

Scottish Government International Development Programme End-Year Report

Notes for Completion:

- Please note, with the exception of the cover page, this report will be published.
- To ensure compliance with GDPR, refrain from using any personal or identifying information unless you have obtained consent from the data subject and are content for this to be made public.
- Answer all questions in the template provided, noting the word limits.
- Include all relevant information in the reporting template – hyperlinks and annexes will not be accepted as part of the report.
- Ensure answers are clear, concise and in plain English. Explain acronyms and avoid using jargon.
- Please ensure this end-year report covers the full reporting period (12 months).

Supporting Documentation <i>Check box to confirm key documents have been submitted with this report</i>	Logical Framework, which reflects any changes in this reporting period. Budget Case study Risk register	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X <input type="checkbox"/> Included in main reportX
As the project manager responsible for the completion of this report, I hereby confirm the information included is accurate and complies with the notes for completion.		
Scotland-based Project Manager: [Redacted] niversity of Glasgow, [Redacted] [Redacted]	Signature: [Redacted]	

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1. General project information		
1.1	Project reference Number	Blantyre Blantyre Clinical Research Facility
1.2	Name of organisation	University of Glasgow
1.3	Lead partner(s) organisation	University of Glasgow (UofG) & College of Medicine, (COM), University of Malawi
1.4	Project title	Blantyre Blantyre Research Facility
1.5	Reporting period	From: 01/05/2019 To: 30/04/2020
1.6	Reporting year	Year 3
1.7	Project start date	30/03/2017
1.8	Project end date	30/06/2022
1.9	Total project budget*	£2,000,000
1.10	Total funding from Scottish Government*	£1,000,000
1.11	Provide a brief description of the project's aims, highlighting which of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) your project is working towards? (200 words)	Our vision is the establishment and deployment of a clinical lab facility at College of Medicine (COM). This will enhance ongoing collaborations and evidence-based development of research and training programmes, medical interventions and policy development in Malawi in the key area of NCDs and their interface with IDs, especially TB & Malaria. This will bring to bear internationally renowned expertise in NCDs and IDs in Glasgow (The Wellcome Centre for Integrative Parasitology, MRC Centre for Virus Research, BHF Centre of Excellence and Versus Arthritis Centre of Excellence) on national health priorities in Malawi. Significantly, it will complement existing Glasgow partnerships with the Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Programme (MLW) and Centre for Global Health Research. In the longer term, this will provide a centre of excellence for the region in NCDs research. This project contributes directly to SDG 3 & 4 (Good Health & Well-being & Quality Education) also by harnessing SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) we will in the longer term as the lab becomes self-sustaining contribute towards SDG 9 (Industry/Innovation & Infrastructure)

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2. Project progress and results

Please use this section to give an update on the progress the project has made during this reporting period.

2.1

Provide an update on the progress your project has made over the past 12 months. Use this space to update us on what has gone well and any challenges you have experienced, detailing how you have overcome these. (Max 500 words)

Key progress in the overall laboratory refurbishment has included the procurement and installation of the vinyl flooring. This was imported from South Africa with full installation taking place in February. Similarly, the bespoke lab benching was manufactured in South Africa and has been shipped to Malawi. All customs clearance and associated waivers have been obtained and the benching is at College of Medicine (COM) awaiting fitting once engineers from Lasec, the supplier, are able to travel from South Africa. Due to COVID19 lockdown in Malawi we are unsure when the benching will finally be installed, we are hopeful it will be by the end of 2020.

Staff training & marketing continues with the lab manager [REDACTED] undertaking a 3-week residential course in South Africa in Nov. Course content included biosafety cabinet and autoclave training as well as hands on practical experience in pipette maintenance skills. The course culminated in a theory exam focussing on diagnostic & lab analysis skills.

The lab commercial manager [REDACTED] staged an exhibition of the labs services at the COM, Research Dissemination Conference. Attended by 500 international scientists & academics it was a perfect opportunity to showcase the labs services and capabilities. A programme and tour of marketing presentations to interested parties is ongoing most recently a presentation to the National Paramedical Practitioners of Malawi (NAPPAM) was staged, those attending included private clinicians from the southern region of Malawi.

Equipment Procurement: A comprehensive market search of diagnostic equipment suitable for the lab was completed. This identified two key pieces of equipment (Sysmex 1000 hematology analyser and Beckman Coulter AU 480 Chemistry analyser) both will enhance lab capabilities and future income generating services offered by the lab. Expenditure on the equipment has been authorised by Scottish Government and the procurement process is progressing in Malawi.

