

Newsletter 2: Long Rainy Season

November 27, 2011

The growing season extends as there is still fairly frequent rainfall, though we should be heading into the dry season. The locals say this been a very rainy year, so the farmers are happy. Hopefully this doesn't mean an extended dry season anytime soon. Though it's plenty dry in the neighboring countries if you've been following the news.

However, what's good for crops is bad for mosquitoes and malaria. The staff has been busy in their new lab space, and we're back in the season of high fevers and seizures.



Tushabe working after hours.



Hellen and Ritah in the new lab space.

Taking care of patients is a team effort, and we are thankful to have such great staff here to work with. We're definitely seeing the need for the services Engeye provides to this area, and the quality of the services provided here even has the wealthier patients traveling in to be seen here. Medical complications of malaria, typhoid fever, diabetes, heart failure, and HIV/AIDS are part of the daily fare. We've been having some patients stay overnight at the clinic, some because they refuse to leave, and some because they can't afford to go anywhere else.

The clinic is definitely has some needs for upgrading, mostly from heavy use and erosion over time. The incinerator is running on its last legs, and we will need a replacement or alternate solution for waste management soon. The proposal to put in a larger underground water tank (50,000L capacity) is still under discussion. The ground water drainage has created runoff trails that make for some muddy pathways, which hopefully will be taken care of by guttering and paving walkways eventually. Slowly by slowly, as with everything else here in Uganda.



Runoff next to the kitchen.



The incinerator.

John has gone to the U.S. and come back already all in this month, and the staff has all enjoyed the chocolate and gifts that he brought back. Joe went and bought meat in honor of his return, which everyone enjoyed as well. A big thank you to everyone who hosted him and for supporting those in need here!

With everyone here pitching in to help with whatever is needed, it is always interesting to watch the diversity of needs being met by a diversity of skills.



Brenny using his economic skills.

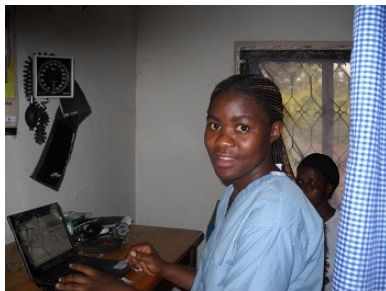


Joe using his pharmacist skills.



John using his accounting skills.

Our staff was joined last month by Immaculate, an asset with her nursing skills, and Hellen, our new lab technician who helps with the long queue for malaria blood smears.



Immaculate



Hellen

The Sundanzer freezer is now working as a refrigerator! This allows us to order the immunizations that will be given to those children and pregnant women who have yet to receive these vaccines because of cost to travel to government centers. Thank you to Steve Po-Chedley and John for bringing the new thermostat! Joe was able to hook it up and temps are now between +2°C and +8°C as required. We will be having immunization clinics on Wednesdays hopefully starting this next month.



Freezer now works as fridge!

Work on the staff housing continues, and two of our long-standing staff members should hopefully be able to move in by the beginning of the new year.

The road outside of the clinic has been getting paved very nicely, though slowly, and the road crews are halfway to Kinoni town now (2 hills and swamps over from us). If this progress continues, the trip to and from Kampala will be much easier on

both people and vehicles in the future. Though just because there are safer roads to drive on may not mean that they drive any safer...



Shout out to Peoria! They have a whole line of these out on the road working...

Part of the road construction process included knocking down the Engeye clinic sign along the road, so the Minerva Fellows went on a mission to get a new sign. Thanks to their hard work and perseverance, the new sign is up!



Mark and Brenny hard at work.



The sign says we're closed on the weekends...

In the meantime, the kids are still the cutest ever. Our neighbors run up and wave hi every time we walk by. Jackie keeps laughing. And one little patient said he didn't need any more biscuits but he would take some for his brothers. As long as he stops puking and spiking fevers, he can have anything he wants. Ω

