

- **Linda Dembo:** Hi everyone, I am Linda Dembo, Programmes Manager for MaSP. Great to be here and looking forward to the meeting
- **Alan Laverock:** I'm Alan Laverock. I'm finance officer for SMP. In addition, I'm a trustee of Bananabox Trust, which sends containers to Ekwendeni in Northern Malawi as well as carrying out projects there
- **ALEXANDER SUKALI:** Hello everyone, I am Alex Sukali, Executive Secretary of the Malawi-UK Business Group.
- **Jade Stein, SMP (She/Her):** Good Afternoon everyone. Jade Stein here, Media and Comms officer from the SMP.
- **Jane Gebbie:** Hi, I'm Jane Gebbie from Kondanani UK. We support Kondanani Children's Village near Blantyre.
- **Christine Campbell:** Christine Campbell, University of Edinburgh, and MALSCOT cervical screening programme
- **Stuart, SMP:** Hello, Hope everyone is well. I'm Stuart from the staff team of the Scotland Malawi Partnership (SMP): [stuartb@scotland-malawipartnership.org](mailto:stuartb@scotland-malawipartnership.org)
- **Peter Bell - Starfish Malawi:** Hi Everyone. I am Peter Bell from Starfish Malawi and we also have Chris Knott our CEO and Carol Kennedy from our team with us today. More info [www.starfishmalawi.com](http://www.starfishmalawi.com)
- **Madeline Osborn:** Hello Everyone.
- **brian kerr:** Good afternoon everyone- Brian Kerr from the Soko fund, supporting women into higher education in Malawi. Looking forward to the meeting, particularly of course information about Universities reopening in Malawi; this is imminent I hear- and as already happened in some?
- **Alberto Gregori:** Alberto Gregori World Orthopaedic Concern and Chair of SMP Oxygen Coordination Group
- **Alasdair Wylie:** Hello, Alasdair Wylie, former Perth and Kinross Council rep to SMP, semiretired from career in international public health specialising in immunization logistics management
- **Madeline Osborn:** Hello Everyone. I'm the Convenor of the Scotland malawi Mental Health Education Project.
- **claudia alloza:** Hello everyone, it is Claudia Alloza, programme officer at SCIAF in charge of supporting projects implemented by our partners in Malawi. Thanks for having us, looking forward to hearing all the updates from this meeting.
- **Mphatso Nguluwe:** I am Mphatso Nguluwe. I am the Synod Health Director for the CCAP Synod of Livingstonia in Northern Malawi. I am looking forward to participating in this meeting.
- **Wendy McMullen:** The sound is breaking up Would it help if everyone switched off their videos ?
- **Robert Stewart:** Hi. I'm Robert Stewart, Trustee of SMMHEP.
- **Michael Beresford - Zambesi Mission:** It would be good to hear specifically the points about reductions in patient numbers at QE Hospital and also about the impact on expectant mothers. That's what I thought I heard.

- **Jonathan Groves:** Question for College of Medicine Professors. The numbers of official cases are so low. Does Malawi have any statistics for "excess deaths" nationally? Or is the situation in rural areas really very unknown?
- **Johnstone:** my connection is poor.
- **brian kerr:** Agree with Mr Beresford- it would be good to have the numbers about hospital pressures, as well as some others which were lost in transmission. Useful in writing after the meeting as david proposed.
- **ALEXANDER SUKALI:** How prepared is Malawi with the effects of Covid-19 in the long term, bearing in mind the complexities brought up with this pandemic? Thanks
- **Alasdair Wylie:** Could we please hear something about the covid 19 contact tracing system at present?
- **David Hughes:** Suggestion of increased clotting risks compromising placental function in third trimester pregnancies in UK. Perhaps also increasing maternal as well as fetal risk?
- **Antonia Ho:** Data from South Africa earlier in the pandemic suggest a 2-fold increased risk of death in PLHIV irrespective of viral suppression or ART use, but there may be residual confounding due to socio-economic status or comorbidities - <https://www.nicd.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/COVID-19-Special-Public-Health-Surveillance-Bulletin-22-June-2020.pdf>
- **ALEXANDER SUKALI:** How is Malawi dealing with cross border spreading of the pandemic, especially in regard to the border districts with Tanzania?
- **Peter Bell - Starfish Malawi:** What plans are there for an education programme for all people, to stress the importance of being vaccinated?
- **Andrew Duncan:** That is really great to hear about the prospect of vaccine roll-out in Malawi. We have been working on the Oxford/AstraZeneca clinical trial (COV002) in Edinburgh and are delighted to hear that the vaccine will soon be reaching Malawi. Andrew Duncan and Sinéad Plant (Clinical Research Fellows NHS Lothian)
- **Vesium:** Hello everyone - Vesium
- **David Hope-Jones:** Could we try turning videos off to see if improves connection
- **Stephen Lawrie:** Hi everyone, it may help improve the available 'bandwidth' for clearer communication if people switch off their videos if they are not speaking.
- **Lesley Hill:** Hello everyone. I am a psychotherapist in Scotland and links to mental health projects in Zambia. Looking to see if the Scotland Malawi coordination efforts from this forum could be mirrored/supported in Zambia too.
- **Lucy Hunot (Link Education):** Thank you very much Mr Agabu. Is there any guidance from MoE for the SIP (School Improvement Plan) cycle to change or being reviewed to accommodate schools to re-plan amidst Covid-19?
- **CISE Malawi:** Greetings everyone, this is Davis Damson working as Operations Manager for Community Initiative for Social Empowerment (CISE - Malawi). Its a pleasure to be here. We can be reached via [info@cisemalawi.org](mailto:info@cisemalawi.org) or +2651242059 | +265999777333
- **Michael Beresford - Zambesi Mission:** Presumably boarding schools and residential colleges have also been able to reopen yesterday?

