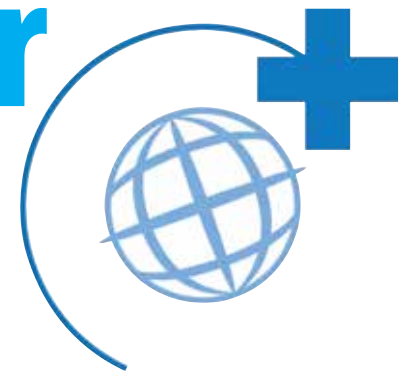


The Messenger

Medical Mission International

Health, Healing & Hope



MMI Makes an Impact in Mozambique

Clinic Delivers Rural Care

The Medical Mission International supported Sihane Clinic provides general and specialized medical and maternity services free of charge near the remote and needy area of Zavora, a small coastal town in Mozambique.

MMI donor support provides for the monthly operations of the clinic. Medical Mission International also sends humanitarian aid shipments with medical disposables for use at the clinic, as well as much needed medications, pharmaceuticals, and equipment. MMI also provided funding for the construction of the Sihane Clinic's maternity ward.

According to Johan Claassen, MMI liaison for the Sihane Clinic, the government has declared malaria an epidemic in the districts near the clinic. Claassen said more than 1300 patients were treated at the clinic for malaria during a recent three-month period. "We are concerned with the extremely high number of cases of malaria," said Claassen.

In addition to treatment for illness like malaria, the clinic also provides maternity care, about one hundred deliveries a month, pre and post-natal exams, general internal medicine, optometry and dental care. According to Claassen, burns from cooking over open fires, and wounds from hunting and fishing are also very common.

The clinic is located in a very rural area. The population is poor and most people survive by fishing and farming small crops. The clinic serves an estimated population of about 10,000 in the immediate area. But according to Claassen, patients will frequently travel from out of the area, up to 50 miles to get to the clinic, frequently on foot, which often takes more than a day.



Website: mminternational.org.uk

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Success Stories from the field

Three Children of Many

About 1900 patients come to the Sihane clinic each month for treatment. Since the clinic opening, more than a thousand babies have been delivered. The clinic provides a vital service and has become an important part of the community. “These stories inspire and encourage us to carry on, as the need here is great, said Claassen. “Thank you so much Medical Mission International donors for supporting this work,” he said.

Naira, eight-years old, lives about 10km from the clinic. Naira’s arm was badly burned as she was carrying boiling water to help one evening with cooking. By the time her mother made the decision to walk to the clinic, it was several days later and infection had already set in.

Naira was treated with a special wound dressing for burns and returned several times for follow-up examinations and fresh wound dressings. She also received antibiotics and pain medication. According to staff, “She was a very brave girl.”

Wesley Alfonso, eighteen months old came to the clinic with his mother. He had an abscess growing on the back of his head. “Abscesses are something we witness almost daily,” said Claassen. He said they could be caused by the obstruction of oil glands or sweat glands or by cuts and punctures to the skin. Germs get under the skin or into these glands, which causes an inflammatory response. “In many of these cases, we find children and adults with weakened immune systems getting abscesses more often.” He said other risk factors include exposure to dirty environments and poor hygienic conditions.

Wesley was in terrible pain and the nurse on staff had to drain the abscess. He was very frightened, and everyone worked together to keep Wesley calm. After his procedure, he was also treated with antibiotics to assure the infection would not enter the bloodstream and affect his brain.

Aldina, a tiny baby, was recently born at the clinic weighing in at only 2020g. According to our maternity team, it was a very quick delivery. “This baby was not waiting for any one,” said one nurse.

Aldina was very weak at birth and breastfeeding was not sufficient. Mother and baby stayed at the clinic to receive care and assistance until baby Aldina gained an additional 460g and could return home. At each follow up visit, she continued to grow and gain weight. Aldina has recovered completely, and is healthy and beautiful. ■

