

Bridge2Aid Friends and Supporters,

As we draw closer to the end of 2019, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the past 12 months. It has been both a celebration of the past 15 years, as well as a solid building block for our future.

As ever, it has been an exciting, busy year for Bridge2Aid. This is down to the hard work and support of our team, trustees, volunteers, supporters, fundraisers, advisors and partners (both in the UK and Tanzania).

I am proud to be part of the Bridge2Aid Community and know that we are only changing lives in Tanzania because we are all in this together, each one of us motivated by a desire to make things better for people living in pain, without basic access to emergency healthcare. It is only with everyone playing their part that we are able to achieve what we have over the past 15 years. For a selection of our best bits of 2019, see below.

We have met some extraordinary people over the past year, and you can see many of their individual stories on our social media channels.

In October and November we worked with Dr Nila in the Mara Region of Tanzania. He is a Regional Dental Officer, and the only dentist serving a population of 2.2 million people. He has such a strong desire to serve his community and was pleased to be a part of our programmes. The 12 Clinical Officers we trained there this year will really help him treat those hard to reach people, and support him in his day to day work. He has recently received an award from the Tanzanian Dental Association in recognition for his outstanding contribution to oral health.

In September I had the honour of spending a week in Malawi with Dr Wiston Mukiwa. He is the Secretary of the Malawian Dental Association and past permanent Secretary of Health at the Ministry of Health in Malawi. He has been working tirelessly for years to increase access to basic dental treatment for the rural communities in his country and truly believes that the Bridge2Aid model will bring his dream closer to being a reality. He will be working alongside our team on the June pilot in Malawi as a training dentist.



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We have been in discussion with Professor Jeremy Bagg at Glasgow Dental School over the past 12 months following his visit to our programmes in 2018. He is heading up the Maldent project in Malawi and this year opened the first, and only, dental school there. He has a unique ability to bring like-minded people together and has a real passion for oral health in Malawi. We are looking forward to working with him over the next few years.

We met Hamis on one of our programmes this year. He is a retired teacher and had been diagnosed with diabetes in 2008. For the past 11 years he has experienced pain and problems eating and sleeping but couldn't afford the bus fare to go to the Regional Hospital. He told us how grateful he was that his local Clinical Officer is now trained to treat his ongoing dental problems.

On a personal note, 2019 was the year I overcame my fear of cycling (I hadn't been on a bike since I was 10) and rode 360Km from Mount Kilimanjaro to the Ngorongoro Crater with an amazing group of Bridge2Aid supporters. As a team we raised £14,500. A massive thank you to all who sponsored us and I would challenge any of you to sign up for the Safari Cycle challenge in 2020 - you won't regret it!

We are now looking forward to 2020, where we will be training 49 more Clinical Officers in Tanzania and 6 Medical Officers in Malawi. We hope that all of our volunteers who are joining our programmes to carry out the training are looking forward to their trips and that you will all support them and encourage them along the way.

Here's to another great year!

Shaenna and the Bridge2Aid team

Shaenna Loughnane, CEO Bridge2Aid



Bridge2Aid Safari Cycle 2019



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Bridge2Aid

2019 Highlights

Introduction

2019 has been an incredible year! We wanted to share some of our proudest moments. Whether you have just discovered Bridge2Aid or you are a long-standing supporter of our work, we want to thank you for taking a moment to read our highlights of 2019. We hope you will support our plans ahead for an ambitious 2020.





7 Dental Training Programmes delivered!

42 Clinical Officers were trained with 100% success rate, making our total number of Clinical Officers trained to date, 592. Each Clinical Officer in Tanzania serves a community of around 10,000 people, meaning nearly 6 million people now have access to emergency dental care.

Bridge2Aid celebrates its 15 year Anniversary!

We celebrated our 15th Anniversary! A local supporter offered us a marvellous venue (Swinhay House) so we held a tea party for Bridge2Aid supporters, friends, volunteers & staff. We also celebrated the occasion at BDIA Dental Showcase with our famous Bridge2Aid Bash, which also provided much needed income to fund future work.



Charity No. 1170578



New Implementation Partner, EH4ALL

We started 2019 with a new partner on the ground in Tanzania to help deliver our programmes. We've spent the past 2 years ensuring that we are working even more closely with local organisations and it's been a very positive first year working with them.

In 2019 we treated 3,595 patients for free

For each training programme we deliver, we treat local communities or free. Most people can't afford the cost of travel and treatment so we often meet people who have been in pain for many years. This year our teams helped 3,595 patients. Since we have started we've treated 58,000 patients!





100th Dental Training Programme

This year Bridge2Aid delivered its 100th dental training programme. We are delighted that so many have received treatment and now have access have a trained health worker in their community. There is so much more to do, but this is an important milestone for the charity!

First Stand-Alone Oral Health Programme

An important focus of our training is teaching how to deliver preventative messages to communities. In April this year we trialled a training programme that focussed solely on teaching Oral Health Education. We are currently assessing the impact of this training and look forward to sharing more information about this in the New Year.



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First Australian Programme

Bridge2Aid Australia was founded to support the programmes in Tanzania through raising funds and attracting new volunteers. This year we had our first all Australian volunteer programme which will help to promote Bridge2Aid Australia and grow the community of supporters.





Thank you to everyone who has supported Bridge2Aid in 2019 from all the staff at Bridge2Aid:

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