

## Progress Report (MEDA USA HIV/AIDS SUPPORT PROJECT) June 25<sup>th</sup> 2006

### **Part one: The evolution of 'Sally' (MEDA USA first adopted patient)**

This patient was 'rescued' from the hands of an herbalist after my first visit to her in Mid- April (see previous report). The parents of 'Sally' finally agreed with my suggestion that she be taken to hospital after it was apparent that the native doctor was failing. She was carried to Bamenda for immediate surgical intervention. The surgeon (Dr Timah Charles Nyamsic) discovered that she had pelvic abscess that had caused liters of pus to accumulate in the abdomen. The doctor took the risk to operate her even though she had physically degenerated as a result of the long gamble with the native doctor. It was later diagnosed that she had tuberculosis of the abdomen. After the operation, the wound could not heal quickly but continued to discharge pus. 'Sally' was bed ridden in Bamenda for about a month before being transferred to the Batibo District Hospital to continue treatment. I arrived the Clinic in Bamenda on the same day that she was moved to Batibo. I can now honestly admit that we had concluded that she was not going to make it and it was preferable that she died in Batibo in the hands of relatives and friends. She was admitted in Batibo with bedsores on her back and the infected wound on the abdomen. Imagine how such an emaciated patient can negotiate to sleep with those wounds and a drip attached to one hand. When I saw her in the hospital on May 25<sup>th</sup>, I was convinced that she will not live to see another day. I was wrong because she is still alive today- one month after. When I called Dr. Yumo on June 22<sup>nd</sup> to ask about her condition, his reply was that she was "improving". I am told she can now sit up. She is currently being treated for 'extra pulmonary tuberculosis'- one of the complications of HIV/AIDS.

At the time of leaving Dr Timah's clinic in Bamenda, her remaining unpaid bills were more than 115,000cfa. After pleading and explaining that MEDA USA has given me some money to help subsidize her bills, Dr. Timah praised such an initiative and accepted the sum of 50,000 from me saying, "I will consider the balance as my own contribution". To date, MEDA USA has spent more than 150,000cfa on 'Sally'.

**Part two: The Other Cases:** The first disbursement of 300,000cfa given to Dr. Yumo for use in the Batibo Treatment center had been exhausted and a second disbursement of 300,000cfa has been effected. A summary of the expenditure from the first disbursement is as follows; 10 people were sponsored for pre-therapeutic workup tests, one for medication and 65 children were screened for HIV (mostly orphans or children from HIV infected parents).

### **Summary**

From the initial one million cfa, advanced by MEDA USA, the current balance is 194,000cfa. So far 600,000 cfa has been channeled to the treatment center through Dr.

Yumo, 158,000 spent on 'Sally', 18,000cfa spent as bank transfer charges and 30,000cfa on other expenses. We have been very miserly in the management of the money so that assistance can reach as many people as possible before the funds run dry. I can only encourage all MEDA USA members to continue to support and sustain this project. The AIDS crisis in Moghamo area is about to overwhelm us. I trust you guys will not allow that to happen without putting up a fight. Accept thanks from all the voiceless aid recipients. You are putting a smile on their faces.

**Njei Moses Timah**