

Appeal for Equipment for Tanzania and Update

By Manny Vasant MBE

For the last six years now I have coordinated dental and other charitable projects in Tanzania. AOG (directly or through her membership along with some of the trade and other individuals) has generously supported these projects either morally or financially. Here is the summary.

Mwanza Project run under the aegis of Hindu Union Hospital (a local charity):

Mwanza is the second city in Tanzania on southern shores of Lake Victoria. We had collected second hand equipment for this hospital some six years ago via an appeal in the AOG newsletter. Dental Directory, Nessor, Myerson and Bambach (Stools) were some of the companies who had made generous donations and/or supported to get the project of the ground. Essentially, the clinic is manned by a dentist who is employed by the hospital. Two other philanthropists fund part of his salary. There is two tier payment system whereby those who can afford it, pay a reasonable fee. Those who are below a certain income receive treatment free or at subsidised costs. Any profits are ploughed back into the system. Due to extra demand a new surgery is being fitted with brand new equipment donated by Henry Schein (UK). This is being fitted as we go to print. Once the new surgery is in place, it will open up two working surgeries working simultaneously.

Musoma General Hospital:

Musoma is a town on the eastern shores of Lake Victoria close to the Kenya border and not far from the world famous Serengeti National Park. It is located 125 miles from Mwanza. Musoma has suffered decadence in the last 30-40 years post independence which led to the exodus of asian and white population living there at the time. The hospital which was built by the British some 60 years ago has been seriously neglected due to lack of funding. It suffers severe shortages as a result.

Resuscitation Unit:

There are only two oxygen concentrators (to make oxygen out of air as there are no facilities to transport oxygen cylinders) for the whole hospital serving a population of several hundred thousand people! Young babies die routinely due to these shortages. AOG has contributed £1,000 towards some £25,000 collected from a charity walk organised by Arrif Lalani and myself on the 30th June 2006 along the River Thames. Some 120 plus people participated in the walk (included 96 VTs and 15 trainers and other supporters from Tanzania Development Trust) This will buy further 5-6 units and other vital equipment.

Dental Unit:

Southern Counties BDA have paid £4,000 towards refurbishing this unit. This is being done now. An engineer from Nairobi will be shortly going to both these places to fix the units as there are no local trades people out



Thames walk raised £25K for Resuscitation unit

there to carry out this sort of work.

For further details please visit www.musoma.com or www.mkvasant.co.uk or email mvasant@btinternet.com

If you wish to help in anyway or make donations, they can be made on line through Tanzania Development Trust a UK registered charity which can be linked from above websites. It is hoped that volunteers from the UK will go there and carry out work from time to time.

In addition to above projects we have been approached by a charity based in Dar-es-sallam (the capital city) for donations of two very basic dental units i.e chair, spittoon, cart (with motor), x ray machine (second hand in good working condition) . Please ensure that there are no missing parts and units have been professionally dismantled and carefully packaged ensuring no parts are missing. It must be in good working condition. It would be very helpful to have instruction booklets are available if possible. If any small components including nuts etc are missing, it renders them useless due to unavailability of parts out there. We can arrange collection in the London area for onward transportation. Please note due to the transportation costs involved and lack of skill to service these units locally, it is a waste of time to send broken units.

You may email me (mvasant@btinternet.com) photographs so we can select two best ones that are available. The simpler the better! If any trade wishes to get involved, please kindly email me.

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Mwanza current surgery being refurbished now



Musoma Dental clinic refurbishment funded by Southern Counties BDA (under helm of Dr Martin Miller President 2005)