

OLIVIA AND MELINA

ABOUT US

Olivia | 27 years old

Melina | 2 years old

Melina's symptoms | fever, diarrhoea and weakness in her body

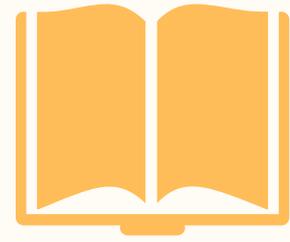
Place visited | Namulenga Health Centre (HC)

Country | Malawi



First steps...

In order to attend the clinic, Olivia had to first visit the Village Head and ask him to write a letter confirming that she lives in the area, and to request that she is able to access the free services.



WITHOUT INTER CARE'S SUPPORT, MELINA COULD HAVE BEEN WRONGLY DIAGNOSED

When Olivia received her letter, what did she do?

Olivia left her two children with their grandmother and cycled 5km to the clinic with Melina on her back.

What are the difficulties for Olivia and her family to access medical supplies?

The family are dependent on the small income they get from her husband working as a day labourer on a tea plantation. They could not afford to purchase medicines themselves so they needed to go to a clinic that would have medicines in stock that they would not have to pay for.



How was Melina diagnosed and treated?

Sr Martha (Medical Assistant), explained that her symptoms could be signs of Malaria but that it could also be several other conditions which have similar clinical presentation. Sr Martha took the temperature of Melina using an ear thermometer donated by Inter Care. Her temperature was found to be in normal range so she was prescribed with some medicines (paracetamol, zinc and Oral Re-hydration Salts) and the mother was advised to come back for a malaria test in 2 days if the child was still unwell.