

Foundation Mother and Child in Cape Maclear Newsletter December 2012

www.jeannette.tremele.nl

Nutrition Program

The Mother and Child in Cape Maclear Foundation supports a feeding program for children under five. The nutrition program is implemented in Billy Riordan Memorial Clinic in Cape Maclear, Malawi.

I have been working as a doctor since 2005 in Cape Maclear, I see children every day in the outpatient department as well as in the HIV/ART department of the clinic. Each child is screened for malnutrition and if

necessary referred to a nutrition program.

The government nutrition program only treats the very severely malnourished children in the village and stock is running out regularly. The children who are not eligible for the government program are included in the nutrition program from the The Mother and Child in Cape Maclear Foundation And if the government program runs out of stock, these children can get feeding supplements from us.



These are Wayne and Melvin, twins born in October, at the hospital in Monkey Bay. They get breastfeeding, but breastfeeding alone is not enough for them, so they are now in the supplementary feeding program.

At the moment there are 90 children in the feeding program. 85 children get the food supplement Sibusiso made in Malawi. It provides extra nutrients. 5 children receive

formula milk, 1 set of twins, 1 orphan, 1 baby with a mother who cannot breastfeed and 1 baby who cannot get enough nutrients from breastfeeding.

The cost of the food program for Sibusiso is 70 euro per child per year, this boils down to 6000 euros per year. Bottle feeding costs 500 euros per baby per year, for 5 babies so, this amounts to 2500 euros per year.



Transport

If patients from our clinic must be referred to a hospital, for example a blood transfusion or an x-ray, transport costs are often a problem for the patient. We help with reimbursement for transportation costs, we work with a coupon system for local transportation. So we do not have to give money to the patient and still make it possible that they go to another hospital can.

The transport costs are 2.50 euro per patient for a return ticket to the nearest hospital, but there is no X-ray department in this facility. For the next hospital a return ticket costs 6 euros. On average I spend 10-15 euro a week for transport costs. This counts for 700 euros per year.

Other costs

In the HIV clinic we take blood samples for the CD4 count, which represents the status of the immune system of the patients. Blood samples are sent once every 2 months to a hospital in Lilongwe. The cost of that project is 1500 per year.

In this newsletter i discuss costs extensively, because I often get the question of how much it costs to feed a child for one year, or how much the nutrition program costs on an annual base. Furthermore, I often get the question if I have any new projects. I wouldn't have problems to find new projects but I think it's very important if you start something, you have to continue it and for that time, energy and money are required. For a new project extra time, energy and money is needed and that's not available at the moment.

I hereby wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy 2013 and many thanks for all your support over the past years.

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