Butterfly Space Baby Basket Project

As part of this project, you'll help fill and deliver around 20 baby baskets each month to new mothers at Nkhata Bay Hospital and three hospitals in Lilongwe, the capital city. These baskets provide essential clothing and personal care items to give babies a healthy start in life, as well as a safe sleeping space to reduce the risk of accidental harm during co-sleeping.

The project also empowers a local women's group, established in 2023, who were trained in basket weaving through a TEVETA-accredited program at our vocational training centre at Stepping Stones. The Moses baskets are woven by these women and purchased for use in the project, supporting both maternal health and local livelihoods.







Key contacts:

Alice Leaper: Whatsapp (Malawi Number) +265999265065

Alice is the founder of the project so will be able to support any preparation and questions regarding this.

Moses (School Care Taker): 0985109929

Moses supports the women's group and will be able to give you an idea of how many baskets the women have made, and how long it will take for 20 baskets to be available.

Kumbu: WhatsApp (Malawi number) +265999437247
Kumbu supports the putting together and delivery of the baskets to the hospital. He will be able to support by hiring and driving a car, this will cost around £12/$14.

Supreme: WhatsApp (Malawi number) +265995096463
Supreme, make reusable sanitary towels, essential products for new mothers. We would recommend that you visit Supreme in town to see how the towels are made and make a purchase for the baby baskets.





Costs:

- Each baby basket cost approx. £3.50 to buy from the women's group.
- Transport – you will have a lot of baskets to transport so will need a car/truck to get these to the hospital. Car hire/taxi can be arranged with Kumbu as stated above.
- The following items can be brought locally: **soap** (approx. 40p per bar), **nappies** (approx. 60p each), **sanitary towels** (2 for approx. £1.20), **chitenge** used for mother to wrap around herself to carry the baby (approx. £2.50) and **baby lotion** (approx. 50p)

When delivering the baskets, volunteers are kindly asked to read a short prepared message to the new mothers. It's important to review this in advance and coordinate with a nurse who can assist with translation, contact details are available to help you make arrangements ahead of time. Please be mindful of cultural sensitivity during your visit, and note that photos are not permitted in the ward unless you have received clear permission from the mothers.

For 20 babies, you'll need a range of essential items, including: Blankets, baby clothes, bottles, soft toys, nappies, and reusable sanitary towels (such as Supreme). Other necessities include bars of soap, hats, gloves, socks, breast or maternity pads, nappy covers, knickers, paracetamol, nursing bras, condoms, chitenges, face cloths, Vaseline, mosquito nets, and baby lotion.









