



BRINGING HOPE WHERE THERE IS NEED

a 501 (C) (3) public charity organization



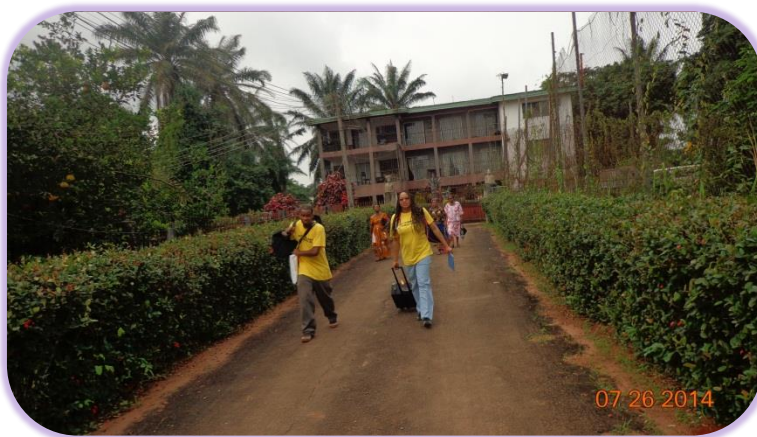
E&F Management Consult Limited

..... Empowering Africans to succeed

EFMC SUPPORTED - MEZU INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION JULY 2014 MEDICAL MISSION IN EMEKUKU OWERRI NIGERIA

Someone once asked, “Do medical missions really help”? Judging from the dearth of resources in the health sector and the incessant industrial actions embarked on by health workers in Nigeria, medical missions with its short term health interventions still have the capacity to provide hope for the less-privileged. Usually services provided during medical missions cut across diverse medical fields and that provides a platform for easy access to diagnosis and treatment for health conditions which were hitherto difficult to identify and manage in rural communities.

From Thursday 24th July to Monday 28th July 2014, **Excellence & Friends Management Consult/Care Centre (EFMC)** supported **MEZU International Foundation(MIF)** medical mission in providing free medical services to the people of Emekuku Owerri-North in Imo State. Emekuku is a large community in Owerri-North Local Government Area of Imo State and about 15 minutes’ drive from Owerri Municipal. It is made up of villages like Ezeogba, Awaka and other smaller hamlets. It is also a neighboring community to Aboh-Mbaise LGA and Ikeduru LGA all in Imo State. The community is fairly populated with clustered settlements and good road network.



Members of the Medical Team arriving

EFMC’s support to MEZU Foundation came at a crucial time in its programming based on its unwavering commitment to empower Africans and emancipate Africa. MEZU International Foundation is at 501 (C) (3) Public Charity Organization incorporated in the state of Maryland, USA. MEZU International Foundation is organized exclusively for charitable, scientific and educational purposes, more specifically for charity to the needy and less-privileged in the USA and Africa. Needs are met by the Foundation where they are needed - through agriculture, community development, healthcare services and education.

The aforementioned provisions by MEZU Foundation International are in tandem with EFMC’s vision of empowering Africans to succeed. Therefore, the 2014 MEZU International Foundation medical mission provided another platform for EFMC to render its services aimed at emancipating Africans one by one.

The first day of activities in the medical mission was used to set up the area to attend to clients at Mezuville. Mezuville is a large property and the country home of the Mezu’s in Emekuku-Owerri, Imo State. The country home has been abandoned for some years and it looked like a wild forest with over grown lawns and

dilapidated buildings. Vehicles and Tractors covered with bushes were seen in various parts of the compound that used to be a factory, hotel and residential apartment but appeared now to be a den for animals.

Setting up the location was really demanding and there were occasional screams of Snake! Snake!! The men acted immediately to find and kill it while the ladies took to their heels to hide till the storm calms. Further efforts to tidy the place involved; packing dusts, moving furniture around, placing drugs, setting up medical equipment and evolving strategies to ensure adequate client flow. About 30 volunteers were seen on the eve of the medical outreach. Somehow it could be called the



Early Arrival of Clients for Medical Services

first day because it was also used as a test run to perfect client flow and strategies so as to ensure a successful outreach. On the second day, which was the day that the outreach began, the news of the medical mission had filtered into the Emekuku community and as well as other neighboring communities. The only publicity

that was made was just the announcement made at the Mount Carmel Catholic Church Emekuku, popularly called "Mission" and then community dwellers spread the news about till it saturated a good part of the community including other neighboring communities. Arrival of patients on this day second day started as early as 4:00am and by 8:00am a total of 378 clients had registered for the exercise. The local Church priest was on hand to say the opening prayers and bless the



People waiting for the Free Medical Services

medical mission and by 9:00am clients took turns to receive free medical services.

