Outreach visits to Gondar

Zelalem Mengistu—31st August—27th September 2017
Birhanu Ayana—10th—20th October 2017
Ansha and Yifo—March 2018—Provisional
Gizachew Woldesenbet—2018—Provisional

Outreach visits to Gondar

Christine Illife—7th—21st October 2017
Doug Tincello, Chris Williams and Emma Pitchforth—19th—25th November 2017
Richard Power—26th November 2017—Great Ethiopia Run
Nick Brown—31st October 2017—31st March 2018
Geoff Woodruff—December 2017
Christine Illife—March 2018
Clay Frake—July 2018—Provisional
Heather and David Dipple—October 2018—Provisional
Richard Power—September/October 2018—Provisional

Find Out More
Please check our website at www.le.ac.uk/gondar for updates on all of our projects. You can also discover the fun ways we are fundraising for our work and get involved.
Kolladiba Health Centre HIV Women's Group

Prevention of HIV transmission from mother to child by extending antenatal care in the rural areas of Dembia in NW Ethiopia. Project partners—Christine Iliffe, Leicester; Abebe and Dr Shitaye, Gonder.

I visited Ethiopia in January 2017 with Abebe for orientation of our campaign with at several health centres in the Kolladiba district - Robit, Sankisa, Aborawam and Kolladiba.

We recruited 1,300 pregnant women attending antenatal clinics. All the women were tested for HIV, syphilis, haemoglobin estimation, urinalysis, blood group and received a full antenatal care from the midwives following the WHO guidelines. We are following all these women through their pregnancy, and have observed an increase in women delivering at the health centres, and attending postnatal checks. It is hoped to see an improvement in maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity rates in these areas.

During a subsequent visit in October 2017, after the rainy season, orientation took place at the final five health centres—Gerarge, Ayamba, Chulte, Abreja and Guramba. These five health centre are following the same guidelines as the first group. We expect to have around 3,000 pregnant women in total by the end of January 2018, and we will continue to follow all the women in this study group until they deliver, which will be around June 2018.

Senior managers in Dembia Woreda are very pleased with the progress of our project and are happy to work with us to make it sustainable. All the data will be collected and analysed by the Institute of Public Health in Gondar University. The results will be presented to the Dembia Woreda and a report available to the Area Health Bureau in Barhir Dah.

During my visit in January 2017 Abebe and I noticed a very poorly girl with her grandmother at Robit Health Centre. There are no doctors there. We referred her to Gondar Hospital, where she was admitted to the Children’s Ward and diagnosed and treated for hypothyroidism. The photos below show her before and after treatment.

We are grateful to the following charities for supporting this work—Health Action Leicester for Ethiopia, James Tudor Foundation and Beatrice Laing Trust.

Written by: Christine Iliffe
Fundraising Events

Please help us to raise funds to support initiatives in Gondar, Ethiopia to prevent HIV transmission from Mother to Child, whilst enjoying a fabulous meal.

**Wednesday 14th March—Charity Meal**
Yasmin's Restaurant, 37 High Street, Sileby, Loughborough, Leics, LE12 7RX. Yasmin's serves authentic Indian and Bangladeshi cuisine, using natural ingredients.

£15 per person for a 4 course set menu. 2 sittings: 6pm or 8pm. Tickets available from: Kathy Astbury - Tel: 0116 252 5321 / Email: ka289@le.ac.uk

**Sunday 20th May—Charity Cycle Ride—Rutland Water**
Meet at Whitwell Car Park, Rutland Water at 10am. 17 mile sponsored cycle ride. Information / Sponsor form available from: Kathy Astbury - Tel: 0116 252 5321 / Email: ka289@le.ac.uk

Thank you for supporting Health Action Leicester for Ethiopia (HALE), Registered Charity Number 1122773

Please help us to raise funds to support the Leicester Gondar Orthopaedic Partnership (www.lgop.org) in assisting the Department of Surgery at Gondar University Hospital in developing their own Orthopaedic Trauma Service.

