



Report for Fondation Eagle:

Project: Part-funding for MEAK Paediatric heart patients from the Kenyan Coast to travel to India for corrective heart surgery

Donor:

Fondation Eagle, Switzerland

Donor's reference:

FF 0513 - 34

Date of acceptance:

25th November 2019

Amount of Donation:

A one-off donation of \$15,500

(1,565,656.57KSH at the exchange rate of 1 Kenyan shilling to 0.0099 US dollars)

Period of grant:

12 months

Duration of project:

6 to 12 months

Estimated number of beneficiaries:

10 children & their families would have directly benefitted. In addition, the wider community would have benefitted. Medical costs are expensive in Kenya & often paid for by holding a harambee, where the whole community contributes to the cost of surgery, which is very expensive.

Charity:

Medical & Educational Aid to Kenya



Underspend:

\$14,708

Description of the project:

10 patients were identified as requiring urgent heart surgery by the MEAK team on their annual joint clinic at the Kilifi County Hospital on the Kenyan Coast in November, 2019

Under usual circumstances, the MEAK surgical team would have operated on these children on their annual trip in January. However, following the cancelled trip in January 2019 due to the terrorist bombing of the Dusit hotel, the surgical missions were temporarily suspended. After other possibilities of obtaining operations for these patients were exhausted (e.g. other charities, other visiting medical teams, self-funding for surgery abroad) we approached several donors to acquire funding to send the group of children remaining for surgery to Sri Ramakrishna Hospital in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India.

At the time of applying for funding, the Sri Ramakrishna Hospital had an arrangement with the Kenyan Government, whereby they were able to carry out the surgery in India for the payment made for the operation by the Kenyan National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), which was approximately \$3,500. The Mamujee Brother's Foundation in Mombasa, a long-time MEAK supporter, particularly when it comes to the paediatric heart patients, agreed to donate £1000 (\$1300) per patient to contribute to these costs. We approached Fondation Eagle for the final amount to send these children for their operations. Our application was successful & we were awarded \$15,500. However, no one could have predicted the Covid-19 pandemic which effectively ended the surgical project before it could begin.

Project report:

Unfortunately, not a single patient was able to travel to India for their surgery. There are several reasons for this, but the largest factor is the global Covid-19 pandemic.

One of the contributing factors was that the patients & their families lived in very undeveloped & remote areas on the Kenyan Coast. Our volunteers in Kenya, the Paediatric Support Group (PSG) found it very difficult to obtain all the necessary paperwork (Kenyan NHIF certificates, birth certificates, passports & visas) in a timely manner for the children to be able to travel. Multiple trips were required to & from their homes to various government offices in Kilifi, Mombasa or Nairobi, all of which takes organisation, funds & time.

By February, however, several patients did have their paperwork completed to enable them to travel, but by this point in time it was becoming apparent that Covid-19 situation was worsening. We became worried about patients getting to India & more worried about them getting back to Kenya when the surgery had been completed, if a lockdown was instigated, as at this time the global picture was rapidly changing. Realising that travel was potentially a huge problem, but still being determined to get these children an operation, one of the PSG members drove some of the patients 100's of miles across Kenya to physically put them forward for surgery by another visiting foreign team they had learned

about. Several patients were accepted as priorities for the April visit by an American team at Tenwek Hospital in Bomet. The other children were asked to come again in April as well for consideration at that time (albeit with no guarantees they would be accepted). Sadly, that mission & all future missions have been cancelled & none of the patients received surgery.

Ongoing global ongoing lockdown measures & border closures have meant that we have been unable to send any patients abroad for their surgery.

As you can imagine, this has been very frustrating for these families. Many live so remotely they had no knowledge of Covid-19 at the time they were told their child's surgery had been indefinitely postponed. Many could simply not understand what the fuss was about & begged us to still help their child. This was a very difficult time for the PSG, understandably, who were in communication with the families.

Sadly, we are no longer in a position to offer these children heart surgery. We have exhausted all possibilities of getting an operation. Our medical data is now over 12 months old & cannot be used for referral to another program, if one was operating. Even sadder still, some of the children have died in this period of inactivity. The others receive periodic follow up at the Kilifi County Hospital, but medication is no substitute for surgery.

MEAK will return the remaining funds to Fondation Eagle, as stipulated in the Fondation Eagle terms & conditions. We would, however, like to re-apply for the remainder of this grant to be used for a MEAK feeding programme. These have been extremely successful in supporting families who have been plunged into poverty from the collective effects of extreme weather events, locust plagues & loss of employment due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Budget details:

MEAK received a grant of \$15,500 for the project, of which \$792.00 has been spent on the paperwork to facilitate sending these children abroad for their surgery or on costs to travel to Tenwek Hospital.

This equates to an underspend of \$14,708. A new File Form application for the feeding program is appended herewith.

(ORIGINAL COSTING TO SEND PATIENTS TO SRI RAMAKRISHNA FOR CARDIAC SURGERY – SUPPLIED WITH THE FILE FORM)		
ITEM:	Cost (\$)	Cost (Ksh)
Airfares for accompanying adult & patient @ \$1000 ea x 2 (see below)	2000	100,271
Change fee for return flight @ \$50 per flight x 2	100	
Passport & passport photos for patient & accompanying parent @ 4,500 per person	90	9000
Indian visa & photos for patient & accompanying parent @ 8300KSH per person	166	16,600

Passport photos for parent & child @ 700KSH each	14	1400
Fee to Dr Bakare to sign the referral forms	100	
Fee to the PSG for assistance with the documentation	130	
Accommodation & meals post operatively	200	
Allowance for discharge medication	50	
Surgery fee (covered by NHIF)	0	
SUB-TOTAL:	2850	
Deducting contribution from Mamujee brother's foundation	1300	
SUB-TOTAL:	1,550	
TOTAL FOR 10 PATIENTS :	\$15,500	

ACTUAL COSTS INCURRED		
PSG/MEAK Account as from September 2019- February 2020		
ITEM:	Cost (\$)	Cost (KSH)
PATIENT S A		
PASSPORT APPLICATION		10,000.00
VISA		6,500
YELLOW FEVER		4,500
ACCOMMODATION IN MOMBASA		2,000
TRANSPORT		7,500
PATIENT L K		
NHIF		6,200
PATIENT M M & MOTHER		
PASSPORT APPLICATIONS		9,500
TENWEK PATIENTS		
PATIENT G M K & MOTHER		
ACCOMMODATION IN MOMBASA		1,000
TRANSPORT - SGR/ SHUTTLE TO BOMET & BACK TO MSA		
PATIENT C M & DAD		5,200
PATIENT Y J J & MOTHER		4,100
PATIENT Z S & MOTHER		4,000
PATIENT G M K & MOTHER		3,500
ECHO FOR 4 CHILDREN @ TENWEK HOSPITAL		10,000
NHIF COURIER IN NAIROBI FOR PATIENTS A M & C M		1,000
PHONE CALLS & DATA BUNDLES		5,000
TOTAL	\$792.00	80,000

Thank you:

As always, the MEAK team is extremely grateful to Fondation Eagle for their generous grant to support this project. This is the first time we have been unsuccessful in completing our mission, but we thank Fondation Eagle all the same for their unwavering support of our charity as we re-position our activities to help those in need at this unprecedented time.



Ltusharen:

Ltusharen is a young Rendille boy we met whilst opening a water project in the eastern Ndoto mountains. He could only walk on all fours & his parents didn't know where to take him. We have since taken him for thorough physiotherapy and treatment..... And we have been taking him in the vehicle to a specialized school in Marsabit where he is very happy. It is a boarding school where he receives physiotherapy and is educated.

