

MID-YEAR REPORT

2025



Reinforcing Our Commitment to Healthcare:

For years, the Smile Mums Foundation (SMF) has been recognised as a reliable partner in the communities we serve, providing essential healthcare services. Trust has always been the cornerstone of SMF's mission. In our early days, building that trust was our top priority. We navigated significant stigma and fear before we could commence our initiatives and operations.

Looking Ahead to 2025:

In 2025, we aim to leverage our hard-earned credibility to create an even greater impact. A recent example of this is our newly launched Outreach Mobile Health Clinic, developed in collaboration with Nsaru Health Centre through the Ministry of Health Malawi, under the Lilongwe District Health Office. This partnership attracted additional funding from the MCH Network, which includes five Malawi Segal Family Foundation grantees: WANDIKWEZA, Joyful Motherhood, Smile Mums Foundation, Global Health Informatics, and LifeNet International. The support from the Network has allowed us to enhance service delivery and expand our initiatives in villages where our reputation for reliability had already begun to flourish—even in areas where we hadn't previously operated. Likewise, the impressive cost-effectiveness of our Nurses Home Visit Programme has brought quality healthcare services and health education directly to the homes of mothers.

Staying True to Our Mission:

During health crises, SMF has remained unwavering in its commitments. For instance, following the withdrawal of USAID funding from government hospitals, we stepped in to assist Nsaru Health Centre with vital medicines. Our generous donors have responded at critical moments, reinforcing that the communities of Malawi can always count on SMF. The progress we have achieved together—despite epidemics and financial challenges—stands as a testament to the enduring strength of our partnership.

What we have built will endure, thanks to your continued support for our team in Malawi.

Frank Banda
Executive Director



ABOUT US

The Smile Mums Foundation started as a community healthcare initiative in 2016, initially named "Save Mothers, Save Babies." Its primary goal was to minimize complications during childbirth and encourage early antenatal care. In 2017, the organization gained official registration to enhance the well-being of mothers and children in rural Malawi.

Mission and Commitment:

The foundation is committed to improving the health and welfare of women throughout pregnancy, childbirth, and the postnatal period. It aims to guarantee that every rural woman and child has access to **respectful, high-quality** healthcare services through both facility-based and community-based interventions—regardless of their location, income, or background.

Smile Mums Foundation fulfills its mission through cost-effective programs developed in collaboration with the Government of Malawi and the Ministry of Health.



Our Vision

To foster a community where every woman and child has access to quality healthcare services that ensure survival, protection, development, and participation.



Our Mission

To drive innovation in healthcare delivery for women and children, resulting in immediate and lasting improvements in their lives through expanded access to essential health services.



Smile Mums Foundation Mid-Year 2025 Summary

Expansion of the Maternal Health Program:

In 2025, the Smile Mums Foundation, in partnership with the Ministry of Health through Nsaru Health Center, broaden its maternal health program by continuing the Mobile Clinic outreach initiative that started in 2024. This program provides integrated services at Mamie Center, situated 16 km from the Nsaru Health Center. This expansion is built on the successful implementation and scaling of mobile clinics, a milestone achieved thanks to the generous contributions of Partners for Equity Australia and the Segal Family Foundation.

Establishment of Outreach Clinic and Integrated Services:

The Foundation set up an Outreach Clinic that merges maternal health services with the outpatient department (OPD) at Nsaru Health Center, thereby improving accessibility and the quality of care for expectant mothers in hard to reach areas.

Strengthening Local Coordination:

With support from the Segal Family Foundation, a local mother and child health MCH network has been created, consisting of five Malawian Segal Family Foundation grantees. This network aims to enhance service delivery, leadership, resource mobilization, and technical support, fostering organizational growth and better outcomes.

Scaling Up Mobile Clinics to Chimbayo Village:

Building on the successful pilot of the mobile clinic in 2024, the Foundation extend its services to Chimbayo Village in August 2025, addressing the healthcare needs of an area that has been previously underserved and faces significant challenges.

Improving Nsaru Health Center Maternity Wing:

With funding from the MCH Network via the Segal Family Foundation, we renovate the maternity wing and outpatient department (OPD) at Nsaru Health Center, tackling facility deterioration and enhancing conditions for mothers and healthcare staff.

