THE INSTITUTE FOR CHILD WELLNESS IN AFRICA

Launch Campaign

Focus on Children
Local Solutions to Local Issues
Priority on Prevention
An Integrated Approach
By 2050, almost 1 billion children will live in Africa, accounting for 37% of the world’s population under 18. Investing now in Africa’s children would allow this generation to break the cycle of poverty, poor health, and inadequate education, transforming the continent for themselves and generations to come.
Promoting healthy child development is an investment in a country’s future workforce and capacity to thrive economically and as a society.”

Dr. Margaret Chan
World Health Organization

Africare has laid the groundwork for a center of excellence that will transform the way global development approaches child wellness in Africa. The Institute for Child Wellness in Africa (TICWA), at the University of Malawi, brings together leaders in health, education, social welfare, agriculture, business, and technology within a single enterprise to improve children’s health and well-being in developing countries around the world. Drawing from local and international best practices and expertise, TICWA tests and demonstrates new, integrated approaches to ensuring child health and wellness, and strengthens capacity to take them to scale in the region. TICWA continues to develop its high-quality research and training programs around a single, simple mission: keep children well.

The demand for a child-focused center of excellence in Malawi is great. Nearly half of the population is under the age of 14. One in three children are stunted. Less than half complete primary school. Fifty percent of adolescent girls are married before the age of 18. Life expectancy is just 59 years. TICWA works to change these statistics.

By stimulating international collaboration and innovation TICWA works with stakeholders in Malawi to create new, culturally appropriate ways to improve children’s chances of living long, productive, and happy lives. These innovations provide a model for other countries throughout Africa, inspiring changes in policies and programs and enhancing child wellness across the continent.

AFRICARE IS WORKING TO TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF CHILDREN IN MALAWI – AND ACROSS AFRICA

INVEST IN CHILD WELLNESS TODAY
THE ANATOMY OF A WELL CHILD

HEALTHY
Goal: Reduce Preventative Deaths and Disease
Pneumonia, malaria, diarrhea, and HIV account for 64% of all deaths among Malawi’s children.

EDUCATED
Goal: Increase School Completion
Less than half of Malawi’s children graduate from primary school.

SAFE
Goal: Curtail Child Marriage
On average, one out of every 2 adolescent girls in Malawi are married before 18, one in ten are married before fifteen.

SUPPORTED
Goal: Improve Social Support for Children
A quarter of Malawi’s children age 10-14 have lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS.

PROTECTED
Goal: Reduce Child Labor
Over 1.5 million of Malawi’s children are involved in child labor.

NOURISHED
Goal: Improve Nutrition
46% of Malawi’s children are chronically malnourished, affecting their growth and cognitive development.
“We’ve made a lot of progress in helping children reach their fifth birthday – but what does a country do with a bunch of 5-year olds? Survival should not be our endpoint. We need to continue investing and ensuring children are well-fed, healthy, and educated to be productive members of society. They deserve to thrive.”

Dr. Kimber Bogard
Director, Board on Children, Youth & Families at the Institute of Medicine and National Research Council

GENERATIONS OF WELL CHILDREN

Over the past 20 years, child mortality rates in Africa have fallen by 50%. As a result of this success, the time has come to expand our focus beyond basic child survival to child wellness.

A well child has sufficient and nutritious food to eat, lives in a safe and secure environment, has access to quality health care, is able to attend and stay in school, and has a sense of value and belonging to their community. All of the world’s children deserve every opportunity to be well and reach their full potential.

Not enough is known about factors affecting child wellness in Africa. The shortage of locally relevant evidence limits the effectiveness of current child wellness efforts.

TICWA seeks to change this by creating an institution for innovation and research in Africa for Africa’s challenges.
"Wellness is more than treating a sick child, it’s all sorts of things... Malawi needs an institute that addresses all the needs of children, looks at crosscutting issues, shares ideas, works together...creates career opportunities...this would be absolutely fantastic."

TICWA: A NEW MODEL FOR ACHIEVING CHILD WELLNESS

Achieving child wellness in Malawi and the region requires new thinking that can best be generated by bringing together experts across sectors and disciplines from Africa and around the globe. Based within the University of Malawi, TICWA will provide an essential platform to develop innovative solutions to local issues, drawing on the best international science and lessons learned – to fundamentally improve children’s lives.

As an institution devoted to child wellness in Africa, TICWA will:

Stimulate Research: Determine factors that affect child well-being, discover new treatments, and develop new methods of service delivery.

Enhance Training: Build the human capital necessary to provide high-quality health, social, and educational services for children.

Advance Advocacy: Use local research findings to inform and promote changes in national policies and programs that affect children’s health and well-being.

TICWA will create & validate new responses to the greatest barriers to the health and well-being of Africa’s children.

WITH YOUR SUPPORT

TICWA’s integrated research, training, and advocacy programs aim to:

1) Reduce childhood deaths from preventable diseases
2) Decrease chronic malnutrition
3) Increase primary and secondary school completion rates
4) Curtail child marriages, and related maternal deaths
5) Strengthen children’s social support networks
Malawi is one of the most impoverished countries in Africa, home to a disproportionate share of the world’s children afflicted by preventable disease, orphaned by HIV/AIDS, and vulnerable to a number of threats to their health and well-being.

A combination of factors such as poverty, malnutrition, low literacy and education levels, and high fertility rates have resulted in high levels of mortality among young children for many decades, even when compared to other African countries. At the same time, Malawi has made substantial progress in reducing child mortality and has met the Millennium Development Goal 4 target of reducing infant and child mortality by two thirds.

