



Better disaster response thanks to your investment in Malawi... New Labs Enable Critical Public Health Research, Create Opportunities for Students

In March 2019, Cyclone Idai became one of the worst natural disasters ever to hit the Southern hemisphere. It ravaged Malawi and neighboring countries, affecting an estimated 3 million people.

Because of you, Dr. Gama Bandawe (*pictured above*), a medical virologist at the Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST), was **poised to respond with the necessary scientific equipment** in place.

Five thousand pounds of Instrumental Access equipment arrived at MUST in

November 2018, thanks to your generosity. The cyclone made landfall just four months later.

“These are the moments when destiny calls,” Dr. Bandawe says. “As a scientist, this was the time to **step up and be of value to your nation, to your society, and to the world.**”

As the tragedy unfolded, international organizations rushed in. UNICEF partnered with LIKA, an immunology lab from Brazil, to deploy an innovative disease surveillance platform to monitor public health.

Continued...

New Labs Create Opportunities... *continued*

The UNICEF team traveled across Malawi in search of a local partner. After seeing the well-equipped labs at MUST, they immediately requested that Dr. Bandawe join their disaster response team.

An international public health collaboration was launched, **all thanks to your support!**

“This global South-South collaboration has only been possible because we showed that **we are sufficiently equipped to be a useful and equal partner,**” Dr. Bandawe reports.

MUST and UNICEF rapidly mobilized to test water sources in the flooded areas; monitor for tuberculosis, malaria, and cholera; and comb through drone and satellites images.

Because of you, Dr. Bandawe and his team have the instruments they needed to analyze samples of storm water. They are working to validate disaster response initiatives and ultimately, to **predict and prevent deadly outbreaks of disease.**

This public health collaboration **would not have been possible without your generosity!**

“Your support makes an entire world of difference and has a lifelong impact.”

—Dr. Gama Bandawe, Malawi University of Science and Technology



In April 2019, five newly-equipped teaching labs opened at the Malawi University of Science & Technology. More than a thousand students each year are benefitting from your help!

New Opportunities for Students

Before the Instrumental Access shipment arrived at MUST, “we had a university full of students and staff in great facilities who could do only the most rudimentary science because there was no equipment,” says Dr. Bandawe.

But thanks to your generosity, that has drastically changed!

With your start-up support, Dr. Bandawe and colleagues inaugurated **five new, fully-equipped labs** in MUST’s Academy of Medical Sciences this past April.

“We would be in a very different and sad place if not for this equipment,” Dr. Bandawe says. “It literally pushed us decades ahead in one fell swoop.”


Thanks to your donations, MUST is now able to offer **practical training programs available at no other university** in the country! 🇸🇸

Cover image: Dr. Gama Bandawe was poised — and equipped — to join the international team in disaster relief efforts following Cyclone Idai. Thanks to you, his labs in Malawi have the instruments needed to monitor floodwater for outbreaks of disease.

Your Support is Being Felt Around the Globe

Lead City University research staff (*pictured right*) gathered to inspect the massive -80°C freezers included in their Instrumental Access shipment, which arrived in Nigeria in September.

Because of you, more than **350 students each year** will be able to have access to hands-on opportunities in their microbiology lab practicals!

Your generosity is helping Lead City “achieve our goals of being a department and an institution with a **strong research presence in Nigeria, Africa, and the whole world**,” says Dr. Bukola Bamkefa. 



In 2019, talented scientists at 11 universities in 7 countries have received urgently-needed equipment. You're accelerating research and teaching worldwide!

Ghana

- University of Ghana

India

- Maratha Mandal Dental College

Kenya

- Mount Kenya University

Namibia

- University of Namibia

Nigeria

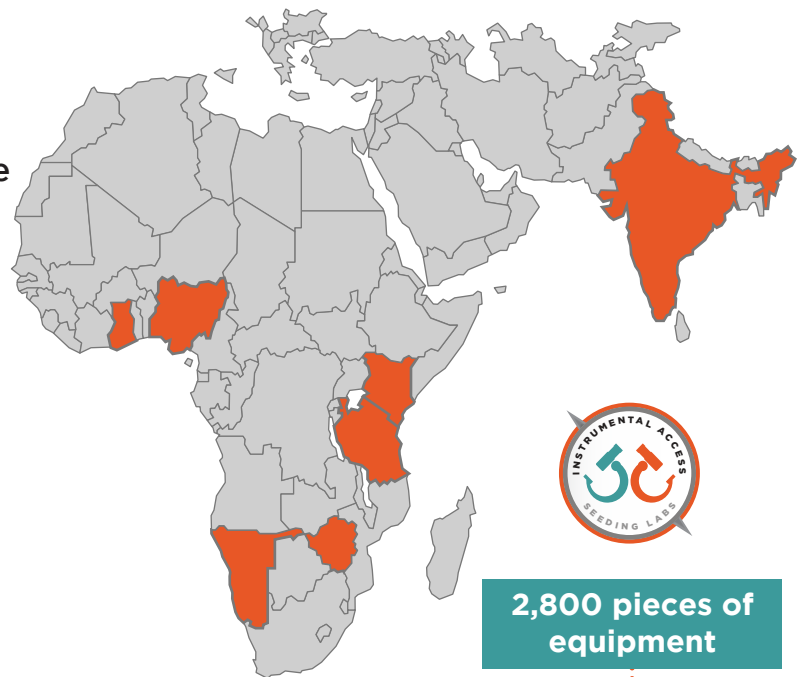
- Lead City University
- University of Ibadan
- University of Ilorin
- University of Lagos

