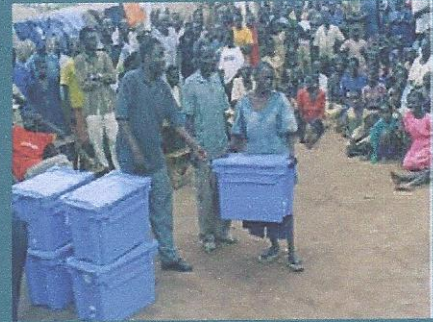


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MEDICAL AID UGANDA

Overview



Mission, Aims & Objectives

Save and improve the lives of disadvantaged people by establishing community sustainable healthcare infrastructure and services in remote villages where access to basic primary healthcare services is a problem.

Improve the living conditions and health of the disadvantaged people and the communities faced by disasters as a result of war or national causes by providing Emergency Medical Clinics and Humanitarian Relief Aid.

Improve the living conditions of the disadvantaged people and communities by working with them to improve their literacy and establishing income generating and self sustainable programs.



- Medical Aid Uganda was established in July 2001 with the vision of establishing basic healthcare infrastructures in remote villages where access to healthcare services is a major problem and to provide other humanitarian relief aid for the disadvantaged communities of Northern Uganda.
- Many factors contributed to the poor health services, poverty, illiteracy and the suffering of the people of Northern Uganda and one of the factors is the 18 years of civil war.
- Medical Aid Uganda is now a well-established Non Governmental Organisation/Charity providing many humanitarian services for the disadvantaged communities within North, East and other parts of Uganda.
- The following programmes have been established
 - Adwir Community Rural Hospital
 - 5 remote Rural Health Centres
 - Mobile Dental Surgery
 - Emergency medical, educational and humanitarian relief work
- Medical Aid Uganda has well qualified medical personnel managing its projects from the board of trustees to employed staffs. Medical Aid has 5 Trustees, four of which are medically qualified personnel. In addition it has 27 employed medical personnel. The categories of personnel are
 - Clinical Officer (Holding Diploma in Human Medicine)
 - Public Dental Officer (Holding Diploma in Dental Surgery)
 - Enrolled Nurse (Holding Diploma in Nursing)
 - Laboratory Assistance (Holding Certificate in Laboratory Technology and Practice)
 - Nursing Assistance (Holding Certificate in Nursing)

There is a humanitarian disaster in Northern Uganda because of the 18 years of the rebel war, which has never caught the attention of the rest of the world. The war has killed thousands of innocent children and has displaced thousand of people and has force the local community to leave their homes and leave in area so called designated Internally Displaced People Camps. People in northern Uganda are refugees in their own land. Life has lost real meaning to the innocent people of northern Uganda because the rebels just hunt the rural people just to kill them in a very brutal way. Sometimes the rebels could just cut any part of the body of the victim and leave them or killed them. It is common to see people without limbs, ear, nose or lips in Northern Uganda. The war has inflicted serious health and humanitarian disaster conditions. People live in refugee camps, where living conditions are heart breaking and there are extreme poor living conditions, poor health conditions, poor water and sanitation conditions, hunger, poor shelter and a state of despair and hopelessness.



In Lira district there is a very strong traditional belief in handling dental cases in children. Once a child has fever it results in an inflammation of the gum, which is presented as a white swelling in the gum. The traditional healers and the local communities believe that it is "False Teeth" (GIDOG). They believe that it must be removed if a child has to survive. They carry out crude method of extractions by digging the false teeth with sharp ends of bicycle spoke which subjects children to lots of severe torture, pain and exposing them to other serious infections. In the villages dental extractions are carried out by traditional healers, blacksmith or any person to relieve the patients from pain. Since these people are not train and the method use is dangerous, they end up causing more destruction either by removing the wrong tooth, braking the tooth and risking more serious infections.



A woman is taking her sick child on a bicycle to Aneralibi HC II located in the remote village 110 km south of Lira town and a child being treated at Abako Elim HC II 30 miles east of Lira town. Currently there are 5 rural Health Centres servicing many remote villages which otherwise would receive no health care. The main diseases fought against are malaria, diarrhoea, respiratory tract infections, worms and tuberculosis. Without intervention these diseases would almost certainly result in death.



Easy Access to basic healthcare services is a major problem to most people living in the remote rural communities in north, east and other parts of Uganda. In some villages some people have to walk long distances to access basic healthcare services. Medical Aid Uganda wishes to establish a chain of healthcare services in remote villages where access to basic medical care is a problem. The picture on the right is of Adwir hospital which is a 100 bed, 17 staff facility will shortly open when equipment and medicines have been procured. The location of this hospital is 80 miles east of Lira town, and will serve people of 3 districts with a variety of medical facilities including maternity, X-ray, dental, laboratory and surgical together with an outpatients unit.

