

The SHUMAS *Spreading Health* progress report for April and May is again broken down into 'school' and 'community' for each of the students, and contains responses to some important questions asked by the *Spreading Health UK* committee about the possibility of refresher courses, and the proper remuneration of nurses in the communities.

Students on training

Toh Elvis Enoh

School

A great deal has happened for Elvis in this period. He presented his research on the *Assessment of Nurses' Knowledge and Practice on Wound Management*.



Elvis on internship

Elvis believed he did very well, although the students had very little time to prepare, and is still waiting for the results. Another key activity for Elvis was the Higher Professional Diploma (HPD) practical exam, which makes up 40% of the total end-of-course examination. The theoretical part will follow in mid June. During this period, Elvis also wrote the second semester exams. Elvis's first semester exam results were excellent. He passed in all 8 courses and is determined to do the same for the second semester exams.

Community

Back in Elvis's community (Njeng) the absence of the main consulting nurse continues to pose a serious problem at the health centre. Elvis attended to a patient in the absence of the nurse. The victim was seriously butchered in a fight and Elvis spent the night suturing the wounds with the help of just one nurse assistant.

Personal

Elvis is doing fine. He feels quite happy and remains thankful to *Spreading Health* for his training.

Wirnkar Oscar**School**

Oscar's school program is the same as for Elvis. He also did well in his exams and passed in 7 out of 8 courses. Oscar is currently preparing for the HPD theoretical exams, and his "makeup" exams from past semesters.

Community

There is no change in the situation of Oscar's community, just one nurse assistant working in the health centre.



Oscar during his internship advising pregnant women on the use of mosquito nets

Rebecca Nadine**School**

Rebecca has been allowed to carry out the HPD practical exams from last year's course. Rebecca will be given the opportunity to rewrite all the courses she owes in the second level, and this is the same for all students owing level two courses. This improvement in her school situation has given Rebecca confidence and she is now determined to succeed. Rebecca's first semester exams this year were good, and she passed in 7 out of the 8 courses.

Community

Back in Rebecca's community the situation remains the same. One State Registered Nurse and a nurse assistant.

Sister Delphine**School**

Sister Delphine just completed the second semester exams and is getting ready to go on for the second internship this year, still at Shisong Hospital. Her first semester exams were published and she passed in 6 out of 8 courses. Sister Delphine hopes to rewrite the two courses she failed during the makeup exams in September.

Community

Ntarsen community, which is in the outskirts of Bamenda town, receives more than 50 outpatients daily and many more admitted patients but has very few nurses. Sister Delphine's presence after training will bring some relief to staff in the health centre.

Sister Nicoline

School

Sister Nicoline also wrote her second semester exams two weeks ago. She passed 7 out of 8 courses in the first semester exams. Sister Nicoline will also carry out her second internship in Shisong hospital.



Community

Ako community health centre continues to suffer the same problems mentioned in the previous report. Sister Nicoline hopes to spend her two months holiday working there.

Personal

Sister Nicoline had malaria for two weeks but has regained her health and is back to her routine activities.

Kewir Donald

School

Donald's first semester results were good. He passed in 10 out of 12 courses. During this period he also presented his clinical internship report. This term, students have 11 courses and will start the second semester exams on 4th June.

Community

Donald's community (Roh Vitangtaa) clinic still has the problem of insufficient equipment and poor facilities. Donald plans to assist the lone nurse assistant working in the community health centre during holidays.

Chem Lawan

School

Lawan completed his first clinical internship in April. He reports that the internship was very intense but interesting as he had the opportunity to work in all the different hospital departments. He found wound dressing to be the best experience for him, though he did several other activities like administering of injections, drips and taking blood samples for laboratory tests. Since he returned from Internship Lawan has been following regular lessons in class. Lawan's first semester results are not yet published, and the second semester exams should start by mid June.

Community

The Health Centre building in Dom is almost complete and the community plans to recruit a temporary nurse to start running the clinic before Lawan completes his training.

Pepouere Aoudou

School

Aoudou completed his internship in March, and presented his internship report on 3rd May. Since then Aoudou has been in school following lectures. The first semester results were encouraging as Aoudou passed in 7 out of 10 courses.

Aoudou is presently on clinical internship which started on 9th May and will last for six weeks. He will write his final exam by July.

Community

Aoudou's community remains the same though the community applied to SHUMAS to assist them to renovate and equip the Health Centre.

Kone Mabelle

School

Mabelle also presented her internship report on 9th May. Her results were very good as she succeeded in all 10 courses.

Community

The community of Manseng remains supportive to Mabelle, and hope for her return in August to assist the two nurses currently working there.

