



CHADIK newsletter no 14

It is some months since I wrote the last newsletter this largely being due to my back problems. Following my visit to Kenya in March, the intention was to return in September but my back operation at the beginning of the month prevented that. Finally I managed to return in November and as usual took the rain with me.

The situation in Kenya with regard to corruption is getting worse rather than better. People are talking about it openly and say that nothing has been done to change things and probably never will. I am happy to say that there has been no evidence of corruption amongst the people we work with.

1. Outreach clinics

I met with the Foundation project leader Olivia and discussed with her our concerns about the number of adults being seen by the team which is funded by us to diagnose and treat children. It was agreed that the nurse in charge of each of the clinics should be advised that they should focus on the children and only treat an adult if they came in with a sick child and were sick themselves. The latest clinic figures from November and December show that the guideline is being followed. I also spent some time with the nurse in charge of the Solio clinic who is very happy with the visits by the outreach team.

We had noticed from the recent financial returns that CHADIK was paying for a lab technician which was not our verbal agreement with Dr Waihenya from the County medical department. I took this up with Dr Njorge, Secretary for Health, who agreed to correct this so that we paid for the diagnostic materials only. Subsequently, because a one year contract had been signed, we have to wait until that time has expired to reverse the situation. Needless to say this is rather disappointing.

2. Kisima school

I had the pleasure of meeting David (Principal) and his wife Catherine from the school together with their two children at a small café/playground as the school was closed for the holidays. They had brought with them the term end reports for the five students we are jointly sponsoring with the Richard Lawes Foundation and their progress is very satisfactory. The full agreement (MOU) was signed by the three parties earlier in 2016. We heard recently that all the final year students had obtained government sponsored university places and the school placed fourth nationally. A brilliant achievement.

As CHADIK's goal is to develop the interest in agriculture in the school, I was very pleased to see the polytunnel donated by Haygrove was in place in the school grounds and already connected to the water supply so that leaky hose could be used. This will be a major teaching tool (see CHADIK website for photos). We discussed the possibility of having agricultural volunteers working with the students in the summer and confirmed that they could have free dormitory style accommodation but that funds would have to be raised in the UK for transport and food. This programme is now in the hands of one of our trustees.

3. The IT centre and library

Unfortunately we had to make the unanimous decision at our Board meeting in the autumn, that in spite of the improvements we have made in the centre, we do not have sufficient income to continue paying the monthly support (Ksh 25,000 = £208) after the

end of March. I personally gave the news to Gilbert, Christine and the local team. We have spent a lot of money over the years updating the equipment and replacing the volunteers by paid staff. It is now in the hands of the staff to approach local enterprises to take over as well as make a very big effort to increase the income themselves.

When I left, they had already drafted out a letter to send out locally which I edited prior to approval by Chief Joseph as his responsibility. They also have to make a big effort to improve the publicity to cover a wider clientele.

I expect to return again in the summer and connect with all three projects and hope that the IT centre has been successful in getting funds. By that time I will have replaced my camera which died on me during that visit hence no pictures!!

Gillian Bullock - January 2017