COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSES FROM THE ST. JOHN OF GOD CATHOLIC HOSPITAL ON COMMUNITY OUTREACH AT MANGE SECTION IN MARAMPA CHIEFDOM

Since the post Ebola era when the hospital decided to take a preventive medicine approach due to its location amongst a rural population, Mange Section, a setting comprising 19 villages was adopted as the area where to dedicate medical and human resources in order to bring closer to the rural people preventive medicine through Immunisation, maternal health assessment and adults and children general consultations. Amongst the many prevailing diseases, malaria which is most prominent is addressed, respiratory tract infection and malnutrition. For the past 7 years now the hospital has been providing these services.

This week, our staff for the first time provided with bicycles donated through Juan Ciudad commenced visitations to individual local communities in order to trace children who are defaulters with their routine vaccinations, and pregnant women who also are unable to travel to the static centre.

Mange community is deprived of the basic health services to the people especially the pregnant, children under five years and lactating mothers.

Some communities are far reached as there only walking paths and are swampy. The distance from the outreach point to these communities are more than 5 kilometres and it is no walking distance alone for women or mothers with their babies. This has prevented a lot of the children to be vaccinated against the common killer diseases. Now that we are in the dries, it is challenging for women to trek all by themselves for fear of snakes, other wild animals and group of wicked people. Children are denied the right owing to the above. Some husbands could not support their women claiming that they have never been vaccinated as they are now grown ups.

There is polygamy practise of one husband to two or more wives to promote their farming activities and their religion as Muslims also justifies marrying as many as one could carry. There are no recreational facility as bases for large number of women to be pregnant. These women lack the support to access health facilities and have depended on traditional information assisted by whatever information they could receive from the quacks and Traditional Birth Attendants. Drug peddlers infiltrate mass on their ideology and most times the people consider it as the best help available to reach their communities.

Our intervention in reaching these communities has layed to rest a lot of health concerns and have also looked at other health support like ours to be better with minimal risk. The parents could now allow the children to be vaccinated and pregnant women to visit ante natal sessions. Some of the sick children were treated based on what was available. The pregnant women were referred to our outreach spot in Mamassa village.
NURSE AGNES AND NURSE FATMATA ON THEIR OUTREACH

ONE BICYCLE HANDED OVER TO ONE OF THE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS AT OUR SITE