

From Angie and Brian Savage, Mvumi Hospital, P.O.Box 82, Mvumi Dodoma Tanzania

Website: <https://www.mvumi-hospital-ihs-wixsite.com/>

Email: ableb4@yahoo.co.uk and angelasavage22@yahoo.co.uk

10 February 2018

Dear Friends, supporters and donors,

The year has seen lots more improvements at Mvumi; these have helped the community, the hospital and health schools. These have only been possible because of your generous support. These have included large scale improvements such as preparation of an on call doctors room, renovation of the sterilising room that was previously full of dust because of non functioning windows, and improvement of the laundry drying area. Important equipment manufactured here include an illuminated eye testing chart, a microscope stand for theatre, linen skips and clean linen trolleys. Small but important items that have been purchased include soap dispensers, fetal stethoscopes, and items needed to maintain proper wound care. A lot of trees have been planted; about 500 in the community in homes and about 150 in the health schools grounds. Edward's help in supporting junior students with clinical skills has been a bonus, and water tanks have been a success with students too.



In order to improve the village environment, we bought shade tree seedlings, and grew papaya (pawpaw) from seed. Angie arranged with the village executive officer for these to be distributed to interested and caring people.

The picture shows Mvumi villagers coming to collect 2 fruit and 2 shade trees per household. More than 500 trees were taken.

A generous donation has allowed us to prepare two on-call rooms and a bathroom for doctors so that they can stay overnight and reduce the time taken to attend to emergencies and operations, such as Caesarian Sections.



We are trying to keep up the great job started by Sue Bird in wound care. We have bought extra trays and Vaseline and other requirements so that all wounds can be managed properly. Mama Legonga who works in the newly renovated sterilising room has the materials to make up Vaseline gauze so that the wards are never without.



This operating theatre spotlight received new bulbs... Only 70 year old after it was first installed!



Our ingenious welding fundi, Suma, has made 10 linen skips, enough for all the wards, and a clever sewing fundi has made the linen bags to fit them. Suma has also made special trolleys to carry clean linen. Linen is no longer transported in wheelchairs...



and here is the proof!



We have been encouraging local ladies with very low economical status, who clean up the environment by collecting the many plastic bottles discarded around the village, and packing them in sacks. We then take these to Dodoma where they are collected for recycling. A large sack-full generates a small amount of cash, which the ladies are glad of to buy necessities such as tea and soap.



Alfred (on the left) and Andrew (on the right) are hard working students from poor families, who cannot afford their school fees. They have been helped from a special scholarship fund that has been set up.

It has been possible to do lots of small repairs like getting washing lines in place for patients relatives to hang out their washing.



Labour ward had only 2 functioning fetal stethoscopes although they sometimes have up to 10 ladies in labour. Now there are an extra two, so fetal heart rates can be more regularly checked.



The hospital laundry drying area had a soil floor, which soon turned to mud from the dripping washing. Also there were too few poles and drying lines. A stone + concrete floor and additional poles have been put in.

The path to the laundry was full of potholes ... now repaired.



A total of four 5,000 litre rain water tanks have been put in, and are a big success with the students. When the electricity cuts and no water pumps through the normal plumbing to the taps, students used to have no access to water for even days at a time. They can now get water in buckets from the tanks behind the hostel, during times of shortage.



The clinical skills lab is now functioning properly; Edward (on the left) is supervising first year students on catheterisation using a model. Edward is waiting for his final examination results, and funds have been used to retain him here (so far for 3 months) on a modest allowance so that students have more help with their clinical skills. Students report really appreciating his help.

The eye department continues to be very busy, and we now have two modern microscopes to enable the best quality of surgery for our cataract patients. An additional one was very generously donated during 2017. An additional microscope is now well supported with a locally made sturdy mobile stand, enabled by other donations.



We are looking at the possibility of a further 2-year attachment at Mvumi, provided the appropriate permits are forthcoming. During this time we hope to have more progress to report. Your continued interest and support would be much appreciated.

With our sincere thanks

Brian and Angie Savage