



‘Working together as one international Christian family’

In early June 2011 we were alerted to the plight of a baby boy with a complicated heart condition. He had recently been examined by a team of British doctors who were in Kenya carrying out heart operations on children. The doctors had declared that Baby Trevor was too small (weighs just 4kg at 4 months old) and his condition too serious for the operation to be carried out in Kenya. Their recommendation was that he should be operated on abroad at the earliest opportunity.

Baby Trevor lives in a town called Nanyuki, very close to Mount Kenya. Each time he came to Nairobi for a medical appointment he would travel on a matatu (minibus used as public transport in Kenya) and each time he did this he caught an infection, which resulted in pneumonia and weakened his heart and lungs further. On top of this Baby Trevor has been diagnosed as having Down’s syndrome. For an average Kenyan family like Baby Trevor’s the outcome was fairly bleak.



Baby Trevor with his parents in Nanyuki

We realised that to assist Baby Trevor we had to act quickly as time was not on our side. We contacted the Order’s Embassy in Monaco and with their help and the very generous support of the Monaco Association of the Order of Malta Baby Trevor will be operated on in Monaco at the end of August by one of the worlds top paediatric cardiologists. He will travel with his mother. We hope and pray that the next edition of Drumbeat will give news of a happy outcome for Baby Trevor and his family.

LAMU DISTRICT MATERNAL HEALTH

We continue to build the capacity of the Lamu District Hospital by providing them with vital pieces of equipment that they lack. On Good Friday Alice visited the hospital to deliver a baby suction machine and two new delivery beds. This was only possible through the generosity of our supporters, both in Kenya and abroad.

Since then we have made further visits to the Lamu District to continue our help with the hospital, as well as to consider our long term plans for helping out with maternal health in the area.

One of the main purposes of our visits was to see the Anidan project on Lamu Island. This was drawn to our attention by a member of the German Association of the Order of Malta whilst we were on pilgrimage in Lourdes in early May. She had been holidaying on Lamu in the New Year and had come across this wonderful Spanish charity project. The site houses an orphanage, nursery school and children's hospital. The hospital offers free treatment to all the children in the district up to 18 years of age. In 2010 they saw 20,000 children.

It is important for us to meet other charities, missions and organisations working in the district to get a clearer understanding of where the gaps are and where help is most needed.



Alice Murphy handing over the baby suction machine to Dr Nurein Mohidin, Medical Superintendent of Lamu District Hospital

Volunteers Wanted

If you are a qualified surgeon, obstetrician or gynecologist and are interested in 3-6 months volunteering at Lamu District Hospital on Lamu Island, Kenya please make contact to find out more.

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The view from the waiting room at Lamu District Hospital (below):



LOURDES PILGRIMAGE – KENYA SHOP



Our 2011 Lourdes shop exceeded all our hopes and expectations. We expanded our range of items and took with us much more stock from Kenya than in the previous two years. We were delighted with the speed at which it sold and we managed to sell almost our entire stock. We took €12,000 in just 5 days and all of the profit that we made will go directly to our projects in Kenya.

MECKOW AQUAPUR

The Order of Malta in Kenya was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation Award in April 2011 as recognition of their commitment to help the community of Huruma Village Slum by providing safe drinking water for the residents. They had previously been getting water from the City Council site inside Karura Forest, but when the new fence was erected around the forest they were prevented from accessing this.

There are currently 800 families – 5000 people – living in the community and the Meckow Aquapur provided by the Order of Malta will provide drinking for them all.

ST JOHN'S DAY – 24th June 2011

This year we held our St John's Day celebrations at the Muthaiga Country Club in Nairobi. We began the morning with Mass celebrated by Bishop David Kamau Ng'ang'a, Auxiliary Bishop of Nairobi. It was a beautiful Mass and the Ballroom at the club had been converted into a very suitable venue with altar, flowers, candles and lectern.

After the Mass we had a lovely reception in the garden and the weather was kind to us. The event was well attended and it was a lovely opportunity to recognise the feast day of St John the Baptist, the patron saint of the Order of Malta.

MALTESER INTERNATIONAL

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS –NAIROBI SLUMS TB PROJECT

It has been a few months now since the handover of the TB clinics to the Ministry of Medical Services. As previously documented in Drumbeat, Malteser International is keeping the management of the Community Health Workers (CHWs) as part of their work in Kenya. The overall objective of the project is to enhance prevention and care of tuberculosis through intensified case finding in the communities, through community health workers.

Achievements to date

Regular health education has been carried out in the communities. All the 48 CHWs were issued with safari boots that they wear while carrying out community activities. For visibility and identification in the communities all 48 CHWs were bought polo shirts and back packs containing first aid kits.

Indirect Results/Outcomes

- **Regular health education in the communities.** From January to June 1440 health education sessions have been conducted by CHWs against a target of 2,880 sessions for the year.
- **Referral of chronic coughers.** So far 1,700 coughers against target of 3,350 have been referred for screening and 10% of these were positive cases
- **Defaulter tracing.** 90 patients have defaulted on their TB treatment. 60 of these have been traced and now resumed their treatment
- **Contact tracing.** So far 723 smear positive TB contacts have been traced and screened for TB and 10% are smear positive.
- **Home Based Care.** To date 260 very sick TB patients have been given home based care.
- **Nutrition support.** So far 50 patients have benefited from nutrition support against a projected 150 patients per year.
- **Linkage to other partners for assistance.** To date CHWs have referred and linked 800 of the TB patients with other partners to assist them with additional needs.

Way forward

We will continue with the Community Health Worker activities. Our main concern over the coming months is to look for new donors who can fund the entire TB/HIV project for a minimum of 3 -4 years.



A patient receiving food supplement from a CHW



Food bags and back packs for use by the Community Health Workers

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