



The Billy Riordan Memorial Trust

Dingle, Co. Kerry, Ireland
Reg Charity no: 15091 (Ireland)

Private Bag 7, Blantyre, Malawi
NGO reg no: NGO/R/05/02 (Malawi)

www.billysmalawiproject.org

AUTUMN
2007

The Billy Riordan Memorial Trust was founded in direct response to the medical needs of the village of Cape Maclear/Chembe village. The clinic opened on 24th August 2004, its main mission dedicated to improving medical services within the Cape Maclear/Chembe village catchment area. The approximate population of the immediate locality is 12,000 residents but the extended population within a 20km radius is closer to 120,000.



Original clinic building and new treatment unit

The Billy Riordan Memorial Clinic opened in August 2004. The clinic provides primary medical care on an out-patient basis to a population of 12,000 rural dwellers. It is the only medical facility in the area and to date more than 38,000 patients have been seen at the clinic. Malaria, bilharzia, chest infections, fungal infections, arthritis and HIV/aids are amongst the conditions which are treated at the clinic.

In April 2007 the Trust completed construction of a new unit. This was officially opened on May 5th by Mr Aaron Sangala Malawi's Deputy Minister for Health. This is a twelve bedded treatment unit. Patients are seen at the clinic and are admitted to the in-patient unit on the recommendation of the senior medical director Dr Jeannette Van Os.



Minister meets staff and volunteers at the opening of the new unit.

Volunteers

The following volunteers have spent at least three months working with the Trust between December 2006 and June 2007. Nurses Emer Nolan and Ann Headon from Dublin, Catriona Kennedy from Waterford and Enda Naughten from Laois.



Volunteer Tom Finn and Mr. Francis, building foreman.

Enda's wife Mary Cosgrove who is an accountant spent four months getting all our accounts up to date and Kaye McMahon from Dundalk worked with us on a variety of projects. David Reale from Clare was project manager from January to June. Dr Victoria Jonesbury from Sheffield U.K. worked for two months in the clinic from December to February.

In conjunction with the Irish College of G.P.s Dr Finbar O'Leary practised for four months as a G.P. at the clinic.

In January we welcomed for the first time two medical students from Magdalen College Oxford. Simon Goddard and Nick Talbot joined us for four weeks learning about medical matters in Sub Saharan Africa,

Seamus O'Shea an electrical contractor from Camp Co Kerry spent some time with the trust in April/May and was responsible for the final wiring and connecting of the electrical supply in the new section of the clinic.



Katie O'Dwyer and Nora O'Flynn with some village residents.

Katie O'Dwyer and Nora O'Flynn conducted a demographic study in the village during June and July. We now have a better understanding of the social structure of the area.

The Trust sincerely thanks all those who give so generously of their time and expertise to the community of Cape Maclear.

Bilharzia Treatment Programme
Funded by the employees of Cavan County Council the Third Bilharzia Treatment programme was undertaken in the village in June. This funding allows the Trust to



Clinic staff arriving for the opening of the new treatment unit.

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The new extension to the volunteer centre

treat all the primary school children (in excess of 1700 children) for Bilharzia and other worm infestations twice a year. When left untreated this disease causes growth stunting and anaemia amongst other conditions. This programme has directly contributed to the raising of the overall standard of health amongst the 5 to 15 year olds in the area.

Volunteer Centre

Due to pressures of space it has been necessary to extend the volunteer centre. The new building was completed in June. It consists of two extra bedrooms and a much needed project manager's office. It is similar in style to the original buildings complete with a thatched roof.

Training and Capacity Building

Training of four patient care attendants was completed in April. These PCAS are now working in the new unit. Training will commence shortly for four more PCAS. Training of volunteer counsellors will also start.

Computer training is also being given to local sponsored students to enable them to become computer literate before commencing their Trust sponsored third level education.

Reporter in Residence

In April Francis Fitzgibbon from The Kerryman newspaper travelled to Malawi and spent a month living and observing the work of the Trust. He saw at first hand the impact of the clinic in the area. His building experience was also utilised and he helped to put the finishing touches to the new unit in the run up to the opening. He has since

written a series of articles about his experiences with the Trust.

Mags Riordan

In September 2006 Mags Riordan was named International Person of the year in Ireland for her life changing and often life-saving impact on thousands of people in Malawi.



Mags Riordan receiving the 'Person of the Year Award' from Gay Byrne.

HIV/Aids

Dr Van Os and Senior Nurse Catherine Ginnell are taking part in four weeks training in preparation for the introduction of a HIV/Aids treatment programme. Counselling, testing and Anti retro-viral drugs will be available to HIV/Aids patients within the community. The availability of this treatment in Cape Maclear will mean the end of long, arduous and expensive journeys for patients from the area. The Trust is working with The National Aids Commission (NAC) of Malawi in this project.

About Malawi

Where: Sub Saharan Africa. Borders with Zambia, Mozambique & Tanzania.



Population: 13 million.

Life Expectancy: 37 years

More than 95% of the population are without electricity.

5% of girls and 7% of boys get to second level education.

20% infant mortality rate in under 5's



Dr. Van Os with a patient and translator Rose Wassi.

Would you like to spend three months living and working in the Third World ?

We are a small Irish based Charity working as a Non Governmental Organisation. We manage and run a Primary Health Care Clinic and In-patient Unit at Cape Maclear, Monkey Bay, Malawi, C/Africa.

We are seeking qualified doctors, nurses and other medical personnel to come and work with us in our Clinic on the shores of Lake Malawi.

We also need administration staff and skilled tradesmen.

Volunteers are asked to spend a minimum of three months with the Trust.

You will be accommodated in our new purpose built volunteer centre located on the beach in Cape Maclear village.

For further information please log onto our web site at:

www.billysmalawiproject.org

or email: Mags Riordan, Project Director at

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or contact: The Billy Riordan Memorial Trust, Kilfountain, Dingle, Co Kerry, Ireland.