

EMMS International, Scotland's international healthcare charity, has today launched an urgent appeal to tackle at source the worst ever cholera outbreak on record in Malawi. With over 30,000 confirmed cases, a rising death toll of over 1,000 people to date, and 24 people from one village dying in just one day, the surge in cases has prompted a call for urgent containment measures. We are asking our supporters to stand with the people of Malawi and help raise awareness of this crisis, as well as urgently needed funds to help tackle this outbreak at source.

EMMS International has embarked on a mission to supply a further 14 rural health centres with safe water and sanitation.

Of 20 rural health centres needs-assessed by EMMS International, 8% have no access to water at all, 76% of water is not tested for quality, and at 23% of facilities patients cannot access water to wash or drink. Having already equipped 6 health centres with safe water, we must now take urgent action to complete the remaining 14 as well as upgrade the water supply and sanitation at Mulanje Mission Hospital.

Cathy Ratcliff, CEO and Director of International Programmes said, 'It's terrible news that, in this day and age, Malawi is enduring its worst cholera outbreak ever recorded. The rainy season is adding to the urgency for action by speeding the spread of the disease, displacing people and making it more difficult to access safe healthcare services. With the risk of more heavy rains and flooding, it is essential that we act quickly to stop the spread of this deadly disease in healthcare settings. EMMS International has a long history of working with our partners in Malawi, having introduced palliative care to over 30 health facilities in recent years, including at least one in each of Malawi's 28 districts, installing solar power in healthcare facilities, helping make our main partner hospital more financially sustainable, and training vulnerable women and girls to be tomorrow's health professionals.'

EMMS International urgently needs to raise £160,000 to install clean running water and sanitation at the remaining 14 rural health centres and to improve the water supply and sanitation at Mulanje Mission Hospital. The lack of clean water is the single biggest reason that cholera kills.

Cholera is a preventable and treatable disease. Malawi's Minister of Health, Khumbize Kandodo Chiponda calls on the global community to help quickly to control the outbreak and save lives. You can help EMMS International respond to that call.

Please donate today by posting a cheque, made payable to EMMS International, Norton Park, 57 Albion Road, Edinburgh, EH7 5QY; by bank transfer (sort code: 80-02-28, account number: 06000668) or online [here](#) to help save lives and prevent the spread of sickness and disease. Please also share our appeal with your friends, colleagues, community group, school or church – together we can make a difference – by acting quickly we can save lives.

Thank you for considering our urgent appeal.

Faithfully yours,

*All at EMMS International*