

Ssesse Health Effort for Development (SHED)

Ssesse Archipelago, Uganda,

Uganda's Kalangala District consists of 84 islands that make up the Ssesse Archipelago, located in Lake Victoria. Seventy-six of these islands are habitable. The population is currently estimated to be at 50,000, with a male to female ratio of 1.5:1. The district is made up of immigrant populations with a diversity of culture and languages. People live in fishing villages, which are established along the lake shores. The main economic activity in the area is fishing besides other small scale activities like tourism, lumbering, subsistence agriculture and palm oil growing. Kalangala District is accessed from the main land by a ship from Nakiwogo and also via a ferry from Bukakata. There is no regular public transport means between the islands - clusters of close islands are accessed by canoe while those far apart are accessed by motorised boats which make water transport expensive in the area.

Kalangala District has a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS (34%, as compared to the national average of 6.1%). It is estimated that the sero-positive rate among the people is 1:3 (positives to negatives respectively on average). The majority of people live at landing sites in slums amidst poor housing and sanitation conditions (the latrine coverage is 34% while water coverage is 40%). Over 3,000 children are engaged in forms of child labour, including working as bar maids, prostitutes, and fishing.

Ssesse Health Effort for Development (SHED)

Vision: a healthy and pro-active population that includes vulnerable groups.

Mission: to uplift the livelihoods of vulnerable groups of Kalangala by offering development oriented support.

Ssesse Health Effort for Development (SHED) is a community based organisation established by vibrant local community members in 2004. Initially SHED was conceived with a major objective of addressing poor sanitation at the fish landing sites but as time went on it broadened its scope to include other pressing issues like; oral health care, HIV/AIDS and human rights.

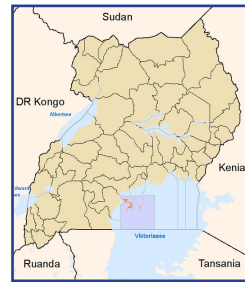
SHED is operating a private Dental Clinic in Kalangala District with 2 dentists to help fill the dental gaps through simple extractions and oral health education. SHED staff collaborates with the district health office and the local leadership to facilitate dental outreaches.

Dental services are only available at sub-district level, and are restricted to simple extractions. Out of the 76 habited Islands, only 11 islands have health units and only two of these health units provide dental services. Fish landing sites in the Ssesse Islands are largely distributed in the masses of water, yet there is no regular inter-island public transport means. This makes oral health services inaccessible to the bigger population. The District has no dental unit which can provide services like conservation; scaling and polishing, composites, amalgam fillings and replacements, so currently the only dental treatment SHED offer is simple extractions. The number of patients with oral health problems increases day by day. In 2009, Kalangala Health Centre IV recorded extractions for 1,677 patients as opposed to 1,283 for 2008 (Information from the District HMIS), yet the majority population has no access to the two Health Centres that provide Oral Health care. There are also few trained dental personnel: the whole District has only three government trained dental personnel that operate at the two health centres. Those that are well off travel to Kampala for better services, although water travel is expensive and time consuming as there is no regular transport. The poor majority are left with no option but to shoulder the pain and in some cases lose the teeth.

Dentaid is supplying SHED with 12 sets of portable dental chairs and instrument kits. These will be used to effectively conduct dental outreach services to the entire community throughout the six sub counties where dental services are not accessed. SHED has engaged 12 volunteer dental officers, some of which hold diplomas in dentistry, while the others are dental students. Two volunteers will be assigned to each sub-county.

Each sub county shall be allocated two chairs and two sets of instrument kits, enabling dental officers to conduct outreaches and mobile clinics to the islands and landing sites under the jurisdiction of that particular sub county. SHED hopes to establish community-based nursing aides in each sub county who will be trained in simple extraction, diagnosis and referral. The Dentaid equipment will be located at SHED's offices, from where the teams shall be dispatched and monitored to conduct outreach services.

Please turn over to see how you can support Dentaid's equipment operation and help improve the oral health of the people of the Ssesse islands.



Please make a donation towards the SHED Uganda project

I would like to sponsor the entire project for £12,600.

I would like to sponsor a portable chair for £500.

I would like to sponsor an instrument kit for £550.

I would like to sponsor a sub-county for £2,100.

Bujumba
Population: 6,574



Mugoye
Population: 7,818



Bubeke
Population: 3,873



Bufumira
Population: 10,301



Mazinga
Population: 4,416



Kyamuswa
Population: 3,842



I would like to make a donation of towards the project.

Title..... First Name.....

Surname.....

Address.....

.....

.....

.....

E-mail.....

Phone.....

Amount donated.....

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

Please return to:

SHED Appeal
Dentaid
Giles Lane
Landford
Salisbury
Wilts,
SP5 2BG

dentaid

IMPROVING THE WORLD'S ORAL HEALTH