

# PROGRESS

The quarterly newsletter from Doctors Worldwide - Summer 2007



A local RADEM volunteer loading up the medicines

## OUTBREAK

**A brief report on the current measles outbreak in Katanga province in DR Congo and a summary of our response so far.**

On May 26th, we received an email from our field officer in Lubumbashi, DR Congo. He informed us that there was information arriving from central areas of Katanga province reporting on a measles outbreak.

What follows is an excerpt of that email.

***' The local Radio TV announced the measles outbreak in Malemba-Nkulu territory, affecting more than ten villages and children are dying alike flies (10 to 15 per day). OCHA meeting of yesterday focused on the relief needs and adressed the appeal to all humanitarian partners.***

**The medical officer of the district confirms by telephone by quoting 291 cases declared. The challenge consists urgently for 2 sectors:**

- to provide curative cares (volunteers and medicines are needed)**
- and to reinforce the social mobilization (volunteers for awareness campaign).**

**Meanwhile, the immunization program is covering neighbouring villages to stop the spread of disease.**

**MSF started mobile team in 2 villages only, this is not enough, because the need of medical team is expressed for more 5 villages.**

**Do you think DWW can be involved ? '**

We replied back the same day and asked our officer to get medical teams ready, purchase medicines, and liaise with UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

We had response a few days later providing us with an update.

**'Hope this message find all of you in good condition of health. Excuse me for the silence, I didn't get electricity power two last days. OK, after daily coordinating meetings with WHO and other humanitarian organizations and MOH Representative, this is the resume of ripost preparation:**

**1. We have completed buying medicines this evening, the stock will be divided in 4 kits equal to 4 teams in 4 villages, and expect to cover at least 800 children for one month, that is about 200 children per team, inshallah. All sick children will be treated free of charge, but we will pay incentives to local volunteers, 10 \$ per day for Physician and 5 \$ for Nurse and 5\$ per day for social worker delivering awareness.**

**DWW will distribute 6 bicycles in different villages, this will help nurses to collect vaccines from Malemba city and organize immunization campaign up to 95 km**

**fare from Malemba.**

**2. The WHO has contributed by paying all transport cost of medicines by special flight (AIR SERV), and the departure is planned for Saturday, inshallah.**

**3. The Government, through the Medical officer of the district, will provide a 4 X 4 pick up from Kamina to Malemba-Nkulu, and DWW will provide diesel. This vehicle will bring vaccines from EPI Kamina office since tomorrow and will join Malemba during week-end too, and work together with DWW delegation. All 4 teams will use the existing public facilities or private houses as local contribution from local community.**

**4. We plan to set up a social mobilization campaign to convince parents to use free of charge the 4 treatment centers which will be located separately at :**

- Muko-Mutombo (in Malemba city close to the RADEM maternity building)**
- Lubinda village, at 65 km from Malemba city, in Ngoy-mani area, at 6 km from Kimbalama village where we are building a second maternity.**
- Kabumbulu village, at 50 km from Malemba city on the Congo river**
- Lwamba village, at 75 km from Malemba city.'**

We received confirmation of the teams' arrival on June 2nd.



When writing about this outbreak, I spent some time as to how to inform accurately of our involvement in the response, and hence it made sense to include the email excerpts. It demonstrates what many in the humanitarian field would consider a normal agency response.

However, what makes this action more remarkable to me is that we have achieved this buy involving and supporting our local partner organisation, RADEM. If we consider the trials that have ravaged DR Congo, it is surely an achievement for a local charity to have developed to the stage where they could respond and coordinate in such a manner without the pre-

sumed necessity of the presence of a 'foreign' charity office and international staff assistance. This has been an local response, coordinated and implemented by local staff, with locally purchased medicines and equipment, albeit with a little support from us.

This is what we mean when we say we are interested in capacity building and developmental projects.

Congratulations to RADEM for their tireless work and continued enthusiasm.

You have given us a reason to work harder and give more.



Area of currently affected by measles outbreak.



**A two-man team is heading out to Lubumbashi this June in order to help formalise our volunteer programmes. These will be based in the local hospital and selected clinics. Contact us to register your interest in volunteering for this project.**

## A Kashmir Memoir

As you may already be aware, we are in the process of setting up a children's hospital in New Balakot City. The initial plan is to run the centre with funds raised here in the UK, as well as the US and Turkey, and then transfer the facility to the local health authority under the management of the Government. Although it goes without saying the ultimately the running of this facility and serving the needs of the population lies with the government, we are sure any extra assistance would be well appreciated, considering the task in hand of rebuilding and re-establishing public services.

Hence, as a further effort in advocacy and sustainable fundraising, we would like to request if all those who travelled to Kashmir to assist in the efforts could write and submit a short piece about their experiences there. I would ask that you limit the piece to between 500 to 1000 words, although I'm sure it won't matter too much at this stage if you are a bit over or a bit under. You are pretty much free to write about what you want, but the key is for it to be more about your experiences, ups and downs, people you will remember etc rather than a timetable of what you did. Just say what you want to say, and probably what you have already told others about, or reflected upon in private.

The intention is to then collate all the entries and organise them in chronological order of when different volunteers travelled to Pakistan, and along with

photos, publish the whole thing as a book, either as a coffee-table book or a travel-journal style book. Funds raised from the profits can then be used to continue to support the hospital in a smaller capacity over the years. For example, in purchasing replacement equipment, or supplies and maintenance etc.

A thousand words is not much, considering that potential benefit this will have. Anyhow, it is also a chance to have your words in print! We would like to get the book published and launched prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the quake, so if you would like to take part, please first register your interest and intent ASAP, and when we know that there are enough of you involved, we can go ahead and try and get the entries in by end of summer.

