

AMS Community Health Clinic

Serving the Engos Maasai Community full-time since December 2008...

December 2014



Services Offered

- Outpatient Services
- Inpatient Observation Ward (8 beds)
- Obstetric Services with a 5 bed maternity ward & an incubator
- Laboratory Services (testing for HIV, Malaria, Brucellosis, Typhoid, Urinalysis, Blood Typing, Pregnancy Test)
- Obstetric Ultrasound Services
- Every Monday & Thursday child immunizations and prenatal care for expectant mothers
- Dental Services (when dentist are visiting)
- Mobile Bush Clinics when visiting medical teams

Open Doors

It was December 2008 when the Africa Mission Services Community Health Clinic opened its doors full-time to serve the Engos Maasai community. Prior to opening full-time the clinic had been operating intermittently as visiting medical groups would provide much needed medical and dental services.

Whether happenstance or Providence, Michael Kisiara, fondly known as Doctor Mike, visited camp one day in the fall of 2008. Through a Maasai friend he had come to visit the area and saw we had a beautiful but closed clinic facility. After much talk and negotiations it was decided he could have a shot at opening up the clinic. It just happened that it was that very same week a nurse from the States was arriving to help with medical services for a few months. So the journey began... working together with some support staff the clinic started seeing patients on a daily basis.

That first week was an eventful one... Patients came – but had to be convinced that they had to pay something for the services. Something they



“We cannot do great things on this Earth, only small things with great love.”

~Mother Teresa



were not used to as all previous medical volunteers had provided free care. However, with the clinic now attempting to run full time it was going to need funds to keep the medications and supplies stocked as well as the local staff paid. With time and the elders helping to collect the clinic debts the first few months the patients learned...

It was Friday of that first week when the realization of how needed the clinic truly was for area was seen. It was shortly after 8 AM when a Maasai couple came carrying in their limp little girl – who couldn't have been much older than 4 or 5. A quick assessment and Dr. Mike realized it was a case of cerebral malaria. The parents explained how they had attempted to treat the girl at home with herbs but she just kept getting worse. Quickly an IV was started and a

quinine drip initiated... The girls condition was quickly deteriorating, her eyes were rolled back and her body was stiffening up.... Within 30 short minutes her body gave up the will to fight any longer – her body lay still as family and staff grieved over a life that was cut too short. Watching the family carry away their lifeless little girl that day made the AMS team realize – we needed to keep the doors open so people could receive help before it was too late.

Since that time the clinic has grown in patient populations, number of staff, services offered and reputation. On average the clinic sees 300-400 patients a month and deliveries 10-15 babies. Mothers have come to count on the clinic for prenatal and immunization services

as well as caring for their sick children.

Sadly, in August of this year Dr. Mike made the decision to move, leaving the clinic in a vulnerable position. We do have two full time Kenyan nurses (one a local Maasai girl sponsored to nursing school by AMS) as well as other support staff. However the clinic is in need of a full time physician. Thankfully, in November we did meet a physician who is currently giving the clinic an attempt. Since the change, the clinic has seen a significant drop in patient flow as the locals were waiting a new doctor and seeing if he is going to stick around. It is for this reason that I am writing to you today... While the clinic may not seem overly busy on days – it has become the medical backbone of the Engos community and without its

Making a difference one patient at a time...

doors open many will not receive the care they so desperately need.

With the patient flow diminished, and a new doctor having to build a reputation of his own, the clinic is not able to financially support itself. We are currently working on a proposal for HIV/Women's Health funding in the hopes of helping the clinic survive. However, in the meantime we are writing to you –

in hopes that you will consider giving a financial gift to help the clinic get back up on its feet. Will you help keep the doors open? Any donation would help...

The goal is to raise \$800 a month for one year – to help cover the staff salaries and medical supplies. Thank you in advance for helping us service the Engos community in the year to come...



To make a tax-deductible donation please go to:
<http://africamissionservices.com/how-you-can-help/>

Or send a check made out to **AMS of USA** to:

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