

REPORT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF DENTAL CLINIC AT WEST GONJA HOSPITAL, DAMONGO

1. Introduction

As part of the hospital's plan for medium to long-term growth, a strategic plan was developed to guide operations. In the plan, need for some services were identified, including Dental Care Services.

Despite the plan and urgency to establish and run a Dental Unit, little could be done due to funding challenges.

By the Grace of the Almighty God and through the instrumentality of the Bishop of Damongo Diocese, Most Rev. Peter Paul Y. Angkyier, the contacts were made with Dr. Marita Feuerstrater, a Dentist from Germany.

In 2015, Dr. Marita visited the hospital with a team and discussed the need with the Management of the hospital. In a follow up visit in March, 2016, further discussions were held and a list of equipment compiled and submitted for consideration.

2. Establishment of Dental Care Unit

Guided by the list that was compiled and submitted, Dr. Marita and her partners, including Dr. Ernst Graaf and his wife, supported with the acquisition of relevant equipment towards the establishment of the Unit for services delivery.

On the 6th of October, 2016, a team of three officers, made of Dr. Marita (Dentist), Dr. Ernst Graaf (Dentist) and Mrs. Graaf arrived in Accra from Germany and continued their trip to Damongo on 7th October, 2016.

Work began in earnest on Saturday, 8th October, after sorting and grouping various categories of equipment from their boxes (see table 1). Ahead of the arrival of the Dentists, announcements were run on radio for three weeks in three languages - Dagaare, Gonja and English. This was to conscientise and attract potential clients to utilize the services to be provided, which included washing/scaling, filling and extraction.

During the week-long programme from 8th to 14th October, 125 clients were seen. From 16th to 31st October, the cases that were seen by the Physician Assistant (Dental) were 39. The case breakdown in the two periods are as in table 2 below.

Table 1: List of dental equipment and logistics provided

1.	Mouth Mirrors	10
2.	Tweezers	10
3.	Probes	12
4.	Filling instruments (Sharp)	13
5.	Filling instruments (Plugers)	10
6.	Filling (Excavators/Curettes)	4
7.	Dental spoons	4
8.	Root picks	2
9.	Eleuators	16
10.	Mandibular forceps and Roots	22
11.	Roungers	2
12.	Maxillary Roots	6
13.	Maxillary forceps and Roots	14
14.	Dental metal syringes – Tails	3
15.	Dental metal syringes – tips	13
16.	Saliva Evacuation tips/Ejectors	5 pts.
17.	Trays	5
18.	Kidney dishes	2
19.	Decontamination Containers (Metal)	2
20.	Alcohol hand rub	4
21.	Disinfectants	2
22.	Wipes (Big)	2
23.	Wipes (small)	10
24.	Dental Needles (long)	3pks.
25.	Dental Needles (short)	5pks.
26.	Dental Xylocaine	5pks.
27.	Dental Xylocaine (kids)	2pks.
28.	Scaling machine	1
29.	Scaler tips	7
30.	Composite curing light	1
31.	Composite filling material	5
32.	Composite wells	4
33.	Composite applicators	10pks.
34.	Composite bonding Agents	6
35.	Amalgam	2pks.
36.	Amalgamator	1

37.	G.I. filling material	1pk
38.	Metrix band	2 rolls
39.	Metrix band Retainers	4
40.	Wooden Wedges	4 pks
41.	Amalgam wells	3
42.	Amalgam carrier metal	1
43.	Amalgam carrier – plastic	1
44.	Burs Receivers	12
45.	Paper mixing pad	1pk
46.	Wooden Spatulas	1pk.
47.	Trans care max machine	1
48.	Hand pieces	2
49.	Trans care Disinfectants	3
50.	Cotton pellets	1pk
51.	Ultrasonic Detergents (Cubes)	1pk
52.	Periosteal elevators	3
53.	Face Mirrors	2

Table 2: Breakdown of dental care services provided from 8th to 31st October, 2016

S/n	Type of Service provided	Period & number of clients seen	
		8 th to 14 th October, 2016.	16 th to 31 st October, 2016.
1	Cleaning/Washing	1	10
2	Filling - Amalgam	5	0
3	Filling - Composite	9	2
4	Extraction	57	17
5	Others	50 (Majority were given only medication).	9
6	Referrals out	3 (Follow up being made to check conditions of clients).	1
Total		125	39

3. Outcome of client satisfaction interviews

Almost all the clients who were seen from 8th to 14th October were called and interviewed on their experiences after receiving services from the Unit. All interviewees were positive and expressed gratitude for the services received.

4. Outlook of the services for the Dental Unit

For the acquisition of other logistics for the Unit, an amount of **Five Thousand Euros (€5,000.00)**, equivalent to **Twenty-One Thousand Ghana Cedis (Gh¢21,000.00)**, was provided by the team.

During a debriefing, Dr. Marita disclosed a plan to invite a female nurse to Germany for training on orthodontics. The training, which is planned to last for a month, will enable the staff to fabricate artificial teeth/dentures for use in the facility.

5. Appreciation

The support to establish the Dental Unit is a key dream of the hospital as established in the hospital's five year strategic plan (2016-2020). The dream could however take a longer time to achieve if the Bishop of the Diocese, Most Rev. Peter Paul Angkyier, did not network and refer Dr. Marita Feuerstrater and her partners to the hospital management for further discussions.

The Management and Staff are therefore most grateful to the Bishop and Dr. Marita and her partners for the initiative and financial support to open and run the unit.

We pledge to use the logistics and additional funds judiciously for the benefit of our clients. May the Lord God bless every individual and organisation that contributed to make things possible. Amen.

