

OPERATION MEDICAL HOPE AND COOLAMON HOUSE

Our Original Objectives:

Extend and facilitate local community health clinic, fourteen staff including sister in charge and visiting doctor, located adjacent to informal shack settlement of 30,000 people to facilitate HIV/Aids interventions, upgrade TB patient facilities and bolster the provision of medical supplies and equipment where needed.

Actual Accomplishments

So far, the handover of a complete upgrade in the form of additional interconnected rooms added to existing building as counselling, testing and dispensing areas, staff rooms, storage areas and patient handling areas for HIV/Aids and TB treatment and diagnosis has been undertaken. Clinic completely re-decorated externally and internally, repaired where necessary, certain areas re-wired and upgraded, air-conditioning added in vital health areas and heating added in patient waiting areas. Emergency vehicle areas created, security bars added to dispensary and signage created throughout indicating purpose of rooms, directions to patients in various languages and Rotary signage and donor information added. Much of this was declared "ineligible" due to our misinterpretation of the term "upgrade and rehabilitate" as per grant correspondence but the "contents" portion of the project covered by grant money is now proceeding well.

More contents and clinical equipment have now been funded as per this progress report and a further contents/equipment for the ambulance at the same premises about to be purchased in terms of correspondence.

How many people benefited from the project?

Programs to support HIV/AIDS analysis and TB diagnosis of persons mainly from the informal shack settlement 30,000 in immediate area provided. Countless lives no doubt saved by earlier detection of both TB and by analysis, to show HIV positive status at early stages, thus allowing commencement of antiretroviral programmes and the provision of support services to homes.

What was the impact of the project on the beneficiaries?

Morale of nursing staff and doctor at clinic raised enormously with extra space and facilities, with consequent improvement in dedication to task and ability to perform. Medically, the function is now able to deal with capturing HIV infections at an early stage of detection and thus deal with HIV positives, TB infections and HIV positive status established at an earlier stage, as stated above, thus reducing AIDS results and child and adult deaths.

What are the expected long-term community impacts of the project?

Saving lives. Good Rotary Foundation image. Better international relations. Better community working relations for Rotary Club of Hout Bay. Increased ability of local health authorities to handle HIV/Aids crisis in local poverty areas.

This project won "Best International Project" at the 2010 annual District 9350 conference this year although not finally completed. Hopefully all grant purchased equipment should be supplied by March 2012.

Coolamon Rotary Club Centennial Twin Club with Hout Bay Rotary Club

Originally, all members of the international partner club carried out a national public lottery in Australia carried out through local radio stations and publicity leaflets. Seven members were climbers of Mount Kilimanjaro at own cost, an initiative of the international partner club. Past president of club, John Glassford, visited shack settlement site in Hout Bay, South Africa, on commencement of project at own cost. Further team return to Africa to climb Mountains of the Moon Uganda in December 2011 to facilitate completion if this grant process with further fund raising from the climb. Project will remain ongoing after closure of this grant with the international partner.

