

BANSANG HOSPITAL APPEAL CHILDREN'S WARD

<http://www.bansanghospitalappeal.com>

Charity No. 1064469

NEWSLETTER – Updated, June 2005

We've Done It!

The funding need of £98,000 was met by an extraordinarily generous donation of £44,000. Words cannot express our delight and gratitude to the family. To all of you who contributed anything from 10p to £10,000, thank you so much.

The Plans

To build an 80 bed children's separate medical and surgical ward with ancillary rooms.

It will comprise of a Doctors on-call room thus allowing emergencies to be dealt with throughout the night. There will be a staff room for the first time, where the medical staff can actually sit down and take a well-earned break. A treatment room for newly arrived patients where they will receive the first assessment and emergency care. An isolation ward, of approx eight beds, to isolate seasonal spread able diseases such as measles and meningitis. This isolation facility will also enable treatment of the many burns patients who require specialist barrier nursing. The very first intensive care unit for sick newborn babies. As a first for developing Africa there will be a playroom off the children's ward, with both an indoor and outdoor area, greatly needed for long-term patient care. A Malnutrition room where the formulas can be prepared for the intensive two-hour feeding schedule that seriously malnourished children require. This room will also double as an emergency diagnostic centre, for instance during the malaria season. For the first time there will be separate toilet and shower blocks for both medical and surgical areas.

It is with regret that the hope to solar power the hospital has fallen through.

All this for £98,000. The price of a one bedroom flat in the Midlands.

I was in Bansang during October 2004 the problems the existing children's ward were experiencing was an ongoing one of keeping power on. They can only afford to run the generator during the morning. In fact they have never had the funding to run for 24 hours. When the power is off nothing can be used, including the giving of life saving oxygen, it is candle and kerosene lamps only, and often not even these. After I left the generator actually failed, it has been repaired, but for how long

After 13 years of regular visits, having experienced unbelievable horrors, the suffering and the high mortality rate. Despite all the wonderful help you have all given, crunch point had been reached. Children were having to be discharged long before they should have been, due to so many different reasons. I felt we could no longer wait for the full funding.

It is therefore with great fanfares I can confirm that due to the above incredible donation contracts were signed in January 2005 and work began at the end of February.

Briefly, every brick has to be made on site by hand, so far 7,225 have been produced. Every item of building material has to be transported in, and I have worked out that so far the lorries have travelled 24,000 miles to enable the walls to reach roof height by the end of May. The race was on to get as much completed before the rainy season began. Despite this it is predicted the building work will be completed by the end of December.

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