

Dear Colleagues all,

Finally the second AEMRN medical has come to a successful close.

At the start, it was great union of past volunteers and meeting of new ones as our group members jetted in one after the other from various European, American and African countries and assembled at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi Kenya on Sunday 24th July 2011.

Despite some flight delays, all 24 members of our team scheduled to arrive on Sunday made it and we joined those who had arrived in Nairobi some days earlier.

Some more colleagues arrived from Uganda and USA the next day and joined the team.

On Monday morning 25th July 2011, we left on board the chartered flight 540, to Kitale and were welcomed at the Kitale airstrip by a very well organised group. There was later reception of Kenyan food including my favourite (African chicken soup), organised by the Global Health Partnership (GHP) member OWI in Kiminini about 20 kilometres from Kitale.

See more from this link:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.214465731934224.49197.146349992079132&type=1#!/media/set/?set=a.214465731934224.49197.146349992079132&type=1>

The next day on Tuesday 26th July our entire team led by our AEMRN Kenya Consultant Dr. Geoffrey Kasembeli went to the Ministry of Health Kenya, Kitale Government Hospital to meet with the hospital administration, and our other colleague health care workers.

Our interaction provided a very good starting point before the actual commencement of the mobile clinics. Colleagues from Europe, USA and Uganda in the different disciplines of Nursing and midwifery, Psychiatry, Internal Medicine, Paediatrics, Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Infectious Disease and Vector Control and Medical Records management later took part in ward rounds and spent the entire day in different units of the hospital working along side colleagues, further facilitating the exchanging and sharing of knowledge and experiences true to the vision of AEMRN.

A cross-section of our later also paid a courtesy call on the first gentleman of the Kitale District, District Commissioner Wilfred Kinyua in his office. We had very good interaction and he pledged his support to our efforts in taking health to the most hard to reach population in Kitale and surrounding villages: More on the link below

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.214476905266440.49204.146349992079132&type=1>

We later did a tour of the various sites for the mobile clinics to finalise logistics.

In the evening we sorted out the medications brought from the various countries as well as locally.

http://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=147263505355446&id=727115820&ref=rem¬if_t=like#!/media/set/?set=a.214473518600112.49200.146349992079132&type=1&closeTheater=1

On Wednesday 27th July 2011 we had our first mobile clinics in Kipsogo slum as below:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Afro-European-Medical-and-Research-Network-AEMRN/146349992079132?closeTheater=1#!/media/set/?set=a.214480468599417.49207.146349992079132&type=1>

Our team of twenty seven (27) International Volunteers including doctors, nurses, nursing midwives, Epidemiologists, Vector Control specialist, psychiatrists, from USA, UK, Switzerland, Sierra Leone and Uganda joined forces with twenty nine (29) health care workers (Doctors, Clinical Officers, Laboratory technicians, Nurses, nursing midwives from the Ministry of Health Kenya. There was also the Voluntary Counselling Testing (VCT) team from the HIV/AIDS Programme of the Ministry of Health Kenya who did on the spot counselling and voluntary testing of HIV. They got some few positive cases and referred them to the major centre in the Kitale district hospital.

Before the start of the clinics Dr. Senessie, President of AEMRN International gave a health talk to the gathered patients and their relatives on general hygiene, HIV/AIDS, environmental sanitation etc. It was interpreted into the local dialect Swahili by my colleague, a Clinical Officer.

The talk was followed by a lively discussion on diverse issues. The clinic then finally commenced and we saw about two thousand (2000) patients that day.

We referred severely ill patients to the district hospital and GHP helping them with some initial physical cash for admission, medications and taking them there in our vehicles to be admitted.

During the clinic Dr. Tom Kollars our AEMRN International Consultant Epidemiologist and Vector Control Specialist did a number of community based surveys including Malaria and Sickle Cell. The results of the study will be soon made available in collaboration with our AEMRN Project Coordinator Dr. Chris Barasa who is doing some soon to be published work on sickle cell in the Kisumu area of Kenya.

Data from the clinic registration cards (Patient demographics, diagnosis, treatment etc.) were captured and will be analysed by one of our colleagues Mr. Myer Glickman MSocSc MFPH FBMIS FHRIM, Deputy Director, UK Office for National Statistics and also Head of Health Analysis at the Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom.

On Thursday 28th we had mobile clinics at Matisi and treated about 1800 patients and as usual referred severely ill patients to the district hospital helping them with physical cash for initial costs, medication and taking them in our vehicles to be admitted at the hospital:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Afro-European-Medical-and-Research-Network-AEMRN/146349992079132?closeTheater=1#!/media/set/?set=a.214483801932417.49208.146349992079132&type=1>

On Friday 29th July we had a Continuous Medical Education (CME) Seminar for all cadres of Health Care Workers at the Seminar room of the Kitale Government Hospital.

