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## **Dentaid...bringing dental care to the deprived**

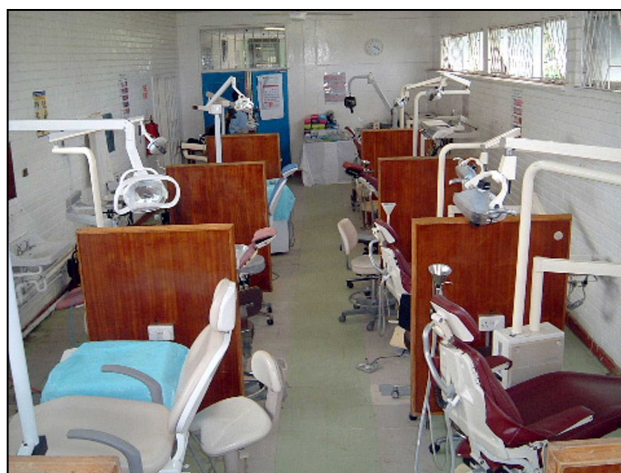
From the vision of one Lion in the Blackmore Vale Club, the Dentaid/Lions partnership has gone forward in leaps and bounds since 2001. The international contacts, fundraising expertise and practical help found in Lions Clubs are of immense value when combined with the dental facilities which Dentaid can provide for Lions International projects.

### **What has been achieved in other countries?**

#### **❖ *Zambia***

In 2002 Dentaid received a desperate request for help from the Principal of the Government Dental Training School in Lusaka, Zambia. The school is responsible for the tuition of all dental personnel working in Zambia as well as providing dental treatment to the population of Lusaka (1.7 million) and the surrounding area. However, the 30 students currently studying only had two working surgeries on which to train. The equipment to generate clean water and to sterilise instruments was woefully inadequate.

With generous contributions from the Lions Club, SIM International and Adec-UK, Dentaid was able to supply and install eight fully refurbished dental surgeries to this school in February 2003.



The shipping of these surgeries marked the first international project undertaken by the Lions-Dentaid partnership. Luke Wordley, Dentaid's Chief Executive, and Dave Harris, a Dentaid engineer, flew to Zambia to oversee the installation of this important project and, together with the Lions Club of Kapila, were able to make the official handover to Zambia's Ministry of Health.

#### **❖ *Cameroon***

In December 2002 the Regina Pacis Health Centre in Cameroon received a complete dental surgery following a request from Sister Brigid Quinn, the hospital's matron. There are only 120 dentists looking after 16 million people! Dental disease is rampant and the hospital's only

dental care was on two days per month from a dentist from another town who brought his own instruments and did what he could in the time.

The Wimborne and Ferndown Lions Club raised funds during 2002 to fund this surgery and the hospital now has a fulltime dentist. Sister Quinn wrote, “The entire Health Centre staff say THANK YOU for this wonderful gift that will ease the suffering of many of our people”.

### ❖ *Colombia*

The internal war in Colombia, South America, has resulted in the larger cities attracting refugees from the armed conflict in the rural areas. Shantytowns have sprung up in Cartagena, Barranquilla and Tierralta with large numbers of displaced families living in poverty and misery.

In June 2003, thanks to the Lions-Dentaid partnership, two complete surgeries were sent to dental clinics serving the slum areas of Barranquilla.

### ❖ *Mongolia*

With approximately one dentist per 7,500 people, the manpower for oral health exists in Mongolia. The one dental training school is in Ulaanbaatar. However, the lack of dental equipment and resources means there is very little access to treatment. In fact, many dentists are forced to find part time jobs as taxi drivers to earn a living.

**The Nalaikh Medical Centre** has two full-time dentists working on broken and unserviceable equipment.



The **Erdenet Central Clinic** has three fully qualified dentists working fulltime. They had one good surgery donated by the Japanese but two others that were broken and beyond repair. In one, only the light and the spittoon worked; so the dentist could only use hand instruments. The only steriliser available was a hot air oven (shared with the rest of the hospital), which didn't work properly or give full sterilisation.

In February 2004, sponsored by the **UK Lions Clubs**, two complete surgeries and a portable field unit left the Dentaid workshops and began their long journey to Mongolia. Dentaid also provided two complete instrument kits and some laboratory items. This quality refurbished equipment will revolutionise the dental care available for the people of Nalaikh and Erdenet and the dentists soon will be able to provide high standards of safe treatment.