**Wednesday 25th April—Sports Dinner—Guest Speak Jonathan Agnew**
Leicester Tigers, Welford Road Stadium, Leicester. Tickets £65 per person or £600 for a table of 10. Contact Carole Lindsey, email carole.lindsey@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

**Wednesday 23rd May—AM/AM Golf Day**
Leicestershire Golf Club. Further details contact Richard Power, email richard.power7@btinternet.com

**29th June—1st July—Midsummer Meander**
Leicestershire Round Relay walk, 110 miles. Further details contact Richard Power, email richard.power7@btinternet.com
Mental Health

A Vehicle for Gondar Community Mental Health Service

The mental health services in Gondar have developed over the last 10 years. There is now a busy psychiatric ward and outpatient clinic and the numbers of psychiatric nurses has increased. The therapies available on the ward have been widened as clinical psychologists are now working there. The enthusiasm and motivation of the staff has enabled a pilot community outreach project. Nursing staff from the ward have visited health centres in the surrounding rural areas and been able to share their expertise assessing the needs of people with mental health problems and advising on appropriate interventions.

In April 2017 Heather Dipple and Clay Frake were able to travel from Leicester to visit Gondar. The psychiatric team in Gondar were very keen to continue with the community outreach project. It is so important to provide services as close to the home of the people who use them. Many of the patients who are discharged from the psychiatric ward live a considerable distance away and it is not easy for them to receive follow up care. One of the main obstacles to achieving this is the lack of consistent access to transport for the staff to travel to the health centres. In meetings together, we agreed that Leicester colleagues would raise funds to purchase and send a vehicle to Gondar and that Gondar colleagues would manage all aspects of the vehicle from its arrival at the port.

We are pleased to say that we are NEARLY there- we have raised money holding quizzes, raffles and buffet meals, and have had some very generous individual donations. We are also grateful to the Etwall and Derby Rotary Club who have decided to donate to this fund this year.

The vehicle will be purchased and transported in spring of 2018- watch this space to hear more about the development of the community service in Gondar.

Written by: Heather Dipple
Biomedical Engineering (BME) Project

During the latter part of 2017 two specific developments have benefitted, both directly and indirectly, the Gondar Hospital equipment maintenance project.

Firstly, and only as recently as mid-November the local government at last provided a constant source of water throughout Gondar. This subsequently proved to be optimistic. Although for many in Gondar it will be a welcome ‘luxury’ in their daily lives, in the hospital we all know that it is a very practical milestone - benefitting basic maintenance problem-areas such as laboratory water-distillers, autoclaves etc. In the past, lack of water has caused major technical and clinical concerns. The next water-related area needing to be addressed is water treatment, in particular water softening.

Secondly, the hospital has welcomed back three diploma-level technicians, including Hailu and Kassa, all having completed three years in electrical and biomedical equipment technology in a technical college in Debre Marcos. In addition, two new and already qualified graduate engineers have also been recruited by the hospital. It will, however, be another two years before the first home-grown graduate engineers leave Gondar University qualified to join the department here.

After a long struggle by the hospital’s administration over the recent years, it has finally been able to welcome the first stage towards radically improving the overall supply of electrical power on the campus. Although we still have not secured continuous power on a daily basis from the local utility-provider, they have managed to provide us now with a seemingly well regulated voltage throughout the hospital. Although a seemingly small change, this will definitely go a long way to reducing equipment ‘casualties’. We now look forward to the final step being taken by the Provider.

It is hoped that the department will begin now to develop under the guidelines already put forward by the Ministry of Health and those of the Korean Aid project KOFIH. Already KOFIH have provided the hospital Biomedical Department with a new workshop building (that was inaugurated last summer) along with some furniture, tools and some essential test equipment. Most importantly too, they provided technical training for selected engineers in both Korea and here in Ethiopia.

Representing the Link I remain quietly in the background focused on giving practical hands-on support and guidance for the workshop’s new team members.

