



May 2014- Cha Positivo.

OVERVIEW

Number of patients accounted for = 100

Actual appearances = 106

Each person received a Ceres juice and a packet of cream biscuits .

The majority of people present were women, 24 children of various ages and elderly couples and 12 men.

May 2014- Cha Positivo Meeting

The Cha Positivo meeting was held on the 15th May at 9am.

I had met with both the Director of the hospital and the head nurse to decide what was to be supplied and the number of people present. Total number present would be 100 and each would receive a juice and biscuits. Most African love extremely sweet and fizzy drinks, but I thought it best to supply a good quality juice -Ceres from South Africa, and rather than biscuits with no substance at all, I chose biscuits with a filler. Sweet but with added nutritional value.

People were registered as and when they got to the meeting. We started at 9.45 but there was still a large number of people coming in as the encounter was under way. The number registered at 9.45 was 86 people but by the end of it had reached 106.

Present were Dr Tobias, Sufiria and Ali - general medical technicians and Levitico from the psychiatric department. The meeting started with Cacio getting everyone to sing and he then introduced the doctors. Quite a few people stood up and spoke. This was all translated to me later by Tobias and Sufiria. The concerns brought up were the following:

They complained that they were not being well looked after by some of the previous hospital staff. It seems there was one nurse that was very good, but sadly he has left. They were hoping that the new nursing team would be better suited to look after their needs. Once again Dr Tobias was hailed a hero- Iussufo Dos Santos praised Dr Tobias and said that had it not been for him he would now be long dead. The other main concern, is linked with being seen receiving their anti retroviral drugs from the same pharmacy as the other patients. This however ,cannot be changed as the hospital does not have the staff to create a whole separate pharmacy just dealing with HIV. Donna Halima ,as with others, would have like to receive 3 months worth of drugs all in one go, but Dr Tobias explained that this is not feasible. The doctors worry that should they receive 3 months worth , the drugs won't be taken on time or in the right dosage. The problem arises from the fact that a number a few people live far away and to come once a month is an arduous task.

Once they are all more familiar with me, I will ask more questions and sit with Dr Tobias to find out the full extent of the issues.

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

THE HOSPITAL & REGISTRATION

I have spoken to Tobias and we have decided that they will select the 100 most needy and difficult cases to receive the Cha Positivo rations. It will not be on a first come first served manner as it was done at this first meeting. The Hospital is to produce a list of these and they will be called a week prior to the meeting.

There were a few people who complained that to them a juice and biscuits was of no added value, and so Dr Tobias suggested that if they were not grateful, or they felt that they did not need the extra bonus, then their slot could be given to a more suitable case. I do not get involved with all these discussions, as it is up to the hospital staff to decide who are the most needy cases and who needs to be enticed to come and get their drugs with the promise of the extra food packet. The nurses and Dr present were calm and dealt with each case as it came up, and I hope that in the next meeting we will be able to iron out the creases.



The Medical Staff – I-r Dr Tobias, Sufiria and Ali



Cacio recording the new arrivals





The distribution of juice & biscuits.
Dr Tobias with his gift of guavas