

Ethiopia Link

Hossana and Yirga Alem

Our link hospitals in Ethiopia

April 2011

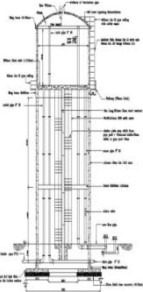
Water update!

Hossana staff identified water and sewage as the main two projects needing our help. Through the great generosity of BCUHB staff, with support from Rotary, Inner Wheel, church groups and others, funds totalling almost £34,000 have now been raised towards a 50m³ capacity four storey high water tower (as pictured above), connecting plumbing, pumps, and repair of broken sewage pipes. This will be a long-term, sustainable solution for the whole hospital.

Project management will be by the Zonal health department in Ethiopia and by WaterAid engineers there. Invitations to tender for the work are going out and it is hoped to appoint contractors and start work before the rainy season.

It is hard for us to imagine running a hospital without an adequate water supply. Currently, staff and relatives fill their bottles and buckets from the standpipe in the grounds (see below) for all their needs. It's taken a long time – but water on tap in the wards and in the operating theatres should be coming any time soon!

The new water tower



Donkeys and water carts in Hossana town

Pennies from Heaven!

Hossana really needs your support. You can donate the pennies off the end of your monthly wage slip jointly to Ethiopia Link and also St Kentigern hospice. So far 700 members of BCUHB central staff have signed up. Visit **Ethiopia Link** on BCUHB intranet to learn more and find the form



Ato Yeshanew and one of the new incinerators

Pit closures – but new incinerators!

Until recently, all clinical waste, sharps, and soiled dressings were thrown into two pits dug in the grounds of the hospital. This was a serious infection hazard – even for the vultures and dogs scavenging there!

Ato Yeshanew, the energetic new sanitarian in the hospital, Hossana, used funds donated by Ethiopia Link to construct two new incinerators complete with sealed ash pits behind them.



Ethiopia Link is a registered charity (Reg no 1047989-14) and links Central area of BCUHB with Hossana Hospital and Yirga Alem eye department. The link aims to help with delivery of health care in our partner hospitals, to build capacity, and to learn from each other about global health issues

A grand opening ceremony was held during the recent visit of staff from Glan Clwyd, complete with ribbons, flowers, and camera crews from Ethiopian TV. The old open pits will be filled in and covered over.

Simple, low tech projects such as these incinerators should be of lasting value in Hossana. Look out for the next one from Ato Yeshanew

Emergency surgical, obstetric/gynae and neonatal skills training in Hossanahands-on!

A team from Glan Clwyd hospital was recently invited to assist with the training of extension health officers in Hossana. These health officers will be undertaking some serious surgery in their eventual placements: laparotomies, trauma management, Caesarian sections and other operative deliveries, and are currently assigned to Hossana from Awassa medical school.

Using a very interactive approach, including video clips, volunteer trauma victims, pelvis dummies, resus dolls and a sheep thorax, the Glan Clwyd team (Ramesh, Phil, Rhian and Duncan) gave a three day intensive course to ten students, supplementing their teaching with some emergency forays into the nearby delivery suite to offer assistance..



Top – a difficult breech delivery
Middle – the trainees celebrate
Bottom – chest drains and tracheostomy in a sheep carcass

Getting involved

If you want to learn more about Ethiopia Link, or help with any aspect of the project, ring 01745 534808. All support welcome! You can also look us up on the BCUHB intranet – or via Facebook. Website currently under development.....!



www.lifebox.org

The World Federation of Anaesthetic Societies has developed a simple, robust and low-price pulse oximeter, and they want every operating theatre in the world to have one to improve anaesthetic safety. *Ethiopia Link* has purchased one for use on the paediatric wards in Hossana and as back-up for the theatre. It proved to be a robust, simple and very effective piece of kit. Along with oxygen concentrators, it will prove very useful in treatment of sick patients.

Yirga Alem Hospital

A five strong team from the eye department and EBME in BCUHB visited Yirga Alem in February, taking across ophthalmic kit, repairing equipment, seeing patients, and teaching in classrooms and clinics. Eye medicine is a uniquely transferable area of practice, and the visit built upon the growing link between the two eye departments.

North Wales staff have been keen to help develop paediatric ophthalmology in Yirga Alem, and saw a good number of patients (some with conditions rarely seen in the UK) there jointly with local staff. Teaching sessions covered all aspects of ophthalmology and optometry. Many spectacles once worn in North Wales are now to be seen in Yirga Alem, to the delight of their new owners. Dave Fisher worked with a highly skilled deaf mute lady, Hibis, who grinds out the lenses in YAH, and taught on refraction to staff

The HM Stanley team are inviting the eye surgeon and nurse from Yirga Alem across to HM Stanley later this year, to train up in laser treatment for diabetic retinopathy and other skills. So be sure to look out for them and welcome them!

