

SUMMARY REPORT – HEALTHCARE IN DRC for Trade Aid UK

June 2012

Interview with Donna Ng'adjole, Project Co-ordinator, Ango, DRC

When we first arrived in 2011, the situation was dire – many of the health centres and clinics lacked essential medicines. If you entered a pharmacy in any of the clinics, you would only find a few boxes of medicine. The standard of health care at the clinics was very low in comparison to required government standards. As a result, consultations in the clinics were significantly low, as people preferred to seek traditional cures for their ailments. They only came to the clinics when their illnesses became very serious, while most of these cases could be easily treated with proper medicine if caught early.

Now there is a big change in the clinics. Many patients are seeking treatment early enough. For example here in Dafia they manage to consult up to 300 new cases in a month compared to before when the highest number they consulted was about 100 cases in a month.

Before, the district health office lacked the logistical capacity to transport vaccines and medicines to clinics in Ango. Since Medair arrived, we have been supporting the clinics with



23 February 2012: Christian Kilibinge, a tutelary nurse at the Dafia health centre, does his rounds in the paediatrics ward of the only health facility in the village of Dafia.



21 February 2012: Denise Dawiliko sits on a bed in the Dakwa health centre with her five day old baby (who according to local traditions has not yet been named) in the village of Dakwa.

essential medicines and helped the district health office transport vaccines to centres. This has ensured that infants receive the appropriate immunisations against common childhood diseases. Within the few months that Medair has been working here, the immunisation coverage has increased by 50%.

Clinics used to suffer problems of interruptions in stock of medicine. It would take weeks to get medicine to clinics from bigger towns. Sometimes the medicine would not be of good quality. With Medair's assistance, clinics are able to receive a continuous supply of good quality medicine.

In just a few months, the impact of Medair's work has been significant. There has been a reduction in mortality rates – lives are being saved.



23 February 2012: Tutelary nurse Christian Kilbinge sits in a consultation room at the Dafia health centre, in the village of Dafia.



28 February 2012: A mother sits with her baby ready for a post-natal check-up and vaccination at the Ndedu Health Reference Centre.



29 February 2012: Staff at Dungu May health centre on the outskirts of Dungu town, prepare medicines in the dispensary.



28 February 2012: Terese Yago, a midwife nurse at the Ndedu Health Reference Centre, weighs a child as part of a post-natal check-up.



22 February 2012: Komba Victor, who is being treated for tuberculosis, is helped by his wife, Wilipay Anastasie, in a ward of Ango general hospital in D. R. Congo's Oriental Province on February 22, 2012. Komba and his wife were forced to leave their home in the village of Bili in 2009, due to conflict in the area. They now live in Mbibili, 47km from Ango, and their health-care is paid for by Medair as they qualify as displaced persons.