- **SUSAN FLYNN:** Is there an educational task group involving partners working to enable girls who are pregnant, married early or who have suffered violence to return to school? If not would this be a good idea?
- **Gary Brough:** Are there any plans to engage with students who do not return to school to support them to return (particularly girls as a result of pregnancy, violence or marriage)?
- **karengoodmanjones:** Hello, my name is Karen Goodman-Jones working for Sense Scotland on a SNE inclusive education programme in Northern Malawi. Would like to link up with other organisations working in disability and link to our partners, CCAP Synod of Livingstonia. Thanks
- **Wilson Mandala:** on cross border transmission/spreading our main concern has been and still is the Malawian returnees from South Africa due to the more devastating characteristics of the South African variant. Tanzania has not been much of a concern for Malawi as far as COVID19 is concerned.
- **Jonathan Groves (Kerusso Trust):** To the education speakers: what can be done to support the private secondary school sector, where teachers are still needing to be paid salaries through periods of closure, but school fees are no longer coming in. There is a risk many secondary schools without reserves will be forced to close permanently.
- **Michael Beresford - Zambesi Mission:** The Scotland-Malawi Oxygen Appeal has been really excellent. It would be good to know how much the appeal has reached on an ongoing basis - it has the number of supporters on it (currently 197) but not the amount. It would be helpful to have that added onto the Virgin Money Giving fundraising page
- **David Hope-Jones:** Replying to Michael Beresford: Absolutely. We have a one-week update which will go online this evening and emailed to all stakeholders and donors - making clear what has already been spent. We are keen to be as transparent as possible how these funds are being used.
- **Michael Beresford - Zambesi Mission:** Good work!
- **Philip Broadbent:** Thanks so much Alberto, fantastic work. Can I ask what are the practicalities of O2 monitoring, particularly in more rural areas, and how are you managing to overcome this?
- **michael.mackenzie:** Fantastic Biomedical engineering project, will hopefully also have a great legacy
- **Heather Cubie:** Absolutely excellent summary Alberto. Congratulations to everyone in Malawi and Scotland for an exceptional area of effective partnership
- **Mwelura Harawa:** My organization started embarking on a C-19 response late last year. In January i was hit by C-19 and survived. I am happy to sharing my experience to supplement on disease education initiatives that are taking place.
- **Peter Bell - Starfish Malawi:** Starfish Malawi work in Salima in the central region. We have set up a "Fighting Fund for Malawi" to respond to the need for oxygen supplies, PPE supplies for the Salima area, including the hospital and where we run a health clinic at Ngolowindo. We also hope to set up an education programme for the importance of being vaccinated. However, we need help in the logistics on the ground in Malawi. Can anyone give us some guidance please?

