



BETTER LIVES
FOUNDATION

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31st MARCH 2014



Registered Address: Unit 7, Brent House, 214 Kenton Road, Kenton, Middlesex, HA3 8BT
Tel: 0203 239 1201 Email: info@betterlivesfoundation.org Web: www.betterlivesfoundation.org

UK Charity No.; 1122290

This report carries on from the Trustees Annual Report for the period ended 31st March 2013.

HISTORY, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE CHARITY

Better Lives Foundation was established in 2006 and was registered on the 14th January 2008. It is made up of a body of like minded people working to improve health and education conditions wherever the need and whose aim is:

- To provide quality medical care and education to the needy leading to long term healthcare independence.
- To improve the condition of people's health
- To promote good health through education
- To work in partnership with charities, especially local organisations
- To raise standards of sanitation and hygiene
- Improve access to water
- To make all projects, self sufficient, independent and self-supportive

MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

The Charity's continued approach with its volunteer's base to providing support totally free of charge which includes not only their professional or specialised services but providing their own travel and accommodation costs, donations in kind and meeting charity's certain expenses out of their own pockets. The said team of volunteers have a vast heritage and wealth of experience. As administrative costs are absorbed by the volunteers all donations received are used for patient medical care and support.

The Trustees and volunteers meet regularly to discuss existing projects and consider plans for any new projects. The volunteer's skills range from professionals such as Surgeons, Doctors, Dentists, Pharmacists, Technicians, Plumbers, electricians and other general and administrative individuals from the business community and members of the general public.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE OF THE CHARITY

BLF has continued with its program of several medical camps from previous year at the Yonibana Sai Hospital, in Yonibana, Sierra Leone.

GENERAL & GYNAE MEDICAL CAMP – APRIL 2013

The General Medical Camp was held from 12th to 21st April 2013 at Yonibana Sai Hospital, Sierra Leone, West Africa. 20 BLF Volunteers from the UK as well as 65+ local volunteers from Yonibana were responsible for this camp. The UK team was made up of: 6 General Doctors, 1 Nurses, 1 Engineer, 6 Pharmacists, 3 IT Specialists and 3 non-medical volunteers.

1,848	Total Number of Patients Registered over a 7 day period
1,772	Patients Registered for General Consultations
69	Patients Registered for Gynecology Consultations
739	Patients Registered for Pediatric Consultations
66	Patients Tested positive for Malaria



GENERAL SURGICAL MEDICAL CAMP – OCTOBER 2013

A General Surgical Medical Camp was conducted from 18th to 24th October 2013 at The Yonibana Sai Hospital, Sierra Leone, West Africa. 30 Volunteers departed the UK on 16th October, including 3 Consultants Surgeons, 7 Doctors, 1 Anaesthetist, 1 Nurse, 5 Pharmacists, 3 Physiotherapist, 1 Engineer and 5 IT Specialists, 2 Dentists, 2 General Volunteers. We were helped by 58 local volunteers from Yonibana to help with the Surgical medical camp. Many patients from near and far attended the camp.

6172	Total Number of Patient Consultations over a 7 day period
1997	Total Number of Paediatric Consultation
3541	Patients Registered for General Consultations
588	Dental Consultation
46	Hernia Surgical Procedure



GENERAL, EYE & DENTAL MEDICAL CAMP – JANUARY 2014

The General Medical Camp was held from 17th to 27th January 2014 at Yonibana Sai Hospital, Sierra Leone, West Africa. 34 BLF Volunteers from the UK as well as 50+ local volunteers from Yonibana were responsible for this camp. The UK team was made up of: 4 Ophthalmic Surgeons, 7 Optometrists, 4 General Doctors, 3 Nurses, 2 Dentists, 2 Dental Hygienists, 1 Engineer, 3 Pharmacists and 8 non-medical volunteers.

3,730	Total Number of Patients Registered over a 7 day period
1,057	Patients Registered for Optometry Consultations
49	Patients Received for Cataract Surgical Procedures
361	Patients Registered for Dental Consultations
1,755	Patients Registered for General Consultations



SOCIO CARE

During the Medical Camps of April 2013, October 2013 and January 2014, volunteers conducted the distribution of clothes, shoes, boots etc to surrounding villages of Yonibana & Yonibana itself. These villages included Matatie, Kithboie, Mabom, Mafala, Makorie and Magbogie.



EDUCATIONAL CARE

BLF are continuing the education program in sponsoring students locally. A total of 5 students are at Magbruka College where 2 are studying Computers and IT, 1 is studying Carpentry, 1 is studying Electrics and the last one is studying plumbing. These are all practical skills that are needed in the community. A total of 3 students are at Masanga Nursing School. 2 are studying to become nurses and 1 to become a Physiotherapist. There are 4 students at Njala Medical School studying Community Health Officer (CHO) & Community Health Assistant (CHA) courses. 2 are to qualify in 2016.

BLF is also embarking on a partnership with Njala Medical School, Bo, where some of our Medical Personnel help with lecturing on subjects at the Medical School. We are also supporting them with small equipment and books for their medical and nursing students.

During the January Eye Medical Camp, 11 post graduate students enrolled with us to further their training in Ophthalmology and Optometry. A formal certification was awarded to them at the end of the training. The training was conducted by our Consultant Ophthalmologist and qualified Optometrists from the UK.

FUND RAISING ACTIVITY

BLF organised a "Awareness Evening" on the 1st of February 2014 at 154 Fulham Palace Road, Hammersmith, London W6 8RF. This was an open event which had a tremendous response and outcome.

The Annual BLF Thames Sponsored Charity Walk took place in June 2013 which was once again held from Richmond Bridge to Hampton Bridge along the beautiful River Thames. Many participants have become regulars to this annual event and it helped raise much needed funds and awareness.