

BREAD News

MAKING A BIG IMPACT IN A SMALL PLACE

Spring 2014



Dear Friends,

As parts of the country continue to be flooded due to heavy rainfall, we are sad to report the same is true in Berega. Those of you who received our email (and if you haven't yet shared your address with us, please do, so we can send updates to you on events as they unfold), will have heard about the devastating consequences.

The only bridge which gives access was washed away due to heavy rainfall. Without the bridge, the village is entirely cut off from the rest of the world, and we know already of several fatalities that have occurred because people have been unable to travel to get the medical help they desperately need.



The bridge before the flood



The bridge washed away by flooding

Additionally, there are now shortages of gas and diesel in the village and some electricity is out because poles were toppled. Regional Government have promised that a temporary bridge will be built – please pray that this promise is fulfilled and that a permanent solution will also be found.

It is a privilege at times like these to stand with the people of Berega – and we thank you for your continued support of BREAD.

Blessings,
The Trustees

Review of the Year:

The Context:

At the present time the key issue in the hospital is that the Government have stopped paying a significant proportion of salaries. They used to pay the basic salary for all professionally qualified staff (around 50% of the payroll costs). Over the last two years this proportion has fallen to 25% and has affected all Christian hospitals in the country (providing half of Tanzania's health service). In response the hospital has had to raise its fees in order to break even – not an ideal situation in such a poor area but one which has been necessary in order to balance the books. An inpatient pays a fee of 50p per night, plus the money to cover the direct costs of any medication and laboratory tests that are needed.

In its early years, and while it builds up the number of students, the hospital has had to support the School of Nursing. As described later in the newsletter, this requirement is gradually being reduced. We are hoping that in another couple of years, SONAB will be self-supporting for all its operational needs.

On a more positive note, electricity has now reached the village (although heavy rainfall has caused power outages) and the hospital is attached to the grid. There are many power cuts but the generator is able to cope with these and there is therefore an almost continuous supply. This opens up the means of providing a better quality of service to patients – for example, through the use of oxygen machines in the wards, air conditioning in the operating theatre, etc.

The Bible School is thriving – and in the past year has trained around 45 lay pastors, evangelists, pastors' wives, and children's workers.

The English-medium primary school now has over 60 children enrolled. Three-quarters of these children pay the full fees (~£120/year) with the remainder being sponsored, at least for a part of them. Most sponsorship comes from people known to "Mama Liz" – the lady running the school. BREAD has not contributed to the school financially but we are encouraged by its progress.

Our Funds:

Our income this year came to £31,000, including two large gifts. We started the year with £20,000 in the bank and finished with only £9,000.

Because of the needs in the hospital and elsewhere, we have been purposely running down our bank account and this is the second year that we have run a deficit. We now clearly need to raise more funds if we are to continue to support the work being done in the Village.

Projects Funded:

Over the last 12 months we have funded the following projects with your kind donations:

- £1,500 sponsoring students at the School of Nursing – the second of a three year programme to help needy students complete their courses.
- £5,000 repairing the roof of the relatives' kitchen which blew off in a storm - the hospital does not provide food for patients so it is cooked by family

members in a special kitchen. The work is not yet completed but will be soon.

- £9,000 on the infusion room – completing an overhaul of this facility which started in 2012. The equipment makes the solution for drips out of rainwater and saves a significant amount of money by not having to purchase disposable bottles from outside suppliers.
- £3,000 for two computers for use in the hospital and one rain water tank for the last remaining ward to be fitted in this way.
- £18,000 for SONAB for capital works, providing equipment for the skills room, books for the library, renovating the dormitories, and making a start on equipping the computer room. (Most of this money came from a donor specifically for this purpose.)
- £5,000 to help buy drugs at a particularly difficult time for the hospital. The Trustees make such purchases reluctantly because we do not wish the hospital to depend upon us to cover its running costs. Nevertheless this was felt to be a particular emergency that needed an urgent response.



De-ionising equipment in the infusion room

Update on SONAB:

In September, Isaac, the hospital director wrote to the Trustees: "The dream of having a nursing school at Berega has come true after many years of prayers and preparation!"

It was an exciting time as the first graduates were awarded their diplomas or certificates. The diploma takes three years and the certificate two. The ceremony was very grand and attended by the Regional and District Commissioners, as well as by John Pugh, the tutor who got the School up and running in 2010. Altogether 23 students passed their exams.