The services provided during the medical mission included; Medical consultation, free HIV counseling and testing, Malaria tests, Blood sugar test, Eye checks, distribution of lens, blood pressure check, health talk, drug distribution and food sharing. A medical doctor, pharmacist, optometrist, nurses and other trained health professionals were supported by volunteers from diverse backgrounds. With the continuous arrival of patients, crowd control



People coming to the Venue for Medical Services

and clients registration process was crucial to the success of the entire medical mission. The process was routine in all the days of the medical mission with not more than 200 patients of over 350 clients who registered on each day seen due to time constraints and the availability of just one medical doctor for the medical mission.



HIV testing and counseling by EFMC team

The long wait to see the only available medical doctor escalated the tension outside as people manipulated registration papers, feigned emergency to gain entrance to see the Doctor. One young lady produced tears saying her 6 months old child was dying only for her to use the

form that was issued for her child to smuggle in her husband. Young adults pushed aged women aside and others did all sorts of lobbying to break the queue and gain undue advantage. On several occasions the doors where crashed only to be bridged and order restored by the crowd control volunteers. Also the overcrowded hall made so many of the clients to stand for long hours; this did not deter them as far as it guaranteed them of being seen by the doctor. One very aged woman who had stood for some time lost balance and almost fell but was quickly helped and given a seat. All these were because of their impatience to wait for their turns and follow the crowd control directives. These dramatic incidences further showcased the desperation caused by poverty, pitiable health care services, the lack of discipline and the culture of “everyone for himself and God for all us” in Nigeria.



People listening attentively to Health talks.

The hard working Health professionals deserve a medal for their commitment to achieve the required end. The team worked nonstop from 9:00am till 8:00pm to ensure that clients are properly seen. In all, the EFMC team provided Free HIV testing and counseling, logistics support, patients control and Blood pressure check during the medical mission. A total of 193 clients voluntarily checked their retroviral status and 5 clients were referred for care and treatment after being confirmed to have a

positive retroviral status. One of the male reactive clients

with shock screamed but thanks to the Counseling and referrals he received that reassured him of care and treatment.



Eye Examination



Medical Consultation



A Patient after receiving her Drugs



Cross Section of Volunteers in group Photograph

It's interesting to note that the medical mission brought about diverse diagnosis and referrals to care. The patients would not have received early diagnosis, prescriptions and treatment for their health challenges safe for the medical mission. The impact of the mission was further felt by the food distribution for the clients that had to wait for long hours to see the doctor. Almost all clients that had eye challenges filled their forms because of the free

medications and eye glasses that were provided. This

did not rule out the possibility of some feigning that they couldn't see properly just so as to be eligible for collection of free glasses; perhaps to them "glasses means being in-vogue". The pharmacy being the last place of visit for most clients recorded endless "Thank you" and "God Bless you" to the volunteers at the pharmacy desk. One could tell how overjoyed the clients were, just observing smiles beaming from their faces while leaving the hall with their medications. Those looking ill when they entered where so alive as if all they needed were for someone to talk to them and reassure them.

Irrespective of the challenges posed by the unprecedented number of people that showed up for the free medicals, the medical mission achieved its objective of bringing hope where it is needed. After several days of intensive reaching out to the needy, the organizers were quick to bring together the volunteers to analyze the challenges of the mission and to share ideas

on how to achieve a more impactful outing in future. The interactive session brought to fore useful ideas and insights on the way forward. However, the volunteers of whom a good number of them were students of the Federal University of Technology (FUTO) were grieved to find out that they were not going to receive any stipend for their services after the hard work and sacrifice in transporting themselves from their school at Ihiagwa to Emekuku daily.



EFMC Team at the Medical Mission

For the organizers, the Emekuku medical mission is like a humble beginning and it is sure to form a model for future Mezu International Foundation events aimed at alleviating health challenges in rural areas. The organization of the medical mission can be made better by involving other supporting organizations who can use their experience in projects management and networks to fill up the loop holes seen in the July 2014 medical mission. In all EFMC's Innovation and creativity greatly contributed in making the event a success, that's why they are popularly called "Expert managers" because they are successful at managing projects.



People waiting to gain entrance.

EFMC's initiative in the speedy intervention to provide transport logistics as well as procurement of other logistics items needed for the event made it successful. Also their provision and delivery of HIV testing and counseling, BP and medical history checks during the event was outstanding. To attest to this fact a round of applause was specifically given to the EFMC team and with particular reference to Dr. Obinna Oleribe the Executive Director of EFMC. Dr. Nina Mezu-Nwaba, the eldest of the Mezu children and a pharmacist with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) USA, specifically referred to Dr. Obinna as a God sent angel to make the activity a success. In her words during the post assessment event with all volunteers, she said "I first



Clients queue up to consult with Doctor.

met Dr. Obinna on Facebook and on getting to Nigeria I called him that I was in town for the medical mission and he flew in from Abuja to Owerri just to help set up structures for this event and since then he has been so amazing; in my mind I said, can one still find someone this amazing?". In all, the place of defined roles and responsibilities in any medical mission cannot be overlooked; having the right volunteers and proper client management was key to the success of this medical mission.



The Pharmaceutical team dispensing Drugs

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