As part of the projects link up with the Diploma in Tropical Medicine course run at University of Glasgow, (UofG) nine new benchtop microscopes were shipped from Glasgow to the lab in February. Similarly, two new laboratory microfuges have been purchased from personal external fundraising by the grantholder and will be shipped to the lab very soon.

Lab accreditation: As the lab nears completion, we are mapping out the route to full accreditation taking advice from experts in the field [REDACTED] who will navigate the WHO - Stepwise Laboratory Improvement Process Towards Accreditation (SLIPTA) with the aim of having the lab accredited to international

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	<p>standard.</p> <p>Solar Power: In collaboration with UofG World Changing Alumni award winner [REDACTED], we are currently undertaking a survey of the lab's overall energy requirements. Our aim is to work with Eunice's company (EmPowered FinTech) to harness solar power for use in the Blantyre Blantyre lab. We hope to access significant external funding to drive this ground-breaking initiative forward.</p>
2.2	<p>Has the focus or plans for delivery changed significantly during the last year? Please highlight what issues or challenges prompted this change and how you anticipate any changes in focus will impact on the previously agreed outcomes (Max 500 words)</p>
	<p>The projects focus and plan to build an internationally accredited lab at COM has not changed.</p>
2.3	<p>Taking into consideration what you have achieved during the last 12 months, along with any challenges you have experienced, please highlight to us what lessons you have learned, and how these will be applied in the project in the future. (Max 500 words)</p>
	<p>Throughout this project we have worked closely with partners at COM, we are always sympathetic to the challenges they face day to day in progressing such a project in Malawi. Significant challenges in the procurement of goods, services and equipment exist in Malawi and we now have an understanding of the best processes and procedures to adopt to bring about progress in Malawi.</p>
<p>3. Partnerships and collaboration</p> <p><i>This section allows you to discuss how partnership working is progressing on the project, as well as wider collaboration and sharing of learning.</i></p>	
3.1	<p>Provide an update on how partnership working has gone in the past 12 months. Let us know about any highlights, challenges or changes to roles and responsibilities. (Max 350 words)</p>
	<p>We actively foster and nurture our communication and partnerships in Malawi they are key in advancing this project. With this in mind the Blantyre Blantyre project acts as an exemplar and springboard for many additional initiatives in Malawi. Having the physical base and focus of the Blantyre Blantyre lab at COM has greatly added value to the original project and greatly enhanced opportunity for all to engage and make a positive contribution. The synergy created by the project has been immense. (See section 8 for further detail).</p>
3.2	<p>Have any Scotland-based staff visited the project in the past 12 months? Give details including key activities and outputs of these visits.</p>
	<p>The grant holder, [REDACTED] Wellcome Centre for Integrative Parasitology (WCIP) [REDACTED] & WCIP administrator [REDACTED] all travelled to Blantyre in Nov 19 to meet with project partners and review progress to date. During the visit as well as meeting with the Principal of COM and lab staff they attended the COM/Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Research Dissemination Conference held at COM over a course of three</p>

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	<p>days. Attended by 500 delegates the meeting allowed the Blantyre Blantyre management to meet with key players in the region and advertise the labs capabilities to all who attended the meeting. Wellcome Trust representatives attended the meeting [REDACTED] they were given a tour of the Blantyre Blantyre facility and introduced to COM principal and Blantyre Blantyre staff.</p>	
Date of visit	Key achievements / outputs of visit	Follow-up actions
November 2019	<p>Review of projects progress & key achievements. Equipment Review Strategic meetings with key partners at COM/Malawi Liverpool Wellcome /Blantyre Malaria Project Route plan towards a marketing plan for the lab</p>	<p>Commence equipment procurement Draft new funding applications Develop new projects Marketing/PR plan for Lab launch & lab services</p>
3.3	<p>Please tell us about any dissemination and learning throughout this reporting period. How have you promoted effective learning across the project? Please explain what processes you have used both internally and externally to share learning from the project so far, and how this learning is being used. (Max 500 words)</p>	
	<p>Throughout the project we continually disseminated as widely as possible best practice of working in Malawi. The grant holder [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and advises at the highest level on all matters relating to projects in Malawi.</p> <p>Externally: [REDACTED], regularly takes part in events to disseminate lessons learned from the Blantyre Blantyre project. He is an active contributor to the Scottish Malawi Partnership FE/HE & Health forum meetings he attends the Scottish Parliament cross party group on Malawi and acts as a point of contact and advice for other Scottish higher education institutions seeking to work in Malawi. In February [REDACTED] put together and hosted a one-day symposium held at UofG entitled “Capacity Strengthening in Africa”, partially funded by yourselves the events aim was to investigate & disseminate good working practices in order to best work in partnership with African overseas institutions. Senior delegates to the symposium came from African educational Universities in Rwanda, Zambia, Malawi. Key officials from the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) The Guild/ Wellcome Trust also attended. This coming together of policy makers, funders, and influencers from across Africa combined with representation from all of Scotland's Higher Education establishments was a ground-breaking idea and the symposium was very well received by all who attended. Already flowing from the symposium, we see many ideas for collaboration, projects and innovative plans that will benefit both Scotland and the African continent.</p>	