Enhanced Service Delivery and Impact:

Over the past six months, the organization has achieved notable success across various interventions, including Routine Antenatal Registration, Family Planning, Study Circles, Birth Outcome Surveys, Nutrition Feeding Sessions, Child Growth Monitoring, Nursing Home Visits, Mobile Outreach Clinics, Breastfeeding Campaigns, and Under-Five Village Clinics. These initiatives have benefited a total of **3,843** individuals.

This success stems from effective coordination with stakeholders such as the Lilongwe District Health Office (DHO) under Nsaru Health Center, as well as support from the MCH Network, Good Neighbors International, Chingalire Growth Center, and financial backing from the Segal Family Foundation and Partners for Equity (PFE).



2025 Mid-Year Milestones



256

Mothers who participated in maternal study circles



511

Mothers Engaged Through Birth Outcome Survey



276

Children receive meals during community feeding sessions.



945

Children undergo assessments as part of their growth monitoring process.



621

Children accessed healthcare services at the village clinic.



180

Mothers Engaged during World Breastfeeding Week



1265

Patients served through outreach mobile clinics.



141

Modern Contraceptive Use Among Mothers



681

Mothers started antenatal care (ANC) within the first 15 weeks of pregnancy.



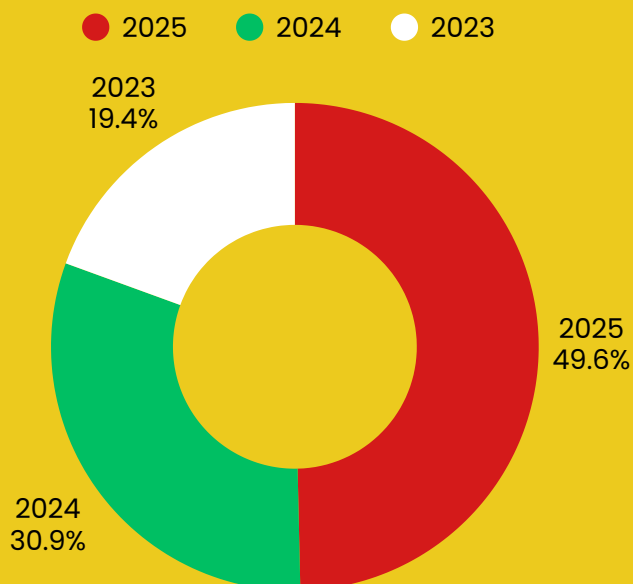
One motor vehicle and one motorcycle have been acquired to improve staff mobility.