We hope all of those who travelled and participated in the relief efforts will take part. In reality, there is no good reason not to, and what I'm asking is not much. Contact [info@doctorsworldwide.org](mailto:info@doctorsworldwide.org) or [najeeb@doctorsworldwide.org](mailto:najeeb@doctorsworldwide.org) to register your interest.





A 2-man team leaves June 21st to help set up a hospital and clinic based project, as well as a hygiene promotion project in Tamale

### From the West to the East of Africa

#### Summer Assessments

This summer, there are two more countries that we are hoping to get involved in.

**In Ghana**, our Executive Director Dr Torun, has already laid the foundations of a project based in Northern Ghana, centred in Tamale. Two volunteers will be heading out to Ghana on June 21st for trip to sort out further details of the project. It is likely that there will be 2 or more project proposals for us to get involved with. One of them will include working in the main hospital and assisting in the training of further staff, as well as performing primary health care duties in selected clinics in the city. This will be subject to agreements with the ministry of health and other local partners. The second project idea is to get involved with a hygiene promotion project which also includes education about safe water practices and the provision of a water pump. Guinea Worm is high prevalent in Ghana, and accounts for a large economic burden, not to mention significant illness. It is listed by the WHO as one of the world's most neglected

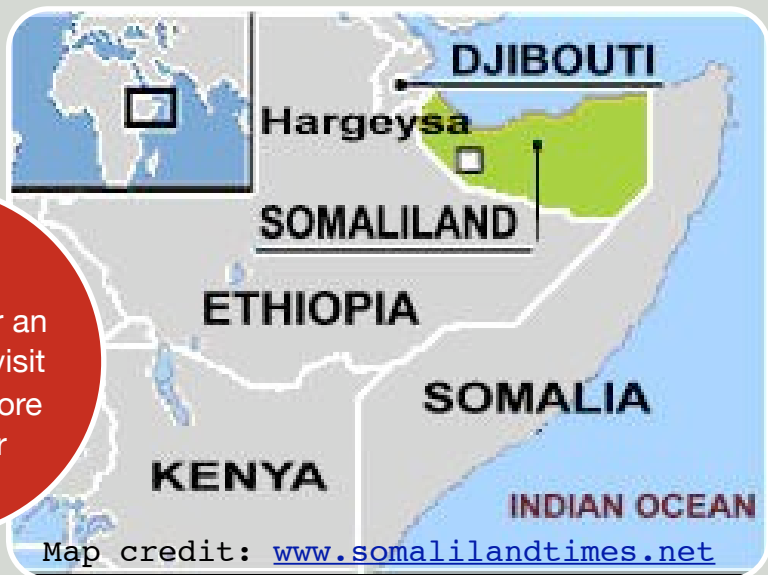
We need volunteers for an assessment visit to go out before September

diseases and all cases of transmission of the disease relate to poor drinking water. It goes without saying how important such a project is, and what impact it could have. Keep posted for news and updates as well as volunteer information.

**Somaliland**, despite not as yet being internationally recognised, has been a stable self-governing state for many years now. Sometimes termed Northern Somalia by those who don't recognise Somaliland's sovereignty, it was a former British Protectorate, and now suffers poor development of its various public structures and institutions due to lack of resources, despite the political will to effect change. We were initially planning a needs assessment trip at the end of July for a week or so, however, we are short with volunteers at the moment, and hence the inclusion of this appeal in the newsletter.

*If you are available to travel for 7-10 days from the 27th of July or anytime thereafter till the beginning of September, and willing to form part of a 3-4 member assessment team, please let us know as soon as possible. Contact [najeeb@doctorsworldwide.org](mailto:najeeb@doctorsworldwide.org) with details of potential travel dates and your CV.*

Preference will be given to those with previous experience or who have attended our courses.



## Training

The 2nd Introduction to Humanitarian and Medical Relief Work course held at the end of April in London went well. Participants all enjoyed the course, in particular the afternoon role play sessions. We hope to develop training a stage further by developing Needs Assessment or Basic Public Health modules by the end of the year. Please let us know if you have any other suggestions regarding course topics.

We also hope to deliver the Introductory course again, probably in November. However we would like your input regarding venues. The choices are between:

- a) Birmingham
- b) Manchester
- c) Other

Please email your choices and preferences to both above issues to:

[training@doctorsworldwide.org](mailto:training@doctorsworldwide.org)

## Awareness and Fundraising

We are always in need of expanding our volunteer base across medical, dental, nursing and allied health specialties, as well as raising more funds in order to facilitate more projects by creating more awareness of the work we do. If you feel you could help in this matter, please contact us with your ideas, whether it be arranging medical meetings, fundraising dinners or networking events.

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*You will be surprised at how much can be achieved with a little more commitment, and if you can't commit the time, the 'little more' will cost you approximately £5 a month, depending on how much you value your time!*

*Go on, fill in the form, tick the gift aid box, and if you pay more than 40% tax on your earnings, you can even claim back on your donations from the taxman!*

*It truly is a win-win situation.*

EVENTS	JUNE 02-11	JUNE 12-20	JUNE 17-18	JUNE 21-30
	<p>Sponsored climb of Mt Kilimanjaro by Dr Asif Roa. There is till time to donate!</p> <p>visit: <a href="http://www.sponsored.doctorsworldwide.org">www.sponsored.doctorsworldwide.org</a></p>	<p>Trip to DR Congo in order to formalise volunteer programmes and review projects.</p>	<p>Sponsored trek in the Lake district. There is till time to donate!</p> <p>visit: <a href="http://www.sponsored.doctorsworldwide.org">www.sponsored.doctorsworldwide.org</a></p>	<p>Assessment visit to Tamale in Northern Ghana.</p>

