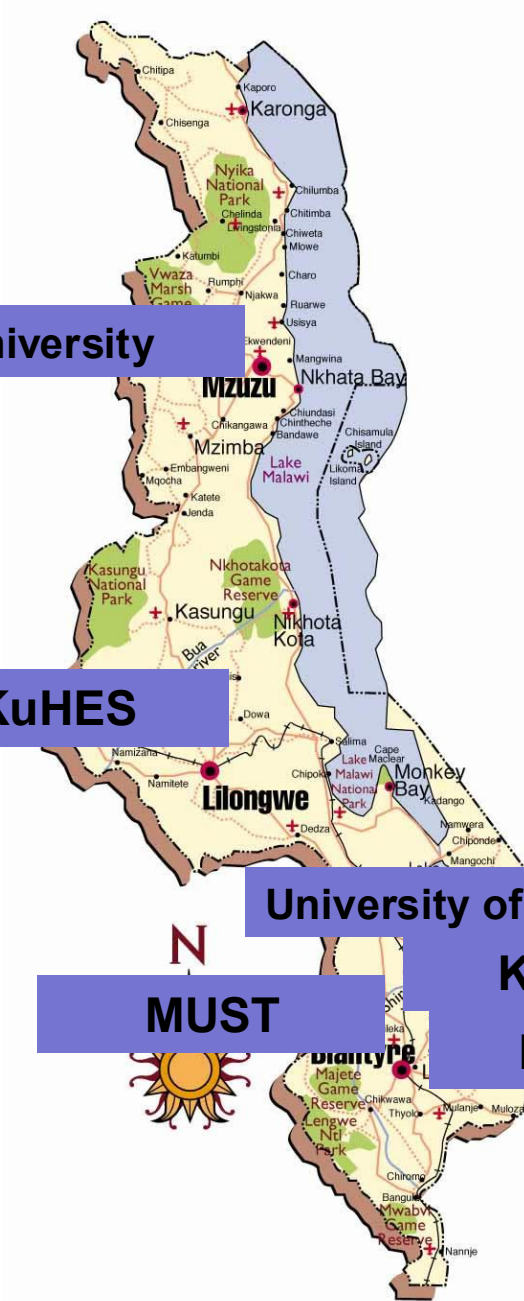
Mzuzu University

KuHES

University of Malawi

MUST

**KuHES
MuBAS**





Our students study:

- Education
- Medicine and Nursing
- Food and nutrition
- Business and accountancy
- Engineering
- Law



Malawi has the lowest participation rate of 18-22 year olds of any country in the Southern Africa Development Area by far – somewhere between 0.4 – 1%



Student Story - Sophia

- Studying nursing and in her final year
- Interested in Mental Health as universities are seeing more young people struggle with their mental health
- Along with another Soko Scholar, she has set up a mental health initiative, with support from Soko Fund
- This gives young women a space to speak freely and anonymously online to each other, and to support each other.



Development model:

- Works through existing structures and through university funds, not individuals
- Trains students in country, supporting in-country professions
- Female focus – reaches most disadvantaged and increases family health



soko fund
help for the heart of Africa



Development in Malawi:

- The woman gains a degree and becomes a qualified professional
- This enables the woman to improve her own situation, both financially and socially, and in improved health of her family
- This contributes to the education system, the health system and other structures in Malawi
- This, in turn, means that the younger generation receives a better education





- Started with 2 students at the University of Malawi – training to become teachers
- Have 83 students across the universities
- Have over 150 graduates
- The majority are working in Malawi



Graduate Story - Ruth

- BSc Nutrition – addressing the double burden of malnutrition: over nutrition and under nutrition

Graduating was a proud and emotional moment. I felt grateful, relieved, and excited to finally use my skills to serve communities

- Currently doing a government internship in Chikwawa district council.

Research findings



- Challenge of prioritising education of girls
- PhDs
- Benefits were financial but also, importantly, psychological