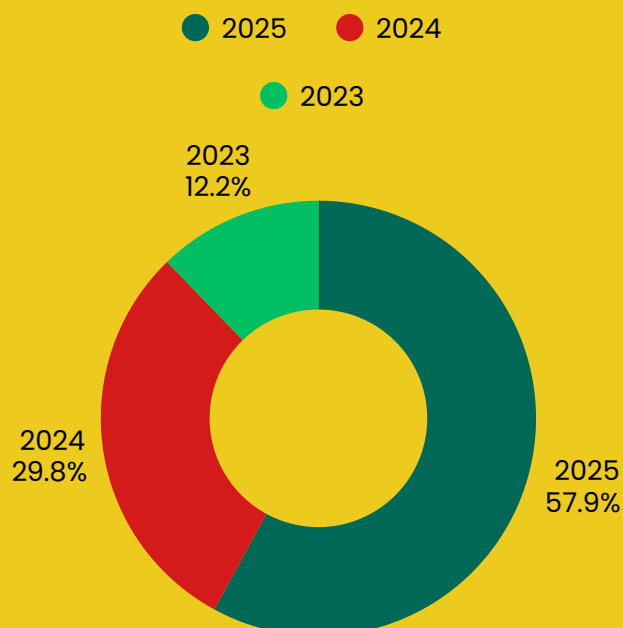
www.smilemumsfoundation.org

Key Metrics for Mid-Year 2025

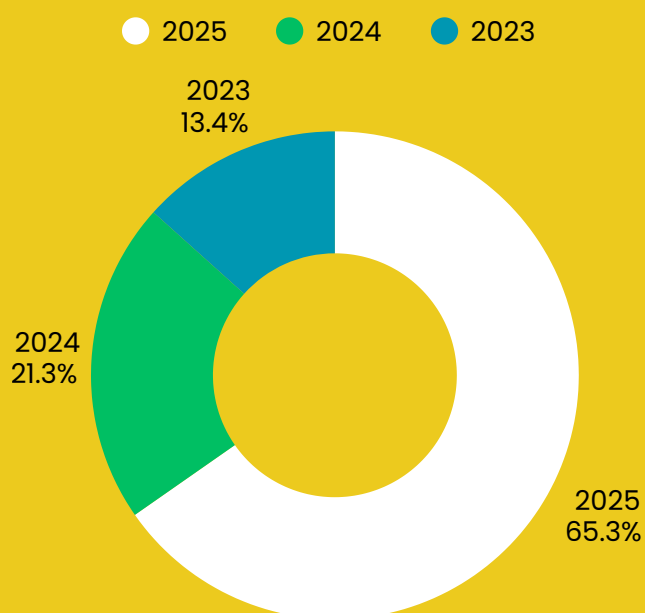
Pregnant Mothers Begin ANC by 15 Weeks of Pregnancy



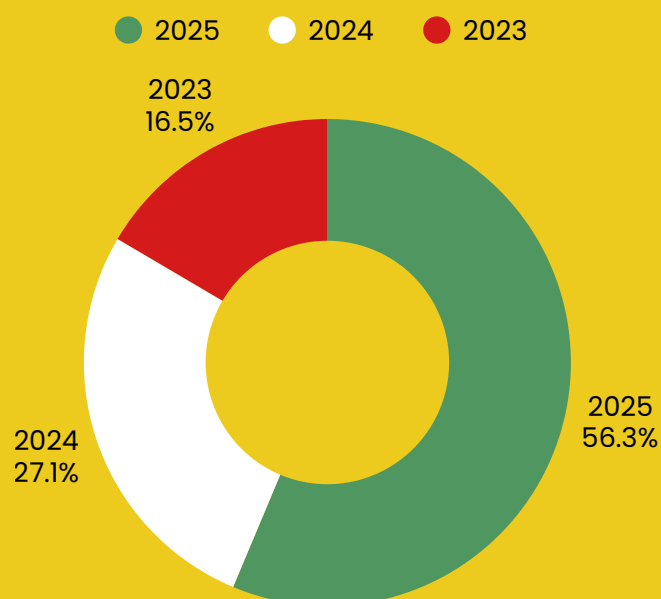
Mothers Engaged through Birth Outcome Survey within 72 Hours Post-Delivery



Under-five Children Receive Healthcare at Village Clinic



Children Nourished at Community-Led Complementary Feeding Sessions (CCFLSs)



Discover Inspiring Stories in Mid-Year 2025

Smile Mums Foundation: Expanding the Outreach Clinic Initiative

People in Chimbayo Village have long faced significant barriers to accessing healthcare, with the nearest clinic 8.6 km away and some residents travelling as far as 17 km to reach Nsalu Health Centre. The need for immediate intervention was clear. On its inaugural day, the new outreach clinic provided care for 128 people, supported 93 children after birth, and assisted seven pregnant women. Without this service, many families would continue to struggle to obtain basic healthcare. The outreach clinic is funded by the Segal Family Foundation and Partners for Equity, implemented in conjunction with the Ministry of Health through Nsalu Health Centre.



MCH Network: Transforming Nsaru Health Center and Enhancing Staff Mobility

The Smile Mums Foundation has significantly improved the maternity wing and patient waiting room at Nsaru Health Center, thanks to the MCH Network—a collaboration of five organizations backed by the Segal Family Foundation. Through this network, the foundation secured MK 9,300,000 (equivalent to \$5,314) to enhance the maternity facilities, upgrade the waiting area, and purchase a motorbike, thereby boosting staff mobility and outreach.



World Breastfeeding Week: Empowering Communities

The Smile Mums Foundation marked World Breastfeeding Week (August 1–7) by emphasizing the significance of breastfeeding. The foundation conducted health education campaigns for 180 community members across various villages.

- Nurse counselors facilitated demonstrations and responded to inquiries.
- Mother-to-mother support groups were formed to provide ongoing peer assistance.
- Additionally, breastfeeding education was incorporated into antenatal and postnatal care services.



Village clinics improve access to child healthcare

Access to child healthcare is a priority, particularly through the Chingalire Village Clinic, built in partnership with community members and supported by the Segal Family Foundation. Operating twice a week on Mondays and Fridays, the clinic provides essential care to children and mothers, serving 25 to 30 children daily with the help of community health workers from the Nsaru Health Centre. In 2025, we are expanding our support to four additional village clinics established by the government but currently inactive due to a lack of medical supplies. Our involvement aims to revitalise these clinics by providing the necessary resources, ensuring that more children and mothers across the region have reliable access to quality healthcare services.