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	<p>ERASMUS (Staff mobility fund) The grant holder has submitted an application to this fund and if successful will facilitate additional knowledge transfer and effective learning between academics & administrative staff at both UofG and COM.</p> <p>Internally: UofG has established an internal network, the Malawi and Glasgow Network for Interdisciplinary Collaboration (MAGNETIC) seeks to act as a node to enable and support ongoing and emerging partnerships between UofG and a variety of agencies in Malawi. Its long-term aim is to make substantial and lasting impacts on Malawian health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Scottish Funding Council Global Challenges Research Fund: We continue to apply to this fund, recently we secured (£70,000) to continue the very successful training programme hosted by Wellcome Centre for Integrative Parasitology (WCIP) for students from all over Africa. In this year's cohort of 9 students, 2 were from Malawi and they spent three months of the year embedded within WCIP's research groups learning new lab techniques and procedures. Whilst in Glasgow the students attended seminars contributed to the Capacity Strengthening Symposium and took part in grant writing workshops. They were shown the cultural heritage of Scotland and are now a very strong cohort of Africa's next generation of scientists. We will continue to keep in touch and support them as their career progresses. Further funding from SFC GCRF also allowed the shipment of 25 refurbished computers from UofG to COM. The computers will form a cluster at COM that will be used by students, visiting academics and will significantly boost COM'S computing capabilities.</p>
3.4	<p>Has the project completed a mid-term project evaluation in the past 12 months (or is one planned for the next 12 months)? Please provide detail of the outcome of the evaluation. (Max 500 words)</p>
	<p>Whilst the project is always informally evaluated on an ongoing basis by its management team to facilitate adjustment as and when necessary, no formal project evaluation has taken place in this reporting period. It is envisaged once the lab refurbishment is complete an evaluation of the new labs outputs and services will be required.</p>
3.5	<p>Please highlight how you are maintaining an awareness of others working in this region, giving details of collaboration, joint working or partnerships with others. (Max 500 words)</p>
	<p>Since its inception the Blantyre Blantyre project has always been a beacon for exemplar working and collaboration with others in Malawi. We continue to reach out further afield to other institutions in Malawi and currently have ongoing research collaborations, projects and initiatives all with these institutions: Malawi Epidemiology and Intervention Research Unit, (MEIRU), Malawi University Science Technology (MUST) Chancellor College, Malawi Liverpool Wellcome (MLW) Blantyre Malaria Project. An example of an exciting outreach collaboration is one which the grantholder put together</p>

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	<p>between MUST and the UofG, FemEng network. FemEng is a network of female engineering students and the aim of the link up with MUST is to work together to develop and deliver workshops to promote STEM education in Malawi. Ultimately the aim is to increase the number of female students pursuing STEM careers in Malawi and provide a network for students in STEM courses. The first visit to Malawi by students from UofG will take place towards the end of 2020.</p> <p>We also proactively network and liaise with ministers in the current Malawian government, ensuring they are kept up to date on the Blantyre Blantyre projects progress and developments and are kept abreast of partnership opportunities between our countries.</p>
4. Safeguarding and fraud	
<i>Please ensure you complete questions 4.1 and 4.2 even if you have no incidents to report.</i>	
4.1	<p>Have there been any safeguarding incidents, either relating to staff/volunteers or beneficiaries of the Grant or the Project, in the last 12 months?</p> <p>No</p>
4.2	<p>Have these incidents reported at 4.1 been reported to relevant authorities, and if so, to whom?</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>
4.3	<p>Describe what action has been taken, and highlight any lessons learned.</p> <p>Not applicable</p>
4.4	<p>Have there been any incidents in the last 12 months of financial mismanagement, theft, fraud etc, either relating to the Grant or the Project or which affects the organisation?</p> <p>No</p>
4.5	<p>Have these incidents reported at 4.1 been reported to relevant authorities, and if so, to whom?</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>
4.6	<p>Describe what action has been taken, and highlight any lessons learned.</p>

