

Hay2Timbuktu Wales for Africa grant

Medics4Timbuktu report 2013-2014



Antenatal (Maternal health) Project

As outlined in last years report the recent troubles in Mali have had a significant effect on our project and the overall plan initially submitted. Thankfully the situation in Mali remains relatively stable at present though this still feels a fragile situation. While services and general living has started up again in the last year there are still many that have not yet returned to Timbuktu and it still remains a place that the foreign office continue to deem unsafe for British citizens to travel to.

**Visit of Midwives to
Hay-on-Wye
September 2013**



Thankfully having restocked our main clinic in Timbuktu our maternal health project began running again in the area it has been successful in (Bellafarandi) and also over the last months has been started in the two other areas of Timbuktu as outlined in our original proposal (Sankore and Kabara).

In these areas the clinics and organisation committee have had been set up and education of the motivators in each area has been organised. (see attached visual report of training days attached as appendix)

This had been planned for a year earlier but is now progressing as planned albeit 12 months later than hoped.

We have recently had a report showing the number of women coming through the clinics. This shows ,as expected, that there are more women accessing the Bellafarandi clinic than either of the others. This reflects the longer standing clinic set up and the fact that more people locally have received the education message about the need for antenatal care and arriving to seek this out at the clinic. It has been noted by the health professionals at Bellafarandi that women from other areas are travelling to have health care from this clinic as they have heard and realised the importance of the pregnancy check ups.

This report (original and translated) is attached in an appendix to this report too.

We are hoping the numbers in the other two areas will show an equally rapidly increasing trend as awareness rises in the local population.

We were fortunate enough to have two midwives and our NGO coordinator to visit Hay-on-Wye last September for a training programme and reflective visit. During the visit the midwives shared experiences and training through community midwife teams in Brecon and Knighton as well as hospital experience in Hereford . There was also time for discussion and visits to local people, groups and schools to raise awareness of Mali and encourage

more people to gain an understanding of the work done locally and in Mali as part of our link.

A report outlining the visit was submitted in November.

One of the main issues that the midwives discussed with us on their visit was the problem of transport in Timbuktu. In raising the awareness of women to signs in pregnancy that are important and indicate a need for assessment, more women are needing to get to the health centres for midwife care. The midwives also now have more women attending the clinics who need transport on to the hospital for Caesarian sections. Transport is difficult at the best of times and we have been involved in a fund raising effort in Hay to purchase a motorbike ambulance to be attached to the Bellafarandi health centre. This will enable pregnant women to be transferred either to the clinic or from the clinic up to the hospital for more specialist care . The motorbike ambulance unit has been purchased and transported to Bamako.

We have arranged for the two chosen drivers to come from Timbuktu to Bamako to meet a trainer from the British company that supplies them (eranger) for training on the bike and planned usage. This will allow us a further contact with our NGO and team to build trust and give us a way of having the position authenticated and validated.

We would hope to be able to use the portion of money in the grant for this year learning and communication visits to enable and support this training. As discussed before we are unable to visit currently but feel a contact from our side to deliver this training and discuss with the NGO and people involved the practical usage and medical needs of patients and how the ambulance can best be used to facilitate better maternal care will be invaluable to our project. The funds would cover the cost of two personnel coming from Timbuktu to meet in Bamako with the trainer , and the cost of the trainers travel and expenses.