How We Are Fighting Malnutrition: Empowering the Community

Our community-led feeding and learning session marked a significant step forward in combating malnutrition among children under five in Kanyambwe and Phanga villages. During the session, we served nutrient-rich porridge to children aged 6–59 months and actively engaged community members in the process. Health screenings conducted at the event identified a 19-month-old child with moderate acute malnutrition. Encouragingly, after just twelve days of targeted intervention, the child's nutritional status returned to normal, providing clear evidence of the programme's positive impact.



In the rural villages of Nsaru, limited access to postnatal care and cultural barriers have historically led to preventable maternal and newborn health complications. To address these challenges, the organisation partnered with the Nsaru Health Centre to implement the Nursing Home Visit Care programme. This initiative brings essential healthcare services directly to women's homes, ensuring that even those unable or hesitant to visit health facilities receive critical care.



Increasing Family Planning Uptake from One Dose to Four Doses.

The Smile Mums Foundation is dedicated to promoting sustainable family planning by providing modern contraceptives in Chingalire village. Our mission is to empower both women and men with essential knowledge about reproductive health and birth spacing. With the support of the Segal Family Foundation and Partners for Equity, we are working to alleviate congestion at Nsaru Health Centre by offering long-term contraceptive options. Starting in June 2025, each mother will receive four doses of a self-injectable contraceptive, encouraging consistent family planning and helping to reduce congestion at the health center.



Exploring Community Collaboration via Learning Exchange Visits

On June 2, 2025, the Smile Mums Foundation conducted a learning visit to Future4All Malawi, located in the Ntcheu district, one of the Segal Family Foundation's Malawi grantees. The purpose of this learning visit was to appreciate the important work being done by the organisation, understand how to effectively design, implement, report on, and track the impact of various programmes, and explore potential collaboration opportunities that could benefit both organisations, such as joint proposals, capacity building, and technical support in project implementation. The visit, led by Executive Director Mr. Lemani Ngaiyaye, provided an opportunity to tour several sites, including the Champiti Health Centre, the Smarta Agriculture Demonstration Site, the Phoko Community-Based Child Care Centre, the Dzoole Under-Five Clinic, the Dzoole Primary Library, and a backyard garden, as well as to meet one of the livestock pass-on beneficiaries.



Lesson Learned

Process Monitoring:

Over the last nine months, the team has committed considerable time to improving process monitoring, specifically concentrating on implementation monitoring to achieve better outcomes through results monitoring. As a result of these efforts, we have seen significant improvements in the effectiveness of our programs and systems.

Sustainable Growth Driven by Demand:

We have discovered that sustainable growth is primarily fueled by demand. Our strategy starts at the health facility level, initiating small and expanding as needs develop. After the stakeholders' quarterly meeting with Nsaru Health Center management and various partners, we received a request to launch our outreach clinic in Chimbayo village. This request came after community leaders observed the positive effects of our work at Mamie Center and Chingalire village. Consequently, we are planning to expand the outreach clinic to Chimbayo village, one of the catchment areas of Nsaru Health Center, where we are seeing early signs of ownership and support from local leaders. This initiative is being coordinated through the Lilongwe District Health Office in collaboration with Nsaru Health Center.

Partnering with the Government for Sustainable Solutions:

Partnering with the government in crafting interventions promotes sustainability, affordability, and community ownership. This year, we teamed up with the Ministry of Health, specifically through the Lilongwe District Health Office, to integrate our planned activities for 2025 into the district's planning and budgeting tool. This integration will allow the government to oversee all health interventions put into action and enhance coordination of sustainability efforts.

Local Networks Foster Organizational Growth:

Through the Mother and Child Health (MCH) Network, consisting of five Segal Family Foundation Malawi grantees, we have made significant progress in organizational development. The funds allocated to each member of the network have allowed us to:

- Improve staff mobility by purchasing a motorbike
- Enhance maternal health service delivery at Nsaru Health Center by renovating the maternity wing
- Install new bedding
- Maintain the outpatient department

These achievements highlight how a robust local network can foster organizational growth and enhance service delivery.

Special Thanks



MCH Network

Wandikweza: Joyful Motherhood: Life Net : Global Health Informant



www.smilemumsfoundation.org



Innovation for saving mothers and children in rural Malawi

Contact Us:



+265 888 880 912



smilemumsfoundation.mw@gmail.com



hello@smilemumsfoundation.org



www.smilemumsfoundation.org

