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Thank you...

From around the world

www.merlin.org.uk

Merlin in Haiti

Five months on



merlin

medical relief, lasting health care

Registered charity 1016607



A patient inside 'Wimbledon' – Merlin's field hospital.



Nurse Debby treats a boy with a fractured arm.



Woodolf making friends after his operation.

Bringing hope...

Merlin's response in Haiti

After the devastating earthquake in January, Merlin responded immediately and, with your help, we saved lives and limbs.

Arriving just hours after the disaster, our team quickly found an abandoned tennis court – the perfect location for a field hospital. Despite such suffering, the team drew on all their experience and expertise and were soon performing life-saving operations.

Leading the team was surgeon Richard Villar, who told us: "I have been to more disasters and wars than many but have never seen anything like this."

The hospital became affectionately known as 'Wimbledon' and saw over 100 patients each day.

Your generosity enabled Wimbledon to stay open for the entire phase of the emergency and closed at the end of March. By then Merlin doctors had seen over 5,400 patients and saved countless limbs from certain amputation.

The next stage of our response has now begun as we look towards staying in Haiti for the long term. We are currently running four mobile clinics in the Petit Goâve region near Port-au-Prince, reaching areas where people may not

have access to basic health care.

The mobile clinics are fully equipped to provide basic health services, and carry essential medicines and supplies. Each team is staffed with three doctors, five nurses and a team leader. The clinics are seeing up to 220 patients a day.

"I have been to more disasters and wars than many but have never seen anything like this."

With your help, our plan is stay in Haiti for the next three years. Soon, Merlin staff will start training local people to become health workers. Our goal is to rebuild and support a sustainable health system for Haitians that can continue operating successfully after Merlin leaves.

Thank you for supporting our emergency appeal, the response was truly amazing. Your generosity really did make a difference and helped us to save lives.



> Haiti: Case study

Losing an arm but saving a life

Little Woodolf St Eloi, just two years old, was with his sister when the earthquake shook his home in Port-au-Prince. The force of the quake caused a wall to fall and crush Woodolf's small arm.

Woodolf was brought to Merlin's hospital after local doctors sadly amputated his wounded arm. His family had heard that Merlin could provide the specialist level of surgical care Woodolf needed to make a successful recovery.

Fouchard, Woodolf's father, spoke to us with tears in his eyes: "A week before, there was a family wedding. Woodolf was the ring bearer.

We have photos of how things were like before the quake but this is hard. My wife, my children, my two stepdaughters... we are all homeless."

Merlin doctors kept Woodolf under their supervision until he was well enough to return with his family, who now live in a shelter and rely on daily handouts to survive. Anesthetist Dr David Southern told us: "He's lucky in a way because he'll grow up knowing nothing else. He'll just adapt to being left-handed. But it's still sad."



Photo © Leah Borronero

> Haiti: Case study

Dr Jim mends Madeline's broken bones

Unusual connections are made in the wake of disasters. Before the earthquake Madeline sold enough soap and make up to send her two children to school and was the main provider in the family.

Madeline was resting in the shade under a church wall when the earthquake struck. She tried to run, but was caught under the collapsing wall and her leg was badly crushed.

Despite being rescued, it would take weeks for Madeline to receive the health care she so desperately needed. Madeline came to Merlin's hospital on February 4 where she first met Dr Jim Clover, a surgeon from Cork University Hospital, Ireland.

Dr Jim used a specialist technique to realign Madeline's broken bone and after further operations Jim saved the leg from

amputation. Without her leg, Madeline told Jim that her family would suffer and her sons would have to work instead of go to school. She was so grateful to Dr Jim.

Jim didn't know what to expect before he arrived in Haiti, he just knew that he wanted to provide "the best possible opportunities to the people we're looking after." Now he has made a friend for life too.



HANDS UP FOR HEALTH WORKERS

Photo © Frederic Couderc



Collette examines an expectant mother in her clinic.

1 midwife for 6,000 people. Meet Collette from Congo...

