



FOL Newsletter

Fountain of Life

MZUZU ONE STOP (CHIKWANEKWANE) CENTER LAUNCHED!!

ISSUE 11



Minister of Health opening the OSC at Mzuzu hospital

On 2nd June 2016, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, launched the Mzuzu One Stop (Chikwanekwane) Center (OSC) at Mzuzu Hospital. The OSC provides comprehensive services to victims of sexual violence comprising the medical staff, social welfare, Police and psychosocial counseling services. Fountain of Life provides the trauma counseling services at the center.

The OSC was built in 2014 and victims could access some of the services - especially the medical component—but could not access other services. Fountain of Life began providing counseling during the first quarter of this year (2016).

Fountain of Life is also providing counseling services at the Zomba OSC but it has not yet been launched. Lilongwe OSC is still under construction.

Did You Know?

- Fountain of life is now providing counseling services at the Mzuzu OSC, Blantyre OSC and Zomba OSC. Lilongwe OSC is STILL under construction.
- One Stop Centers are now known as “Chikwanekwane” Centers literally translated into the local Chichewa language.
- The Lilongwe OSC was scheduled to be completed by end February 2016.

FOUNTAIN OF LIFE on TV!

Over the past 2 months Fountain of life has been featured on local Television stations. After disseminating the “Breaking the Silence” toolkit FOL decided to expose the toolkit to people on a larger scale and introduce people to FOL and the services we provide - including the services at the OSCs.

Natalia Govati, the communications and public relations officer for FOL, appeared first on MBCTV on 26th April 2016 on a program called “Good morning Malawi” for a five (5) minute talk in Chichewa. Then she appeared on TIMES TV on 28th April 2016 on a program called “Breakfast Live” for a fifteen (15) talk in English. On 6th June she appeared on ATV on a program called “Congoma Avenue” for twenty five (25) minutes. The links for all



Natalia Govati talking about the toolkit LIVE on Times TV

these programs are below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vsiR4Ggi8yU>

<https://youtu.be/DET8V8CIKzQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3VgbNP6dQX8>

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LILONGWE ONE STOP CENTER BUILDING CONSTRUCTION ON HOLD

Construction for the Lilongwe One Stop (Chikwanekwane) Center at Kamuzu Central Hospital began late last year and it was scheduled to be completed by February. The construction started off well and was on schedule but earlier in the year we reported that construction was put on hold because of various reasons and they kept postponing the dates it would be completed.

We are now half way through the year 2016 and according to the last visit to the site by FOL on 24th June 2016, the building is still on hold. During the visit the foreman was not around to provide any feedback on when they may resume construction and there were no builders on site as well. The OSC construction being on hold is setting back all plans for victims around Lilongwe to access the OSC services. We hope it does get completed before the year ends. Blantyre, Zomba and Mzuzu are now fully operational.

Kamuzu Central Hospital has however provided rooms for FOL trauma counselors to see clients once a week, every Friday. They began using the rooms on 24th June 2016 and were able to meet four (4) clients. This is great progress considering FOL has been trying to get a room to provide counseling services for two (2) years and the OSC building is still under construction.



Above, the building abandoned, with no constructors on site

LL, ZA, BT and MZ COUNSELORS TRAINING



Fountain of Life organized a national training for all its volunteer counselors from Lilongwe, Zomba, Blantyre and Mzuzu. It was a five (5) day training carried out in Lilongwe at Capital City Baptist Church by Ndumanene, a psychologist from St John of God in Mzuzu.

FOL's goal is to have a pool of trauma counselors so that victims can have access to counseling services every time they go to the One Stop Centers. There are very few qualified trauma counselors in practice so the more they are trained the better. There are eight (8) core counselors for each OSC each assigned a day to see clients. Besides counseling the volunteers carry out awareness campaigns and other activities.



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**MALAWI'S ANSWER TO THOSE
SUFFERING FROM SEXUAL ASSAULT**