



PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 10th March 2009

Successful Commonwealth Dental Association workshop held in Mwanza

The Commonwealth Dental Association (CDA) and the Tanzanian Dental Association teamed up with Bridge2Aid in Mwanza recently for a workshop.



'Training of Rural Clinical Officers in Urgent Oral Treatment, a Challenge to the Oral Health Professions' was held from Tuesday February 24th to Thursday February 26th 2009. In all, 15 delegates from 6 Commonwealth nations were represented.

The workshop programme began with the a presentation by Professor Emil Kikwilu, Dean of the Dental Faculty at Muhumbili University, Dar es Salaam on the incidence of oral pain in adult Tanzanians. There was a great deal of discussion during the event of the burden on rural populations of oral pain, and the impact on daily life caused by a lack of access to emergency dental services. Other sessions focused on the structure of the Bridge2Aid Dental Volunteer Programme. Participants then visited a local health centre for a demonstration of the training model (pictured below), perfect timing as the 13th B2A Dental Volunteer Programme (DVP) was in full swing. To date the programme has trained 72 clinical officers in Oral Urgent Treatment, providing access to over three quarters of a million people in North West Tanzania.



The workshop was a great success, with all the delegates being very positive about the DVP model and its appropriateness and necessity on relieving oral pain in remote communities.

The CDA supported dentists from developing countries around the world to attend the workshop. This enabled them to take back to their respective regions ideas on dental outreach programmes.

Dental Director of Bridge2Aid, Dr Ian Wilson, said "It was a wonderful three days, a fantastic opportunity to welcome delegates from developing countries both far and near and an excellent chance to profile what we are doing with our Dental Volunteer Programme here in Mwanza. It was a very pro-active workshop and the resulting discussions were extremely encouraging," he added.

A full report and workshop resolution will be out soon.

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Note: Pictured are (top) the delegates at the start of the workshop in Mwanza, Tanzania and (below) Dr Menal Pancholi training a rural Clinical Officer at Lukungu Dispensary as part of a Bridge2Aid DVP (Dental Volunteer Programme).

Editor's Notes:

Bridge2Aid (B2A) is a dental and community development charity working in the Mwanza region of North West Tanzania. We started full scale operations in 2004 and work closely with the Tanzanian Government to deliver aspects of their dental strategy. We operate a not-for-profit dental clinic in the city of Mwanza (Hope Dental Centre), and have a community development programme for the disabled community based at Bukumbi Care Centre.

Our focus is sustainability – empowering local people to improve their own lives over the long-term. We have Trustees and administration in the UK and we are a UK registered charity no. 1092481. Bridge2Aid is a registered Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) in Tanzania with additional Tanzania-based Advisors.

The four key aspects of Bridge2Aid's vision are:

- To provide primary dental care and oral health education to communities in Tanzania
- To equip and further train local health personnel to provide emergency dentistry to rural communities
- To care for and empower the poor and marginalised in Tanzanian society
- To provide opportunities for UK dental professionals and others to use their skills to serve Tanzania, as locums or participants on the Dental Volunteer Programme (DVP).



CDA is an Association of National Dental Associations in Commonwealth countries formed in 1990. Its aim is to improve oral and dental health in Commonwealth countries by increasing oral health awareness and raising the skills of dental practitioners; see the website at www.cdauk.com

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