

AITONG MEDICAL CAMP

26TH TO 28TH NOVEMBER 2013

BACKGROUND

The C&P Trust ran a 3 day medical camp at Aitong Health Centre near EPC in conjunction with Kicheche Community Trust from the 26th - 28th November, focusing on Maternal Child Health and Dentistry.

The Aitong Health Centre, based in Aitong town on the North East border of Mara North Conservancy, 226km West of Nairobi, was built in 1993 by the community. The clinic raises KES 200,000-300,000 (USD 2,300-3,500) on a monthly basis from fees charged for services which is used to meet all facility needs, including 11 staff and all drug supplies.

The Christian Development Fund, which supports Aitong Health Centre as well as several in the area, provides medical supplies on an irregular and unpredictable basis. The government also plays a general policy implementation supervisory role as well as provides vaccines.

The C&P Community Trust launched its work with the Aitong Health Centre 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.

The Kicheche Trust has been supporting the Aitong health clinic for many years as we strongly believe that healthcare is a basic right. Donations made in the past few years include : medicines, medical books, a maternity ward, a dental ward, a water pump, water tanks, the upgrading of the existing solar system, a sanitary block and a waste incinerator which was installed earlier in 2013.

AIM

The main aim of this Medical Camp was to provide capacity building services to the staff clinicians, addressing their highlighted needs of developing skills in both Maternal Child Healthcare and Dentistry. Concurrent aims included providing first rate health care to as many members of the wider community as possible free of charge during the 3 day clinic, as well as developing systematic stock and general clinic management.

DETAILS OF THE EVENT

The camp was attended by the following external specialists, whose flights were sponsored by Safarilink:

- 1 x Obs & Gynae consultant and ultrasound specialist – the top consultant in Kenya and Chairman of the Kenya Obs & Gynae Society
- 1 x public health & health systems specialist – also professor at the University of Nairobi
- 1 x PhD Medical Anthropology – Maasai origin, trained in the USA
- 2 x Dentists – from Belgium who brought and donated entire dentistry kits

441 patients were seen in total:

- 91 Obs/Gynae (50 underwent ultrasound examination)
- 220 Dentistry (over 200 teeth were pulled)
- 130 General

Results from a survey of 72 patients waiting in line on Friday 28th showed that:

- The largest proportion of people (39%) heard through word of mouth/phone/market place
- 36% heard through schools
- 28% found out because they saw the advertisement posters.
- None of the people present had any idea who was funding the clinic, despite the fact that the logos of all sponsors were on the posters, recognised as being the mode of communication about the clinic by 28% surveyed

Strengths to continue with have been recognised as:

- Capacity building (ultrasound & dentistry)
- Personnel present at the camps & access to expert services
- Training on emergency kits
- Numbers – outreach
- Enthusiasm and readiness to learn shown by clinic staff

Areas of improvement were identified as:

- Communication with the clinic
- Meeting clinic priorities
- Providing sufficient drugs
- Developing the facility to book patient appointments
- Increase knowledge about the sponsor
- Communication campaign bringing in animal health
- Organisation
- Infection prevention
- Provisions of protective gear

The following priorities were identified going forward and each was given equal importance:

- Dentistry
- Obs & gynae

- Family Planning
- Paediatrics
- Requirement for a physician
- Cancer screening
- Capacity building – especially of community health workers

NEXT STEPS

It was decided that next camp will be held in June 2014, with a preliminary meeting in March 2014 and a further camp in October 2014.

1. Reach out to both the clinicians and volunteer team to confirm June is still convenient and to find out what dates are preferable
2. Confirm attendees for June medical camp, including recruitment of a physician
3. Decide on methodology, roles & responsibilities for including family planning, cancer screening and capacity building for CHW's
4. Acquire specific list of requirements for protective gear and infection prevention. Cost & fundraise for these.
5. Compile precise plan for a publicity campaign, including all media, costs and personnel and timing involved.

Report compiled by Chania Frost.