Like many others around the world, the pandemic upended our plans for 2020. However, with our team’s dedication and resiliency we were able to adapt to the challenges COVID brought and continue to provide care and treatment to our patients. Our team hosted trainings on caring for COVID patients and proper PPE usage and our patients even got involved sewing cloth masks.

THE AREA 25 TEAM SHARE WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID

RACHEL MACLEOD, MIDWIFE EDUCATOR AT AREA 25, SHARES HER EXPERIENCE WORKING IN LOCKDOWN

HONORING DR. PETER KAZEMBE

GLOBAL WOMEN’S HEALTH STORIES

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021
Our work at Area 25 Health Centre continued to grow this year with **over 6,800 deliveries**, including **over 700 cesarean section surgeries**. Due to ever-growing demand at Area 25, we expanded the facilities in May with a **new nine-bay labour ward** adjacent to the maternal waiting home. The semi-private suites provide a private place to give birth and allow clinical workers more space to care for their patients. Each room in the new ward is equipped with a private or shared restroom and shower facility and swinging doors that lead to the central nurses’ station.

Prior to opening the new ward, women at Area 25 were delivering their babies in a six-bed ward on beds lined up in one room separated by curtains. Because of the cramped quarters, family members were not able to accompany or help their loves nes during delivery.

The new ward has enough space for one family member to be in the room during delivery, an accommodation that is somewhat unique in health care facilities across sub-Saharan Africa, and has now been adopted as the new standard in Malawi.

Our Permaculture program continues to thrive with two trees planted for every baby born. One planted at Area 25 and the other at the new mother’s home.
Kamuzu Central Hospital

In 2020 our team, led by Dr. Bakari Rajab, assisted 3,000 deliveries and over 500 gynecological surgeries in addition to supporting mentorship and training of local Malawian providers at the central referral hospital in Malawi’s capital Lilongwe. Texas Children’s Global Maternal Health secured over $350,000 in funding to continue the Malawi College of Medicine OB/GYN Residency Training program for an additional two years.

Obstetric Fistula

In 2020, Texas Children’s began a new partnership with the International Federation of Obstetrics & Gynecology (FIGO) to support the FIGO Fistula Surgery Training Initiative. This program trains multidisciplinary teams to provide life-transforming care to greater numbers of women. The program is dedicated to building the capacity of local fistula surgeons, FIGO Fellows, utilizing the FIGO Fistula Surgery Training Manual - the world’s first standardized evidence-based tool to train fistula surgeons. 62 surgeons from 22 countries have been trained and provided more than 11,000 fistula repair surgeries.

Honoring Dr. Peter Kazembe

Dr. Peter Nicholas Kazembe was founding executive director of Baylor-Malawi and served until his retirement in 2018. He passed away in August 2020. Dr. Kazembe was one of our greatest advocates for maternal and child health including neonatology care. Read more about his legacy and how we are honoring him.

“Pediatric and maternal care has advanced by leaps and bounds because of Dr. Kazembe’s efforts. The impact of his knowledge and dedication to pediatric and maternal health care will be felt for generations to come.”

DR. JEFF WILKINSON
DIRECTOR, TEXAS CHILDREN’S GLOBAL WOMEN’S HEALTH PROGRAM
Global Women's Health Stories

As we move forward in 2021 we have a number of exciting new projects underway including the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to monitor fetal heart rate to improve preventable maternal and neonatal deaths in partnership with the Malawi Ministry of Health and PeriGen.

Our demand for services continues to expand at Area 25 and we are in the process of planning and raising funds for construction of additional buildings for post-surgical and post-natal care and a more robust neonatal space. In 2021 we will resume services at the Freedom from Fistula Care Center at Bwaila Hospital.

• Area 25 Health Center offers new model of care to expectant mothers in Malawi
• Midwives a necessity to health of mothers, babies in Malawi
• Freedom from Fistula Care Center offers hope to women plagued by childbirth complications
• World Telehealth Initiative connects medical experts with vulnerable population in Malawi
• New labor and maternity ward in Malawi increases capacity, privacy for women

Looking Ahead to 2021