

IcFEM Dreamland Mission Hospital (DMH) Newsletter April - June 2014

When we last sat down to write the IcFEM DMH newsletter we had just finished building and equipping the new wards and operating theatre. This newsletter brings an update of how these facilities have been put to good use and new services already started. Thanks to some generous donations the funds for the missing vaporisers were found as well as the deposits needed for the oxygen cylinders for anaesthetics. Theatre was then ready for use!

In April 2014 the operating theatre opened its doors for the first time and our first general anaesthetics were done! Tim Beacon from MedAid International came to ensure all the equipment was working well and to help to supervise the first operations. The DMH team welcomed Dr Rotich, orthopaedic surgeon from Eldoret, to come and operate on children who needed corrective surgery.

In June he returned again to join with the DMH team for a further week of surgery. In total Dr Rotich did 50 operations in these 2 weeks of projects. Performing the surgery at DMH, rather than take the children elsewhere, has allowed us to spread the available funds further and has allowed more children to be treated.

The majority of children had club feet that had not been corrected when they were babies, or had contractures secondary to cerebral palsy or burns. These children come from very poor backgrounds and their families are unable to afford the real cost of surgery. Doing this surgery has given all the children the chance to walk again, instead of spending their lives disabled and with limited mobility or function.



LEFT: The operating theatre in use doing the first surgical operations

RIGHT: The Theatre team

Samuel Simiyu was one of the patients operated on. He was born with a club foot but his family were unaware there was a treatment for it, they thought he would be disabled for life.



As he grew older they were told he would need an operation but as they are subsistence farmers they were not able to afford the cost of surgery. They saw the advertisement for treatment and brought Samuel to DMH for assessment. He was assessed by Mellan and booked for surgery. Before surgery Samuel was only able to walk a short distance on the side of his foot and was in constant pain and couldn't walk far. Samuel and his family wanted to tell their story to thank everyone who has helped to allow his foot to be straightened! He can't wait to get back to school! Samuel will have his plaster cast removed in 6 weeks time by Mellan or Martin, and he will then be given splints to wear. He should be able to walk in 8-10 weeks time.



*Above: First pictures: Samuel before his operation
Second: Samuel and his Mum delighted with his new straight foot even if it was in plaster!*

The DMH management are now seeking funding to run a regular smaller operating list every month, rather than each quarter, aiming to do 80-100 operations in a year to continue to give these children the chance to walk again. There are also plans ahead to do cleft lip and palate surgery in September this year.

It is not only the operating theatre that has opened. The new wards are now fully functional. DMH has employed 4 more nurses and 3 new patient attendants, meaning that one ward is open full time and the other on a project basis. This brings the number of staff at DMH to 48, a significant increase on the 16 employed 4 years ago! The hospital has also seen a huge growth in the number of inpatients with all 40 beds full in June, meaning all other services are also busy! Outpatients, X-ray and the Laboratory have all seen an increasing demand for their services, providing a valuable service to the local community.



RCO Kiprop has returned from his training at KMTC and Sabatia as a fully qualified cataract surgeon. He has come back as head Clinical Officer and has been helping the current staff with ward rounds and managing the increased patient workload. His main role is to join Cecilia running the eye clinics. These eye clinics are now open daily with over 250 eye patients seen each month. He has been doing minor operations in the eye theatre and will do his first supervised cataract lists in July. The aim is for him to run the operating lists independently by the end of August. He will be able to 40 operations a month giving patients back the gift of sight.

The next step is to ensure that all these new services can continue to run and provide a blessing to the local community. We hope to open the maternity unit once we can afford the staff to run it. The hospital is still seeking a Doctor to replace Drs Jane and Simon who are no longer based in Kenya.

If you would like to help support DMH further in any other way please do contact us. dreamlandhsopital@icfem.org. You can also visit www.justgiving.com/lcFEMDMH or Text IDMH99 followed by the amount (eg £10) to 70070

Thank you again for all your support and do feel free to pass this newsletter on to other interested parties.

Becky Nightingale and Jane Daniell (On behalf of all the DMH management with Sister Margaret, RCO Kiprop, and Sister Jael)