The same strong institutions, political will, and committed leaders that have led to these advancements are what make Malawi an ideal real-world setting for the Institute for Child Wellness in Africa to serve as an incubator for innovative new approaches to child wellness. Given Malawi’s national stability and relatively small size, TICWA’s novel interventions can be scaled-up throughout the country, demonstrating to the rest of the continent what is possible when the right investments are made in the comprehensive needs of the child.

"The Warm Heart of Africa"
Malawi’s Demographics

- Population: 16 million
- Life Expectancy: 59
- Rural Population: 85%
- Fertility Rate: 4.7 births
- Population Under 14: 50%
- Living on <$1.25 Per Day: 61%
- Orphans & Vulnerable Children: > 1 million

With your support TICWA can transform Malawi’s current statistics:

- Chronic Malnutrition: 46%
- HIV/AIDS Prevalence: 11%
- Deaths Before 1st Birthday: 14%
- Pediatricians in Malawi: 14
- Child Labor: 26%
- Girls Married by 18: 50%
- Children with Birth Certificate: <3%
- Classroom Size: 92 children
- School Drop-Out by Age 12: 65%

*UNICEF 2012 Malawi Report, World Bank
MALAWI’S CHILDREN DESERVE...

To Grow

Despite the fact that Malawi’s poor spend 2/3 of their income on food, 46% of Malawi’s children are chronically malnourished, which affects both their physical growth and their ability to learn. With your support TICWA will work to develop cost-effective, integrated agriculture and nutrition programs that ensure Malawi’s children can grow to their full potential.

To Learn

Imagine if less than 50% of the children in your country completed 4th grade. What would the future of these children be, and what would it mean for the future of your nation? With your support TICWA will create an integrated school wellness curriculum, providing teachers with the skills to improve students’ physical, social and emotional well-being, increasing the likelihood children will stay in school.

To be Cared For

It may sound unimaginable, but there are only 14 pediatricians for a population of over 8 million children in Malawi. This means that most of Malawi’s children will never see a pediatrician in their lives. With your support TICWA will send international pediatricians to Malawi to support pediatric training programs and develop novel task-shifting models that provide local nurses, nursing assistants, and community health workers with advanced skills to care for an unwell child.

To be Counted

In Malawi less than 3% of children have a birth certificate. Not having official documentation of their age puts children at risk for child labor, early marriage, and other harmful practices. It also limits the government’s ability to effectively plan social services, such as education and feeding programs. With your support TICWA will link health centers, immunization programs, and community services through innovative mobile technology to ensure that all children are nationally registered and counted.
AFRICARE'S APPROACH

Africare is committed to addressing African development and policy issues by working in partnership with African people to build sustainable, healthy and productive communities. We believe that the best way to promote the permanent improvements of health and wellbeing in Africa is to facilitate change from within. Our investments strengthen institutions and the communities they support to yield lifetime returns. Africare’s philosophy has always been, “There are no Africare programs, only African programs.”

Our approach leverages Africare’s decades of expertise working in Africa as well as the contributions of diverse academic, government, implementing, and community partners. We build human capital through training and mentorship, help secure new infrastructure when needed, and launch the long-term international collaborations required to successfully respond to existing and anticipated health challenges in Africa.

With consensus and optimism for the opportunity to bring about true change, stakeholders are eager to move forward with the Institute.

We look forward to joining forces with our fellow global pioneers to ensure Africa’s children move beyond survival to wellness.

A GIFT TODAY CAN HELP TICWA IMPROVE THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF CHILDREN
YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS AT WORK...

GOAL: $15 MILLION

$5 MILLION could create a cost-effective model to decrease malnutrition, potentially saving tens of thousands of children from chronic disease and improving their mental and physical well-being.

$1 MILLION could create and test a school-based child wellness clinic, potentially demonstrating the impact school nurses can have on student health and attendance.

$500,000 could strengthen the national birth registration system, providing newborns with official documentation to be eligible to receive services.

$250,000 could send internationally renowned pediatricians to work in Malawi, improving the care children receive and training more doctors in pediatrics.

CONTACT US ABOUT SUPPORTING TICWA TODAY!

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Africare’s mission is to improve the quality of life of people in Africa. Africare centers its development approach around active community participation and partners with local organizations to ensure institutional strengthening and capacity building. Our almost entirely African staff has an unparalleled knowledge of the continent – its challenges and opportunities. Through our direct community engagement, we have nurtured valuable relationships with key local figures ranging from community leaders and traditional authorities to presidents and prime ministers.

Africare has delivered over $1 billion in assistance to 36 African nations. A leader among private, charitable U.S. organizations assisting Africa, Africare is also the oldest and largest African-American led organization in the field — and Africa is Africare’s specialty. Our programs address needs in the following principal areas:

In 2016, Africare merged with Accordia Global Health Foundation, which founded the Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) in 2004 at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. Today, IDI serves as a model for a sustainable, locally owned institution, transforming the region by saving lives, performing locally relevant research, and offering new career paths to Africa’s health workforce. IDI has trained over 20,000 health care workers from 28 African countries. Every day, IDI provides clinical care for hundreds of thousands and provides preventive services to millions. The world-class clinical and operational research that IDI performs informs health policies and practice throughout the continent, and provides a blueprint for locally owned and led world class institutions. Building on the strength of that success, Africare is now partnering with others in Malawi to establish the Institute for Child Wellness in Africa.

Together Africare’s and Accordia’s investments in the African people yields lifetimes of positive returns for millions of people in need.

To learn more about our programs visit www.africare.org
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