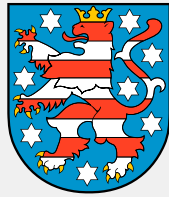




Ambulances in front of the Zomba Central Hospital in Malawi

**GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND FEDERAL STATES PROGRAMME**  
**BUND-LÄNDER-PROGRAMM (BLP)**

**Federal state - partner country**  
Thuringia - Malawi



**Title**  
Development of IT skills and digital infrastructure  
at Zomba Central Hospital in Malawi

**In cooperation with the GIZ programme**  
Strengthening the health system with a focus on  
reproductive health in Malawi

**Financing arrangements**  
BMZ contribution 160.674 EUR  
Thuringian contribution 107.116 EUR

**Duration**  
01.11.2024 – 30.06.2026

**Responsible ministry**  
State Chancellery of Thuringia

This project helps to achieve the following  
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



## Digital Transformation at Zomba Central Hospital

### Local situation

To achieve the goals of Malawi Vision 2063, the digitalisation of the healthcare system in Malawi is a crucial step towards improving healthcare provision. The implementation of digital technologies can significantly increase the efficiency and quality of healthcare services, but the funding situation is very tight.

As part of various investments/donor activities, Zomba Hospital is one of the four central hospitals in Malawi to have converted its imaging to digital X-rays and received a computerised tomography (CT) scanner. This represents a enormous advance in diagnostic possibilities, but also creates the need to store the resulting images, assign them correctly to the patients and make them accessible to the respective practitioners. Currently, there is only one screen in the orthopaedics department on which X-ray images can be viewed. Clinicians have to queue up to use it. This delays consultations and ward rounds considerably. In addition, there is no network that spans the entire hospital, but different systems. The power supply is unstable with frequent power outages and significant voltage fluctuations, which can lead to damage to electronic devices, among other things.

*“It might look weird to digitalise a hospital that is plagued by power cuts frequently but it is a strategic opportunity to improve efficiency, patient safety and transparency we must not miss if we want to progress.”*

Dr. Saulos Nyirenda

Acting Hospital Director, Zomba Central Hospital, Malawi



First steps towards setting up an IT department at Zomba Central Hospital in Malawi

## Cooperation arrangements

The cooperation partner in Thuringia is the State Chancellery. Implementation partner for the project is Zomba Hospital e.V. (Thuringia). The Thuringian experience in the digitalisation of hospitals at Weimar Hospital and the universities of Jena and Ilmenau will be incorporated into the project and adapted and further developed for the local context of the cooperation partner in Malawi, Zomba Central Hospital (ZCH). ZCH is a state-run tertiary referral hospital and one of the country's four central hospitals. It is run by the national Ministry of Health Malawi (MoH).

## What we are doing - and how

The project will strengthen the capacity of ZCH stakeholders to introduce a hospital-wide IT system and lay the foundations for a corresponding IT infrastructure. Five interlinked work packages are being realised for this purpose: Four hospital employees are being trained for their tasks in setting up an IT department through training courses and a seven-week internship in the IT departments of German hospitals. The concept for this is designed by the employees in collaboration with the German specialist partners. The capacity building programme also includes on-site training for hospital staff in Malawi on how to use the hardware and software and, above all, on IT security issues. In addition, equipment

is being procured to provide solar-based power for servers and an IT network that is independent of the Malawian electricity grid and to provide the necessary hardware (including computers). The specialists on site are being supported in setting up and working on this. As soon as the hospital network has achieved the necessary functionality and stability, a suitable patient information system will be identified in consultation with the MoH and tested on a ward during the final project phase. The experience gained from the project will be jointly documented and made available to the participating project partners for knowledge transfer.

## Useful links

- Further information on the BLP:  
<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/132983.html>  
<https://bund-laender-programm.de/en>
- Further information on the cooperating GIZ-programme  
<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/156783.html>
- Association Zomba Hospital Project e.V.  
<https://zombaprojekt.com/>

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