

FUNZIBODO

NEWSLETTER FOR THE FUNZI AND BODO TRUST

SPRING 2010

CHOLERA - The Fight to Save Lives

A cholera epidemic is sweeping the villages of Funzi and Bodo in Kenya. It has claimed one life on the island and large numbers of people are seriously ill. In a neighbouring village sixteen children are reported dead. Local people are gripped by fear and have called on the Funzi and Bodo Trust to help them combat this deadly challenge. The bacteria can grip a healthy adult within two hours of them becoming infected and malnourished or weak people are especially vulnerable. Some estimates say that if left untreated one in two infected people will die from it. The rainy season in Kenya is making it harder to contain this water borne disease which can also be caught through infected food.

Current News From Funzi



Helping Hands

The Funzi and Bodo Trust employs no staff in the UK. It only pays for its medical team in the villages. This helps ensure that money you donate gets to the point of greatest need. We urgently need people who will give a small monthly amount to secure our medical operations. This is the best way to help us in the future. One off donations are also welcomed. Or you could organise a fundraising event for us. If you belong to an organisation which makes charitable donations why not consider us?

Visit our website at www.funzi.org.uk to find out more and to get in touch or phone 0113 2526513

Double Tragedy of Father

The first person to die on Funzi was the father of a baby who has been a focus of the trust's medical activity. Baby Idris was born with his feet facing the wrong way. Operations and physiotherapy have been paid for by us. Most recently the Trust bought Idris a baby walker to help strengthen his leg muscles. His Dad was a strong, gentle man in his thirties and his death has shocked local people and supporters in the UK. The family now have no source of income. The Trust has sent emergency food aid and has pledged to continue its care for baby Idris. The situation will be monitored and all necessary help provided.



Baby Idris and his Dad

Clinic Turns Into Hospital

The Funzi and Bodo Trust has two clinics - one in each village. During the cholera crisis we have opened two more rooms at Bodo to create a small hospital. These now house the very sick who need twenty four hour monitoring by our nurse. Emergency supplies of mattresses, medicines and fuel for our road and water ambulances have been supplied. We are also appointing another nurse to meet the needs of people who are sick on Funzi. We are working closely with Government health officials to distribute water purification tablets and spread health education.

Clean Water



The Funzi and Bodo Trust has installed a new well at the school on Funzi. Until now the children haven't had a clean source of water for drinking or for washing hands. Poor sanitation is the cause of much illness. With financial support from the York Vikings Rotary Club nearly 300 children can now access water. The well is sealed to keep the water clean and is regularly cleaned.

Special thanks to Richard Cook, Transglobe Investments, Harrogate and our friends at BAG2SCHOOL

Tailor Set to Sew Again

A tailor from Bodo who has had a deep leg wound for four years is on the road to full recovery. His wound bled daily until the Trust stepped in and arranged a major tissue transplant operation. He was also found to be suffering from diabetes and this has been brought under control. The charity is providing food for the family of eight while he recovers. He is now having physiotherapy and hopes to return to work once he can operate his foot operated sewing machine. He told the Trust "I am so good that I will soon be able to walk with you to England" However, it may take some time for full recovery.



The Tailor on the road to recovery



Hundreds to Read

A thousand books have been bought and a free lending library is set to open on Funzi Island. This venture by the charity is aimed at supporting children but also to encourage adult literacy. The library in the school grounds will be open at night to adults. Finding work is extremely hard in Kenya and unemployment creates a cycle of poverty for families. Lending libraries are rare in Kenya and to have one in a remote location like this is extraordinary. A second library is planned for Bodo. The library is being opened with the support of Ripley St Thomas School in Lancaster



Unable to walk but still with a smile on her face

Mystery Collapse of Teenager

Doctors were called in by the Funzi and Bodo Trust when a teenager girl in Bodo village collapsed while running with friends. She was unable to move for several weeks. Her arms became weak and she has to shuffle on her bottom to move around. Poor nutrition may be part of the problem and there are signs of muscle wastage. The Trust is funding intensive treatment for the girl and she is being closely monitored by doctors.



With continued help we can make sure these children grow up healthy and happy



In just 3 years this small registered charity has opened two clinics, runs ambulances, has rebuilt a school and is opening a library.