

Quotes From Zimbabwe

Soapbox funded Infection Prevention & Control training courses in Zimbabwe are promoting good practice amongst healthcare workers and supporting improved hygiene in maternity units.

"We see nurses washing their hands when we are attended to...we see the cleaners wearing plastic aprons and gloves when mopping floors...we are taught hygienic practices."

Mother, Zimbabwe

"Before training we lacked the confidence to perform hygiene practices in the workplace."

Infection Prevention & Control Training Course Participant



Soap Matters

Issue 8

January 2015

Saving lives with clean safe care at birth



Happy New Year and welcome to Soap Matters, the Soapbox quarterly newsletter.

The final few months of 2014 were exciting and productive for the team. We are reaching the conclusion of our research projects in India, Bangladesh, Zanzibar and The Gambia with fascinating results emerging. This leads us to new and developing opportunities for action projects in 2015.

We have also been able to continue our work with colleagues in Ethiopia and support two maternity facilities in Zimbabwe. We are looking forward to the busy few months ahead. Please visit our website and follow us on social media to keep up to date regularly with our activities. Thank you once again for your continued interest and support.

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Zanzibar

November saw the conclusion of the 'Improving Maternal Health in Zanzibar through Improved WASH' needs assessment which has been carried out by Soapbox, WaterAid, The Pemba Public Health Laboratory and the Zanzibar Ministry of Health.



Infection is one of the leading causes of maternal and newborn death in Tanzania. As high standards of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are critical to infection prevention, we were delighted to share the results of our assessment which aimed to determine the WASH conditions in healthcare facilities.

A three day workshop was held in Stone Town, Zanzibar where, working with relevant stakeholders, areas for improvement were identified. An action planning session followed with agreement to prioritise the development of a training package for cleaners and a target to ensure a minimum of one sink available and functioning in every maternity unit



across the two islands of Zanzibar.

It was extremely encouraging to see the engagement of the participants and this along with the hard work expended over the months of the project, was acknowledged by the Minister of Health who made the concluding speech of the workshop. We are excited to see progression into the next phase of work in Zanzibar.

WASH & CLEAN Dissemination Event

In our last newsletter we reported on the upcoming WASH & CLEAN Study dissemination event and launch of the WASH & CLEAN Toolkit at the Indian Institute of Public Health, Ghandinagar's (IIPHG) conference on *Reducing the Burden of Preventable Infections: Opportunities and Challenges for the 21st Century*.

The aim of the WASH & CLEAN study was to develop a range of data collection tools to perform an evaluation or 'situation analysis' of the state of maternity unit water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and infection prevention and control (IPC). The Study findings were presented by Soapbox along with our WASH & CLEAN partners from IIPHG, BRAC in Bangladesh and Impact, University of Aberdeen. The CD-based *WASH & CLEAN Toolkit: A Guide to Data Collection & Tools* was distributed to all conference attendees and a workshop held on the more novel elements of data collection. The conference was a huge success and generated great interest in the WASH & CLEAN study and the application of the toolkit.

Following the conference a further 25 toolkit CDs were distributed at a SHARE meeting in Delhi with several requests made for the online toolkit (soon to be available on the Soapbox website). The tools contained in the toolkit have already been adapted for use in Zanzibar and Zimbabwe, and we are excited to see such interest in further application to assist in the identification of maternity unit WASH and IPC needs.



Soapbox Showcase Event

We were delighted to host our first annual Showcase Event in December, giving us a wonderful opportunity to share with supporters, funders and colleagues the progress across our projects.

The occasion marked the launch of the Soapbox Bursary which will support an elective scheme for students from the University of Aberdeen. The 2014 Soapbox Outstanding Achievement Awards were also presented to Sam Tweed and Alex Aulakh who undertook some inspirational volunteering projects on behalf of Soapbox in Ethiopia and The Gambia in 2014.

The event was a great success with guests commenting, 'I am amazed at all the improvement work Soapbox has undertaken' and 'it was a truly inspiring event'. We look forward to the exciting new year of activities ahead.



