



Reducing inequalities in surgical care: the mobile phone clinic saving lives in Malawi

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The Need



5 BILLION
PEOPLE* LACK ACCESS TO
SAFE AND AFFORDABLE
SURGICAL CARE



SURGICAL CONDITIONS
ACCOUNT FOR
30% OF THE GLOBAL
DISEASE BURDEN



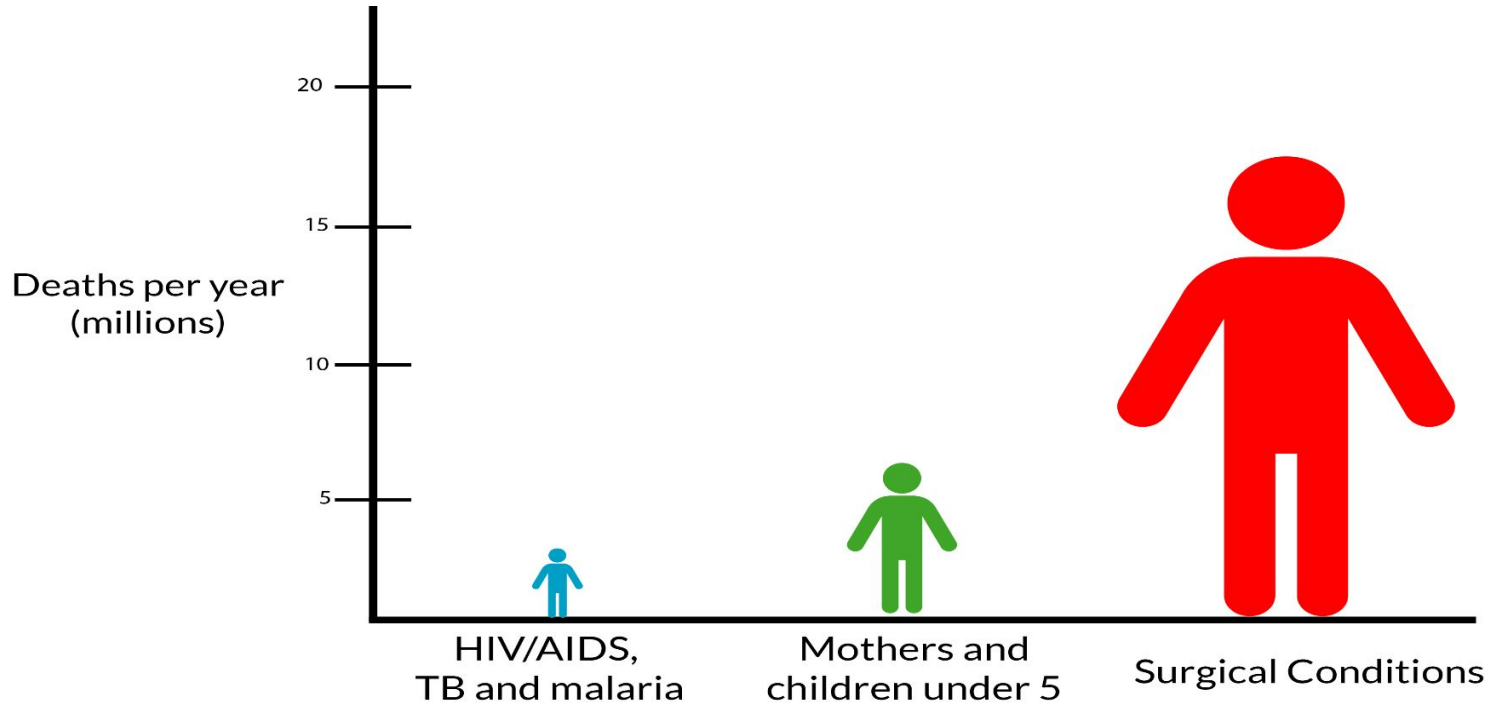
AFRICA IS MOST
AFFECTED BY THE
LACK OF ACCESS TO
SAFE SURGERY



KILLS MORE THAN
HIV, TB & MALARIA
COMBINED - LANCET

*Alkire et al. Lancet Global Health, 2015

The Need



Burden of Surgical Deaths Worldwide

The Need in Malawi



- 84% of the population lives in villages and small towns where district hospitals (DHs) are the primary source of essential surgical care.
- At district level non-specialists clinical officers trained to perform basic surgical procedures. They often work in resource-constrained settings, practicing unsupervised and without timely access to consultations with surgical specialists.
- They need training, supervision and professional development for multiple reasons, including quality of care.

The response: our work

SURG-Africa 2017-2020

- Aim: to make safe surgical services accessible, equitable and sustainable in Malawi

- Intervention: developed a remote clinical consultation network based on WhatsApp
 - To link district clinicians and specialists at the central level.
 - To provide education opportunities and space to exchange medical knowledge.
 - To streamline surgical referrals coming from district to central hospitals.

- Launched in the Southern region with a view to scaling up to the national level.

The response: our work

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1n2gzPs5AbM>



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Thank you

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