

# Exam and Surgical Gloves



## The Need

In 2016 the GDP (gross domestic product) measured against the total population of Malawi listed the country as the poorest nation on earth. Since independence from Great Britain in 1964 the population in this peaceful, sub-Saharan nation has grown from 4,000,000 to 18,000,000 people. Population under the age of 14 stands at 46.5% per cent, and under 24 reaches a whopping 67% of the nation. Blocked from easy access to the sea this impoverished nation, the size of Pennsylvania, is sandwiched between Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia, and is barely visible on a world map. The people continue to live the same village lifestyle, as did their ancestors hundreds of years ago, and their lives offer few resources and little access to an improving future. All of these factors adversely affect the potential for effective health care in Malawi.

While Malawi has a large number of healthcare facilities the lack of every day supplies for medical care is acute and critical. It leaves a committed medical community helpless to effectively care for patients.

Among the items critically needed, and life saving by nature, are exam or surgical gloves for protection during patient care. It is a near constant in the vast majority of hospitals the medical staff will be delivering babies, performing surgery, and conducting daily care without this basic protective measure. This problem is evident in the narrative of Suzi Stephens RN and Medical Director for the Malawi Project in her first encounter with a Malawi nurse in a small, remote rural hospital. (See story on back)

*Part of a surgical team at the district hospital in Zomba poses to illustrate the need for gloves.*



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*"As we approached the hospital I remember the moment I saw Collette. She was smartly dressed, young, energetic and professional. As we talked I was impressed with her desire to do the best job possible for her patients. It came as a shock when she told me she would die soon. When I inquired as to why she felt that way, she said it would be from HIV/Aids. Because Aids is transmitted in a number of ways in Malawi I asked if she knew how she had acquired it. She said she did not have it yet, but she knew she would soon, 'because every day I care for patients and deliver babies with no rubber gloves for protection.' Since that time I continue to marvel at Collette and all of the medical people who are following her example of caring for the patients inspite of the threat to their own wellbeing. Is it too much to ask that we give \$10.00 or \$20.00 to send a box or two of exam or surgical gloves to the Colette's of Malawi?"*

**Send to: Malawi Project, In.  
3314 Van Tassel Drive,  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46240.**

An additional \$10.00 or \$15.00 will help ship a 40-foot container of medical supplies across the ocean to Malawi that includes the gloves.



*Colette with Suzi Stephens RN receiving a box of exam gloves with which to protect herself when caring for patients.*

