

**ZimHealth Second Information Bulletin**  
**March 2010**

**From:** Zimbabwe Network for Health [info@zimhealth.org]

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**Subject:** Information Bulletin\_Updates on ZimHealth

Dear Colleagues,

Our last information communication to you was in October 2009, following the fundraising event held in Geneva.

This is our second information communication to bring you up to date with what has been happening since October 2009.

With your generous donations ZimHealth-Europe has managed to deliver two more health-facility consignments to Zimbabwe. The Mbare Polyclinic in Harare received a second consignment of clinical materials and other commodities worth about US\$ 14,775, making a total donation to Mbare Edith Opperman Maternity Hospital to date of just over US\$ 27,750. This second consignment, drawn from the outstanding items on the Mbare list, was funded entirely through a donation from the City of Geneva, from whom a donation of 15, 000 Swiss francs was received. ZimHealth procured this second consignment, which was dispatched in November and delivered to the clinic in December 2009, again through DAETA International

Trading in South Africa. Some of the items included in the second consignment included a second newborn resuscitation unit, a hot water geyser, trolleys, patient screens, bed linen, patient gowns, a tea urn, and a microwave, among other things.

We are also pleased to announce that we have despatched the first consignment to the Pelandaba Clinic in Bulawayo. ZimHealth procured this first phase consignment for the second project, the Pelandaba clinic in Bulawayo, the second largest city in Zimbabwe, amounting to US\$9,010. This was funded entirely from regular donations ZimHealth members, income from the fund raising event held in Geneva on 3 October 2009 and ad hoc donations from other *friends of Zimbabwe*. The October event raised 4,390 Swiss francs on the night, but donations continued to come even after the event, with cash deposited directly into the ZimHealth bank account or passed on to ZimHealth by supporters who were either at the function or those who had not been able to attend the event but supported the cause. By 20 October, ZimHealth-Europe had registered a total sum of 7,717.30 Swiss francs linked directly to the fundraising event!

Since you already know about the first hand over ceremony at Mbare, we thought you might want to hear a little about the hand over event in Bulawayo. The handover ceremony at the Pelandaba Clinic on 13th January 2010 was attended by Councillor T.P. Moyo, the Mayor of the city of Bulawayo, Dr. Bango, the Provincial Medical Director for Matabeleland South, representing the Minister for Health and Child Welfare and other dignitaries. The ZimHealth was represented by Lorraine Mangwiro. In accepting the donation on behalf of the city of Bulawayo, the Mayor said, *“The Pelandaba Clinic offers comprehensive primary health care, dental and maternity services. The total population for the area is 37,030, 65% of which are women and children. This is indeed one of the busiest clinics in the City of Bulawayo, and to this end, this donation will go a long way in serving the community in Bulawayo.”* The mayor continued to express gratitude for the donation of the generator about which he said, *“... couldn't have come at a better time - that is during this period of ZESA [Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority] load shedding. The maternity wing is open 24 hours and therefore needs a constant supply of electricity”*. In his vote of thanks, Councillor Khoza, Chairman of the Health, Housing and Education Committee, said, *“As the city of Bulawayo, it is indeed an honour for us to have people we can count on as friends; in this instance, the Association of Zimbabweans in the Diaspora [ZimHealth]. On behalf of the city of Bulawayo, I thank [ZimHealth] for their selflessness and thoughtfulness, Siyabonga, You have transformed our clinic and we salute you for that.”*

Since the delivery of these items, ZimHealth has received more requests and lists from Bulawayo for the Pelandaba Clinic as well as for the Thorngrove Hospital, an isolation hospital for the accommodation and treatment of people suffering from infectious diseases. This is a hospital which was built in 1941 and has 200 beds.

We have also been receiving news of other ZimHealth entities being established in Africa. In Uganda a group has been established and has already transferred money to the account in Geneva. We also received information that the group in Botswana is on the verge of opening an account and embark on project funding. Although we have had no update, we also know of a group of Zimbabweans establishing an entity in Namibia. Our membership has increased since October, 2009.

In 2009 alone the ZimHealth account registered 9,670 Swiss francs from regular contributions from the ZimHealth members, 11,625 Swiss francs from ad hoc donations,

including the income from the October fund-raising event, 2,211 Swiss francs from ZimHealth-USA, 295 Swiss francs from ZimHealth-Uganda and 15,000 Swiss francs from the City of Geneva. We carried over about 12,200 from 2007-2008. We, therefore, had an income of about 51,500 Swiss francs for the projects in 2009. The total cost of the projects was about 40,500 Swiss francs. I am sure you will agree that for a young Association as ours, we did very well. Sincere congratulations, and thanks to all of you.

After the two recent consignments, the ZimHealth account has carried over just over 9,800 Swiss francs into 2010.

We have developed funding proposals and submitted some already, but still to get feedback and we are putting together plans for 2010 which we will inform you about at the next Annual General Meeting planned for a date either in April or early May. You will be hearing from us soon.

We have also embarked on reaching out to contacts in the United Kingdom, Ireland, the Netherlands, Germany and South Africa to expand further our membership; we hope some of them will come on board soon and begin to contribute to the cause. We also have Zimbabweans in Zimbabwe, Malawi and the United States already transferring funds to the ZimHealth account in Geneva.

Now, I would like to invite you to visit the ZimHealth website ([www.zimhealth.org](http://www.zimhealth.org)) which has just been updated to show more details and images of the consignments to Harare and Bulawayo, and there is also a quick preview, in images, in one of the reports, of what changes we can see already at the Edith Opperman Maternity Hospital in just one year! We have made a difference! You will also be able to see an article from one of the newspapers in Bulawayo talking about the ZimHealth donation. All this is under the Projects pages, the Updates and in the Photo Gallery. You just have to see it!

A full presentation showing the changes and a more detailed Treasurer's report will be given at the Annual General Meeting - do not miss it. We look forward to seeing you there.

It remains for me, on behalf of the Executive Committee, to thank you for the support you have given us through your regular deposits, the ad hoc donations, the contacts and the encouragement. We could not have done it without you. Please continue!

With best wishes.

Francis Ndowa

ZimHealth Secretary-General