



# Dreamland Mission Hospital

## DMH Newsletter May 2020

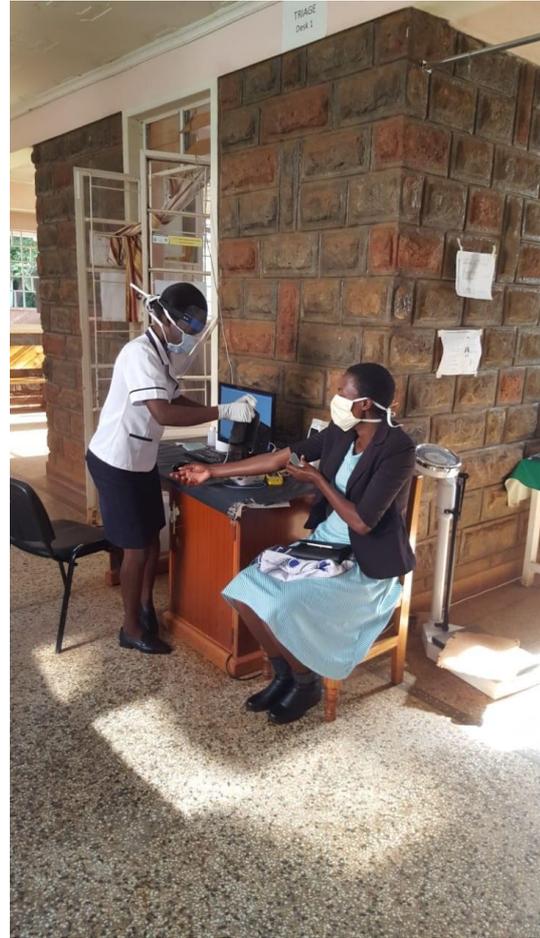


Dear friends, in our last newsletter we began with an urgent appeal for funds to support our COVID19 response. Two months on and we would like to begin by thanking all of you for your incredible response in financial and prayer support. It has been an emotional rollercoaster for our team as we manage the complex challenges brought by this pandemic, but to know how many of you are sacrificially giving to the work has been a mighty encouragement.

Below we share the interventions and developments we've been able to implement thanks to your support. These have made a great difference, but as you read you will see that there remain significant challenges ahead that require additional support. Please consider how you can help as you read. Thank you.

### **COVID 19 RESPONSE SO FAR**

Our priority from the offset was to make sure our staff are equipped with necessary PPE and training to keep them safe when caring for patients. Your support has enabled us to purchase sufficient stock of face masks, visors, gloves, gowns as well as hand washing facilities throughout the hospital. There is an efficient system in place for assessing every patient at the entry point and isolating them if clinically necessary. These interventions have given both staff and patients confidence in the process.



Essential to our response is our ability to isolate patients. Currently we have 12 isolation rooms in our purpose built isolation ward. Thanks to your support we have been able to create space to add a further 24 isolation bays which are currently under construction. This has also allowed us to employ over 20 local tradesmen, given them income at a difficult time for the country.



We have also been able to add essential medical equipment to our wards, including these three Oxygen Concentrators!



Kimilili Town has not yet had any COVID cases but Bungoma County has confirmed its first two cases this past week. It is suspected that there are others, so we need to be prepared.

We are screening patients at entry point and have had to isolate several patients whilst a diagnosis is confirmed. We haven't had a confirmed case yet. However, the severe impacts of the restrictions placed on society, are already being felt financially. We are no longer able to provide non-urgent services, which make up a significant portion of our general income. The National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) have also restricted their payments and have become slower in paying. Moreover, our the local communities are having to survive on far less. Those who do need urgent care are often unable to afford the costs of treatment, even at a charitable rate like at DMH. We are trying our best to cover the costs of needy patients and those that NHIF are currently not covering. This includes patients who are going blind, have badly broken limbs or need other urgent but not life saving surgery.

The whole of Kenya is in some level of "lockdown". This has result in the price of food going up and a lack of jobs. There is no furlough scheme in Kenya and therefore there are now large numbers of people on unpaid leave or unemployed. Unfortunately this economic crisis has worsened locally due to recent severe floods and locust plagues. It is desperate times for our community.



Once again, your support has enabled us to cover the costs of some extremely needy and urgent medical cases. Rosemary is one such patient. She has 8 children and is the rock in the home, keeping the home farm and managing the house as her husband, Moses, goes out to work. Over time, she completely lost her eye sight due to cataracts. This plunged the family into poverty, as Moses had to look after her whilst bringing in money for the family to eat. They lost some of their crops. They had to seek help but couldn't afford the surgical costs. Thanks to our partnership with ROPE we paid for their health insurance as a family so that we could cover the costs of her treatment via insurance. However, the pandemic meant we were not allowed to do this because they said it was not urgent enough. We couldn't let the family continue to suffer as they were. Your financial support enabled us to go through with the surgery free of charge for Rosemary and the family. What a difference it has made to them, especially as Rosemary is back in work. If this hadn't happened, it is hard to see how the family could have survived through the economic challenges brought about due to this pandemic.



Precta's case is similar to Rosemary's. Already living in extreme poverty and having been recently widowed she had no money to contribute to the life-saving care she received in the ward after a cardiac failure. Her bill came to over £100, way beyond her means but also a significant cost for us to incur in our current financial crisis. Your giving covered these costs too, and many others like her! We visited Precta with our chaplain to encourage her at her home. Life is not easy, but she has been comforted to know that she is loved and cared for.



Our orthopaedic project continues to see amazing results. We recently visited Reagan almost a year after he had corrective clubfoot surgery on his right foot. Before surgery he couldn't walk at all and his condition had impacts beyond the physical, affecting his attendance at school and the peace in the family. Today, he is now extremely active and excelling at school. His father, Mark (pictured far left), was evidently proud of his son when we visited them at their home. Chaplain Dickson was able to share with them from Scripture and pray with them. Reagan's story is typical of the 20+ surgeries we perform every quarter in our orthopaedic clinic.



**THANK YOU**

Your support has made all the difference. Please share this newsletter to anyone you know who has given to the cause but who may not be on our contact list.

Please consider how you can give or raise funds towards our COVID19 response. We have begun well but there is still a long way to go. You can donate via our just giving page: [www.justgiving.com/lcFEMDMH](http://www.justgiving.com/lcFEMDMH) or via our website at [www.icfem-mission.org/donate](http://www.icfem-mission.org/donate) (please choose [Dreamland Mission](#) Hospital in the dropdown section) or you can request our UK bank details at [dreamlandhospital@icfem.org](mailto:dreamlandhospital@icfem.org).

Perhaps you may also like us to do a talk at your church, community group or school?

Could you do an event for us? If this interests you please get in touch on [dreamlandhospital@icfem.org](mailto:dreamlandhospital@icfem.org) and we can arrange something.

Further updates on the work that DMH does can be found at [www.facebook.com/icfemdreamlandhospital](http://www.facebook.com/icfemdreamlandhospital).

Thank you for your attention and support! It is greatly appreciated!

### 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](mailto:dreamlandhospital@icfem.org) or fill in the form at the attached link (*see right*).



<http://eepurl.com/dtVLrj>

We also would love you to like our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/icfemdreamlandhospital](http://www.facebook.com/icfemdreamlandhospital)

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

If you would like more information about the hospital please contact the team at [dreamlandhospital@icfem.org](mailto:dreamlandhospital@icfem.org)