

# Newsletter May 2016



## Ear Camp



The first two phases of Ear Camp are done.

IT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!

## The preparation

First of all, we did a lot of work in the villages around Nkhata Bay. We met a lot of people with ear- and hearing problems personally and invited them for Ear Camp. We have been doing this work starting from December 2015.

On the Friday before the Screening weekend Alex Ndipo drove around town and through the villages in a car with speakers and a microphone announcing about the coming weekend and reminding the people about their invitations to come to the hospital. Until late in the evening we heard the music and Alex's loud voice in the streets of Nkhata Bay.



On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> of May we drove to Dedza and Dowa to pick up the ENT Clinical Officers. After 2,5 years of experience in Malawi we decided not to take the risk to let them come to Nkhata Bay by public transport. The possibility would be there that they would arrive Monday morning.



*Driving a 1.000 km through the beautiful Malawian landscape is no punishment.*



*Jan waits for Victor at the Dedza District Hospital*

# the doctors

We had assembled 4 doctors to attend all patients.



*Victor Sichali (r): ENT C. O. from Dedza with nurses Kennedy Msango (l) and Yamikani Mulore (m).*



*Nurse Liz Ottoway is trained by ABC Hearing Clinic in examining ears and hearing. Nurse Boston Mposa assisted her.*



*The District Health Officer of Nkhata Bay is doctor Albert Mkandawire. We highly appreciate the fact the he came to help out in the Screening weekend to attend the patients.*



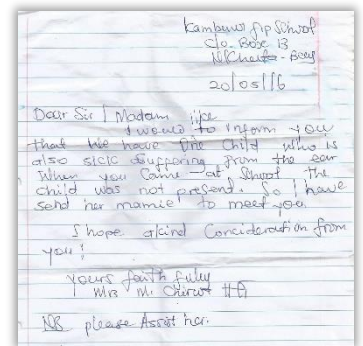
*Rheinhard Malikita is an ENT C. O. from Dowa. He was assisted by nurse Loveness Kafoteka.*



# Patient registration



All patients were registered at entering the ward and were handed a form on which the doctors wrote down their issues and treatments.



The doctors also gave the patients their medication which we had bought before. All treatment was free of charge.

After seeing the doctor, the patients came back to the desk to sign out and to make an appointment to follow up on their treatment. Bonifacius Ndovi helped us to translate all into Chitonga.

After that, there was the opportunity for all people to see doctor Ng'oma who is a dermatologist. He joined our programme to see if people needed treatment for skin diseases.

All patients received an appointment card on which we explained once more what ear-issue the doctor had found and what medication the patients needed to take at home.



Dear ..... ,  
Please, come back to the Hospital on .....  
the ..... of .....  
The audiologist is available for you at .....  
Bring this card and your medical Passport.

Thank you and see you again!



In the evening Lonneke and Charlie had a lot of work to register all the data in the computer and put all the forms back in alphabetical order.



# Diagnose and Treatment



The ears were being examined with the use of an Otoscope.



Many patients were suffering from impacted ear wax or other dirt and objects in their ears. In case the doctors could not remove all debris immediately, the patients were given Deprox oil to soften the ear wax and were invited to come back the week after to syringe their ears.



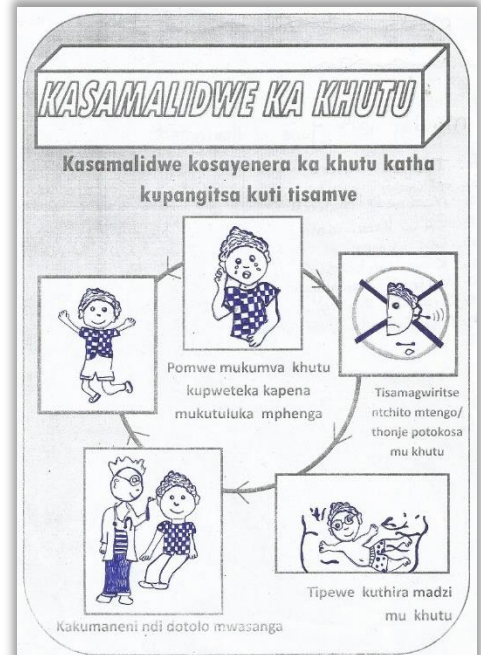
The doctors also discovered a lot of infected ears and perforated eardrums. If possible, the patients received treatment on the spot. Others need to come back to have their hearing tested in June.



# Awareness

We also organized some awareness activities for the people waiting to be seen.

Volunteer Nina Kortekaas made flyers explaining what people should do and should not do to avoid damage to their ears



We invited a drama group from Mpamba to perform during the weekend. In their plays they attended the issue of stigmatising Deaf people in Malawian society.



The crowd really enjoyed the drama and hopefully it will contribute to the acceptance of Deaf people in Malawian daily life.



# Follow Up

175 patients had made an appointment to come back in the weekend following the screening to have their ears syringed, or to see if their treatment was giving any results.

