

The Zimbabwe Network for Health (ZimHealth) continues, with your help, to contribute towards improving health services in Zimbabwe by equipping maternity hospitals, primary health-care clinics and hospitals that serve low-income communities. To all our members, friends and supporters, thank you!

Making A Difference



Above: The state of the beds and linen in the maternity ward at Edith Opperman Maternity Hospital after the ZimHealth intervention and delivery of commodities. **Right:** Chart showing a rise in booked deliveries thought to be a result of the improved look of the Edith Opperman Maternity Hospital wards.



How can ZimHealth maximise the impact of our efforts? There are, of course, many different answers to this question. But one way, in particular, has come into clear focus in the past year. Thanks to feedback from clinics which we have assisted, ZimHealth has recently become acutely aware of the potential to leverage our efforts by encouraging and inspiring others, both inside and outside Zimbabwe, to become involved in the rehabilitation of health care in our country.

A good example of how a ZimHealth project can gather momentum, thanks to the involvement of a range of other agencies and bodies, comes from the Edith Opperman Maternity Hospital. On this project, we had worked closely with the City of Harare Health Department which organised a ceremony to mark the handover of a ZimHealth consignment. The ceremony was attended by key dignitaries such as the Minister for Health, the Swiss Ambassador to Zimbabwe, the Mayor of Harare and a representative from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

After the ceremony, the Swiss Ambassador promised to report to an association run by diplomats' wives. The ICRC representative pledged to emulate the ZimHealth donation in other clinics in the city. And, following the event, during which the Mayor of Harare had noted the poor condition of

Highlights

Looking Back to 2011

- ZimHealth delivered US\$33,000 worth of hospital linen, clinical items and other much-needed equipment to the 200-bed Thorngrove Infectious Diseases Hospital in Bulawayo.
- An automated autoclave, a diesel generator, an industrial washing machine plus about US\$15,000 worth of clinical items were delivered to one of Mutare's busiest clinics, Sakubva Polyclinic. A second shipment is on its way.
- ZimHealth also delivered an autoclave and a range of clinical equipment in our first shipment to Gweru's Mkoba Polyclinic.
- Ten D & C sets were among the US\$14,000 worth of gynaecological equipment that ZimHealth has procured in the past year for the Harare Hospital Maternity Unit.



Above: Sister Sakupwanya at Edith Opperman Maternity Hospital proudly displaying a 3 panel hospital-ward screen donated by ZimHealth. Note the new floor tiles laid by the City of Harare authorities - a response by the city authorities to match the new materials from ZimHealth

- A portable autoclave, a haemoglobinometer and an obstetric bed were among the items that ZimHealth sent to the Runyararo Clinic, one of three clinics that we are assisting in the Masvingo region.

For more info on these and other on-going projects, please visit our website: www.zimhealth.org

Making A Difference *continued...*

some floors and walls, the Mayor promised to suggest to the Rotary Club that they take this on as a project, at the same time as committing the City Council to matching the Rotary Club's efforts.

Within a few months, the huge difference made by everyone's input was clear for all to see. The Edith Opperman Maternity Hospital closed briefly for renovations and reopened with the walls re-painted, many of the floors refurbished, bathrooms upgraded, first-class signage and a new, positive image. Word spread and soon, the number of deliveries per month began to climb.

ZimHealth plans to work towards creating increased synergy between our organisation, other like-minded groups and local authorities to leverage our efforts and thus create the best possible outcomes for people in Zimbabwe. Where there's a will, there's a way.



Top: The state of the beds and linen in the maternity ward at Edith Opperman Maternity Hospital before the ZimHealth intervention. **Above:** Patient bedside lockers donated by other well-wishers following refurbishment of hospital beds by ZimHealth

On the Grapevine

Two members of our executive committee, Mike and Liz, attended a retreat that preceded the recent UN General Assembly in New York. The retreat's focus was on human resources for health. Guests included Health Ministers, other government officials and staff from UN agencies. One of the distinguished speakers, Advocate Gawanas, Commissioner at the African Union, cited as an example, quite by chance, how Zimbabweans in the diaspora were making a significant contribution to the rebuilding of health facilities in Zimbabwe. We're not sure whether Advocate Gawanas was referring to ZimHealth or to other NGOs working in the same field but we'd be happy to take some of the credit!

On another occasion, Mike was touched when the Mayor of Harare rushed over to him at the airport in Harare to report how he had been approached by other Zimbabweans in the diaspora who also wanted to "adopt" a clinic.

Highlights

Looking forward to 2012

- Next year, ZimHealth is planning to spend more than the \$200,000 projected for 2011 with our forthcoming social event in Geneva on Saturday 22 October kick-starting our fundraising activities. Our target is raise at least CHF10 000 at the event. We'll report back on our progress in our next newsletter and hope to see you there! See our website for event info.
- We were saddened to learn of the passing away in Harare of one of our founders, Dr Daniel Makuto. We are considering various options as to how we can mark Danny's abiding interest in developing public health services in Zimbabwe.
- We've been promised a ticket to the 2012 Olympics to help raise funds for ZimHealth. Watch this space!



Above: Red Cross and Red Crescent Society joining in the supply of equipment to other clinics - an idea inspired from the first ZimHealth handover ceremony at the Edith Opperman Maternity Hospital. This was at Kuwadzana polyclinic in the City of Harare on 8 October 2010

- We're working with staff at Harare Maternity Hospital, the largest referral maternity unit in the country, to explore ways of contributing to the purchase of a gynaecological laparoscopy set (at a cost of about US\$150,000) which would make a huge difference to the unit.
- We have "wish lists" from Mutare Infectious Diseases Hospital, Mutare Old Maternity Hospital and Mutare General Hospital; we're now fundraising and hope to be able to report some progress by early next year.