

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

CRA Charitable Registration N° 800640062 RR001



KUWALA
Christian Girls School



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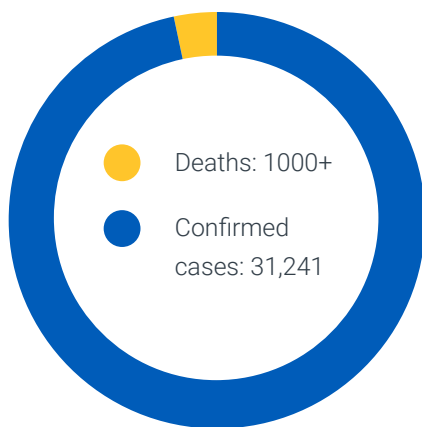
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CHOLERA OUTBREAK!

The new year should signify the students' fresh start and the beginning of Term Two. Malawi, however, is suffering one of the worst Cholera outbreaks in decades.



Cholera outbreak since March 2022 with 26,263 confirmed cases in 27 districts and 1000+ deaths as of 26-Jan-23. Within four weeks the numbers have doubled, in Dec the bacterial disease stood at 486 deaths.

Before schools opened in January, the Government of Malawi cancelled classes for two weeks and notified that schools could reopen on January 17. Almost 70% of the students returned on the first day, demonstrating how much the girls missed their classes.

Cholera is an acute diarrheal infection caused by ingesting food or water contaminated by bacteria. Therefore, providing safe water and sanitation is critical to prevent and control the transmission of Cholera.

Kuwala has built and maintained a substantial septic system to safely and adequately provide sanitation for the school. The water tower provides sufficient drinking water. The students have consistent and ongoing learning and practice of proper hygiene, proper cleaning and maintenance of their environment and facilities. Upon returning to opening day, the new Nurse at Kuwala organized a brief meeting for all students and workers to instruct on the facts surrounding Cholera and its treatment and prevention.

Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2023/01/26/africa/malawi-worst-cholera-outbreak-intl/index.html>

A photograph of a water tower on a brick building. The tower is made of green plastic and sits on a two-story brick structure. A large green tree is on the right. In the foreground, three people are walking away from the camera: a woman in a white shirt taking a photo, a man in a grey shirt, and a man in a light blue shirt and orange cap. The ground is dirt.

Water tower

Providing safe water and sanitation is critical to prevent and control the transmission of Cholera.

The water tower provides sufficient drinking water and enough head pressure (cistern on the roof) to supply the campus with water for the showers and toilets.


THE GOVERNMENT CLOSED SCHOOLS, BUT THE LEARNING CONTINUED.

On the announcement of the school closures at the beginning of January, the Kuwala Administration jumped into action and set up remote learning for the students at home in their villages. E-lesson material was developed and made available on WhatsApp. Students were encouraged to keep up with their studies. Considering so many students and the class delay, Kuwala organized an evaluation session upon returning to school. Most of the parents attended and encouraged their daughters to work hard and improve their performance at school. The evaluation day's attendance shows how much the parents value their daughter's education.

Play Video ▶

■ Students returning to the Campus after the government lock-down in response to the Cholera outbreak. Kuwala_2023.





The Kuwala Administration, staff and teachers attended a workshop in January, partnering with two other private schools. The main topic was Organizational Culture and included training to create a positive culture within the organization, sharing and learning ideas across all departments, being accountable to each other and working collaboratively.

The event oriented the staff on how they must relate to one another at the workplace, behave identically, and execute their duties in line with the organization's goals, aim and vision statements. The group also had fun learning about business dressing, table manners and etiquette. The lessons of punctuality, taking instruction and having a hard-

working spirit were well presented. Teaching in such impoverished conditions is not easy in such a remote environment. Retaining good teachers and staff has always been a priority for Kuwala, so building housing for staff to live on campus is essential.



■ *Kuwala teachers and staff_2023.*

The New Term in January will bring new opportunities for learning for all the students. The Canadian board thinks a healthy balance of academics, sports, and the arts benefit our students' human spirit and mental health.

TEAM BUILDING STARTS WITH PLAY.

THE ARTS SUPER CHARGE THE MIND



■ A suitcase of knitting needles and wool from Canada is just a start. Kuwala_2022.

Introducing knitting to the students

The introduction of knitting and sewing instruction will supplement the academic curriculum. These two past-time activities will provide skills we may not usually think are beneficial. Knitting and sewing require the learning of patience, precision and accuracy, providing an opportunity to relax their minds. The Kuwala board will explore the arts' full

potential in 2023. The girls continue to focus on academics, but we want to expose them to the arts, so we maintain creativity as an essential skill. Africa is rich in song, poetry, dance, arts, and sculpture, which we want to celebrate at the school.