Sam Tweed & Alex Aulakh

Please visit our website www.soapboxcollaborative.org

Scottish Registered Charity SC043008



The Soapbox Collaborative

@Soapbox_Collab



We have moved!

Please update your records

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Saving lives with clean safe care at birth

Ebola Crisis Appeal Fundraiser

On Wednesday 26th November, The Soapbox Collaborative, University of Aberdeen and student society, Medsin Aberdeen joined forces to raise money for the ActionAid Ebola Crisis Appeal. Ebola is a frightening disease which is spreading alarm throughout West Africa. The World Health Organisation estimates that more than 20,000 people could die from Ebola if the virus is not stopped.

Soapbox prioritises the promotion of the importance of hygiene in hospitals and clinics, which is key to the prevention of the spread of infection and viruses such as Ebola. We had been corresponding with colleagues in Sierra Leone, heard first-hand the difficult issues they were facing due to the Ebola crisis and were compelled to show solidarity with them.

Soapbox therefore, in association with the University of Aberdeen and volunteers from Medsin, co-ordinated the one day collection to help the plight of victims and their caregivers in Sierra Leone and other



affected countries. Sam Tweed, the President of Medsin Aberdeen explained, "Medsin Aberdeen is a student network passionate about tackling global and local health inequalities. We hope that holding a bucket and encouraging our colleagues to give generously will bring us a step closer to ending Ebola once and for all".

The one day collection raised over £700 all of which went towards the ActionAid Ebola Crisis Appeal. ActionAid have teams on the ground in Liberia and Sierra Leone who have helped more than 300,000 people fight the disease.

actionaid

Ethiopia

Our work goes on at Felege Hiwot Hospital in the north of Ethiopia, where we continue our partnership with the University of Aberdeen, University of Bahir Dar and NHS Grampian.

Volunteer, Dr. Jolene Moore was able to make a visit to the hospital over the Christmas period and returned with exciting news about the improvements which have been made over the four months since our last visit. Changes at the Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Building have been particularly impressive from improved management of visitors and hospital records to improvements in cleaning, storage and waste management and the adoption of infection prevention and control policies and procedures.

Jolene reported, 'It is clear to see the hard work and dedication it has taken to make these changes'. Soapbox look forward to our next visit in March 2015, when a group of volunteers from NHS Grampian will visit to continue our efforts to strengthen infection, prevention and control at the hospital by supporting and training the maintenance team.



2014 Aberdeen Impact Awards

We were pleased to be nominated in the 'Positive Collaboration' category at the 2014 Aberdeen Impact Awards hosted by ACVO.

These awards aim to recognise and promote good practise across the Third Sector. Soapbox have adopted an exciting and progressive model which is dependent on positive and effective partnerships and we were delighted to be considered as worthy contenders for this award. The Awards were presented by the cities Lord Provost at a celebratory lunch held at the Aberdeen Douglas Hotel and attended by a large number of Third Sector organisations.



Make it Spin Campaign

Thank you to all those who have been raising funds for our 'Make it Spin', Campaign. The campaign which is restoring the laundering facilities at Felege Hiwot Hospital in Northern Ethiopia has so far raised over £1,400.



Staff at Tenants First Housing Co-op

As part of their efforts to control the spread of infection, the staff at this busy referral hospital are tirelessly doing everything they can to ensure all their patients have clean linen.

We are grateful to everyone who has committed to raising funds, including: Domestic Services at NHS Grampian, The Bank of Scotland, Wards at Aberdeen Royal Maternity Hospital and Tenants First. Please contact us to get involved.

Staff Changes at Soapbox

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Katherine Ritchie, who is leaving us after having spent three years as our Soapbox administrator. We are grateful for all her hard work, she has been an essential part of our team and will be sorely missed. We wish her all the best in the future.

We are delighted to introduce Katherine Keay, the latest addition to our Soapbox team. Katherine has a degree in Nutrition and Dietetics, however over the years has found her niche in administration.

Following a career break to raise her family Katherine resumed working in healthcare in an administrative capacity.

We welcome Katherine to The Soapbox Collaborative as our new administrator.



Katherine Keay