

CARE FOR ZUMBO



Newsletter - May 2011
Chawalo Safari Lodge
Zumbo, Mozambique

Introduction

Hi, from myself, Lizemari Cronje and all the residents in the Zumbo District.

Firstly, I want to welcome all our new sponsors and supporters to the project Care for Zumbo. To our 'old' sponsors I want to thank you for your continued support for the project during the past 3 years. We are so looking forward to meeting the challenges the New Year will present to us.

I am the medical officer and I'm responsible for all the project work in the communities in the Zumbo District. I am also responsible for sending out this newsletter on a regular basis to share my progress and stories with you.

First Quarter 2011:

Due to the continued heavy monsoon rains, we experienced this year, during the months of January, February and March, transport to the extreme far reaches of our service area was extremely difficult. With the help of locals who formed road maintenance crews, we managed to stay mobile and essential services were delivered.

After much deliberation and negotiations, we managed to secure the assistance of three trained medical personnel, from The Zumbo clinic, to accompany me on my visits to the villages. This is a great positive step for CARE FOR ZUMBO, to confirm the support of the local, provincial and central governments. In conjunction with the government contribution, we could extend the following services to the village visits: **Immunization** (including children of school going age); General medicine (specifically **malaria testing** and treatment) and **HIV counselling and testing** (pre-natal and voluntary). I would then be responsible for the Pre-natal visits, contraception and gynaecology consultations.

Services offered to the communities:

Patients receiving treatment:

During this time a total of 548 people were treated in the villages.

Pre-natal service:

A total of 82 patients were consulted, 54 patients were seen for their first consultations.

Contraception consultation:

A total of 38 patients were seen, 30 patients were consulted for the first time.

Gynaecology service:

A total of 5 gynaecology patients were seen during this time.

Immunization services:

A total of 93 children were treated for their routine immunizations.

A total of 183 school children were immunized against Tetanus and they also received treatment against intestinal parasites.

General medicine:

A total of 117 patients were seen in general consultations. This includes children and adults.

A total of 82 patients were diagnosed with malaria and they were tested. Of those 54 patients tested positive for Malaria.

HIV counselling and testing:

A total of 42 villagers were counselled and tested for the HI-Virus. 27 of the patient that were counselled and tested were voluntarily and 18 patients were pre-natal patients. Only one person tested positive for HIV. This is a major breakthrough for CARE FOR ZUMBO, as HIV testing and counselling is not common in these remote areas where people live by strict tribal customs.

The photo and story corner:

When we go out to the smaller villages we make use of a standing structure usually a mud-hut-room. We do have a tent, but because some villages are so small, we only stay there for 4-5 hours before moving to the next village. To set up a tent takes a lot of our time, so we use the tent in big villages, especially the northern villages.

One day we were visiting Caembua village in the afternoon. The only structure that I could use (which was near the immunizations and other services) was a small reed-hut which one of the families offered for pre-natal consultation. Only when I entered the reed-hut I saw that it was a 'kitchen'. In the one corner a small fire was burning and in the other corner there were some plates, pots and cups. This is where I did my pre-natal consultations for the afternoon. (It was non-invasive examinations for those who are worried about the health risks.)

At one stage I just started laughing because in this 'kitchen' sat nine women while I was educating them on contraception. Where in the world, I asked myself.....?

In Africa we do the best we can with what we have and people are grateful for the little we can do to make a difference.



My consultation room; the kitchen



My patients waiting outside

Any questions on how to get involved in the project or even if you just have some questions; please contact me at projcareforzumbo@gmail.com

With thankful regards

Lizemari Cronje

Managing Director/Medical Officer

Project Care for Zumbo