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.214660418581422.49215.146349992079132&type=1>

The turn out was well beyond our expectation as our Knowledge seeking colleagues filled the room to capacity and some colleagues including myself gave up our seats and had to stand outside by the window to listen to the three speakers:

1. Dr. Tom Kollars (USA), AEMRN Consultant Epidemiologist and Vector Control specialist and inventor of Provector mosquito control device. He gave a very thrilling talk on his passion to control mosquito and subsequently Malaria through his innovative devices of Provector, Nettys and Bitter Fighter. He introduced the concept of community micro-credit scheme for the devices.
2. Dr. Martha Preciado, Specialist Interventional Cardiologist from California U.S.A and Assistant Professor of Medicine & Cardiovascular Disease, UCLA School of Medicine, USA gave an overview of Heart Failure in patients
3. Mr. Myer Glickman, Deputy Director, UK Office for National Statistics and also Head of Health Analysis at the Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom gave an exciting presentation on: "Health Statistics in the United Kingdom".

He gave an overview on Health Statistics in general and their practical uses in health planning citing the case of UK as an example.

He also shared with us his one day observation and experience at the medical records office of the Kitale Government Hospital and the potential of collaborating with his office in UK to exchange ideas on areas of improvement in the effective collection of patient data so that it can be more meaningful for health planning.

The three presentations provoked very interesting discussion with our colleague AEMRN Ms. Kezaabu Edwidge a nursing midwife and Project Coordinator "Health Community Empowerment Project" from Uganda also shared with us experiences from Uganda.

Dr. Charles Senessie wrapped everything up by emphasising the need for such exchange and sharing of knowledge by professionals from different disciplines, countries to compliment the

efforts of the Ministry of Health Kenya in reducing the knowledge gap between colleagues in the west and low-income countries such as Africa as well as promoting evidenced based clinical practices and enhancing south-south and north-south collaboration.

From AEMRN Intl. through the AEMRN consultant in Kenya Dr. Kasembeli there was distribution to participants of DVDs (Kill or Cure “Doctors & Nurses) and CDS (Publications of Global Health Workforce Alliance September 2010) given to AEMRN by members of the World Health Organisation (WHO) HQ in Geneva hosted Global Health Workforce Alliance (GHWA) of which AEMRN is a partner. This is again in line with our vision of AEMRN: *“AEMRN members strive to contribute to the medical, mental, social, educational and every sound well-being of mankind irrespective of race, creed, beliefs, faith and social affiliation.*

We serve as platform where active professionals from such disciplines as education, medicine, engineering, nursing, faith-based etc., can interact at various levels of self-initiated conferences, seminars, workshops, exchange programmes and voluntary work camps including medical camps with mobile clinics. Members shall endeavour to share ideas and knowledge for the betterment of the less fortunate human sectors of the world from resource poor settings. As a team, we will reach out to needy communities; offer them our services whilst at the same time fostering and promoting cross-cultural exchange and global peace which will benefit both our own multinational and multi-professional team as well as the people we will be interacting with to help. It was in line with this vision that the concept of medical work camps with mobile clinics was developed. This involves physically going down to these communities, living with them, sharing information, educating them on safer health practices whilst at the same time affording them our clinical and nursing services.

The mobile clinics also serve as an excellent entry point in assessing other particular needs of the communities for specific intervention afterwards”.

There was donation of an ECG machine to the Hospital by Dr. Megan Stone a physician from California, USA and also the from Ordinary Women Inc from USA .

Medical supplies by were also donated by Dr. Martha Preciado.

We later learnt our donation was very timely as the hospital had no ECG machine since non-functioning of the previous one.

Dr. Kasembeli then gave the vote of thanks.

On Saturday 28th July 2011 mobile clinics were done in Kiminini village including one for the Orphans of the Ordinary Women Inc., a member of GHP. See more on this link:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.214693648578099.49221.146349992079132&saved>

In the evening of Saturday a dinner was held at the Kitale club in Kitale to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to all the health workers and other people who help us during the mobile clinics.

Certificates and envelopes with small token were given to them all.

See link:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.214697905244340.49222.146349992079132&saved>

We later made our ways to discover Kitale town at night!!!!!!

Link: Well known!!!!!!

After the formal closure of the Medical Camps we had a thanks giving service on Sunday 31st July 2011 with our colleagues and patients to give thanks and praises to the Almighty.

On Monday 1st August 2011 some of us went on a Safari to Samburu organised by the” The Travelling TWIGA African Safari &Tours with a purpose (www.TheTravellingTwiga.com)” owned by Mrs. Marjaana Seilonen with proceeds going towards their projects.

Here is the link:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.214697905244340.49222.146349992079132&saved#!/media/set/?set=a.214709771909820.49223.146349992079132>

Whilst on the Safari we had series of meeting as AEMRN and also GHP to review our successes and challenges this year and we have already started planning for next year.

We then travelled by road back to Nairobi on Wednesday 3rd August 2011 and some of us flew out the same night.

The full scientific report of the mobile clinics will be made available as soon as we have compiled them from the various colleagues.

Once again “Together We Have Made It Happen”.

We look forward to the camps next year starting in Nigeria and then the other countries. We hope to have three mobile clinics in three countries as discussed.

Cheers,

Dr. Charles Senessie and GHP/AEMRN Team