Meet Collette, matron at the Merlin-supported Elila Health Centre in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Collette is Elila's only midwife – frightening when you consider the village has a population of over 6,000. To put things into context, in DR Congo a midwife is present for only 61% of births compared to 99% in the UK.

Conditions at Collette's clinic are basic: it is dark and stuffy. There is dirt on the floor and the bedding is old. Yet Collette still manages to make it comfortable for expectant mothers.

We are campaigning for more investment to train health workers in places like DR Congo. Even basic skills can make such a difference, Collette told us:

Working in some of the most difficult environments imaginable, health workers in crisis countries can go years without a salary. Many rarely even have the equipment they need to save lives.



"I assisted a mother who was pregnant with twins. We were waiting for a surgeon to come and do a caesarian section, but I was afraid for the mother who was suffering a lot. In the end, using my experience and training, we got the children out. If we hadn't, I'm sure they both would have died," she recalls.

There are thousands more health workers all over the world like Collette who just want the chance to learn, develop their skills and serve their communities. Show your support for every one of them by putting your hand up for a health worker.

Visit www.HandsUpForHealthWorkers.org and make your voice heard.

Unite for female health workers



The Merlin team at the Women for Women march.

To mark International Women's Day on March 8, Merlin's team took to the streets of London to spread the word and sign up even more supporters for our Hands Up for Health Workers campaign.

Armed with postcards featuring seven amazing women from DR Congo who represent the life-saving work of health workers across the world, the team set up a stall as part of the Women for Women march. Hundreds took part in the march led by Annie Lennox, Cherie Lunghi and Sarah Brown – and who all added their signature to the campaign.

How simple solutions save lives

Sarah Palka recently visited one of our programmes in Kenya. Read about her experience in the field and a remarkable play she saw.



From the field...

Recently I had the chance to visit Nyanza province, Kenya. Normally working in London I was eager to see firsthand the work we do on the ground.

Merlin has been working in Nyanza since 1999. Our work here focuses on primary health care – including HIV and tuberculosis testing and malaria control.

Shockingly, a child dies of malaria every 30 seconds. Merlin is helping to reduce the death toll by engaging with communities and providing education about the prevention and treatment of malaria. Last year alone we helped over 54,000 people in Nyanza province.

When I landed I found out that we were running a training course for 50 community health workers (CHWs) and I was lucky enough to attend the final session. CHWs are taught key health messages and how to effectively spread these messages.

In the training session CHWs suggest how they can share these messages – including visiting other local communities, using role-play or staging plays. The volunteers then use these methods to educate communities, making sure pregnant mothers and under-fives sleep under bed nets.

That afternoon I saw one of these life-saving plays. Members from the local community were joined by representatives from the Ministry of Health as we all sat under the afternoon sun.

The play showed the importance of sleeping under bed nets to prevent malaria. It struck me how this issue is so serious to people here.



Top: Community members watch as CHWs demonstrate the importance of malaria prevention. Bottom: Members of the audience receive bed nets after correctly answering questions about malaria.

I really felt the message had got through. Following the play was a question and answer session and each correct answer was rewarded with a bed net.

All new and expectant mothers in Nyanza are given a bed net. Sometimes a complex problem just needs a simple solution. It was so inspiring to see how Merlin is helping in the fight against malaria by teaching people in local communities how to prevent this deadly disease.

Seeing our work in action was such a rewarding experience. It was truly amazing to witness how your support is making a difference to so many people's lives.

"Thank you" from around the world

Everyday our doctors and nurses treat thousands of people worldwide, each with their own story. Wherever we go people always want to thank us, and we'd like to pass on those thanks to those who make all this possible – **you!**



"Mèsi" from Haiti

Photo: Leah Borromeo



Following the earthquake in Haiti, orphaned Dianna, just eight years-old, was brought to Merlin's tented hospital by her brother, Cal. Concrete had crushed her hand and the wound was badly infected. Merlin's specialist team knew immediately that Dianna needed emergency surgery. The operation was a success and Dianna's hand was saved.

Dianna stayed at Merlin's hospital while she made a full recovery. Cal told us: "Merlin is doing a lot for this country. I want Merlin to stay here and not just leave after the emergency."

