

Dr. Andrew Greer's Travel Diary

Unfortunately I've not been as productive as anticipated over the past month due to contracting both malaria and typhoid. As a result I've been out of action on a quinine drip feeling sorry for myself having a sulk. We've managed to push forward with a few tasks thanks to the huge help (and sympathy!) of the staff here.

Dental services

We have created a fully functioning dental room to accommodate a visiting dentist from Scotland in May. Numerous pieces of dental equipment have been donated from Scotland and we are now equipped to carry out general check-ups and tooth extractions. Following this we are aiming to employ a part time Ugandan dentist in order to fully utilise the facilities here. They will operate on a "pay per patient basis" whereby they are encouraged to establish their own patient list in order to generate more revenue.

Refurbishment

In addition to the dental room refurbishment, we have renovated the manager's office and staff eating area. The main outstanding area is the inpatient department. In order to create more space, we have converted three of these rooms into two for patient comfort. We will then plaster and paint the rooms.

Minor Surgery

Living Water's first minor surgery camp took place this month. All the staff from the clinic in addition to some doctors from the local government hospital attended. The session covered the basic principles of performing minor surgery and included practical suturing sessions.

We have now created an area within the clinic to carry out minor surgery. Equipment has kindly been donated from hospitals in Scotland, including Perth Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen Royal

Infirmary, and Ninewells Hospital Dundee. This will hopefully increase the patient base at Living Water by providing additional healthcare services.

Continual Medical Education

Following the AGM earlier this month, we have now implemented regular teaching sessions for the staff. David Esibu, the chief clinical officer here, has undertaken the role of co-ordinating teaching sessions to be delivered by different staff members. We will also invite other healthcare professionals from the local government hospital to deliver presentations.

Pharmacy

There are around 15-20 medical clinics in Lugazi, all of which purchase their medicines from Kampala. Most pharmacists take the 3 hour round trip twice weekly to stock their dispensaries. I have met with the directors of most of these clinics and explored the possibility of them ordering through us and reducing the tiresome challenge of travelling to Kampala.

We have completed our first trial, whereby 2 of the largest clinics in Lugazi have ordered through us and received free delivery as a result. We are working on a small profit margin (5-10%), whilst the service is established and until we receive our full pharmacy wholesale licence.

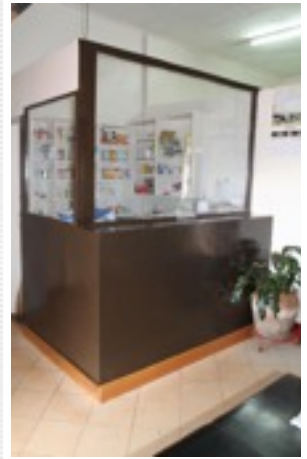
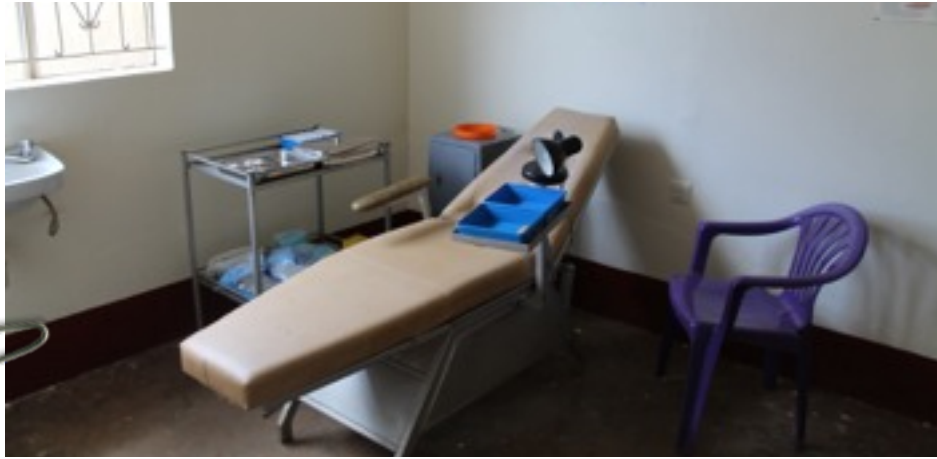
Ultimately the aim is to purchase in bulk at the beginning of the month and eliminate the need to travel to Kampala as often as we do at present. The trial will aid us in establishing the types of quantities of medication purchased by other clinics.



"Living Water's first minor surgery camp took place this month."

"Equipment has kindly been donated from hospitals in Scotland; Perth, Aberdeen and Dundee"

APRIL 2013



Summary

It's certainly been a slower month, but plans are in place to move forward with some larger projects during May and June. Things move at a slower rate here and as a result we are trying to undertake several tasks simultaneously within the clinic. Applications for HIV accreditation and pharmacy license to sell wholesale have been submitted

“Applications for HIV accreditation and pharmacy license to sell wholesale have been submitted”

