

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!

# ‘A wonderful gesture’

**The greatest challenge facing Urban Local Authorities in Zimbabwe today is the provision of quality health services in a financially sustainable way.**

So said the Mayor of Masvingo, Alderman F Chakabuda, at a ceremony in December to hand over medical supplies worth more than US\$18 000 donated by ZimHealth to three clinics in the City of Masvingo. ZimHealth’s contribution was a “wonderful gesture”, the Mayor said. “The donated items (which included medical and surgical equipment, bed linen, an autoclave and electrical goods such as a washing machine and spin dryer) shall be put to good use,” he added.

At the ceremony, ZimHealth was presented with a copper plaque as a token of Masvingo City Council’s appreciation by Chief Health Officer, Mr Zvapano Munganasa. Acknowledgement of ZimHealth’s donation was also made by the ceremony’s guest of honour, Permanent Secretary for Health, Dr Gerald Gwinji, who pledged that the Ministry of Health would continue to facilitate the delivery of donations from ZimHealth by granting duty-free certificates. Thanking ZimHealth for taking on such a “noble cause”, Dr Gwinji said: “I hope many other people will emulate this gesture.”



*Above: A ZimHealth-donated blood pressure machine in use in Masvingo. Inset: The plaque which was presented to ZimHealth by Masvingo City Council.*



# Numbers to note

## Zimbabwe's 2012 National Budget includes the following provisions:

- US\$ 63.4 million = Zimbabwe's 2012 health budget
- US\$ 7.0 million = how much will be spent on medical supplies
- US\$ 22.1 million = an allocation to 20 named hospitals and clinics
- US\$ 18.4 million = the sum allocated to other health-care institutions
- US\$ 7.0 million = an allocation to mission hospitals
- US\$ 5.9 million = the budget for the Parirenyatwa group of hospitals
- US\$ 7.0 million = the sum earmarked to purchase medical equipment, mostly for primary health-care clinics
- US\$ 3.0 million = an allocation to buy ambulances and service vehicles
- US\$ 10.0 million = a contribution to reduce user fees for maternal and child health-care
- US\$ 7.2 million = an additional allocation for preventative health programmes

## On our wish list: CD4 count machines

The need for CD4 count machines is urgent, according to health-care providers in Zimbabwe who have reported to ZimHealth's local representatives that there are bottlenecks in CD4 testing capacity at centres throughout the country. For HIV-infected patients, lack of CD4 counts delays access to life-saving treatment with antiretrovirals.

CD4 count machines are expensive and the resources available to ZimHealth are limited. Therefore, ZimHealth is investigating ways of working in partnership with Zimbabwe's health authorities and other international organisations to help to meet this need.


### A new Executive Committee was elected at ZimHealth's Annual General Meeting on March 31:

CHAIRPERSON	<i>Rutendo Kuwana</i>
DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON	<i>Moredreck Chibi</i>
SECRETARY-GENERAL	<i>Carol Gray</i>
TREASURER	<i>Shiva Murugasampillay</i>
DEPUTY TREASURER	<i>Milidzi Mkhosi</i>
LEGAL ADVISOR	<i>Marlon Zakeyo</i>
PUBLICITY OFFICER	<i>Samson Katikiti</i>
RESOURCES MOBILISATION OFFICER	<i>Liz Mason</i>
PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND LIAISON	<i>Calson Mbegabolawe</i>
MEMBER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO	<i>Conelious Pfumbidzai</i>

## How small donations make a big difference

Donations aimed at improving health in Zimbabwe, no matter how small, can nevertheless make a big difference, Zimbabwe's Permanent Secretary for Health, Dr Gerald Gwinji, told ZimHealth's publicity team in a recent interview in Geneva. He commended ZimHealth for responding to

needs that had been identified by health-service providers in Zimbabwe. Read a full report of his interview on the ZimHealth website, [www.zimhealth.org](http://www.zimhealth.org), by clicking on the News tab, then February 2012.



