

Kisiizi Hospital Uganda – One Year on



Church
of Uganda

Kisiizi
Hospital

The impact of Covid 19 at Kisiizi Hospital

Although there have not yet been many cases of Covid 19 at Kisiizi, there has been a very significant impact at the hospital including:

- Medication and supplies reduced, sometimes unobtainable, and more expensive
- Staff pay has had to be reduced to make savings, causing hardship
- Closure of the School of Nursing and Midwifery, with students sent home has meant fewer staff available on wards and in clinics
- Closure of Kisiizi Primary School
- Transport greatly reduced because of lockdown
- Isolation and further impoverishment of poor rural community
- Closure of the Kisiizi Falls Visitor Centre, an important source of income.



**A world
of
difference**





Screening for
fever at the
gate

Morning staff
prayers now
held outside



In September, the hospital was affected again by damaging flooding.

Thankfully, the damage was not as severe as it might have been, and technicians and staff all worked hard to restore power to the hydroelectric generator, and near normality to the affected wards.

GMC sent donation to help with costs incurred restoring the hospital.



Flooded
generator room

Transfer of patients to Hospital Chapel!



Flooding of female medical ward



Restoring power
cables

The Ahumuza ward (Mental Health) has had a very busy year.

Families have found difficulty obtaining medication, and this has resulted in many patient's mental health deteriorating, and increased admissions for patients in crisis. Despite this, real progress has been made with many challenging patients.

In addition:

- The new Neuropsychiatry Clinic for patients with conditions such as alcohol dependency and epilepsy is growing steadily
- Community and schools education about mental illness started well, (before lockdown)

The patient therapy garden behind the ward which began as wasteland is starting to thrive.

This work has been supported directly by gifts from GMC.



The Neuropsychiatry Clinic allows patients with conditions such as alcohol dependency and epilepsy (such as this young girl) to be seen without having to visit the Ahumuza ward



Schools and community education (including by local radio) is an important process in reducing the widespread stigma of mental illness, and in spreading the word that mental health problems are treatable, allowing restoration to wholeness.



Matoke bananas form an important part of nutrition in Uganda, and planting and tending these young trees on re-claimed ground behind the Ahumuza ward will provide therapeutic activity and food for patients without family support

Future Plans

Despite limited resources, God has always provided for Kisiizi Hospital's needs and growth!

Plans for the future include:

- A new antenatal ward and special care baby unit – the existing one is overcrowded and ageing
- Expanding community clinics so more patients can be managed without having to make the long journey to Kisiizi
- Expanding the hospital insurance scheme, to help more patients pay a little regularly to avoid large bills if they fall ill



Community outreach vehicle which supports rural clinics and education projects



Proposed site of new Antenatal ward and special care baby unit. This very old building is currently in temporary use as a Covid isolation ward

Prayer needs

- Pray that Covid19 cases remain relatively few in the area, and do not place an unmanageable burden on the hospital
- Pray for safety and wellbeing for the hospital staff so that they do not become exhausted and demoralised
- Pray that finances improve to allow the very modest staff wages to be restored. This will help morale and recruitment
- Pray that God continues to protect the hospital, it's staff team and school, so that the surrounding area is blessed by their work
- Pray for the hospital's planned building project, and other plans to improve and expand their care

Finally, there are two further options for individual giving for those who would like to feel personally involved:

- Kisiizi Orphans is a carefully managed child sponsorship scheme, which allows sponsorship through school, of a child who has been orphaned by illness such as HIV/AIDS or other illness. The cost is £25.00 a month, and sponsors receive updates about the progress of their child.
- The Good Samaritan scheme helps with payment of hospital bills for destitute patients who have no other means to pay. Nobody is ever turned away from Kisiizi Hospital, but if patients are unable to meet the cost of treatment (there is no NHS!) the cost is otherwise borne by the hospital, sometimes by the staff themselves! Donations can be made to the scheme

If you would like to enquire further about donation, please contact Graham and Jane Pettinger via the church office email address.



Helped dramatically by the Good Samaritan Fund...