Innocent

School

Innocent also completed his internship in March and has been in school since then but is presently on clinical internship with his classmates. He passed in 8 out of 10 courses.

Community

Innocent's community Health Centre benefited from some health equipment donated by an organisation. The community is presently searching for a State

Registered Nurse to run the clinic. Innocent will assist him or her when he completes his training in July.

Nurses already working in communities

Havilah

Havilah is very serious about her work. Currently she receives a small monthly salary which means Havilah struggles to meet her daily needs and the responsibility she has for her younger siblings.

Omer

Omer is very busy with consultations and outreach programs. He loves his work and is very committed. He receives a monthly salary. Omer is doing fine and preparing to rewrite the theory HPD exams. He took part in the HPD Practical and hopes to make it this time.



Jolene

Jolene is doing her best in Kikaikelaki community. The Health Centre building is almost complete but her greatest problem remains the lack of support from the community.

She is supposed to receive a monthly allowance, but doesn't get this every month. Jolene is fine though, and also preparing to rewrite the HPD exams.

Zuilaika

The Community of Ngehdzen is very satisfied with Zuilaika's work. She is very busy and works closely with the chief of centre who is experienced. The only problem is a low salary which cannot really meet her needs. However, Zuilaika does receive material support from her community members in the form of food from time to time.

Zuilaika is happy and very committed. Her good relationships with community members gives her a lot of moral support which she feels is very important for her work.

Emmanuel

The community of Mbah is satisfied with Emmanuel's work. He is very serious and has gained a lot of experience. The other nurses are not as regular as Emmanuel, which makes his presence in the community health centre vital.

He receives a monthly allowance. Emmanuel is now gaining in self confidence, and is looking forward to any refresher course that can be organised.

Gladys

Gladys is very busy because one of the nurses left her centre and there are just two of them left. Gladys continues to work in all the units of the Health Centre. She too is very interested in receiving more training on refresher courses. The

community pay her a varying monthly allowance. Gladys is doing well and very committed to her work and her family.

Assana

Assana is very committed working for her community Health Centre. She has gained lots of experience but still feels that further training will enable her to better reach out to her community.

Ashiatu

Ashiatu went on work leave for a month to meet her husband who is working in the South West Region.

Ethel

Ethel is still working in Faakui Community. She is not so busy because the Health Centre still lacks a lot of equipment, and many people prefer to trek to neighbouring communities. Ethel does handle emergency cases like wound dressing, simple malaria treatments, and other minor cases. A refresher course will be very useful for her as she feels she has not really gained a lot of experience.

She reports that the community is not really paying her anything. However, the community gives her food regularly. One of the community elders assists her with a little money to meet her basic needs.

Seraphine

Seraphine worked for four months in a clinic in Ebolowa, (capital of the South Region of Cameroon) where she was living with her husband, but after that she passed the government's nursing exams and is presently undergoing training as a State Registered Nurse.

New applications

Ten more communities in the North West, West and North Regions of Cameroon have been given information on the *Spreading Health* program. So far SHUMAS has received 16 applications from communities all over Cameroon.

SHUMAS' PLAN FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS

- Monitoring of nurses on training, and in communities
- Community visits, and reception of applications
- Holding monthly meetings with students
- Writing and submitting progress reports to *Spreading Health*
- Organising meeting with nurses in training to reflect on possible short term needs.

Other issues

Refresher courses

SHUMAS asked health institutions and hospitals around Bamenda and Kumbo if they run any refresher courses, and whether or not they could collaborate on a *Spreading Health* refresher course. SHUMAS also approached the regional delegation of Public

Health who said they do carry out refresher course and workshops but it often depends on the need at the time. For example a workshop on new treatments or on handling epidemic outbreaks like cholera.

Measures to resolve the issue of salary for nurses in communities

As a step to handle the issue of poor remuneration of nurses in communities, SHUMAS wrote a letter to all Community Health Centre management boards reminding them of their commitment to pay their nurses, and the importance of giving the nurses a reasonable amount of remuneration.

For the nurses who will soon return to their communities SHUMAS sent letters to inform the communities that the nurse will soon return, and highlighting the issue of providing them reasonable remuneration.

SHUMAS is considering including a minimum salary amount in the protocol agreement for all new communities that will benefit from the program.

Collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health

SHUMAS have asked the Regional Delegates to write a letter to the District Medical Officers where spreading health nurses are located, so that they can closely monitor them and include them in their district health workshops as a strategy to improve on their performance.

SHUMAS also asked the Regional Delegation to provide information on their priority areas where there is a desperate need for trained health personnel so that SHUMAS can target these communities. This is in line with the objective of the partnership already created to ensure more concerted and coordinated actions.

More information about each of these initiatives in the next Bulletin.