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	Not Applicable		
5. Risk assessment			
5.1	Have any issues materialised during this reporting period? If so, how were they addressed? <i>Please refer to risk assessment provided at application stage.</i>		
Assumption	Risk	Action taken	Was this included in the Risk Assessment Table in your application?
COVID19 & lockdown in Malawi will impact on project	Lab Refurb will be delayed, procurement delays, impact on global Economy, Safety & Security of staff working in & travelling to Malawi	Keeping communication channels open and providing support for Malawian partners. This has included: 1. Sending additional funds for PPE purchase provided by Scot Govt 2. Accessing additional GCRF monies for COM, (advising, writing & submitting applications for up to £300,000) 3. Mobilising and coordinating our vast network of academics to support COM. This has included all global contacts as well as mobilisation of an internal UofG taskforce to assist COM 3. Advising on best practice in providing online lectures for COM students 4. Coordinating private fundraising to provide additional financial aid for colleagues & all partner Institutions in Malawi 4. Adherence to Foreign & Commonwealth Advice & completion of UofG risk assessment before foreign travel.	No
Procurement Delays	Delivery of lab equipment delayed	Advice & guidance on best practice procurement in consultation with COM	No

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(Also See additional Risk assessment document)		principal	
<p>6. Inclusion & accountability</p> <p><i>Thinking specifically about the past 12 months, please use this section to tell us how you are mainstreaming through your project, ensuring that you are aware of and actively working to reach vulnerable and marginalised groups.</i></p>			
6.1	<p>Is the project still relevant for the beneficiaries you are working with? Please highlight how you ensure accountability on the project, ensuring beneficiaries have the opportunity to feedback on the project and influence its development? (max 350 words)</p>		
	<p>The project is still very relevant to the beneficiaries, we continually take soundings, and advice from COM senior academics to ensure the project continues to be a good fit with their long-term strategic plan. As COM progresses to become an independent University, we are available to them to give guidance on governance, policy and strategic expertise</p>		
6.2	<p>Do you have an awareness of particularly vulnerable or marginalised groups within the community in which your project is working? Please give details on how you are disaggregating data to recognise these groups across the project. (Max 350 words)</p>		
	<p>The projects seeks to capacity build and create an enabling environment, by strengthening partnerships and networks. By providing training, support and sharing existing knowledge as well as establishing a peer to peer support network we are creating a forum for good practice that is being disseminated and impacting at all levels.</p>		
6.3	<p>How is your project working to actively meet the needs of these vulnerable and marginalised groups, ensuring they are benefiting from the project? Please outline any mechanisms you are using. (Max 350 words)</p>		
	<p>The main project provides direct employment and support ancillary employment for vulnerable and marginalised groups (ie members of surrounding community in Blantyre & wider Malawi). It has improved employment opportunities and gives support and skills access to training never previously available in country. UofG and COM are committed to promoting and implementing opportunity for all in the research environment, they have a shared aim of challenging discrimination and harassment. Outputs from the project will ultimately benefit individuals and provide Malawi and its healthcare system with a functional lab resource. In addition, a multi-purpose infrastructure allowing expansion of clinical provision available to all will benefit vulnerable & marginalised groupings in Malawi.</p>		
6.4	<p>Taking into consideration some of the challenges of mainstreaming, please describe any challenges you have faced in reaching vulnerable and marginalised groups, how you have overcome these or plans you have developed to support inclusion on the project. (Max 350 words)</p>		
	<p>The reach and overall benefits to Malawi of this project are numerous. It goes beyond the obvious benefits to its science, research, health provision and policies. It seeks to engage Malawi with international knowledge and new</p>		