Finally, it is to be noted that BME maintenance looks set to be accountable to Gondar University in every way and not directly to the hospital.

Written by: Nick Brown
Using Art to Improve Hand Washing (Patient Safety)

Hygiene is important in Ethiopia. Sanitation facilities can be scarce and soap is expensive for many families. Like anywhere in the world, if basic sanitation is not cared for, it can lead to the swift spread of bacteria, causing illness.

At the Kindu Trust, we teach children the importance of hand washing, especially after using the toilet, and before handling food or eating.

Sandra Kemp, a nurse from Leicester, runs a project to improve hygiene practice at the nearby Gondar Hospital, in partnership with a local team. Sandra is a long-time supporter of the Kindu Trust. She took time off from this vital work to visit Kindu this year bearing pencils, pens and paints. 27 children, mainly from grades 6 and 7 (aged 12-14) were eagerly awaiting her, sheets of paper at the ready.

After a brief reminder of the importance of hand washing, the children were asked to draw or paint something to illustrate hygiene. To provide some inspiration, volunteer Alan posed while Projects Manger Rory sketched his hands being washed under a running tap on the whiteboard.

Several of the children made similar drawings, but others used the opportunity to indulge their creativity. Silence reigned and at the end of the afternoon we had friendly lions, a number of beautifully executed flowers, several houses, and scenes of social interaction.

The project team in Gondar are planning to visit local schools to help them spread the message of good hygiene as well as getting creative with paint and crayons!

Extract from The Kindu Trust (https://kindutrust.org) • Posted in Blogroll Sept 2017

"I had great fun working with the children especially as they had never done art work before and they don't do it in school. Interestingly some needed encouragement to colour in the pictures they had drawn as they had never used paints before" - Sandra Kemp
The Leicester Gondar Orthopaedic Partnership has been set up with the express aim of assisting the Department of Surgery at Gondar University Hospital in developing their own Orthopaedic Trauma service. This is a two phase project. Phase One involves equipping an Orthopaedic Trauma Operating Theatre and Phase Two providing the training and support for new local orthopaedic surgeons, nurses and assistants to develop their surgical skills.

Phase One has two elements - structural refurbishment and the provision and installation of specialist equipment in the theatre. The structural refurbishment is now well under way and both Alwyn Abraham and Richard Power visited in November 2017. The equipping of the Theatre will be carried out by Medical Aid International and is costed at about £160,000 (about Birr 5m).

Fundraising for this is being undertaken through the Rotary Club of Leicester. We are pleased to announce that we have been successful in our Rotary Foundation Global Grant Application. This effectively means we “only” need to raise approximately £90,000. So far we have raised approximately £50,000 through a combination of personal gifts and fundraising activities which include Kathy Gale “swimming the English Channel” twice (about 44 miles or 70 km) in her local swimming pool, Richard Power running the Great Ethiopia Run in November and the University Hospitals of Leicester Strategy Team doing a 48 hour complete fast apart from drinking water.

We have three further major Fundraisers to come (any other fundraising ideas gratefully received) :-

A Sporting Dinner at Leicester Tigers on Wednesday April 25th with Jonathan Agnew as guest speaker with a host of other local sporting celebrities. Further details from Carole Lindsey, email carole.lindsey@uhl-tr.nhs.uk.

An AM/AM golf day at the Leicestershire Golf Club on Wednesday May 23rd. Further details from Richard Power, email richard.power7@btinternet.com.


It is our aim to be able to ship the equipment out to Ethiopia in mid 2018 with a view to installation late September/early October. We are confident that one or possibly two of the senior trainees from the Black Lion Hospital in Addis will be taking up a post in Gondar at about the same time. At that point the Trauma Team in UHL will provide both local and long distance support.