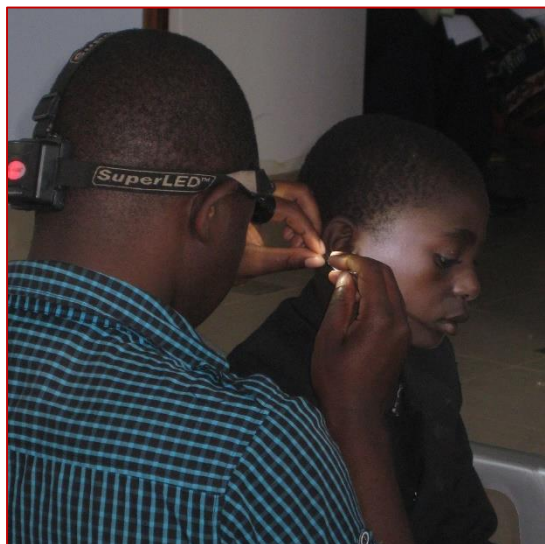
All doctors, nurses and volunteers that helped us out the first weekend, were present to assist us again in the Follow up weekend.



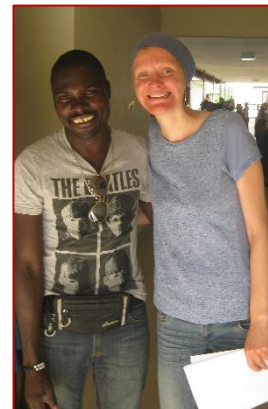
This weekend a lot of ear wax was removed from the patients' ears, which made it possible for them to hear clearly again



Many really, really happy people came to sign out with us!



And again the progress of the patients' treatment was written down thoroughly by the doctors.



Nina and Alex were Patient Attendants.

# The Numbers

156

Up front we registered and invited **372** people with ear- or hearing problems

Of which **205** came to the Hospital for Screening. That's 55%

During the Screening **156** people came walking in that we hadn't met before. We registered them right away.

**4**

In the end the doctors saw **361** patients in the Screening weekend.

We had **4** doctors working, who saw an average of **45** patients a day.

175

**72**

**175** patients made an appointment to come back the following weekend, of which **116** showed up at their appointment. That's 66%.

At the Follow Up weekend another **18** new patients walked in.

All added, the doctors have seen **379** patients!

20

361

**191** patients will come back for a hearing test on the 13th, 14th or 15<sup>th</sup> of June.

**205**

**17 %** of all patients suffered impacted ear wax.

**55%**

**43 %** of all patients had an infection that could cause a hearing impairment and have received medication to treat the infection.

**20 %** of all patients are cured and don't need to come back.



# Greenshop Catering



What great fun to be able to involve our former Greenshop Students at this new project! Together with Hanne and Caroline they were responsible for catering all the staff. This was their chance to show how much they had learned while working at the Greenshop.



The Deaf students worked in the new professional kitchen in the hospital for 4 days to cook for the doctors, nurses and volunteers. We enjoyed their delicious lunches and their presence!





## Did you know, that...

- The first day of the meetings where we were handing out the invitation letters, almost nobody showed up because it was raining?
- The second day also not many people showed up, because they were handing out mosquito nets elsewhere?
- We again weren't very successful the third day, because there was an important funeral?
- We covered many miles to get to see everybody and invite them all to Ear Camp?
- We were quite nervous about the results and we're really relieved so many people showed up?
- The first night in the Screening weekend our neighbour Big Blue threw a party, so we started day two of the Screening without sleep?
- The Deaf students were staying next door to the party at Kupenja Lodge and they arrived totally fresh and reloaded at work the next day. ☺
- At 3:30 AM in the night during the Follow up weekend a police officer from the roadblock 5 miles away from here called us?
- Collins had arrived with the bus from Mua in the middle of the night and that he was looking for a bed?
- Jan went to go and get him, while Lonneke quickly made his bed?
- The former Greenshop students were so happy to see us, and we were even more happy to see them this happy?
- We finally found the opportunity to give them the sweaters Marlijn brought from the Netherlands a year ago?
- Jan Willem was tested positive with his first malaria on the Saturday of the Follow up weekend?
- Floris was admitted at the exact same time with blood infection?
- Jan and Floris were really lucky to be working at the hospital at that time?
- They both received really good care in the hospital and are getting better now?
- President Mutharika was scheduled to come and open the new Nkhata Bay hospital on the Monday after the Follow up weekend?
- All staff were terribly busy fixing and cleaning the hospital last minute?
- We are very sorry to make the mopped floors muddy over and over again?
- There was no power on Sunday the 22th of May?
- The famous Greenshop Lemon cake ended up to be a delicious pancake pie?
- We are actually quite proud of what we have achieved?
- As soon as Jan feels better we'll open a nice bottle of wine and celebrate?
- This was the first Newsletter that we've translated in English?
- We are not promising we'll do it again next month?



## Lonneke en Jan Willem

The Greenshop 1664.38.804  
Chimwemwe NL 3042.38.147  
Chimwemwe BE 088-2486341-32

[www.chimwemwe-malawi.org](http://www.chimwemwe-malawi.org)  
[lonenjlw@gmail.com](mailto:lonenjlw@gmail.com)  
[chimwemwemalawi@gmail.com](mailto:chimwemwemalawi@gmail.com)