

First Semester 2007 – Report on CME operations at Nyankunde, DRC

Introduction

The staff at Nyankunde are very thankful to God for His blessing on their work and for the visits and help from several friends:

Anne-Christine Horton, Fanny Ukety and Dr. Courtejoie (Switzerland);
De Zaaier(Holland) ;Gisela Schneider (Uganda) ;Nilson Bjorn (USA) ; Yvonne Dind (Switzerland) ; Dr. David Hartmann (USA).

Environment

We have enjoyed improved security due the presence of United Nations troops (MONUC) and a positive attitude of the government soldiers. There has been a big return of the population who are starting to replant their fields, rebuild their homes and reopen shops and markets.

Activities of CME

1. As reference hospital

- The main work was the rehabilitation of the nursing school teaching building This was financed by Hilfe fur Bruder (Germany).
- The paediatric and women's' wards are almost completely refurbished thanks to Friends of CME Trust (UK), Prof. Nilson (USA)
- The refurbishment of other buildings has also started with the help of Hilfe fur Bruder (Germany).
- There is still need for more funds to restore all the necessary buildings

2. Outpatient consultations

- Patients come to Nyankunde from a radius of 60km – mainly children and women. (under 5s – 1610; 5+ - 2445. Of these 3132 were new referrals.

3. Hospitalised patients

- Nyankunde is a reference hospital for 10 medical centres in the heath zone. Children and women are again the vast majority of cases. Of the 1213 hospitalised in the period, 63% were children under 5. There was a 4.2 % mortality rate.

4. Types of illness

- The main illnesses recorded during the period were: malaria 2,040; Diarrhoea 1,584; Malnutrition 732; and Breathing infections 750.
- There was also an outbreak of meningitis during the period with 6 deaths out of 30 recorded cases.

5. Maternity

- Difficult cases from the 10 medical centres are referred to Nyankunde. These totalled 344 in the 6 month period. There were unfortunately, 3 deaths of the mother and 10 children. All of these were due to the failure to get the mothers to Nyankunde soon enough mainly through lack of transport.
- There were only 60 pre-natal consultations a month on average. This is low because the women tend to only consult near the end of their pregnancy since early disclosure is still considered a 'taboo'.

6. Laboratory

- There were 132 blood transfusions. 90% were on children under 5 and most due to malaria.

7. Operations

- There were 103 major and 63 minor operations in the period. 61 of the major operations were for a caesarean.

8. Pharmacy

- CME received supplies from MEDAIR until March. There have been big problems with the supply of sufficient medicines. The first lot of medicines from CME depot arrived and really helped.

8. Nursing school (IEM)

- 27 students are enrolled this year. Dormitories still not rebuilt so all students live with CME personnel. This is a problem especially for the few students who come from outside Nyankunde. Part of the appeal of IEM is the practical training available at the hospital as well as the Christian ethics and practice of

CME. During the year 4 students accepted the Christian message and were baptised.

9. Community health work

- At the beginning of the year CME carried out a population census in the health zone. About 60,000 people were identified (6,600 living in Nyankunde). There has been a massive return to the area during the semester so the census will be redone in September 2007.
- The main activities have been vaccinations of infants and pregnant women against malaria. They also receive a mosquito net. The vaccination program has not been a great success for the same reasons as the ante natal work above. One of the problems is that 3 out of the 10 health centres has not yet reopened.
- Nearly 30,000 patients have been seen in the zone, of which 12,200 had malaria, 3,400 worms, 2,600 diarrhoea and 4,000 with chest infections. Apart from malaria, these highlight the need for improved health and hygiene education.

10. Chaplaincy

- 4 patients became Christians
- 151 repented
- 404 asked for prayer
- 67 hours of prayer were undertaken for 6 patients who had miraculous healings

Current problems

- Hospital - many former employees have returned and expect a job. There is a need to re-emphasise the aims and principles of CME
- Buildings & equipment- most buildings are still way below the standard they should be, especially the operating theatre. There are not enough mattresses for the beds. Only essential medicines have been received from MEDAIR but a reference hospital needs a wider range
- Nursing school – Many students cannot pay all their fees and so the teachers do not get paid and the teaching materials are very poor

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