

# Chimwemwe Balakasi



## Dental Technician

Prior to the Bachelor of Dental Surgery course starting in 2019, dental services in Malawi were solely provided by dental technicians trained at the Malawi College of Health Sciences in Lilongwe. Dental technicians are a vital component of providing oral services to Malawi's 19 million people.

*"When a student gets an education, you would have broken a very big poverty chain in their clan..."*

Head of Nursing, Mzuzu University

Thank you for supporting **Chimwemwe** through his education as a Dental Technician.



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ORAL CARE FOR EVERYONE

## Family circumstances

### Chimwemwe

is from the northern region of Rumphi. He is the third born in the family. He is the first in his family to reach college. His parents rely on subsistence farming to earn a small family income. Due to climatic fluctuations the family often rely on loans to make ends meet. His parents achieved primary school education. 2 of his siblings dropped out of secondary school because they did not have enough money to pay for school fees. One of his brothers is still at secondary school.

## Education

**Chimwemwe** went to a government secondary school in Lilongwe. His fees were modest at the time and were paid by his brother in law who was doing a small scale business. He achieved **21 points** in his Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE). Student points are calculated by adding their 6 highest subject points together. The better you do, the lower the score; 1-2 points = distinction; 3-4 points = credit; 5-6 points = pass.

## Why Dental?

### Chimwemwe

has always wanted to be part of the health system so that he can help treat dental patients and contribute in giving health education to patients. He wants to own a dental clinic which will be affordable to everyone in Malawi.



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