

The IU-Kenya Partnership

GAZETI

Summer 2007

IU-Kenya Launches Clean Water Program

By Sherri Bucher-Yiannoutsos

Safe drinking water is something most of us take for granted. But in Kenya, where only about 42% of households in rural areas have access to an improved water source (e.g., protected well or piped water), contaminated drinking water – and the severe diarrhea that often accompanies it – are commonplace. Diarrhea from dirty drinking water significantly contributes to Kenya's high infant mortality rate and drastically reduces adult productivity. In the context of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, potable water is even more critical; adults with compromised immune systems are particularly vulnerable to the effects of unclean water, as are babies who avoid breast feeding (and consume infant formula) in an attempt to prevent the transmission of HIV from their infected mothers.

The IU-Kenya partnership recognizes the many dangers posed to Kenyan families by contaminated drinking water. In response, it has launched a new initiative called MAJI SAFI. MAJI SAFI means "clean water" in Kiswahili, but it also stands for Microenterprise And Joint public health Initiatives Serving African Families and Infants. Using a combina-

tion of methods and products, MAJI SAFI hopes to bring clean drinking water to thousands of Kenyan families over the next decade.



Contaminated drinking water endangers the health of many Kenyans, especially young children.

Initially, MAJI SAFI, underpinned by funding from the Children's International Foundation Fund and Rotary Club of Indianapolis, will provide an effective and affordable drinking water storage and disinfection system (the SafeWater System, originally designed by the Centers for Disease Control with support from Rotary International) to around 500 AMPATH households in which formula-feeding infants reside. Each house-

hold will be provided with: 1) a special water storage vessel; 2) chlorine-based disinfectant; 3) soap for hand washing, and 4) intensive drinking water and hygiene education. It is hoped that clean drinking water and improved hygiene, combined with AMPATH's aggressive prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, will reduce both the risk of diarrhea and risk of HIV transmission among babies born to AMPATH patients.

Rotary Club of Indianapolis' support for MAJI SAFI will also help increase the capacity of AMPATH's job skills and economic security program, the Family Preservation Initiative. It will accomplish this through funding of Imani Workshop production of safe water vessels and metal stands. Working with current and future partners, MAJI SAFI hopes to eventually provide clean drinking water to every AMPATH household (currently numbering over 43,000), as well as offer the SafeWater System package at a sustainable cost to the greater community. Together, for pennies a day, we can make a tremendous positive impact on thousands of lives. Safe drinking water no longer needs to be out of reach for families in western Kenya.



Indiana University's partnership with Moi University began in 1989 with the purpose of developing leaders in health for the United States and Africa. The magnitude of the HIV/AIDS pandemic spurred our partnership to respond to this health care crisis and become one of the world's largest and most comprehensive HIV/AIDS control programs, while still maintaining our initial focus of leadership development.

IU-Kenya/AMPATH Administration

Bob Einterz, Associate Dean & Director
 Joe Mamlin, Field Director
 Sylvester Kimaiyo, AMPATH Program Manager

Gazeti Staff

Becca Atkins, Editor
 rmatkins@iupui.edu
 Fran Quigley, Sherri Bucher-
 Yiannoutsos, Sarah Ellen Mamlin and
 Ron Pettigrew, Writers

The IU-Kenya Partnership Gazeti is published by The IU-Kenya Partnership
 1001 W. 10th St., OPW-M200
 Indianapolis, IN 46202
 Phone: 317.630.6770
 Fax: 317.630.7066
 www.iukenya.org



WFP/Rein Skullerud

Former Executive Director of the World Food Programme and avid supporter of the IU-Kenya Partnership, Jim Morris will serve as the Honorary Chairman of this year's IU-Kenya Gala. The gala will be held on October 13th, 2007.

Rape Recovery Center Opens in Eldoret

By Sarah Ellen Mamlin

Far too often at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital's (MTRH) pediatric wards, we see children, some as young as two years old, who are the victims of rape. A six-year-old being violated by her father, a 17-year-old gang-raped by six men, a policeman bribing a survivor to drop charges, a nine-year-old mentally handicapped girl attacked and ravaged so brutally she required a colostomy. The horrifying list goes on.



CAR-E Workshop in Fall 2006.

Pamela Songa, administrator of the Sally Test Pediatric Centre, found that there were few resources available to these victims and their families. Care within the hospital virtually stopped after a cursory examination in the emergency room. Counseling usually consisted of a single encounter, and no specialized attention was given to privacy issues. Survivors were required to pay a fee before a physician would fill out the form required by police. Few rape survivors could afford the fee, so most of the rapists were never prosecuted.

In the fall of 2006, several concerned individuals committed to address this problem, including representatives from the Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Eldoret (JPC), a group of lawyers known as CLEAR – Christian Law, Education And Research, the MTRH Casualty Department and Social Work Department, the Eldoret Police Department and the Kenya Medical Women's Society.

A workshop, funded by an anonymous individual donor, was conducted by a nurse, counselor and physician from the Nairobi Women's Hospital. A work plan for a rape crisis center was created, and the group chose the name CAR-E, Centre for Assault Recovery of Eldoret. A public education effort was launched, including distribution of brochures in the community and multiple radio interviews.

Volunteers Megan Ranney, an emergency room resident from Brown University, Mike Waxman and Rose Fife helped with tasks like preparing a Sexual Assault Toolkit, counseling form and evidence envelopes. AMPATH provides HIV testing and treatment and Professor Mengech, director of MTRH, declared that all treatment for rape survivors is now completely free. A newly painted, furnished and enlarged counseling area makes up the CAR-E space at MTRH, and a computerized system will be set up to track the brave survivors of this brutal crime.

