



Dreamland Mission Hospital

DMH Newsletter August 2020



Thank you for taking the time to read our third-quarter newsletter. In it we share an update on the Covid19 situation in Kimilili and how we are responding. We are delighted to share with you some encouraging stories of how lives continue to be changed through the interventions that your support enables. There are also some encouraging reports reaching us from communities in response to our public health projects.

As a team we find ourselves constantly battling to survive the challenges raised by the pandemic, as well as ongoing financial setbacks thanks to a fledgling economy and an unstable National Health Insurance Fund. However, these newsletters provide welcome moments for us to reflect on the good things that our God is doing through us. We hope that as you read you will share in our joy over the good things as well as standing with us as we navigate the stormy seas ahead.

COVID 19 UPDATE

The virus has now reached Kimilili with numerous confirmed cases that are increasing daily. As ever, we are on high alert, screening every person that enters the hospital and isolating patients showing symptoms whilst we wait for their test results. We are entering into a critical period during the pandemic. It is very resource intensive to provide this service. We are extremely grateful for the support we have received for PPE and essential medical equipment. The staff in particular feel your support.



We have however seen a downturn in the income we receive from NHIF within Kenya. This is partly due to a reduces outpatients' rebate and also a cap on the type of surgeries we are currently allowed to claim for under the insurance scheme. It is still our Mission to provide high quality and gap-filling services to the poorest in our communities, but currently we are having fund these services predominantly via donations rather than in-country income. We are working very hard with NHIF to get our contributions back up to a level that can sustain us. But this will take time. Please consider how you can help us raise support to make up for the losses. And please pray for us.

STORIES

We are happy to report that DMH Smile Train Cleft lip & palate clinics have resumed. In June we operated successfully on 10 children, the has been done as risked assessed process alongside smile train with focus on ensuring children who need urgent surgery can still access it. The clinics were performed by our Kenyan surgical team. It was satisfying evidence that our transition from a visiting International team to a local team has been successful. And this is great testimony to the help of Dr Tony and Ann Giles, and Dr Michael and Sue Carter who have worked so hard to make this transition possible.



Sella gave birth to twins at the end of 2019. Trevor was born with cleft lip, but his sister had a normal lip. For this reason, Trevor was looked down upon, which was hurtful to Sella. Then tragically, at 7 months old, Trevor's sister died. Amid the immense grief, Sella was blamed. To her husband, his family and many in the village, Trevor was accursed and Sella had brought this on them. Some even called her a witch.

Attending the Smile Train Clinic was a restorative time for Sella, as she spent time with other mothers in her situation, as well as having counselling from chaplain. The successful surgery has also made a huge difference for Sella, not simply to Trevor's appearance but also to his feeding. It has also begun to change her husband's opposition to Trevor. The grief over what Sella has gone through remains. She told us that things are still difficult at home. But this free surgery has given some hope and will change Trevor's future considerably.



Theatre in general is now back up and running for all urgent cases, although many require donor funding. This is great news for the hundreds of patients on our eye and orthopaedic clinics. Patients come from far and wide for these clinics, as they are the only free surgical clinics in our region. Below is a story of how eye surgery has transformed the life of a lovely little 6-year old girl.



Triphosa became an orphan in April, after her mother died and her father left, suffering from trauma and an alcohol addiction. This was all the more devastating since Triphosa was dependent on her mother 24/7, because she is almost completely blind. She is currently being looked after by her village, and Maxwell (pictured) is caring for her with his family. He found out about our free clinic and brought Triphosa, hoping we could help. Triphosa came in May, when we had had to stop surgery because of a lack of funds. But your response to our appeal enabled us to restart surgeries for high priority cases. Triphosa was top of the list. Today, she can now see well through her right eye. This means she is less dependent on others and can begin school. Her second surgery is due in September for her left eye. The Village are overjoyed with her progress. Again, this surgery hasn't fixed everything, but it is hope-giving to all!

PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS

We continue to visit our communities with outreach clinics, as well as supporting wider IcFEM efforts to provide essential food support , public health interventions and medical attention to families affected most by the pandemic, the floods and the current economic crisis.

Florence (left) comes from Kibingei, an area targeted by DMH with monthly outreaches and NHIF sponsorship. She is part of DMH's Kibingei Health Club, in which a group of 40+ members pool their money together to cover fifty percent of the cost of National Health Insurance. DMH covers the other fifty percent, as well as visiting them with a monthly clinic focused on attending to chronic diseases such as Diabetes and Hypertension. The Health Club is led, by Bilha Barasa (right) who is supported by DMH to run this scheme for Kibingei and several other local health clubs.



For Florence, this has helped her access regular medication for hypertension that was otherwise unaffordable. Not only was the medication outside her humble means, but she also couldn't make the journey to the hospital every month to seek treatment. Now, her medicine is covered on NHIF, and the clinic comes to her. She has been part of this scheme for 4 years. Controlling her blood pressure has potentially saved her life. It has also helped her recover from the shocks of losing her husband. She is now able to work again and help provide for her children. The knock-on benefits of these health clubs ring true not just for Florence, but for the 150+ other members enrolled in our local health clubs.

We are also grateful for the amazing food support we have been able to provide as a Mission. Three hundred and forty families have been provided with food and sanitation resources to help with the pandemic. We are also targeting vulnerable families for NHIF sponsorship.



The above photo shows Teresa (far left) with her family in Cheptais. She is a sponsored student from at Dreamland school. She lives with her siblings and mother in a one room house and a very small piece of land. Her mother has a small business of selling cereals, which at the moment is not doing well. When we visited she had gone to a neighbour to help thresh maize to try and ensure they got fed at least an evening meal. They were excited and thanked God for remembering them. Her mother, on behalf of the family extended their appreciation to Icfem Mission and Partners for coming to the rescue of the needy in the society.

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/IcFEMDMH or via our website at 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.

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 and we can arrange something.

Further updates on the work that DMH does can be found at 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 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:
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Mailing address: IcFEM Europe, c/o [12 Ash Grove, Rode Heath, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, ST7 3TD](#).
Tel. +44 (0)1270 747271 / Mob. +44 (0)7968 691163

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