

Report from a visit to Ruaraka Neema Hospital Nairobi Kenya NFOG grant NF13031

The aim of the visit was to explore the possibilities of collaboration between White ribbon Alliance Sweden, Kenya, SFOGs ARG group for global health and Neema hospital.

Ruaraka Neema hospital is a small NGO- run referral hospital in the Northern outskirts of Nairobi. The hospital is managed by World friends , an Italian Non-Governmental Organization and is a referral hospital on secondary/tertiary level. The hospital was inaugurated in 2008 . Its geographic location is off Thika road in the NE part of the city and it receives about 15000 patients a year. The hospital staff includes 134 persons , who also serve 4 satellite clinics in the slums and run outreach medical camps twice monthly , where a team of doctors and other health staff offer free medical care for hundreds of patients in the slum. The hospital also runs a project working with sexual education to children in schools in the slum

We visited two schools in the slum and attended the lectures. Both the teachers, two nurses and one teacher and the children were very engaged and the quality of the lecture was excellent.

White Ribbon Alliance Sweden will together with Neema hospital apply for money support from forum Syd to finance an enlargement of the sexual education, our goal is to reach all children in the slum. We believe this will create a good basis for the future possibilities of introducing family planning and mother and child health care.

Neema hospital provides maternal and delivery care . The hospital has a newly built maternal ward, with an operation theatre and delivery rooms. This ward is served by consultant obstetricians and gynecologists.

Hospital fees are based upon the means of the patients . People who can afford pay approximately 200 KSH for a visit. Poor patients pay nothing, most of them are referred from the slum satellites where the staff has a good insight in the social and economic situations of different families. The hospital is run in a well organized and sustainable fashion by dr Gianfranco Munro

Dr Gianfranco Morino plays a key –role at Neema hospital . He is an Italian surgeon, mainly specialized in surgical gastroenterology and endoscopy, who has been working in Kenya since 1986.

Positive aspects of Neema hospital:

Small clean and well run hospital with professional and committed staff

Seemingly keen and uncorrupt management

Swedish residents in obstetrics and gynecology and pediatrics would be confronted with a big volume of patients and get hands-on experience with a variety of cases working independently but under supervision. Through the outreach activities in the slum the residents would also be confronted with a large range of health care issues.

The performance of the hospital is based on strong social awareness and good ethical values, as exemplified in the needs- based fee structures.

The hospital has a great need for doctors with obstetric and gynecological competence as well as pediatricians. The hospital offers a large patient flow which would lead to substantial experience and growing knowledge for the Swedish residents who would participate in an exchange program.

There is a structure in place at the hospital for Continued medical education with seminars and lectures for local staff including staff from other governmental facilities.

We are now exploring the possibility of an exchange program of residents in pediatrics ( Astrid Lindgrens Hospital, Solna) and residents in obstetrics and Gynecology, ( SFOG:s arbets grupp för Global health)

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