AMPATH's Community Mobilization group is planning a 5K run in July, with proceeds from the event going to CAR-E. As the CAR-E group gains experience, we intend to share what we have learned with all clinics served by AMPATH and work to change attitudes in Western Kenya.



The Mwangaza Scholarship Program at MUSM Gives Hope for a Better Future

Through the perpetual gift of a generous donor back in 2000, 12 Kenyan medical students were awarded financial aid toward completion of their medical education at Moi University School of Medicine in Eldoret, Kenya. This small but significant start has grown over the years, due in large part to a continued effort by many donors, including members of North United Methodist Church (Joe & Sarah Ellen Mamlin's home church in Indianapolis). Today, the Mwangaza "Light" Scholarship Program has enabled Kenyan medical students to continue their education and complete medical training on their journey to becoming some of Kenya's primary health care providers. Currently, 47 of the neediest and brightest students receive scholarships out of a class of more than 600 medical students. The excerpts that follow are but a small glimpse into the lives of the students many of you have helped, written by the students themselves.



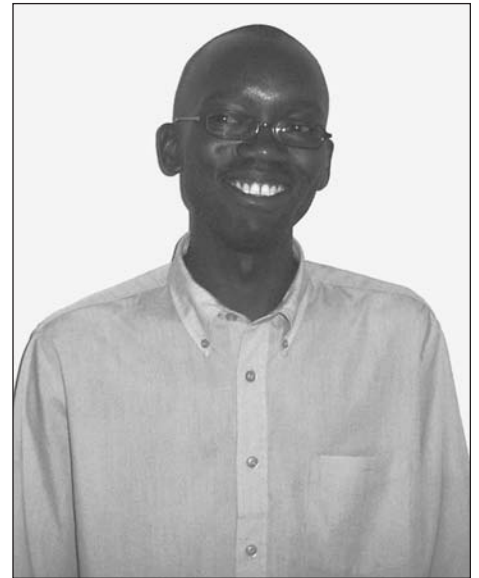
Florence Achieng Aweyo

"This is my second year of receiving the Mwangaza Scholarship. It makes a big difference in a student's life. I like that it's now called 'Mwangaza' which means 'light' - like at the end of a tunnel, a source of hope and inspiration. I believe I possess a multitude of talents and I know that whatever I set to do, I will achieve that goal. I appreciate all the help I've gotten so far and I pray that I continue getting the support from the Mwangaza Scholarship. It has changed my life only for the better."



Gichohi Karen Wangui

"I am so grateful for the Mwangaza Scholarship. Coming from a single-parent home didn't make things easy. I had to sacrifice some things, like buying textbooks, for the sake of my siblings. It really wouldn't do justice to put down the effects of the scholarship in my life on paper and leave it at that because words are simply not enough. This scholarship has completely given me a new lease for my medical education and basically for my life as a whole. I am grateful to the entire community of Indiana University."



Otieno Maxwell Anyango

"I must say the Mwangaza Scholarship has changed my life in ways that I can't fully express in writing. My dream of being a doctor looks more achievable now. Let me just say thank you again to my sponsors. I want you to know that not only did you have an impact on a life, but you helped in changing someone's destiny."

If you would be interested in learning more about the Mwangaza Scholarships or any of the students taking part in the program, please contact Tal Bosin at: bosin@indiana.edu.



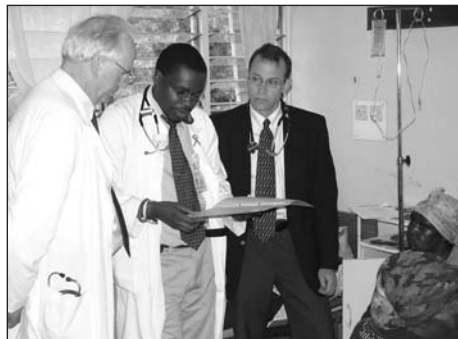
The IU-Kenya Partnership
1001 W. 10th St., OPW-M200
Indianapolis, IN 46202

AMPATH Nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

The Indiana University School of Medicine's partnership with Moi University School of Medicine has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize.

IUPUI Associate Professor of Political Science Scott Pegg and Butler University Professor of Political Science David Mason made the nomination, stating, "This partnership is not only one of the largest and most comprehensive HIV/AIDS programs in the world, it is a model of global North-South institutional cooperation. This model can be replicated throughout the developing world, and thus put a halt to a pandemic that may soon pass the Black Death to become the most brutal killer in human history."

Pegg and Mason cited the IU-Kenya Partnership's AMPATH (Academic Model for Prevention and Treatment of HIV/AIDS) program and its field



Joe Mamlin and Bob Einterz rounding at Moi Teaching & Referral Hospital.

director, IU School of Medicine professor Joe Mamlin. AMPATH now treats 43,000 HIV-positive Kenyan patients at 19 clinical sites throughout western Kenya, provides food assistance to over 30,000 people per week, and job and agricultural training to thousands more.

Dr. Bob Einterz, director and co-founder of the IU-Kenya Partnership, says, "The Hoosiers that are leading

the global fight against HIV are the same Hoosiers that are teaching at Indiana University School of Medicine and serving vulnerable populations in Indianapolis. Through this partnership, Indiana University demonstrates its commitment to health for all people."

Dr. Mamlin adds, "I find encouragement that thousands around this world are responding faithfully to some of the real pain suffered by so many. While much of this pain is physical, the real tragedy is the loss of hope in single individuals. When any of us finds a moment in our lives when we can relieve pain and restore hope, we have already won the Nobel Peace Prize."

AMPATH and Dr. Mamlin are among 181 nominees for the Peace Prize, which is awarded in mid-October of each year.

