MEDICAL TEAMS WORLDWIDE MEDICAL RELIEF GARISSA, KENYA 2024

FALL 2024





Some of the residents of Garissa live in very primitive housing.



Dr Kelley listens for pneumonia in a child with a cough.



THE MISSION

This fall, Medical Teams Worldwide was asked again to give medical relief to Garissa, Kenya. Garissa is a town of 150,000 near the border of Somalia. It is one of the poorest counties in Kenya with 68% of the population living in poverty and up to 20% of the children are severely malnourished. Many Somali refugees live in Garissa. In 2015, Al-Shabaab attacked the local University killing and wounding 230 students. Consequently, a number of relief agencies left the city and have not come back. On this trip, Medical Teams Worldwide was asked to medically treat the impoverished people of Garissa in the towns of Vango and Anoli.



The team arrived in Garissa and re joined the Witt's family, who work with



Team Left to Right: Babu Omido, Annika Heinsen, Tim Dillard, Dr. Teresa Nyamara, Dr. Alan Kelley, Emily Villanueva, and Eric Salleh















NEARLY 900 PATEINTS WERE TREATED BY THE TEAM FOR MANY CHRONIC AND ACUTE MEDICAL PROBLEMS

Bethany International Ministries. They operate a small medical clinic, a grade school and a farm intern program for the people of Garissa. On the first two days, the team worked in Vango village. Dr. Alan Kelley and the team quickly unloaded and set up the medical clinic. Dr. Kelley and Dr Nymara treated over 614 patients during the 2 days of clinic. Up to 35% of the children seen by Dr. Kelley were found to have protein malnutrition. Both physicians saw many illnesses such as chronic high blood pressure and chronic diabetes. Each patient with those conditions was given 1-2 months of chronic medications. The team also treated severe allergies, bronchitis, anemia, skin infections, snake bite, parasitic worms, chronic arthritis and multiple cases of diarrhea. At the clinic the children received de-worming treatments and and oral vitamins.

ANOLI VILLAGE MEDICAL CLINIC

The next day the team drove 15 kilometers to Anoli village where the Witts have a small clinic building and their community farm. The team saw 267 patients that day. Each child patient also received vitamins and a deworming treatment. The diseases seen by Dr. Alan Kelley again included, pneumonia, malaria, diarrhea, ear infections and bronchitis. A large percentage of the children in this village



The line of patients waiting for care never became shorter.



Jason Witt, our in-country contact washes a beetle from a boy's ear.



Dr. Alan Kelley listens for lung congestion in a your girl.







The team saw patients, due to lack of available medical care, suffering from 2 month old disabling chronic infected wounds caused by simply untreated minor splinters and snake bites.

IN VANGO VILLAGE, 30-35 % OF THE CHILDREN SUFFERED FROM PROTEIN MALNUTRITION AND ANEMIA.

also had significant anemia, which was treated with iron supplements. The towns of Venga and Anoli were very thankful for the medical relief Medical Teams Worldwide provided to their people during our visit.



Emily Villanueva and Anna Heisman clean and dress a woman's 3 month old infected foot.



Dr Alan Kelley feels for lymph nodes from an infection .



Dr. Teresa Nyamara listens intently to a patient's complaints.



Emily Villanueva evaluates a wound for cleaning and bandaging.



Anna Heisman takes a child's temperature before medical exam.



Dr. Alan Kelley reviews a portable EKG result with a patient .







MEDICAL TEAMS WORLDWIDE RECENTLY HELPED RESCUE A 4 YR OLD CHILD FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTIATION (FGM) IN KENYA

Female Genital mutilation is a barbaric tribal practice of cutting on a female child's genitals to decrease the chance of future infidelity with her partner. It is still practiced in the rural areas of Africa and Kenya. Recently it came to the attention of Medical Teams Worldwide from a Kenyan couple who were refugees in from their tribe's FGM practices. They could not get their 4yr old child out of Kenya in time for all of them to leave for the United States. She was staying with her grandmother, a practitioner of FGM. The director of Medical Teams Worldwide, Dr. Kelley contacted the organization's connections in Kenya and with their help, the child was taken from the village and is now living with her Uncle in Nairobi. Medical Teams Worldwide will also help in sorting out her US immigration.





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ONGOING PROJECTS

MEDICAL CLINIC FOR MASAII TRIBE

Medical Teams has found a physician, Dr. Janus, to mange and work in the clinic as a clinic dedicated to help the under served Maasai Tribe in Kenya It is located 60 miles outside of Nairobi. The nearest private pay clinic is 20 miles away and many of the tribe do not own cars and public transportation is very limited.











MEDICAL OUTREACH TO THE NUBA MOUNTAINS IN NORTHERN SUDAN

For the last year, Northern Sudan has been torn apart due to a civil war between the government and their Quick Reaction Force. Millions of people have become refugees and tens of thousands killed. Many refugees have fled to the Nuba mountains, near the South Sudan border. In the Nuba mountains, over 2000-4000 children have never been immunized or seen a doctor. Our organization is planning an immunization and medical outreach to those children by crossing the border from South Sudan this winter.



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