

Dr. Andrew Greer's Travel Diary

Introduction

It has been an extremely busy and productive month both at the clinic and in Lugazi.

Dental Services

Capstone was extremely fortunate to have a visit from Dr Anna Maxwell, a dentist from Scotland. She brought dental supplies with her from Scotland and in the space of 5 days managed to spend time at Living Water Medical clinic, take part in an outreach visit to the rural village of Kikuta, and provide dental education to the children at Capstone Children's centre.

Patients were offered check ups, advice and extractions free of charge at Living Water Medical Centre. The number of patients who attended with toothache and severe dental disease was overwhelming. In just over 2 days, 61 patients were examined and 43 teeth were extracted.

The outreach visit to Kikuta focussed on education. Over 120 adults and children attended to receive advice on oral health. Furthermore, we were able to apply fluoride varnish to 71 children to help strengthen their teeth and prevent decay.

All 48 children at Capstone Children's Centre received a toothbrush and toothpaste and Anna held a session on dental education. Disclosing tablets were used to help educate the children on thorough toothbrushing and all children received an application of fluoride varnish. It was noted that the children at the orphanage had significantly better dental health than those seen at the clinic and on outreach in Kikuta. This is as a result of the generous donations of toothbrushes and toothpaste from Scotland over the years, in addition to the health

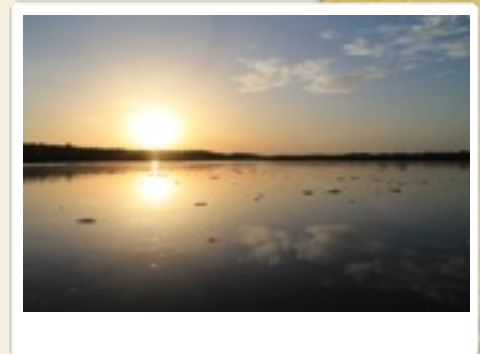
education provided by the staff at the orphanage.

The dental project was largely possible due to donations and support from the staff and patients of NHS Grampian's dental services - particularly Alexandra Morrice, Rachel Duddin, Aberdeen Dental Hospital and Arduthie Dental Practice. We are very grateful to everyone who helped ensure the dental project was successful. This pilot project has shown a large demand for dental care in and around Lugazi and we are currently exploring options to develop this service further.

Ministry of Health

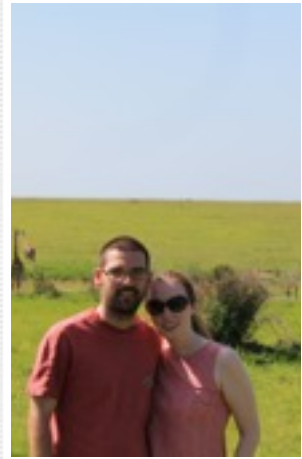
In order to improve relations and increase services provided at Living Water, I visited the Ministry of Health to meet the Chief Medical Officer: Dr Shaban Mugerwa. He was keen to find out about our facilities at Living Water, in addition to arranging an official inspection as part of the accreditation process for offering HIV services.

Dr Shaban Mugerwa and Dr Betty Atai visited our facility on Monday 20th May. They were delighted with the services we offer and the commitment of the staff. They were keen to complete the assessment form and pending a signature from the Minister of Health, HIV accreditation will be given. This means the clinic will be able to provide free testing and management of HIV patients, a service which is much needed here on account of the prevalence of the disease.



“The outreach visit to Kikuta focussed on education.

Over 120 adults and children attended to receive advice on oral health”



Pharmacy Inspection

In response to our application for a wholesale pharmacy, the district inspector for Lugazi and Buikwe visited Living Water. He was delighted with the idea of operating a pharmacy here, as it is a facility that is currently lacking in Lugazi.

There are several changes required in order to accommodate a larger stock of medications, but the provisional report has been positive and the regional inspector will meet with the director of the National Drug Authority in order to arrange the approval.

HIV screening

As part of our drive to promote health education in Lugazi, we invited all of the children from Capstone Centre for health

checks at Living Water Medical Centre. All the children were given full check ups including screening for malaria and HIV. Most importantly, they were given the opportunity to speak with different members of staff to discuss any concerns or questions they had. All 48 children tested negative for HIV and only 2 had mild malaria.

Summary

My time here is gradually coming to an end as I will be returning to the UK in July. Ideally I would like to have firm plans in place for operating HIV services and a fully established pharmacy. Things certainly move slow but they are moving. Everyone has worked so hard so far and it's been a lot of fun working out here over the past 3 months.

“We invited all of the children from Capstone Centre for health checks...”

All 48 children tested negative for HIV and only 2 had mild malaria”

