

Ethiopia Link

Hossana and Yirga Alem

Our link hospitals in Ethiopia

March 2011

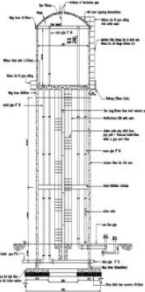
Water update!

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 and church groups, 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.

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 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 so far.

Visit **Ethiopia link** on the intranet to learn more and find the sign-up form

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.



Ato Yeshanew and one of the new incinerators



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.

Emergency surgical, obstetric 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..



www.lifebox.org

The clever techies from the World Federation of Anaesthetic Societies have developed a simple, robust and low-price pulse oximeter, and they want every operating theatre in the world to have one. *Ethiopia Link* has purchased one for use on the paediatric wards and as back-up for the theatre. It works a treat!



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

Yirga Alem Hospital

A 5 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. 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 the team also worked on developing the children's service – a very needy area

The 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 welcome them!