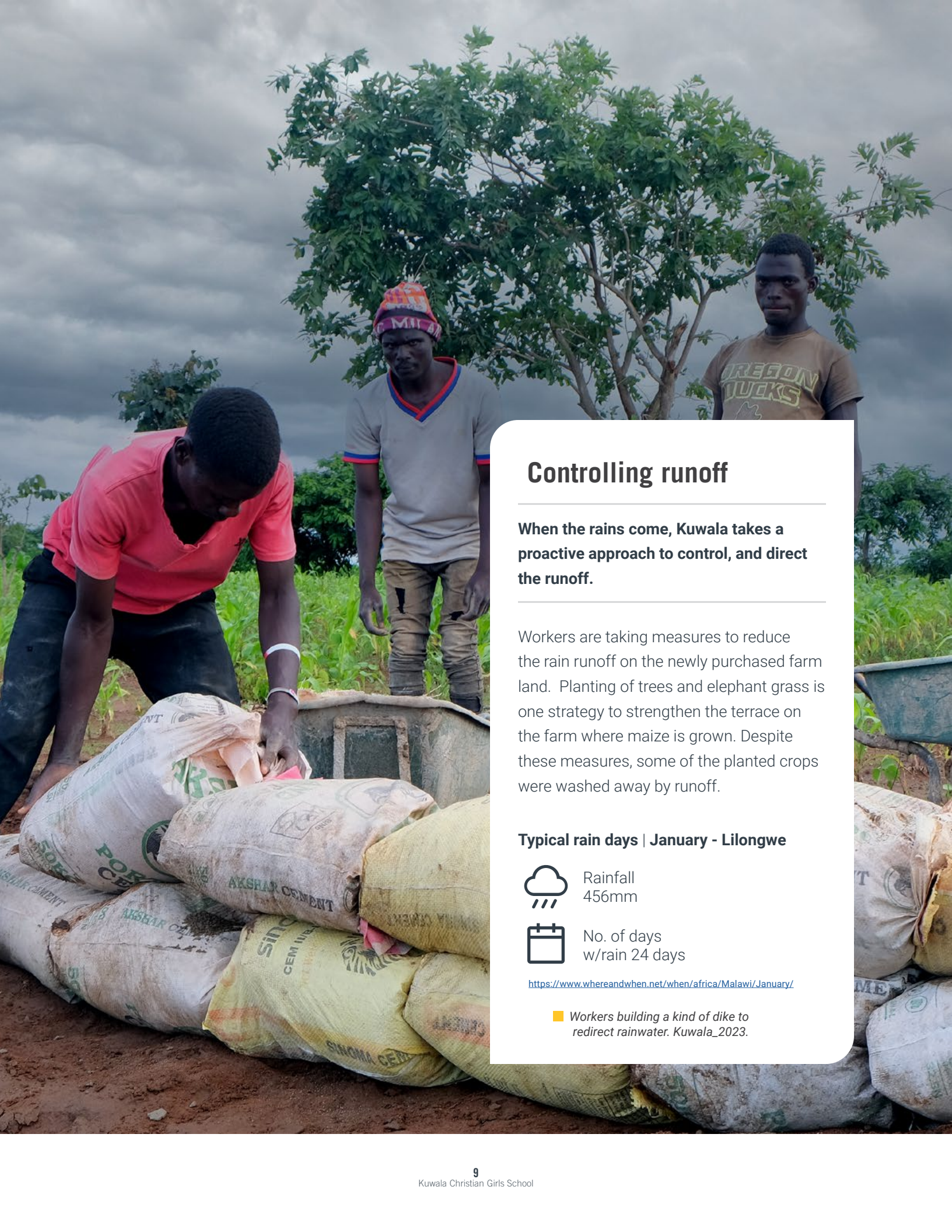
RAIN, RAIN, RAIN IT'S A WASHOUT.

■ This is Chimwemwe's – photographer's – motorbike. In the rainy season, this is what our teachers must navigate in order to arrive at Kuwala. Our priority is to build enough duplexes so teachers don't have to navigate these rural dirt roads, especially in the rain. Kuwala_2023

The road to Kuwala is an adventure of rain, mud, and holes!

Weather in Malawi during the rainy season can be unpredictable. Kuwala has been preparing for the rainy season as rains frequently can be heavy and last several days. The torrential downpours almost entirely washed away the road to Kuwala, making it difficult for families to transport their daughters to school. Maize, beans and ground nuts are growing; however, the heavy rains washed away a large area of the farmland crop. Kuwala has built terraces and sandbagging around the perimeter of the road and the farmland to reduce the runoff. Elephant grass

and trees are planted around the farm's perimeter to strengthen the terrace. A terrace is a flattened buildup that allows a diversion pathway for excess water to flow away or around an area. The students are all participating in planting and caring for the crops to learn, respect and appreciate farming practices.





Controlling runoff

When the rains come, Kuwala takes a proactive approach to control, and direct the runoff.

Workers are taking measures to reduce the rain runoff on the newly purchased farm land. Planting of trees and elephant grass is one strategy to strengthen the terrace on the farm where maize is grown. Despite these measures, some of the planted crops were washed away by runoff.

Typical rain days | January - Lilongwe

 Rainfall
456mm

 No. of days
w/rain 24 days

<https://www.whereandwhen.net/when/africa/Malawi/January/>

■ Workers building a kind of dike to redirect rainwater. Kuwala_2023.

CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS



■ Canadian delegation touring the construction of a staff duplex house. Kuwala_2023

Campus construction projects continue, and the progress is impressive. Duplex 1 and 2 are over 80% complete—the maize grinding building with the installation of security doors. As of the end of 2022, Classroom Block #2 is now fully utilized.

Here is where we are putting our focus in 2023:

- install the science lab, 53K, partly funded;
- biogas, \$15K committed;
- staff (third) duplex, \$60K;
- mini-bus, \$25K, we need to match this donation;
- sustainable farm startup, \$33.6K;
- connect to Starlink, \$1.8K/yr; and
- expand the Computer Science program.



Are you a member of a sports team or a church youth group?

Are you planning a golf tournament, or are you a Church congregation looking for an International Mission? Please consider Kuwala if you are planning an event. Becoming a partner in fundraising to support an all girl's school in Africa makes a measurable difference in the students' lives when there is no other option for education.

We would be happy to have a discussion. Check out our website at Kuwala.org or connect with us at info@kuwala.org

To help with our fundraising Kuwala has a website with a call to action for donations using Canada Helps.

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