



Dreamland Mission Hospital

**DMH Newsletter
April 2019**

Welcome to our latest newsletter! Please read on to hear the update of news from IcFEM Dreamland Mission Hospital (DMH).

We are very grateful to everyone who helped us to fund insurance for village health groups, poor families; those with chronic disease and those who require surgery that otherwise would be unaffordable. £5 a month pays for their care at DMH and stops the huge out of pocket expenses that can cripple families. DMH now has over 8,000 people signed up and registered for NHIF. Patients are treated for everything from Malaria to complex surgery. One example is Margaret.

Margaret had measles when she was three years old, and as a result developed Noma (cancrum oris), an aggressive gangrenous infection that spreads and destroys soft tissue with devastating effects. Margaret, now 45, has lived with this condition most of her life. It has progressed over time and surgical treatment was required for Margaret to maintain the ability to eat.

Margaret was found by our team working out in the rural community, however was very poor and said she could not afford surgery or the £5 a month for insurance.



Margaret is a widow and has 5 children to care for, and she was terrified that if she died the children would have no family. She has no regular income and lives off food grown on the family land. Margaret and her family have been sponsored under our programme, allowing her to be treated at no charge. She can now open her mouth and eat normal foods. She is also delighted that all her children are covered by the insurance, saying it is such a huge burden lifted from her shoulders knowing that they can get good medical care. She would like to thank everyone who has helped her family.

Our cleft lip programme continued in March. We did 30 operations over a 3 week period giving children and adults with cleft lip and palate the chance to smile, eat and drink again. Throughout the year DMH provides a feeding programme for the children

who are underweight. This is all provided free of charge and is essential to allow the children to be fit enough for surgery. Mark was one of these children.

Mark was born at home in the village with both cleft lip and palate. His family had never seen a child with cleft lip before and were really scared about his future. Fortunately the traditional birth attendant had a list of hospitals that could help and DMH was the nearest facility. Mark was therefore brought for assessment. He was put on the feeding programme, and given a full health check including a scan of his heart.



Mark comes from a very poor background and his family were finding it hard even to pay the £3 bus and motorbike fare to get to the hospital. Thanks to Smile Train, DMH could provide all his care for free. Mark has had two surgeries, all clinical tests, all transport, his mother's food while he was in hospital, and all his special food paid for. Mark is now fighting fit, eating normally and is likely to have nearly normal speech. He should go to school like any other child, and his mother is delighted that he will have such a bright future.

We continue to offer free maternity care at DMH, and Faith is one of those who has benefited from the service. She had her first child at a local dispensary and felt it was a distressing experience. Faith came to DMH for 4 free ante-natal care visits and got to know the staff. When she went in labour early she came straight to the hospital. She had a cord prolapse which could be potentially fatal, so she had an emergency C-section and 20 minutes later, little (3.8Kg) Victor was born fit and well. Faith was so grateful we run the free government maternity scheme and had all the staff and equipment required to deal with an emergency.



We are really delighted that the services at DMH continue to grow. In the last 10 years we have gone from seeing 6,000 patients to nearly 50,000, so with this growth the hospital continues to require investment in infrastructure. Over the last year we have had days and days without power, and also soaring main's electricity bills. We have therefore taken the decision to invest in solar power. This project will pay itself in 4 years and should reduce our monthly fuel bill from £1,000 to nearly zero. This is the equivalent of the salary of an eye surgeon like Kiprop (pictured below with his team, who have seen 1,500 patients this quarter alone and carried out over 120 sight giving surgeries). We are aiming to raise £45,000 to cover the capital outlay, with £23,000 required to start the project. If you would like to help with this please click on the link below or email us for details.



To offer financial assistance towards other needy patients at DMH or to donate to the Solar power Campaign, please donate via <http://www.icfem-mission.org/donate/> (make sure that you select Dreamland Mission Hospital on the dropdown menu)

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If you would like to support us please visit <http://www.justgiving.com/IcFEMDMH>

If you would like more information about the hospital please contact the team at dreamlandhospital@icfem.org