

AITONG MEDICAL CAMP



Nov-12

Summary Report

Organised by the Cheli & Peacock Community Trust in conjunction with the Kenya Red Cross & Mara North Conservancy.

Aitong Medical Camp

16TH-17TH NOVEMBER 2012

BACKGROUND

The Aitong Medical Clinic is based in Aitong town to the North East of Mara North Conservancy. It is a facility which has been supported by other camps in the Mara region, such as Kicheche Camps who provided a solar power system. The clinic is also intermittently supported by the government but they often run short of supplies and incoming stock is unreliable. The Christian Development Fund, which supports several clinics in the area, also sometimes provide Aitong Clinic with supplies, but on an irregular and unpredictable basis.

The Cheli & Peacock Community Trust have focussed on supporting schools in the vicinity of C&P's 6 camps and in the Mara the supported school is Ololomei Primary. Branching into health, the C&P Community Trust reached out to the Red Cross in search of assistance in providing the Aitong community with improved health care through improvements in supplies and expertise at the Aitong clinic.

AIM

The aim of this Medical Camp is to: provide a significant amount of supplies for the clinic; to provide pharmaceutical training relevant to the supplies given; to provide a long term sustainable stock replenishment program for the supplies in conjunction with the Red Cross; to provide peer education sessions on various key topics, especially HIV/AIDS and other STI's; Finally, to maintain the medical camp as an annual event to regularly boost supplies, general knowledge amongst the public and expertise amongst clinic staff.

COMMITMENT FROM THE RED CROSS

The Red Cross provided 26 Basic Interagency Emergency Health Kits weighing approx. 450kg sufficient for treating 10,000 people for 3 months for basic issues (see IEHK information sheet for itemisation), including malaria, as well as 14,400 condoms and 9 bales of clothing and blankets.

The Red Cross team committed five trained personnel to attend the medical camp between the evening of Friday 16th November to the afternoon of Sunday 18th November. The team scheduled to attend the camp included Allan Kilakah, Operations and Camp Leader, Vashity Koech, Pharmacist, Maureen Koech, Peer Educator, Rolland Lusoli, Peer Educator, and Mike, Record keeping. The team were hosted at the Mara Discovery Centre throughout their stay.

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE MARA NORTH CONSERVANCY

The Mara North Conservancy played an absolutely crucial role in ensuring the success of the Aitong Medical Camp. Contributions, both in terms of time and finances, included: community and awareness raising prior to the event; arranging and funding of a vehicle to collect the Red Cross Team from Narok to transport to Aitong; purchasing of food for the Red Cross Team; arranging a cook and support team for the event; meet and greet of the Red Cross team; collection of mattresses and making lodging arrangements at the Mara Discovery Centre for the Red Cross Team; hosting and mediating meetings.

All of the above was executed in an efficient, timely manner with grace despite the unexpectedness of the demands and input required over and above the normal remit of MNC. The C&P Community Trust is enormously appreciative of these contributions, without which the medical camp could not have proceeded.

CONTRIBUTION FROM ELEPHANT PEPPER CAMP

Elephant Pepper Camp provided logistical and financial support for the Medical Camp, including vehicles to transport the C&P Community Trust manager to and from the medical camp, mattresses for the Red Cross Team, funding for food for the Red Cross Team throughout the 2 ½ days that they were there, storage and delivery of the 450kg Red Cross donation. EPC also provided one game drive for the Red Cross team, which was enormously appreciated as none of them had been to a wildlife area before.

DETAILS OF THE EVENT

The majority of the Red Cross Team members who had been committed to join were unfortunately unable to as they were called to attend a crisis in Baragoi, Northern Kenya. Allan Kilakah, the key Red Cross contact working on the Aitong Medical Camp, was released and rapidly recruited young British volunteers from the Red Cross Nakuru base.

The team arrived on the evening of Friday 16th to meet the medical and MNC staff, unpack all the medication, familiarise themselves with the clinic and make a plan of action for the following two days.

The Medical Camp opened to the public from 9am–4pm on Saturday 17th and from 9am to 12pm on Sunday 18th, with the Red Cross Team leaving at 2pm. Throughout opening hours there was a large queue and constant stream of people through the clinic. Medication was given out free of charge to all patients according to the prescriptions issued by the medical staff. A total of exactly 300 patients were treated.

The clinic had to issue some of its medication stock to the community free of charge due to the insufficient supply of paediatric drugs, mainly cough syrup and paracetamol syrup. One of the kits from the Red Cross supplies had been previously allocated to a separate project, so at Aitong the team were missing the corresponding items, including prescription slips. Other drugs issued in significant amounts over the two days from the clinic stock were prednisolone (treatment of inflammatory and auto-immune conditions),

omeprazole and ranitidine (both treat gastroesophageal reflux).

Condoms were distributed as follows:

100 x 144 = 14,400	Received at Aitong Health Centre
2 x 144 = 288	To: Elephant Pepper Camp
10 x 144 = 1440	To: Mararianta Dispensary
40 x 144 = 5760	To: Talek Health Centre
48 x 144 = 6,912	Remaining at Aitong Health Centre

Word needs to be spread to all the camps in MNC that they are welcome to collect condoms to distribute amongst camp staff.

A stock take of the remaining equipment and medication was taken and these items were officially handed over to Aitong Clinic. Training was carried out by the C&P Community Trust in stock taking and a simple stock taking sheet was supplied to the Head of Aitong Clinic, Clinical Officer Mike Kilayo (0711613147; kasainekilayo@yahoo.com). An agreement was made to submit the stock sheet to Elephant Pepper Camp on a monthly basis for monitoring and resupply purposes.

The Red Cross has pledged to provide the required drugs upon resupply request. The C&P Community Trust has pledged to fundraise for the remainder.

LEARNING POINTS

The medical staff were very disappointed that the specialised members of the Red Cross team were unable to attend the clinic. They had been looking forward to learning from experts in their field and were making a priority request for medical experts to visit Aitong Clinic to train them. I fully agree that central priority should be given to training of the clinic staff for the duration of the support programme.

In testimony of this opinion, during the second day of the clinic I approached several very healthy looking children who were each carrying a small bag of pills. The bags contained large doses of paracetamol to be taken 3 times daily, which the children had understood well, but when asked what they were being treated for, they said that they had bad vision. The gap of knowledge amongst the medical staff is certainly the most important issue to address at this stage.

Mike Kilayo's office is well organised, clean and tidy. He learned how to do the stock take relatively quickly. Monitoring of the upkeep of the stock take will be used as a measure of his commitment to obtaining a constant resupply. We will offer him assistance wherever possible and anticipate that this may not be easy and the system will evolve over time.

ACTION PLAN

The C&P Community Trust will keep in regular contact with Mike Kilayo to monitor progress of stocks at the clinic. Once a deficit has been confirmed, the C&P Community Trust will work to obtain the stock from the Red Cross. The remainder will be priced and fundraised for at Elephant Pepper Camp.

In the mean-time, the C&P Community Trust will endeavour to find a trained General Practitioner to visit Aitong Clinic every 4-6 months for 3-4 days at a time, pro bono. In return, the GP will be offered lodging and game drives at Elephant Pepper Camp. The GP will have to fund flights, which C&P should be able to obtain at ½ price from the Airline.

Compiled by Chania Frost, C&P Community Trust. 16th January 2013