Tanzania

- Sokoine University of Agriculture

Zimbabwe

- Lupane State University
- University of Zimbabwe



2,800 pieces of equipment

worth \$5 million

11 universities

11,000+ students!

Thanks to your response to Dr. Thabile Ndlovu...

One Step Closer to Clean Water in Eswatini

Thanks to you, Dr. Thabile Ndlovu will soon have the tools she needs to prevent chronic sickness, disease, and even death from contaminated drinking water in Eswatini.

You might remember reading about her in a letter we sent earlier this year...

Dr. Ndlovu's **research and teaching are limited** because the University of Eswatini's labs lack the right equipment. She either travels over four hours to get to a well-equipped lab, or has to ship her samples for analysis.

You can imagine that these options are pricey, inefficient, and delaying important research.

But that's all about to change, thanks to you...

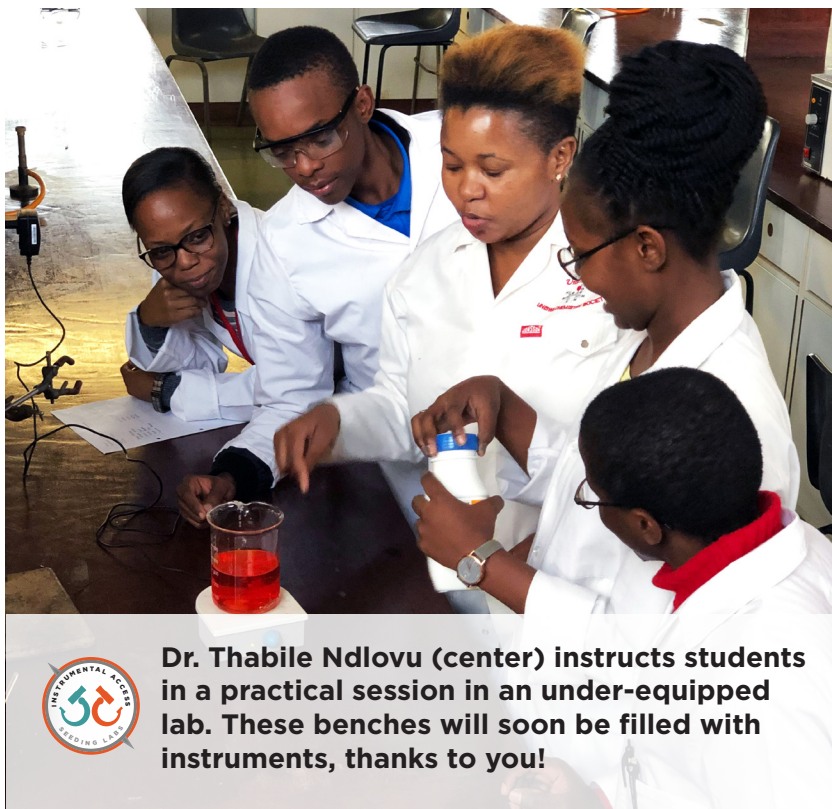
Your response to our request for help means that Dr. Ndlovu **will soon receive the equipment and supplies she needs!**

Your Impact in Eswatini

This past summer, Dr. Ndlovu and colleagues selected **241 instruments** from our inventory to outfit the chemistry labs.

Their shipment will include an array of critical tools, such as centrifuges, water baths, and water purification systems.


This influx of equipment will **add much-needed local capacity**, Dr. Ndlovu says, and improve her ability to generate data efficiency.



Dr. Thabile Ndlovu (center) instructs students in a practical session in an under-equipped lab. These benches will soon be filled with instruments, thanks to you!

This month, thanks to your generosity, the shipment of equipment was loaded into a 20-foot container and began its journey to Dr. Ndlovu's lab!

When these instruments arrive, Dr. Ndlovu will be able to do even **more life-saving research** in her own lab—because of you.

And the 40% of people in Eswatini who drink water without knowing if it is safe will soon be **one step closer to having this problem solved.** 

You can make more life-saving research possible with a donation today!
Give online at:
seedinglabs.org/donate