Please visit our website for more regular updates—www.lGOP.org

Written by: Richard Power
Ways to Support our Work

Through the Post
You can send cheques made payable to "Health Action Leicester for Ethiopia (HALE)" to the Administrator at the address below:

Kathy Astbury
Leicester-Gondar Link & HALE Administrator
International Office
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH
Tel: 0116 252 5321 - Email: gondar@le.ac.uk

By Credit/Debit Card
You can donate either as a one off or regularly online with your debit or credit card through virgin money giving.

Scan this code with your smartphone to be taken directly to our Virgin Giving page.

Please specify with project you wish to support in the comments box, else your donation will go for general funds to aid project start-ups.

Note: Please send us a copy of the receipt with your name and address and registration number so we can match this to our bank records (you can complete the back page donation form to send your details); alternatively you can email gondar@le.ac.uk with all the details.

Donate by Bank Transfer
You can make a donation by standing order, or direct bank transfer. Details:

Bank: CAF Bank
Account: Health Action Leicester for Ethiopia (HALE)
Sort Code: 40-52-40
Account Number: 00017188

Please send details of your donation along with your name and address and which project you would like to support so we can match this to our bank records and ensure that your donation goes to the right cause.

Current projects include:
⇒ Mental Health Fund
⇒ Kola Diba Health Centre
⇒ Nursing
⇒ Children's Ward
⇒ Patient Safety
⇒ Equipment Maintenance Support
⇒ Leicester Gondar Orthopaedic Partnership
⇒ Urogynaecology partnership
⇒ Play provision for Children's Ward

Where possible please complete a gift aid declaration and make your donation work harder at no cost to yourself.

Please see our website: www.le.ac.uk/gondar and go to support our work, donating and you will see a highlighted link for the donations form which includes the gift aid declaration.

Other Ways to Help
Visit our website www.le.ac.uk/gondar to see details of our forthcoming events or contact gondar@le.ac.uk to suggest a new event.

Buy one of our £1 charity wristbands—you can order these from our website—complete order form and send payment and your wristbands will be sent to you.

Register with Everyclick.com to make the power of your internet searches benefit our work. You can also download the give as you shop widget.

Thousands of retailers are waiting to give to our cause at no cost to yourself as you shop online.

Please register at www.giveasyoulive.com/join/hale to make your online shopping benefit the work of our Link programme.
Important Leicester-Gondar Link Contacts

Leicester: Kathy Astbury—ka289@le.ac.uk
Gondar: TBA

Don’t forget to visit our website: www.le.ac.uk/gondar

Infection Prevention & Patient Safety:
Leicester: Sandra Kemp
Gondar: Amsalu Gessesse
Gondar: Yalelet Shiferaw
Gondar: Avier Mesfin
Gondar: Akililu Takel
Gondar: Yordanos Markos
Gondar: Addisu Alem

Mental Health Project:
Leicester: Heather Dipple
Leicester: Lynn Wroe
Gondar: Mr Niguse

Laboratories
Microbiology
Leicester: Steve Hardy
Gondar: TBC

Histopathology
Leicester: Tony Sims
Gondar: Dr Bewket

Collaborative Teaching Programme
Leicester: Barrie Rathbone
Leicester: Daniel Rogers

Equipment Maintenance
Leicester: Nick Brown—brownick66@gmail.com
Gondar: Dr Annisa Befekadu

Orthopaedics
Leicester: Laurence Wicks
Gondar: Dr Mensur

Clinical Audit
Leicester: Elaine Carter
Gondar: Addisu Alem

Anaesthetics
Leicester: Ben Silverman
Gondar: Amare Hailekiros

Ophthalmology
Leicester: Geoff Woodruff
Gondar: Dr Asamere

Kolladiba Health Centre
Leicester: Christine Iliffe
Gondar: Dr Shitaye Alemu

Nursing Link
Leicester: Carol Greenway
Gondar: Fikadu Ambaw

University of Leicester—Dr Mark Goodwin

De Montfort University —Carol Greenway
Gondar University —Dr Sisay

Link Partners

University Hospitals of Leicester NHS

Leicester Partnership NHS