

MEDICAL MISSIONARIES OF MARY FUKA PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PROGRAMME, REPORT APRIL- OCTOBER 2020

INTRODUCTION

It is hard to believe a year has already gone by since the submission of the last report. This year we've seen attacks from Boko-Haram insurgency, the global pandemic and national lockdowns and just as we thought our lives were beginning to take shape with the new normal, the Nigerian Youth embarked on a national protest against Police. Although the latter was for a just cause, it led to another lockdown. Boko Haram saw opportunity in the lockdown as people withdrew money to help them manage during the restrictions, they vandalized people's homes, loot their belongings, kill, kidnap and raped the vulnerable. Many families were displaced and made poorer by the unfortunate incidence. The displaced ones sheltered themselves in the schools but when the schools re-opened one month ago, they were told to leave the school premises with no place to go. Some returned home and since then, there has been more kidnapping and killing. Amid all these unfortunate incidences, we are grateful for the significant intervention your funding brought to the life of many people as described below.

MEDICATIONS/MEDICAL CARE FOR FAMILIES (*pseudonyms used*)

Mr Somaila Ibrahim (IDP) very ill was brought to us with his wife and little daughter. He has three other brothers living in the same compound. Their village is one of those constantly attacked by the insurgence in Niger state. They used to run out and hide to escape being kidnapped by the men of the underworld. This last time the kidnappers came, it was at night. Because Samaila was too sick, he was unable to move. They kidnapped his three brothers, looted their belongings and left him behind. We thank God that they did not take his wife and little daughter. While with us he got a phone call to bring ten million Naira for the release of his three brothers. In our lab investigations, we discover he has a very bad TB. No one could possibly imagine what he was going through, not to talk more of the physical, psychological and emotional trauma. With your grant he is receiving food, medicine and counseling. These are giving him a glimpse of hope and contributing to improve his health. He is now four weeks under our care.

Emmanuel Dauda 9 years old boy was brought in by his mother with the history of weekly transfusion. So far, he has been transfused eight times. He has drained all they had on blood transfusions. His father has left him to die in the house because he had nothing more left. But the mother couldn't face it. His PCV was 4% and no donor. With your grant he was able to receive one unit of blood and medicines for other conditions that he had. The mother was so grateful and thankful.

FEEDING FOR INDIGENT

We continue to provide food supplement such as Rice, beans/fish/ fruits/eggs and vegetables to the TB patients and more often to those who have little. We continue to encourage the Sick Cell children with biscuits on their clinic days. It was challenging to find food to buy during the lockdown but we were able to cope with the scarcity, food is available in the market now, but the price has skyrocketed due to impact of lockdown and recent increase in fuel price by the Federal Government. We are all grateful for your generosity that has seen us through these trying times in the world's history.

CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC TOILET

The public toilet project is still in progress. This was expected to have finished last June but the advent of COVID – 19 and lockdown interrupted the progress. The lockdown was lifted up in July but then the rainy season has already begun and we were unable to do much because of the heavy rains. The bad roads made it difficult to access these villages during the raining



season. The villagers attempted digging the toilet despite the heavy downpour but the pit became a pond (filled with water) and a hazard especially for the children who often like to play under the rain. For the safeguarding of the children, the project was suspended for awhile. The rain has started easing and stopped mid October and the project has taken up again from where we stopped.

So far, we have completed the construction of the toilet in Fuka village and handed the key of the public toilet to the village head as you can see from the picture.

Handing over of the Public toilet keys to the village head of Fuka

The projects in two other villages are yet to be completed. The second Village is YAMPANA: The local people struggled under the rain to finish the digging of the hole which is their own contribution, but it turned into a pond due to heavy rains. Labourers were hired and water scooped out, even some of the blocks were destroyed by the rain. Now it has progressed halfway, all that is left is the roofing, floor and plastering.

Yanpana: Awaiting roofing and plastering



The third Village is DAZA: The villagers have completed the digging and the builder has also bought some bags cement.

DAZA: Awaiting full construction



TB UNIT

In my April report, I expressed that some of the mattresses in the TB Unit are torn and needing replacement. We have 12 rooms with two beds in each; one for the patient and the other for their carers. All the mattresses in the carers beds were all torn here and there and some of them were looking awful. We made twelve mattress covers to give them a new look, courtesy of your generosity.

There are two rooms without the second beds; the carers in these two rooms sleep on the floor when Unit house is full. This is discomforting for the carers especially during the rainy season and Harmattan season with very cold nights. Two iron beds were made with the Grant received from you to lift the carers off the floor and prevent them from catching cold / ease off the fear of crawling animals like scorpion.



Replacing the torn mattress covers.

The two new beds for the carers.

PROPOSED ACTIVITY FOR THE NEW GRANT:

The size of our laboratory is small compared to what goes on there daily. The Lab room is within the clinic building and they use naked light (gas) to do AFB and culture tests. The gas cylinder used to be outside on a corridor. We could no longer put the gas cylinder on the corridor since the onset of COVID – 19; the patients / children sit and wait outside on the corridors for distancing and come inside in turns. The gas cylinder is brought inside the Lab on the AFB and culture test days and back into the store after the test. Naked light and gas cylinder in the same Lab room is too dangerous, we feared. The smearing of the sputum is done outside away from the patients/ children, then brought in when they are dry for microscoping but difficult / delays when it is raining.

To tackle the above challenges, we need a small structure of about 4 rooms beside the TB unit and away from the main Clinic building to isolate culture and sputum tests and prevent fire.

The structure will be (1) specifically for sputum test, (2) office for DOT officer, (3) culture machine and (4) finally for when we have overflow of patients in the TB unit.

The Government has been promising us Gene-expert machine, if eventually that comes through as it seems, it will go into the same room with Culture machine. This machine will serve other surrounding DOT centers for Drug Resistant TB (DRTB) confirmations. This is what we planned to invest the new grant plus the balance if it is fine with you. Thanks for your continuous support to us. We are grateful.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE Exchange Rate = 1/420

No	LABELLE	COST	Income	Balance	Euro
	Carried forward from	From the end	of April 2020	2,972,647	7,077.73
	Medical	20,800			49.52
	Food	19,600			46.66
	Public Toilets				
	Fuka Village	445,700			
	Yampana	444,050			
	Daza	444,050			
	Public toilet total	1,333,800			3,175.71
	TB UNIT				
	2 Iron Beds	18,000			42.85

	12 Mattress Covers	60,000			142.85
	TOTAL SPENT	1,452,200			3,457.61
	BALANCE			1,520,447	3,620.12
October 2020	NEW GRANT	Received	2,998,840		5,000
		GRAND	BALANCE	4,519,287	8,620.12

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