

MEDICAL MISSIONARIES OF MARY FUKA
PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PROGRAMME
REPORT MAY 2017 - APRIL 2018

Dear Mr. Doherty, greetings from Fuka and I hope this meets you and all your colleagues and family well. I am sure you are surprised tht I am sending this report at the last minute but the truth is we are having a programme evaluation at present and the strain for the last two weeks has been great on all of us. I hope that it is not an inconvenience for you arriving on the last day of the month but please bear with us. If there are any queries please get back to me and I will try and respond quickly. Many thanks Joan MMM

PS I was going to send a picture of the TB patients you helped and then thought better of it because they are not in good condition.

INTRODUCTION

The last year has been a very difficult one for us as we lost MR. Joseph Madu RIP and within two months Abigail also died of pneumonia. Three of our regular children who came for sickle cell disease control also died, last one of 27th December bring our year to a sad end.

The rains also finished more than two weeks early and the trees we had planted were just not strong enough to last the extended dry season, so we start again this year please God.

We had also planned as I wrote in our last report to embark on irrigation farming and those who were interested and willing to be trained were ready to start when those already involved gave us the bad news. They told us that the Fulani tribesmen allow their cattle into the farm land at end of the day when everyone was gone home and the cattle destroyed the crops. The farmers complained but the complain fell on deaf ears. They replanted and second time round what the cows left the Hausa People stole during the night and sold in the market. They warned us that the police/authorities will do nothing to help and you labour in vain as you never reap a harvest.

In the second site that we were going to start the irrigation farming the people were afraid that it would bring problems and they backed down in fear.

The grant you sent us in November we did not bring in because we had not used the funds you had sent before and because of the unstable political situation we were afraid to bring in the funds and then is something happened at Government level we could have a bank problem which could result in the loss of your grant. Sorry for the delay it was done for safety sake.

INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES

FISH FARMING

We went ahead with what we had told you for the three villages doing fish farming. We built water towers and bought tanks for storage of water in the three sites. We put a submersible pump into the borehole site in Sekudna so that they could pump the water up into the tank and then it would be easy and quick to fill the fish tanks. Puloko was able to raise some money towards their submersible pump and both villages supplied their own portable generator to pump up the water. Fuka already had a submersible pump so only needed the tower.

We were lucky to get the help of a very experienced fish farmer and he told us to divide the fish tanks so that the fish could be moved into second section as they grew thus stopping them from eating the smaller ones coming up. The farmers are very happy and asked the expert many very basic questions so that the mistakes of the previous year would not be repeated.

POULTRY FARM

This has been very successful and they are now fully independent and rearing their chicks for the different celebrations both Muslim and Christian. They hope in two years time to expand.

TRAINING OF STUDENTS

Jeremiah Katuka

Jeremiah is doing very well and is putting his heart into his studies because he wants to be proud of him. In the last year he has done two field exams and three written exams. Each exam he was asked to pay for what they broadly termed the marking of the exam, I cannot say if it is a legal fee or one the school has made without the knowledge of the State. When he did the fieldwork he had to pay for the workbooks needed and the other papers needed. He requested a text book that the school said was essential for him to buy. These are all costs that are imposed without warning on the students and if not for your support he would be dropped

from the course, it is really had to work out at the start of training exactly what the cost will be by the end of the three years. He will by the Grace of God finish around October this year and again he will have to pay for the House exam and the Federal Exam and then for the results to be released. It seems to be all about money and I pity anyone who is not having the support that you are giving to Jeremiah, he too is very grateful.

LIATU ANDREW

Is a very bright student who was working with us for three years. She was living in the hope of gaining entrance into one of the Government Schools to train as a Community Health Extension Worker CHEW which is first step up the ladder in the health system, they are like the old two year nurse training at home that were State Enrolled Nurses (S.E.N.) They are the ones that live in and work in health posts in the villages giving health care to the rural areas.

She was turned down three years in a row and was becoming very disheartened knowing that if she were Muslim she would not have to keep reapplying and paying fees each time just to be rejected. A private School opened in Minna just three years ago and they are recognized by the Government. Entrance is o merit not religion but the fees are a little high. Liatu applied and got admission and even secured a part scholarship which reduced the cost of year one but she just had not got all the funds she needed and her father who was to support her asked her to wait another year as he too was having difficulties. She would have lost the scholarship if she waited and costs would then be higher so we used your grant to support her into the school for year one. She is bright and will not let you down.

BARNABAS BULUS

Barnabas is young man who had hopes of joining Army in order to further his education which is what a lot of young men do in this area. He paid for his entrance exam he paid for what they said was his initial training and then after three months they let him go saying they had enrolled too many students, again it was about unscrupulous people cheating those who have no voice. We used some of your grant to help him start again and do computer training course so that he will have a means of applying for a job and saving up again.

DAVID ANTHONY

David has done 18 months training in statistics but was unable to complete his course as he could not pay his term fee due to health problems in his family. On your behalf we gave him the term fee and have promised him exam fee at the end of the year.

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE FOR HEALTH

RUTH JAMES

Ruth is the wife of one of the men you supported who had surgery to remove his right eye because of cancer. She has been ill for more than a year and has exhausted any money she had on treatment. She came asking for help because of tests requested on her heart that the doctor said were urgent and she could not gather the funds herself so we helped her out in your name. She is still not fully recovered but at least it was not shortage of money that stopped her getting

T.B PATIENTS IN GREAT NEED

We have a twelve bedded TB Unit which is almost always fully occupied with the very ill who can hardly move around not to mention support themselves. Two very ill men were admitted looking wretched and they could not afford to feed themselves with the type of food that would help them cope with the very draining TB drugs they had to take daily. We just had to intervene and buy them food like dried fish. Beans etc which are nutritious to augment their diet so that they could manage the drugs. One man has since gone home on phase two of his treatment looking so much stronger and the other man is in his third week of treatment. The latter would not have had a chance without your help with food. They are both very grateful.

RENOVATION IN TB UNIT

I wrote requesting your permission to replace the mattresses in the Unit and you were very obliging so this we have done, we also bought plastic drawers for six beds so that the patients could store their clothes. We bought netting to replace the torn netting in the windows which were allowing mosquitoes which carry malaria to enter the rooms at night.

Thank you for your continued support, we promise you that the funds you sent in November will now be brought in and used well.

SISTER JOAN MELINNNMM

PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

INCOME

DESCRIPTION	NAIRA
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	2,951,024.00
INCOME/GRANT	
LOCAL CONTRIBUTION Puloko/Sekudna Contribution	453,300.00
TOTAL INCOME	3,404,324.00

EXPENDITURE

FISH FARMING THREE TANKS AND ONE SUBMERSIBLE PUMP	329,000.00
PULOKO/SEKUDNA/FUKA	873,000.00
SCHOOL FEES JEREMIAH KATUKA	205,500.00
LIATU ANDREW SCHOOL FEES	172,000.00
DAVID ANTHONY SCHOOL FEES	80,000.00
BARNABAS BULUS TRAINING	44,000.00
RUTH JAMES	35,000.00
FEEDING OF T.B. PATIENTS	45,335.00
RENOVATION IN T.B. UNIT	230,500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,014,335.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	1,389,989.00

SISTER JOAN MELINN MMM

DATE: 27/04/2018