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	<p>partners, greater cooperation at this level and all its resulting benefits will in time cascade down through Malawian society to ultimately improve day to day life for marginalised groups.</p>
<p>7. Financial information</p> <p><i>This section will be reviewed alongside your budget report, which should be included alongside your narrative and logframe. Please ensure this spreadsheet is completed with both a detailed breakdown of expenditure for this financial year, along with your projected spend for the next financial year.</i></p> <p><i>Please note carry-over of funds to the next financial year should have been agreed with the Scottish Government by January 31st of the current financial year.</i></p>	
7.1	<p>With reference to your budget spreadsheet, please give a detailed explanation of any variances between planned and actual expenditure, including reasons for the variances and whether these are as a result of timing issues, price achieved, quantity etc. If these are temporary variances, please outline plans for expenditure. (Max 500 words)</p> <p>Earlier in this reporting period we identified an underspend in the project due to savings in salary and financial software (Agresso) implementation costs. Use of the underspend to purchase diagnostic equipment for the lab was given the green light by yourselves and we have taken steps to procure the equipment. The projects full allocation of implementation capital has been transferred to COM and this is being used to cover the costs of the lab benching. Office/overheads/international airfares/in country travel and subsistence expenditure for national staff are all as planned. Subsistence for international staff has not been used as this was supported from another source of match funding within UofG in this period.</p> <p>There was a recent supplement to the overall budget, a sum of £14,500 advanced in April to assist in setting up a testing facility at COM to tackle the COVID19 virus pandemic. We have as yet not incurred any expenditure for lab accreditation as the delay in the refurbishment has meant we did not have to incur these costs at this point in time. We would hope to take this delayed spend (£7,500) into the next reporting period. Our overall spend at this point in time is £387,429 from a total budget of £1,000,000.</p> <p>Additional note: An award of £15,000 towards the costs of the Capacity Strengthening in Africa symposium was made by yourselves to the grantholder and UofG in Feb. UofG finance treated this as a separate award to UofG and the funding and expenditure kept separate from Blantyre Blantyre project.</p>
7.2	<p>Please give details of any capital expenditure in this reporting period. (Max 350 words)</p>
	<p>No capital expenditure in this reporting period. We expect to report capital expenditure in the following reporting period as we take delivery of new diagnostic equipment for the lab.</p>
7.3	<p>Please explain how you have worked to ensure cost effectiveness on the project in the past 12 months, whilst maintaining the quality of delivery. (Max 350 words)</p>

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The project management team adhere to robust financial procurement, policies and principles as laid down by UofG and COM. The cost of potential purchases are always researched in advance and the resulting purchases benchmarked against competing options to ensure cost effectiveness. No compromise in the quality of the delivery of products or services to the project can be entertained, we must maintain a continuous level of good practice in all areas as we take the lab forward to attain full accreditation.

8. Any other information

Use this section to tell us any other relevant information regarding your project. (Max 500 words)

The Blantyre Blantyre project acts as a catalyst for many other initiatives and projects, a few are detailed below:

ARUA/The GUILD: The grantholders position within the University of Glasgow affords him access at the highest level to African & EU policy makers and influencers.

Royal Society of Edinburgh: The grantholder was instrumental in nominating [REDACTED] for the prestigious honour of being inducted as a fellow of the Royal Society. This is the first Malawian to be given this honour and the Royal Society will host a reception later in the year to formally bestow the award on [REDACTED]. This is a significant award and is evidence of the high level of esteem and value placed on our partnership with COM and [REDACTED].

Malawi Epidemiology & Intervention Research Unit: (MEIRU) UofG now funds 80% of the salary of the [REDACTED] in partnership with London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. A recent major funding award from Wellcome Trust to partners UofG & MEIRU allowed for the recruitment of an additional administrator based at UofG to manage the overall project and liaise with Malawian partners.

BEIT Trust The grantholder is in discussions with Beit Trust to extend the current BEIT/Glasgow Studentship agreement and increase the number of MSc students from Malawi studying at UofG each year.

Wellcome Trust: A funding application by the Wellcome Centre for Integrative Parasitology (WCIP) for two more years of funding is currently being considered by the Wellcome Trust. If successful, the funding will allow us to fund more equipment (-80 freezer) and staff at the Blantyre Blantyre lab. Also included in the application is an allocation of funds to offset the Blantyre Blantyre labs carbon footprint. We have contacted the Scotland Malawi Partnership to ascertain if they know of any initiative in Malawi that provides this service. We hope to hear the outcome of the Wellcome Trust application soon.

Providing Employment in Malawi: We continue to order all our conference bags from local groups in Blantyre Malawi, in the last year we have ordered 500. This included an order of 100 promotional bags for the Blantyre Blantyre lab launch event. Similarly, local

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printing companies will be used to provide printed matter for the launch.

Fundraising: UofG staff in their spare time continue to support many institutions & charities in Malawi. Recently in collaboration with a private Glasgow donor they were able to fund the cost of 7 new hospital beds for the children's ward at the Blantyre Malaria Project this year. The beds were manufactured by a local company in Blantyre, thus again our activities bring economic support. UofG continues to ship refurbished laptops and academic texts to COM and MUST.

Press/PR: UofG staff continue to harness all traditional media and social media platforms to publicise the Blantyre Blantyre project and associated initiatives. In readiness for the official launch of the lab dedicated web pages and a twitter account are being developed.