"Singila" from Central African Republic



Elaine Yembenale is a traditional birth attendant at Grevai health clinic, a remote village in rural CAR. She helps deliver an average of five children a week.

"Most women give birth at home but slowly, with education and Merlin's arrival, they're beginning to come to the clinic. They didn't have an option before – there wasn't a maternity ward here," Elaine told us.

Elaine is optimistic for the future of Grevai: "Things are changing now Merlin is here rebuilding the clinic, training us and providing free health care. Now we're getting a proper clinic, with beds and maybe even electricity. That's a massive development for us."

"Asante" from DR Congo



Innocent was just four months old when his mother abandoned him. Now 18 months, he lives with his auntie Maska. The trauma of his mother leaving caused Innocent to stop breastfeeding. When community health worker Simutu saw Innocent he was shocked.

"It was an extremely serious case, and we immediately called the Merlin ambulance to take him to Nyamalima hospital [100 kilometres away] where he was put on a drip," Simutu told us.

Innocent stabilised and returned home shortly afterwards. Maska is so grateful for Simutu's help: "We simply didn't know what to do. My husband and I see Innocent as one of our own. He was a very sad little boy but these days, he's even started to joke with us."

"Dhanyabad" from Nepal



Sarada developed a prolapsed uterus after the birth of her first child. She suffered with this painful condition for eight years until one of Merlin's mobile clinics treated her.

Sarada couldn't afford the operation and the nearest clinic was a three-day walk away. When the Merlin doctor visited Sarada in her village, he found her condition to be extremely serious. She was immediately referred to Nepalgunj hospital where the major surgery was successful.

Today Sarada can finally sit down and move without discomfort. She says her pains have all gone, that work and carrying her babies is easy now.

"I can have a normal life, a better life." She is able to smile again.

"Tashakor" from Afghanistan



Sediqa lives in the remote village of Shorek in Afghanistan. She has already lost two of her babies during pregnancy. There are no health facilities in her village, and the nearest health centre is a four hour walk over hostile and insecure terrain.

When Sediqa started to experience complications with her latest pregnancy, a Merlin mobile clinic was visiting her village. The team transferred Sediqa to the Shahr-e Bozorg Emergency Obstetric Care Centre, where midwives acted immediately and performed an emergency caesarian to save her and her baby.

Your commitment and generosity is a constant source of inspiration to everyone here at Merlin. Without you we simply cannot continue with our life-saving work. We'd like to say a huge thank you to all of our supporters, and share with you some of the other ways you can support Merlin.

YOU HAVE INSPIRED US!



The Christmas Fayre.



Mr Grundy presenting the cheque.

Mr and Mrs Grundy, from Dunstable, have supported Merlin since the Tsunami in 2004. Last year they put forward Merlin as their church's charity of the year. Throughout 2009, the parish hosted all kinds of fundraising events including a Christmas Fayre, open gardens, a tea dance, quiz nights and parish breakfasts.

Mr Grundy told us: "Everyone was so pleased to see Merlin in the news following the emergency response in Haiti. People felt their donations were really making a difference and helping those in need." St Mary's Church has raised over £5,000 for Merlin – a fantastic achievement!



Photo © Jereen Orlennans

How you helped Haiti

We had such an amazing response to our appeal for Haiti. So many of you came up with creative and wonderful ways to show your support for the people of Haiti. Schools organised cake sales and wore 'Hats for Haiti'. There were jazz evenings, music concerts and choir recitals. To find out how you can support our work or to request a fundraising pack visit our website at www.merlin.org.uk or call 020 7014 1714.



Whatever the occasion, say it with a Merlin e-card

Have you ever forgotten to send someone a birthday card, only to remember at the last minute when it is too late? Well now you can save your blushes by sending a Merlin e-card.

We have a great selection of cards for all occasions including birthdays, anniversaries, and Christmas. Cards can be personalised with your own message and sent in an instant. They're also great for the environment too!

> To sign up visit www.merlin-ecards.org.uk