

St. Andrew's Hospital, Mtunthama Malawi



The Country

A continuing food crisis in Malawi afflicts more than 4 million people and more than a million of them are children under age five or pregnant women. Food insecurity is not only a major cause of malnutrition, but has also worsened the risk for diseases such as cholera and AIDS. Nearly half of Malawi's population struggles to live on less than \$1 a day. Malawi's infant and under-five mortality rates (110 and 175 per 1,000 live births, respectively) are once again among world's highest. UNICEF 2007

The Hospital

St. Andrew's Hospital began as a small rural clinic with a skeleton staff of a dozen. It is now a community hospital with a staff of 58. Many of them have been with the project from the beginning. The departments are growing and the demands for treatment are also increasing significantly.

The Project

The nearest dental unit to Mtunthama is some thirty kilometers away. There is a dental technician who carries out extractions, scaling, dental hygiene and education assisted by a dental aide. The hospital is extending and is in the completing an operating theatre and has a new room dedicated to dentistry.

There was however serious need for dental care in the local community which was not being met. The need for a surgery was obvious. Many of the local population suffered from dental pain and few had any access to any form of oral health education.

The new surgery from Dentaid was sponsored by Medic Malawi. This was received in October 2007. The staff were delighted to receive the new equipment which is evident in the photos we were sent. This will really revolutionise the dental care that they can now offer.