- **Patricio Auxensio Kulemeka:** Min of Education: Teen Pregnancy Vs Social Distance reflects gaps in Public Health (Min of Health & College of Medicine) and also to the Top to Down transmission of information and how we need to guide our learners who have found schools as safe place .... Against Communities that were to protect these children have become predators.....evidence is here with +10, 000 teen pregnancies  
MoE & MoH via MSP-MaSP how dedicated are they to all the children of Malawi, who have been an “invisible” group in the COVID-19 crisis planning and response, despite being one of the most vulnerable and affected populations.  
From Play Soccer Malawi
- **Stella:** Ministry of education
- **Mwelura Harawa:** <https://harawafm.wixsite.com/tigwiranemanja> we are producing reusable face mask for learners in public schools. This face masks are distributed for free. We have 10 sewing machines that are used to produce reusable face masks. let us know how we can collaborate. We are in Lilongwe Malawi
- **Jennifer Macalister Hall:** So impressive to hear about the pragmatic approach taken and great summary of really effective work. Awesome!
- **Stella:** i see a gap in classroom blocks...our primary schools do not have enough space for social distancing .
- **Alberto Gregori:** Philip....a huge problem. If ill they are going to District General Hospitals and CHAM hospitals where the shortage of monitoring is very obvious..they go to the Central Hospitals if clinical condition warrants it...many never get there. We reckon getting monitors to Anaesthetic Clinical Officers is a good start along with the medical wards. Trickleing monitors to community hospitals will be possible only with reater funds.
- **Stella:** inadequate classroo..is a huge problem that can facilitate the quick spread of the virus.
- **David Hope-Jones:** For more on the Oxygen appeal, and to donate: <https://www.scotland-malawipartnership.org/news-events/all-news/covid-19-malawi-emergency-oxygen-appeal/>
- **Vessium:** In the northern Malawi some organisations working with special needs include Save the children in Mzimba South, the Livingstonia Synod of the CCAP in Mzimba south and Nkhata Bay; and the Malawi Union of the Blind in Rumphu
- **Michael Beresford - Zambesi Mission:** A question for Alberto: I have heard about the value of low cost pulse oximeters - could these be helpful in Malawi?
- **Eve Hartswood:**It has been suggested that churches are used as vaccination centres: being a large local space and a trusted environment.  
Is this a possibility within CCAP?
- **Mphatso Nguluwe:** If the CCAP Synod of Livingstonia is approached regarding the issue of using their churches as vaccination centres, it is very possible to use them. Churches have been used before as care points so this cannot be different.
- **Catriona Connolly:** I cannot hear what Donncha is saying.
- **Madeline Osborn:** Thank you Olive. That was a very informative picture of mental health reactions across the country and how they impact on help seeking and physical treatments.
- **Lovemore Pemba:** I cant hear him even a word

- **Eve Hartswood:**Donnacha - can you put the link to the PDF for mental health guide on this chat please.
- **Donncha Mullin:** Sorry that tech let me down folks, very hard to find a quiet spot with signal here in the infirmary. Please follow this link for your own interactive copy of the Malawi Quick Guide to Mental Health, and spread the word. We will also be releasing as a mobile app in the near future. Have to rush back to clinic but any questions please email me on D.mullin@ed.ac.uk. Best wishes all
- **Donncha Mullin:** <http://www.smmhpep.org.uk/content/press-launch-malawi-quick-guide-mental-health#>
- **Catriona Connolly:** No Worries, Donncha. Thank-you so much for your work, and for sharing the links.
- **Peter Bell - Starfish Malawi:** Well done to Medic Malawi for their work to support the healthcare in Malawi. Excellent!
- **Alberto Gregori:** Michael, for everyones benefit is asking about the 3 different types of O2 sat monitors. 1. simple finger tip monitors, self contained AAA battery units, about £25 each. They are flimsy, not medical grade with variable readouts. OK if looked after and fed quality batteries as a first assessment approach. Our experience is that they usually fed with cheap poor quality batteries which leak + destroy the unit. Few of those deployed last year for theatre use have survived. 2 more robust unit known as a Lifebox type with rechargeable batteries, charger, alarms + 3 probes for Adult, paediatric and neonatal use. These are £250 each and will cover the vast majority of needs in LMIC areas, the recommended standard from WHO Safer Surgery . These r robust and size of a bigger smartphone, less easy to lose/disappear. Last type is the multimonitor that measures lots but costs £10k plus consumables. Opinion of users OTG was go for Lifebox types as a better longer term benefit.
- **Michael Beresford - Zambesi Mission:** Thank you Alberto, that is helpful
- **Catriona Connolly:** Thanks Cathy. Your work sounds fantastic- and so necessary. We have been involved in multi-disciplinary maternity emergency team training for several years, and teenage pregnancy/ domestic violence/ sepsis from backstreet abortions are issues we have raised within the course. It would be good to touch base with you at some time in the future to compare notes and expertise, and to ensure we are all singing from the same hymn-sheet. We are Scotland Malawi Anaesthesia and I am c.connolly@doctors.org.uk
- **Christine Campbell:** Thank you
- **Sheena Nicolson:** Thank you, David and everyone - an interesting and useful meeting!
- **Stella:** Thanks for an interesting meeting
- **Heather Cubie:** Thank you all for so many interesting dimensions in this covid meeting
- **Angela Mullens:** Thanks for a very good informative meeting and particularly for contributions from Malawi.  
I am currently assisting the development of a small Agricultural Project - DBF- Tiyeni in Malindi , Mangochi combating Poverty. Angela Mullens Ex Mission Teacher.