# The value of teamwork



*Above: Included in ZimHealth's most recent donations to Mutare were sewing machines and fabric to support the Tariro Orphan Project, based at Sakubva Polyclinic.*

The variety and quality of services offered by Sakubva Polyclinic, located in Mutare's oldest and most densely-populated suburb, are commendable, said ZimHealth's local representative, Dr Abigail Kangwende, when delivering the keynote address in May at a ceremony to mark the handover of items in the second phase of ZimHealth's Mutare project. The donated items included a washing machine and electric stove, a laboratory centrifuge, incubator for cultures and a refrigerator. Dr Kangwende made special mention of the successful antiretroviral treatment services offered at the Sakubva OI clinic and Mutare City Health Department's Directly

Observed Therapy programme which serves as a model of TB treatment.

Underlying the success of such programmes was a spirit of working together, Dr Kangwende noted. Teamwork also featured in ZimHealth's donation to the Tariro Orphan Project, based at Sakubva Polyclinic, in that the Mutare-based fabric supplier had also made a donation of fabric. "Together, we will indeed make a difference," Dr Kangwende said.

In thanks to ZimHealth, Mutare City Health Department presented a copper wall clock to Dr Kangwende.

# Spotlight on Mkoba Polyclinic



If there were only one quality required of staff working at Mkoba Polyclinic, it would perhaps be to have endurance, reports ZimHealth's local representative, Nokwakhe Fuyana, who visited the polyclinic in February. One of Zimbabwe's busiest health-care centres, Mkoba Polyclinic's patient numbers almost doubled when a shortage of resources and staff, including midwives, led to the closure of a nearby maternity unit. Mkoba Polyclinic now serves 85 000 people, almost 55 per cent of Gweru's total population. More than 100 babies are delivered there every month and 7 000 people on antiretroviral therapy attend the clinic.

Offering primary health care to the low and non-income group, Mkoba Polyclinic charges adults US\$3 and children over five years old US\$1.50 per visit. Younger children and adults over 50 are treated at no charge. Income generated by user fees does not cover the provision of even basic health services, the Town Clerk Daniel Matawu reports.

Last year, thanks to donations from ZimHealth members,

the City of Geneva and the Oak Foundation, ZimHealth sent two shipments worth US\$33 000 to Mkoba Polyclinic. The second shipment, initiated in December, was yet to be delivered when ZimHealth representative Nokwakhe Fuyana visited Mkoba Polyclinic in February. She was greeted by the Acting Director of Health Services for Gweru City, Mr S C Ruwodo, who thanked ZimHealth for "much needed donations". They had made a significant difference, he said, to staff and patients alike. The first consignment included electrical goods such as a washing machine, refrigerator, electric cooker and tea urns, as well as bed linen and a Doppler foetal monitor. Sister Chirobe, who led the tour of the clinic, explained that nurses were previously using only a foetal scope and the foetal monitor had made a big impact on the delivery ward. The second consignment includes clinical goods such as a baby resuscitaire plus an obstetric bed, a computer and printer.

An official handover ceremony to mark receipt of both shipments is being planned.

## Bassinettes for Harare

Soon after 30 new bassinettes were received by Harare Maternity Hospital as part of a consignment from ZimHealth in April 2012, ZimHealth's Rutendo Kuwana visited the hospital.

This is an extract from his report: "Before the new bassinettes were received, new-borns were often simply wrapped in shawls and placed on long tables that had previously been used as nurses' work-stations.

"Four to five babies were sometimes lined up on each side of the tables. Harare Maternity Hospital is very busy and on the day of my visit, not less than 30 babies were being taken care of in the neo-natal unit. Some were still sharing bassinettes. Two young doctors took me aside and expressed their gratitude and appreciation for what fellow Zimbabweans were doing. They were obviously inspired and promised to do their part as members of the Hospital Doctors Association. It was humbling when the matron led the mothers and nurses on duty to share their gratitude to ZimHealth for our support. I felt truly privileged to be flying the ZimHealth flag that day."

