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Republic of Kenya

## DRUMBEAT

Editon 7, Spring 2011

### Visitors from Scotland spend time with the Order of Malta projects in Kenya.

In early February we were pleased to welcome a group of visitors from Scotland. Amongst them were two Companions of the Order of Malta. During their stay they visited the Kangemi HC and Remand Prison, two of the areas of Nairobi that Malteser International runs TB programmes. They were warmly welcomed by the teams of Community Health Workers and they provided a real sense of motivation amongst these volunteers, not least when Liam Devlin gave them yellow 'Papal Packs' from the Pope's visit to the UK in 2010!

Two of the visitors, Jane Stodart and Jan Bruntisfield then spent a few days on Lamu Island where they took the time to visit the Lamu District Hospital and met Dr Nurein Mohidin, the doctor in charge. This gave them a greater understanding of the need for help with the maternal health facilities in this area.



### OTHER NEWS

#### Terry Hope Centre

The Order of Malta provided the funds for Malteser International to carry out a medical clinic for all the children at the Terry Hope Centre. Although we are no longer involved with the centre we have made a commitment to continue the clinics to ensure that the children remain fit and healthy and any problems are detected early. As well as the 80 children, we also provided treatment to the two volunteer cooks who help at the centre each week.



#### Volunteers

#### Wanted

If you are a qualified surgeon or gynecologist and are interested in the possibility of volunteering in a hospital on Lamu Island in Kenya please contact us so we can tell you more.

[amurphy@smomkenya.org](mailto:amurphy@smomkenya.org)

View from the waiting room at Lamu

## LAMU DISTRICT MATERNITY SHELTER

We are continuing to assist and improve the condition of the maternity unit at Lamu District Hospital. Our vision is to provide a maternity shelter for the mothers to stay prior to giving birth. However, at the moment the facilities in the maternal wing of the hospital are so poor, that that must be our priority.



Having taken the advice of a UN doctor, it has been recommended that the following 3 pieces of equipment are the most urgent to improve the facilities in the labour room. These items will provide the most basic care to the mothers and babies in case of difficulties during childbirth.

### Baby warmer/resuscitator



Immediately after birth a newborn baby experiences some degree of thermal instability as it comes from the mother's womb into the world. To regulate this temperature the baby is placed on a baby warmer. Currently they are using the equipment shown to the right. For heat they use a hand held lamp with a 60watt light bulb.



**Cost: 650,000Ksh/US\$7,550/£4,700**

### Ceiling Mounted Operation Theatre Lights



Currently the hospital has a 12-bulb theatre light, which is now beyond repair and the parts are extremely expensive and difficult to obtain. We have been recommended the model shown on the left, which has two bulbs and one huge reflector. It is being widely used in the region as it has just the two bulbs and therefore uses less electricity and has fewer parts, keeping costs low.

**Cost: 160,000Ksh/US\$1,851/£1,133**

District Hospital (below):



## Delivery Bed



It is evident from the picture at the top of this page that the current delivery bed is most unsuitable for its current use. It is in the most appalling condition and has a solid end making it very difficult for the doctor to assist during the delivery.

**Cost: 40,000Ksh/US\$463/£285**

To donate towards any of these items please contact Alice Murphy on: [amurphy@smomkenya.org](mailto:amurphy@smomkenya.org) or telephone on +254 724 642 852

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## MALTESER INTERNATIONAL

### COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS –NAIROBI SLUMS TB PROJECT

During the course of this year the **Nairobi Slums Project** is being handed over to the Kenyan Ministry of Health (MOH). This is being carried out in stages between February and June. As with all Malteser International programmes worldwide, they are always keen on ensuring ownership and sustainable development – which is only possible if local authorities take over responsibility as soon as possible.

However, due to the importance of the Community Health Worker (CHW) component to the success of the TB and HIV treatment this will remain under the care of Malteser International. The MOH is heavily under resourced and we are anxious that the CHW side is not neglected due to financial restrictions. The reality is that without the CHW component the TB and HIV treatment will suffer badly, possibly even fail.

Although Malteser International has all the expertise and experience of managing the team of CHWs, they do not have the funds available at this time, so the Embassy of the Order of Malta has assisted by finding donors for this vital work.

On a recent visit to the TB projects Alice Murphy and Gianfranco Cicogna were treated to an excellent short play by some of the Community Health Workers. They made it fun and entertaining, but at the same time getting across to the audience the very important message about TB symptoms, diagnosis and treatment. They hope to perform this as part of their continuous community awareness campaign.

It is their hope and dream that no one in Kenya needs die from tuberculosis through lack of knowledge of the disease and the ease of treatment. The treatment that is offered by Malteser International is completely free of charge to the patients. Therefore the only barrier to recovery from TB is a lack of knowledge and awareness.



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## ST JOHN'S AMBULANCE-KENYA

We were invited to join the Lord Prior, Professor Anthony Mellows and his wife, for lunch during their visit to Kenya at the start of the year. During a visit they were interviewed on prime television to promote the idea to make it mandatory that every public service vehicle in Kenya has one first aider on board to assist in case of accidents (which are sadly all too common in Kenya). They suggested that some funding for this initiative comes from the government of Kenya, as currently the costs are being carried by St John's ambulance alone.



Alice Murphy was invited by St John's Ambulance to visit one of the 'accident black spots' about one hour from Nairobi on the side of the busy road towards Mombasa. This was a fascinating visit to learn how they respond to road traffic accidents. Unlike in the UK, there is no emergency rescue service provided by the government in Kenya and those involved in accidents rely on volunteers, such as St John's Ambulance, to provide first aid treatment at the accident site.



## MOUNT KENYA SPONSORED CLIMB



In late March Gianfranco Cicogna climbed Mount Kenya to raise money to support the Community Health Worker component of the Malteser International Tuberculosis Project in the Nairobi Slums. Mount Kenya is African's 2nd highest mountain – at 17,057ft above sea level – and no mean feat. Due to the rains that arrived in early March this climb was particularly challenging. However, he reached the summit at 06.00am on Wednesday 30th March, after 2 days of climbing. So far he has received £4133 in donations – but it is not too late to support this worthwhile cause. If you would like to donate please go to: [www.justgiving.com/gianfrancoclimbsmountkenya](http://www.justgiving.com/gianfrancoclimbsmountkenya)

## CONTACT DETAILS

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Donations: [www.justgiving.com/OrderofMaltaKenya](http://www.justgiving.com/OrderofMaltaKenya)

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