



Dreamland Mission Hospital

DMH Newsletter October 2019

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

Our first bit of news comes with a huge thank you. We are very excited to announced that we have raised all the funds for the solar panels and that they are up and running! So far each month the saving of fuel for our generator is the equivalent of 3 nurses salaries or 10 families having free care at DMH on NHIF. This is a great step forward in supporting the sustainability of DMH and we are really very grateful to everyone who gave to help us with the project.



We also want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has sponsored NHIF patients. £5 a month pays for a whole family (parents and their children under 18) to have free care at DMH. This allows for life changing medication and surgery to be given that families could not otherwise afford.

Nekesa and her family lived about 10Km from DMH. A few years ago she developed a persistent cough and found it hard to swallow. She visited a local health facility and was referred to a large hospital where she was diagnosed with goitre that needed surgery. However, the cost of £150 was too much for them to afford. Nekesa had no formal employment and her husband worked as a cobbler in their local market. They had two children in high school and one in a tertiary college. All that meant it was too difficult for her to access the much needed surgery. "I had lost hope of ever getting the surgery because of our financial status. I could not swallow food and work was very difficult."



Nekesa then heard about the DMH scheme to sponsor NHIF patients. She was excited on the idea that she may be able to undergo the surgery. Nekesa was enrolled on the NHIF sponsorship scheme for the surgery and underwent a successful procedure. She is now living a happy life with her family of two grandchildren and nine children. Nekesa is able to work on her small scale farm growing crops like maize, sweet potatoes, vegetables, and beans to earn a living and provide for her family. She is delighted and much healthier than before surgery. Her and her family will also have free care at DMH for the next year.



We do 5 -10 goitre surgeries a months at DMH. It is a huge problem in the area due to a lack of iodine in the typical local diet. As you can see from Nekesa's story, surgery can be life changing. As part of the project we have managed to buy a new lab machine that now means patients can have thyroid tests at DMH. This saves each patient £35; the equivalent of 10 days work for manual labourer.



It is not just surgery that DMH helps with. The hospital runs a full community programme, helping to educate people about health needs, encouraging NHIF sign ups, and treating conditions that can be managed in the village. Our head community health worker, Moses, is paid by the hospital to provide a full public health service. One example of the beneficiaries is Diana. She is 50 years old and lives in a very rural setting. She got an infection called jiggers where a small flea infects the skin and lays eggs. Diana was so badly afflicted that she couldn't use her hands to eat and or wear shoes on her feet. The photos are too graphic for this newsletter. Moses spent 2 months treating her feet and hands and provided shoes and a "jiggers" kit to her family.



2 months on and Diana is nearly jiggers free. She has new shoes that she can wear and for the first time in 2 years is not walking barefoot to the market. Moses has provided education to the community on how to stay 'jigger free' and provided shoes to Diana's family. Treating 1 jiggers patient costs about £50 but is totally life changing for the patients and their family. Diana will continue to receive visits from the DMH community team to make sure that she stays jigger free. We will encourage her to return to some small scale farming and enrol her for NHIF to ensure that she gets the medical care that she needs.

We continue to provide corrective surgery for children with disabilities and hit a major milestone this month when we did cleft lip surgery with a full Kenyan surgical team. We are now working with a UK surgical team to ensure that cleft palette can safely be done at DMH. Just like with the solar power, these are small but vitally important steps towards making DMH sustainable for years to come. Cleft surgery is essential for speech and to allow a child eat well. Many of our cleft lip children are malnourished and come from extremely poor backgrounds.

Britney was born with cleft lip and palate in a hospital near her home and was referred to DMH the same day for further management and surgical booking. Her mother, Metrine, was so scared she didn't know what to do. Britney was crying a lot and had difficulties breastfeeding. Metrine understandably felt helpless with the whole situation, as after a week of trying to breastfeed Britney, Britney had lost weight. Metrine felt very discouraged, as when she brought Britney to DMH she was so underweight and dehydrated that she would not have survived surgery. Metrine could not produce enough milk and Britney found it hard to feed because of her lip. The DMH team started Britney on infant formula which helped her gain weight gradually over the following weeks and she slowly progressed onto a local porridge mix. Metrine became comfortable taking care of Britney, and after coming to the DMH cleft lip support group she was very motivated that with good support Britney would survive and have surgery. 6 months later, Britney had her cleft lip repaired successfully at DMH, having had all her feed, travel and costs covered by the Smile Train programme. The feeding programme and support groups made all the difference, and now Metrine is eager to help others in her situation. She always attends her appointments, and can be found encouraging other mothers in the queue. Britney continues to gain weight, and has been fully accepted into the family. Metrine expresses her gratitude to Smile Train and everyone who made all this possible, as without this support Britney sadly may not have survived - thank you!!





Thank you so much for all your support, please do keep in touch we love hearing your questions and comments.

Further updates on the work that DMH does can be found at www.facebook.com/icfemdreamlandhospital.

To offer financial assistance towards other needy patients at DMH or to donate to general funds to help us provide this service, please donate via <http://www.icfem-mission.org/donate/> (make sure that you select Dreamland Mission Hospital on the dropdown menu) or email us at dreamlandhospital@icfem.org and we can provide you with UK banks details.

Have your friends or family lost touch with us?

If your friends or family say they are no longer getting updates from DMH it is because we did not get a reply to our previous newsletter asking to be kept on the mailing list.

If they wish to re-added please ask them to email dreamlandhospital@icfem.org or fill in the form at the attached link (*see right*).

We also would love you to like our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/icfemdreamlandhospital



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