

IcFEM Dreamland Mission Hospital (DMH) Newsletter July to September 2016

Kenyan Healthcare is not free in the majority of cases, there is no NHS! One malaria admission can cripple a family's livelihood. However, thanks to an ever developing National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), a family pay a small monthly fee that gives them access to a wide range of treatment. At first, the NHIF scheme was generally only affordable to the employed, with only a handful of patients benefitting from care at DMH. Now however, as the scheme has developed it has become more affordable to the rural poor.

At DMH we made a principled decision not to charge extra for more expensive services for NHIF patients. This means we rely solely upon the NHIF's rebate to us to cover our service costs to NHIF. Not all Hospitals do this and so we are popular with those who can't afford to pay extra costs, and our NHIF numbers have greatly increased. We now have a designated NHIF officer, Jonah, who works to facilitate the registration of as many patients as possible, and he's been very busy! We now have almost 8,000 local people registered with us for free outpatient and basic inpatient care. Less than £5 covers a whole family's healthcare under the NHIF scheme.

Whilst this scheme has helped our rural poor communities a great deal, there remains a long way to go. Some services including complex operations are not included, thus our special



clinics – club foot, eyes, cleft lip & palate, etc – are still needed. Having said that, some progress is being made, most notably in the government's new free maternity scheme. From the start of October, DMH should be able to provide free maternity cover for all.

The NHIF scheme is an opportunity we want to harness at DMH, as we explore ways in which we can sponsor vulnerable groups to access our care through NHIF. Already we have the registered elderly, disabled, widows

and orphans benefiting from free NHIF sponsorship at our facility. These patient must have the correct documents to register, the community team try and work with them to obtain paperwork such as national ID's and birth certificates. We're now aiming to help mothers benefit from NHIF after their delivery, covering a period of great vulnerability to children in Kenya. Over the next year we are also aiming to help people who suffer from chronic diseases, by supporting them with NHIF registration. The aim by 2020 is that no family should have a catastrophic out of pocket payment.



The NHIF scheme means more patients! With more patients we need more space and staff. Thanks to a large grant we have started to build a private and isolation ward. The ward will have two roles; the first to ensure patients who need a single room for medical reasons have access to it, the second to allow patients to pay for a private room if they wish. This may be a patient who has elected to have private orthopaedic surgery or just wants more privacy. The money raised from the

private ward will be used to facilitate paying staff and help us to keep charges to the poor patients to a minimum. The building projects also have a knock on effect on the community, with supplies and the majority of labour being sourced from the local community. The aim is to have the first floor completed by March. We need to raise further money to equip the building and complete the top floor. If this is something you would be interested in helping with, we would like to hear from you! We are also in need of a resident anaesthetist/anaesthetic nurse, a nurse trainer and a general surgeon. Please do get in touch if you are interested in becoming part of the team or would like to help fund the initial costs of these roles.

The special services at DMH continue to provide the community with a service they would otherwise not have access to. Kiprop sees over 300 patients a month, providing glasses, eye medication and surgery to those in need of it. It is such a blessing to be able to give the gift of sight back to someone. Kiprop operates every Thursday and on Friday morning, when bandages are removed you can hear patients worshipping God and thanking him for their new sight. One such lady is Parainda.

Parainda had already gone blind in her right eye when her left eye started to fail her. Parainda has 8 children, and so many grandchildren she said she lost count! She was terrified when she could not see out of her left eye, no longer able to leave the home alone, farm or cook. Parainda comes from a very rural community, and has little or no income. Her daughter heard about the service at DMH, and despite being scared of surgery Parainda agreed to come for assessment. Parainda could only see light from a torch in front of her eyes.



Unfortunately, her right eye had bad glaucoma and her sight could not be saved, but her left eye had potential. Kiprop took her to theatre and within 48 hours she could see the 5th line down on an eye chart. Parainda was delighted! She was given a bible by Chaplain as she said she wanted to read and thank God for her sight. She's ensured us she will tell everyone she knows they don't have to go blind and die. She then went on her way, walking for the first time in years without need of assistance. We are very grateful to Rope and everyone who helps us fund staff and equipment, without you this lady would most likely still be blind.

The hospital aims to ensure its services make it into the community. Treatment for chronic conditions such as hypertension diabetes and HIV are all moving towards the community. Ben and his team are slowly building up a network of community workers who are helping to



promote good health care as well as facilitate better access to medication, NHIF and education. As part of the community work, the dental team are visiting schools, providing tooth brushes and oral education. DMH has an excellent dental suite but ideally it would be used just for check-ups! The children in the local schools, are taught to use a tooth brush, are given toothpaste and a brush and then screened. If they require treatment, the parents are asked to bring them to DMH for free care. The team are currently screening 100's of children a quarter, with about 100-150 requiring treatment.

In other staff news, the DMH management are delighted to announce that Kiprop and Esther have had a baby boy, Sean Kigen. Mum and baby are doing very well. Esther is currently on maternity leave from her thriving HIV/TB centre. She is being well covered by Agnes and the team.

We are extremely grateful for all the support, prayers and encouragement we get. The hospital continues to have an impact on this community. If you would like to visit, help financially, pray for the hospital or would like more information please do not hesitate to contact us. The best way is via email: dreamlandhopsital@icfem.org or by calling +44 (0) 161 408 0850 please leave a message and we will get back to you.

Thank you again for all your support,

God Bless,

Becky Nightingale and Ruth Nabie



On behalf of all the DMH management (Sister Margaret, RCO Kiprop, Sister Jael, Sister Agnes and Claire) and with thanks to all the patients who agreed to tell their stories.

If you wish to donate:

Visit www.justgiving.com/lcFEMDMH, or

Text IDMH99 followed by the amount (eg £10) to 70070.

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