

Lifeline Malawi

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Spring, 2006

HIV/Aids Intervention –1 Year Later



Gary Hendrick (far left), LM Board Chair joins several village headmen to enjoy an AIDS Behaviour Change Drama presentation in the village of Songwe



Community Leaders at LNHC – HIV/AIDS Programme Review in April



Domic (Reception) greets patients waiting to be tested



Anti-retroviral (ART) Group Counselling



Agness (Patient Attendant) gives patient her meds from new Dispensary

VILLAGE OUTREACH:

Significant impact is being made within the 18 neighboring villages around Ngodzi. Two (2) local drama groups have been communicating the truths and fallacies of the HIV/AIDS pandemic through the use of song, dance and plays. In addition, the LM staff have been very successful in outreaches to several local primary and secondary schools, testing the student populations and instilling positive messages of how to keep their HIV negative status as they move into adulthood.

BEHAVIOUR CHANGE INTERVENTION:

A major highlight occurred during our April 7th session with the Traditional Authority Kambalame, 6 group Village headmen and 23 Village Headmen. The meeting, which was facilitated by our very competent clinical staff, resulted in outstanding participation and engaged discussion from the village leaders. This watershed moment will give us greater access to the surrounding communities and accelerate our outreach programs for behaviour change.

VOLUNTARY TESTING:

Regrettably, there was a NAC (National Aids Commission) country wide stock out of HIV whole blood rapid test kits by March 17th. Despite our inventory tracking systems, we were unable to re-order these test kits from the Ministry of Health (Salima Hospital) until the end of the quarter. We mitigated the impact of this serious outage through the procurement of test kits using our own funding through private suppliers.

GROUP COUNSELLING:

Our newly hired Clinical Officer, Eric Mwale has demonstrated his experience in engaging community leadership and sensitizing the community on HIV/AIDS and health related issues. As a result, more people who have tested HIV positive are becoming part of our Group Counselling sessions. Janet Chimalanga, our new nurse who co-ordinates these group counselling programs, is also playing a significant part in the success of our ART (anti-retroviral therapy) delivery program.

STATISTICS:

Primary Health: Over 66,000 patients have been treated by the Lifeline Malawi Ngodzi Clinic since we began full time clinical operations in September 2004.

HIV/AIDS: 1,733 patients have been voluntarily tested for HIV/AIDS since the start of this program. 28% of these patients have tested positive, resulting in 34 new people receiving anti-retrovirals.

BRINGING LIFE-TRANSFORMING HOPE AND HEALING TO A NATION



Scott Hughett and John Clayton in VCT room with Drama team planning community outreach



John Duwa (Lab Tech) sorts through boxes of laboratory supplies



Dr. Brooks treats one of our Cholera patients (Chester) with Clavulin supplied by HPIC



Main entry sign to clinic, with expanded health center in the background



Barbara Mikus presents Comfort Doll to young patient

VISITORS

Samaritan's Purse:

Earlier this year, our Ngodzi clinical staff welcomed our long-time and significant donor – Samaritan's Purse. John Clayton from Calgary and Scott Hughett from Nairobi were shown the facilities that their organization has helped construct and medicines that they sponsored through IDA. It was gratifying for them to see first hand the results of their investment which has played a significant part in our success over the past four years.

ICROSS:

A 40 foot container filled with donated medical equipment and related supplies from ICROSS Canada was finally delivered to the LNHC site on March 20th. After the container was unloaded and equipment assessed and catalogued, we were able to benefit from hospital beds, equipment for the second procedure room, supplies for the laboratory and bicycles for the home based care volunteers.

HPIC Cholera:

Thanks to the provision of 6 boxes of clavulin from Health Partners International, Lifeline was able to treat 39 cholera patients during the February epidemic. Cholera tents with special beds were set up adjacent to the clinic to house the patients. Thankfully, we had no deaths.

Complex completed!

The newly expanded health centre building has provided a quantum leap forward in our ability to provide quality of service, a supportive environment for our staff to work, and the ability to deal with the growing number of patients seeking free health care from our centre. With a gated perimeter wall now around the new facilities, we are able to enjoy this tremendous blessing without the goats underfoot. It's been well worth all the hard work! We are so grateful for all the financial partners that joined their faith with ours and helped make this new facility a reality.

Comfort Dolls

With the commencement of our first audit by Deloitte in Lilongwe, Barbara Mikus, our Director, Canadian Operations was in Malawi to assist the Field team in their preparation of various year end reports. Despite a very full schedule of meetings and facilitating training sessions, Barbara was able to present a few of the over 1,000 "Comfort Dolls" which have been knitted by a group of Calgarians to some of the younger visitors to the clinic.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

If you would like to sponsor one of these Comfort Dolls for a child in Malawi (which means we attach a personalized greeting card around the doll's waist), please visit our web site or send your name and address along with your donation of \$25.00 to:

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