

Spreading Health Bulletin Winter 2012

Report from the Trustees

In October 2012 Stephen Ndzerem, Director of SHUMAS travelled to the UK to attend a course at Bristol, and included a visit to Bournemouth, to stay with Peter and Glynis. It was really great to meet with him, and Stephen joined in a committee meeting with the Spreading Health Trustees in the morning, and a local 'Friends of Spreading Health' Tea for fundraisers. Both were very successful. It was useful for Stephen to meet some of our fundraisers, and for them to meet Stephen and ask direct questions about how the project runs 'on the ground' in Cameroon. Our thanks to Eva and David Brewer for hosting that.

Stephen was able to confirm to the Trustees that all of Spreading Health's qualified nurses are now being paid by their community. Sometimes payment is in other ways than money, and Consultation fees are agreed locally by a Health committee (elected by village). All the Health committees sign a protocol agreement.



The Trustees also discussed retention issues with Stephen, and agreed that retention is not all about pay. The World Health Organisation (WHO) reports suggest other satisfactions affect retention more than money.

What can we do if a nurse leaves? The thinking is that each Clinic will have built up a patient population which brings in income, and therefore they will be able to recruit a replacement. Building up equipment at clinics will also generate increased revenue, and Spreading Health equipment already in place in the clinic will make the clinic more attractive to a new nurse.

There is also the possibility of introducing a requirement of a 'formal' notice of leaving. Six months, probably. With or without this the key is regular monitoring of each situation at Health committee meetings, which should flag up issues that might result in a nurse leaving, and could involve negotiations to prevent this.

We are pleased to announce that Spreading Health are sponsoring a new batch of 6 nurse students. All of them started the 3 year SRN course in October 2012.

Tiku Unoreal Nwanchan from Enyon
Micheline Ndze from Kai
James Takwa from Ntumbaw
Younchaou Nsangan from Koutaba
Christina Taal from Mbo Oku
Mbouombou O' Nsangu Chouaibou from Bangourain

We look forward to following their progress.

Also, for the first time this year, Spreading Health is funding SHUMAS to give some ongoing support to newly qualified sponsored nurses as they start working in their rural clinics. When Peter and Glynis visited Cameroon last November, this had been a universal request from all the graduates. An Alumni group will be set up, and it is planned that they will meet quarterly, and between times support each other both professionally and personally.

Notes on this year's exam results mean that most candidates have been successful, with 2 new SRN and 3 new nursing assistants qualifying. Well done to them and we wish them every success in their clinics. Rebecca, who was unsuccessful, is nevertheless back home and working as an unqualified nurse in her community clinic.

Report from Cameroon

RESULTS OF SPREADING HEALTH STUDENTS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2011/2012

Toh Elvis Enoh

Elvis succeeded in the Higher Professional Diploma (HPD) exams. This qualifies him as a state registered nurse. He is currently working in his community and the village development committee will meet to discuss his remuneration.

Wirnkar Oscar

Oscar equally succeeded in the end of course HPD exams. This has brought great joy to his family and community after the difficulties he faced going through the course. He also reports that the '*emergency fund*' allowance granted him in the final year by Spreading Health made it possible for him to succeed in his exams.

Rebecca Nadine

Rebecca was not successful in her HPD exams but is nevertheless assisting in her community health centre.

Sister Nicoline

Sister Nicoline had an annual average of 11 which is below the average of 12 required by the school to qualify her to be promoted to level three. This therefore means that Sister Nicoline will have to repeat level two. The results in her class were generally poor. She is currently back in her community in Ako.

Sister Delphine

Sister Delphine succeeded, and is presently in Ntarsen health centre where she has been assisting since the 1st of September. Sister Delphine and sister Nicoline will resume school on the 1st of October.

Kewir Donald

Donald performed very well in his exams to level three and ranked 2nd in a class of 42 students. He spent some time with his parents and is now back at school.

Chem Lawan

Lawan just completed the clinical internship in Bamenda General Hospital. Though the results of their promotion exams are not yet published, he is quite confident he will be promoted as he succeeded in all his courses of the first and second term.

Pepouere Aoudou

Aoudou succeeded in the final exams qualifying him as a nursing assistant. He started work in the community on the 1st of September.

Kone Mabelle

Mabelle also succeeded in the final exams for a nursing assistant. She has not started work as she is expecting a baby anytime from now. She will resume work in the community by December.

Tamba Innocent

Innocent also succeeded in the nursing assistant final exams. Presently he is back in his community happily working in the health centre. Innocent joined one nurse assistant and one community in-service trained nurse to make a total of three staff in Amasi integrated health centre. He reports that work is moving quite smoothly, as they have an average of 10 patients daily. Innocent travels to Bamenda every month to get drugs for the health centre.

Abakar Sidick

Abakar is doing well and succeeded in the promotion exams to level two. He has been on a two months internship in Garoua, and is now back in school.

Friends of Spreading Health

Friends of Spreading Health receive a regular Newsletter with an update about what is happening to sponsored students and Spreading Health nurses in Cameroon, and more about fundraising. If you would like to receive a copy of the Newsletter please email:

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