

BSUF DentaId Out Reach Clinic 26-27 July 2016



REPORT

Annette Mbedha

19th September 2016

BSUF is supported by:



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1. Background & Introduction to Dentaid

The Buyemba Suubira Uganda Foundation (BSUF) continues with its education, livelihood, and infrastructure programmes in the Kamuli area of SE Uganda. Recently we have identified the need for a health programme, for the welfare of the children in the area. This is because the villagers and their children do not have access to ongoing healthcare.

In October 2015, BSUF successfully organised its first health outreach at Butansi Nursery School. This was because I became concerned that some of the little ones did not seem at all well. So we organised for a team of doctors and nurses to come to the nursery to check out the children and some adults. As I suspected many of the children were found to be suffering from common infections like coughs, flu and skin infections, but also with mumps. More seriously, the children at the nursery were screened for malaria – and it was found that around 80% of the children had malaria, which was extremely concerning. Thankfully they could receive treatment on the spot.

In July this year, BSUF was given the opportunity to be able to offer a free dental service to a group of young students from Grace of God Primary school in Butansi and for some of the local villagers in need of urgent dental attention.

Our thanks go to **Children of Uganda (UK)**, who were approached by their contacts at Dentaid UK. Dentaid were conducting their annual visit to Uganda, where a number of clinics are held in the country – including a 2-day clinic at Maria's Care in Kamuli. My special thanks go to **Barbara Koffman**, a Volunteer Advocate with **Dentaid**, who ran the dental clinics with volunteer professionals. Also to **Rhona Marshall** of **Christian Relief Uganda** that supports Maria's Care in Kamuli, which hosted the clinic.

dentaid

**IMPROVING THE WORLD'S ORAL HYGIENE
ONE SMILE AT A TIME**

Over the past 20 years Dentaid has worked in more than 70 countries to end dental pain through treatment, training and equipment donations.

2. Problem Statement—“Where there is no Doctor”

Having carried out our first outreach in October 2015, lessons were learned and it was obvious to BSUF that basic - to major health services were missing, yet desperately needed in the community.

As with medical services, dental services are required - given the fact that there is not a single dentist or clinic in the local villages. There are a few expensive private clinics set up in

Kamuli town or the Government hospitals which have very long queues. The people of Butansi village community and sub county then have to take “boda boda” (motorbikes) which is 20-30 minutes ride for services in town. To walk it can take up to 2 hours!

3. Our Main Objective

Long term: to provide an ongoing professional dental service to bring oral health care closer to the people.

4. Partnership with Grace of God Primary School

BSUF partners with Grace of God School in Butansi where most of our younger children are sponsored through the BSUF sponsored child education Program.

Mr. Kitimbo, the head teacher, worked closely with us on this Dentaaid Clinic project. He put 27 of the students on boda boda motorbikes to bring them to the Marie’s Care compound in Kamuli - where the dental clinics were held. Also 22 adults from Butansi and the nearby villages were selected to attend the clinic.

Total number of beneficiaries were 49.



Marie’s Care compound in Kamuli,
which hosted the Dentaaid clinics



Photos showing some of the BSUF Beneficiaries





**Left below: BSUF's Annette Mbedha with students waiting for treatment,
Right below: Annette with students and nurses after treatment**



5. Feedback from Beneficiaries



Name: Nanangwe Sumaya – 24 years

Married with 3 children

- Husband married second wife and no longer takes care of her.
- She was in a lot of pain for 3 weeks.
- Extraction process wasn't painful compared to the previous ones she has had.
- Huge thanks to BSUF & Dentaaid.
- Requesting for more dental checkups, and dental hygiene training to help the Community.



Name: Nangobi Edith – 45 years

- Edith is a very active member of the BSUF Women's Self Help Group.
- She had her teeth cleaned. Such a service normally costs between 150,000- 200,000 UGS (= tuition fees for a secondary school student!)

"I have never had such a service done, never heard of it and could never afford it in my life. Thank you & God bless to all the Doctors and nurses."



Feedback from Grace of God Primary School

- **Mrs Kitimbo Oliver**, a teacher at Grace of God School was so thankful for the opportunity for some of the children to attend the dental clinic.
“BSUF has Butansi village at heart, thank you”
- So many people can be in a lot of pain, but due to lack of money they resort to local herbs or some pain killers to offer temporary relief.
- The children were grateful, because they did not feel so much pain during any extractions. some went straight off to play football.
- The parents of the children were thankful and requested for more services in the community.
“MWEBALE INOH” – “Thank you very much”.

6. Lessons Learned

- When the beneficiaries talked about the clinic to others in the village, a number of people turned up at the BSUF office in need of dental treatment. This shows the need for an ongoing dental scheme.
- Given the many students who had problems, there is need for dental hygiene lessons in schools.
- More time and mobilisation is needed to set up such a service in the community – and funding will be required.

7. Conclusion

The main objective of bringing a professional dental service and dental health care closer to the people was achieved over the 2 days. Hopefully.... this is just the beginning.

8. The Way forward

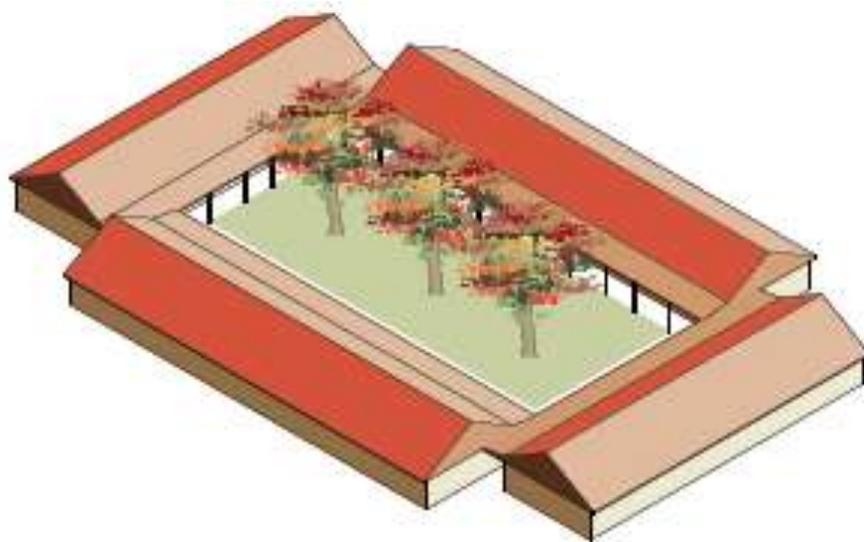
With logistical and financial support, we would like to hold a similar outreach service at Butansi Nursery, or the primary school - which will benefit not only Butansi village but also the surrounding villages.

We would also want to provide a dental outreach for some of the older children in our sponsorship programme, who are in need of dental attention.

BSUF would also like to promote the teaching of dental hygiene in all the local schools and at Butansi Nursery School. This we should be able to do via our direct contact with various schools, through our educational sponsorship programme.

Long term we will have a Health Clinic at the new Community Centre being organised, funded and built by Children of Uganda (UK) and its supporters. This vitally needed Health Clinic will offer medical and dental services.

A CONCEPT DRAWING OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE TO BE BUILT AT BUTANSI



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