Graduation

The School is not yet completely built but they are making progress. There are now two classrooms, a library / skills room, and an (as yet unequipped) computer room. There are also dormitory blocks for both the male and female students and a cafeteria. The tutors have their office within the hospital itself, something they would like to change by building an "Admin block".

The design was set out by an Australian civil engineer, Tony Bramley, who has been very involved in Berega for a number of years, and the final layout is intended to be horseshoe-shaped. The School has some way to go before it is finished but it is usable for the present.

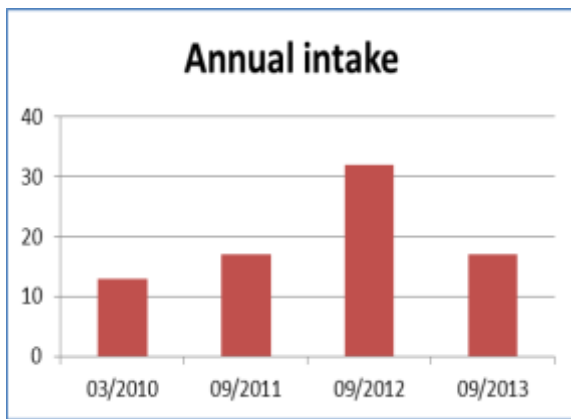


A classroom and the skills lab / library

Impact of the School:

- For Tanzania as a whole: There are only around 13,000 qualified nurses in Tanzania (i.e. one nurse for every ~3,000 people) – a tiny number compared to the 350,000 we employ in the UK (less than 200 people for each nurse).
- For the Hospital in Berega: In March 2013 the Hospital recruited 10 of the 21 graduates from the School. Some of these had received financial help during the course and have made a commitment to work locally for one or two years. They are young and enthusiastic and are having a major effect on the standards of care around the Hospital. Student nurses, too, contribute to the work of the Hospital during the practical periods of their courses.
- For local people: The School provides the only post-school qualification for miles around and gives talented local young people an opportunity to continue their studies. There is a nurse who was born in the Hospital, and went to the local primary and secondary schools prior to joining SONAB. Now she is a qualified nurse and, as it happens, has just given birth to her first baby – again in the Hospital!
- For the local economy: There are now about 60 students in the School. They need to be fed and will also spend money on other items. Potentially, this represents an important injection of money into the local community.

The graph below shows the intakes of students since the School started. This year was a disappointment as it was hoped that around 30 students would enrol. The lower number is partly related to the Government increasing the entry qualifications, and partly because the School has increased its fees. A good marketing plan for September 2014 is vital in order to keep up the number of students – especially as around 30 nurses graduate next year.



We recently worked out the “breakeven” number of students needed by SONAB for it to become self-sustaining. The figure is around 70 to 75 students. This academic year, it will make a small loss and that will be the case again next year. But after that, as long as recruitment reaches around 25-30 students per year, the School should be able to stand on its own feet and no longer depend upon Hospital funds – at least at the operating level. It will not be able to fund its own building programme but that would require a massive, and counter-productive, increase in fees.

Projects for Future Funding:

Based on a number of requests from Berega, the Trustees have prioritised the following projects for funding, in conjunction with Isaac, the hospital director.

1. Replacing the windows in the operating theatre – a high priority item which will improve practice in the theatre
2. Extension of the pharmacy which will allow the 24h working of the pharmacy, improve security, and will give more space to allow them to experiment with wholesale sales to local commercial pharmacies, without too many extra staff being needed.
3. Building shops for rental purposes: providing a service for the village and a good investment for the hospital as a potential income generation project.
4. Renovating the village water supply

5. Covered path from the operating theatre to the maternity ward – and hence the men’s and women’s wards - to improve conditions for post-op patients, particularly in the rainy season.

How you can help make a BIG difference in a small place

Pray:

- For the provision of a new bridge and for protection for people in Berega as they remain vulnerable until it’s built
- For students at SONAB, that they would have a heart for their work, and would feel a commitment to Berega, and to providing the best possible care for their patients
- Thank God for his provision which has meant a significant number of projects funded in Berega, which will have an impact on people’s lives. Pray that people would see this as God’s providing for their needs and would come to know him through our continued partnership in Berega

Giving is easy:

Donate to one of the projects mentioned, or use them as a way to encourage your friends and church communities to fundraise for Berega.

You can donate online at:
www.breadtrust.org

If you would like to contribute to BREAD as you begin to plan your giving for 2014 please contact:

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If you are a UK Taxpayer, you can increase the effectiveness of your giving through Gift Aid. We have produced forms for your use. Please let us know if you would like one.

