

The Link



Sharing news from the Order of St John

St John Kenya responds to crisis in Tana River District

When violent conflict broke out in the Tana River District, St John Kenya responded in applying to the St John Emergency Relief Fund to implement the Tana River Emergency and Protection Response Programme.



St John Kenya describes the situation:

“Conflicts are characterized by a total breakdown of law, security and community structures, with gross human rights violations perpetrated against civilian populations. “The most vulnerable people here are women and children. Upholding their primary wellbeing during these times of crisis will be the driving force for this programme.

“St John Kenya has a network of volunteers throughout the Tana River District. The majority of the volunteers are equipped with essential life saving skills like First Aid and First Care. The volunteers will act as ambassadors of peace, and mobilize, identify, and respond to the most at

risk women and children. The volunteers have had a long history of positive contribution to initiatives ranging from peace building, conflict resolution, home-based care, First Aid and caring for the sick.

“St John will liaise with the Ministry of Health, Red Cross and other stakeholders through its volunteers and Community Health Workers in identifying acute malnourished cases and immediate enrolment on the nutrition program.

“Rehabilitation will be given priority in all levels, from psychosocial and trauma counselling to the provision of emergency aid including basic health.”

visit: www.stjohnkenya.org

In context

Violence in the Tana River District originally flared up during the 2007 elections and there have been incidents in August, September and December last year. The Tana River District is a district of Coast Province, Kenya and is named after the Tana River itself. The major ethnic groups are the Pokomo, many of whom are farmers, and the Orma and Wardey, who are predominantly nomadic.



The district is generally dry and prone to drought. Flooding is also a regular problem, caused by heavy rainfall in upstream areas of the Tana River. Conflicts have occurred between farmers and nomadic peoples over access to water. Tana River District presents an interesting case of the nexus between conflict and food security.

News from around the world...

Fabrice Muamba celebrates with life saving First Aid heroes in England

Ex-footballer and cardiac arrest survivor joins other celebrity guests at St John Ambulance First Aid Awards championing First Aid. Former Bolton midfielder, Fabrice Muamba, who survived a cardiac arrest earlier this year, attended the St John Ambulance First Aid Awards in London last November, to present an award and celebrate life saving individuals.



Fabrice said: "After my cardiac arrest, I received First Aid for over an hour. I was lucky my collapse came in a football stadium where First Aid was on hand. But it's so important that people out in their local communities are embracing First Aid to help their neighbours, their friends and their families – and strangers too. Believe me, it can be the difference between life and death.

"The St John Ambulance First Aid Awards celebrates not just the medical professionals, but ordinary people who are doing extraordinary things and saving lives. All of the finalists should be proud of what they have achieved and are continuing to achieve by knowing First Aid. I hope their achievements encourage other people to learn this important skill."

Awards were presented on stage in front of 350 guests. Finalists and winners included 17 year old Lee Craven who rescued his friend from a frozen canal and treated him for hypothermia, 11 year old Maria Rowe who resuscitated her father when he collapsed while they were home alone, and PC Tristan Barnett who came to the aid of a choking baby while on a routine patrol.

visit: www.sja.org.uk

A special celebration for St John in Mauritius

Thursday 27 December marked a special day for St John in Mauritius. St John Mauritius organised a Mass in the St Jean Church conducted by His Eminence Monseigneur Piat, the head of the Clergy in Mauritius.



Here, the Chairman of St John Mauritius, Prakash Chadee, offers a gift to Monseigneur Piat "I offered a branch of an olive tree and some olive oil as a symbol of peace and hope for a better community life"

The Chairman also

shares his focus for St John in the coming year: "This year St John Mauritius will be focusing on a strategy for recruitment of volunteers and members retention and work on increasing members' motivation and loyalty".

visit: www.sja.mu

St John Australia offer Mental Health First Aid Course

St John Ambulance, Queensland, now offers a two day course in Mental Health First Aid where participants learn how to support a person experiencing a mental health crisis and how to identify the early stages of someone developing a mental illness.

In Australia, almost one in every two people aged between 16 - 85 years of age will suffer from a mental illness at some time in their life. Good mental health is when you can cope with the normal stresses of life and work productively.

St John Specialist Trainer, Blair Ainsworth, said mental illness affects everyone – from the sufferer, to their family and friends, right down to the shop assistant at their local supermarket.

"Mental disease does not discriminate - no matter what your age, gender, race, creed or orientation, it could happen to you or someone close to you."

visit: www.stjohn.org.au

Mama Na Mwana!

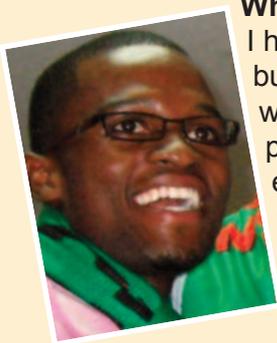
The first St John International Development Programme (IDP) focusing on Maternal Newborn and Child Health has now been named 'Mama Na Mwana'. The name was selected by the 5 Associations taking part in the programme. It means 'Mother and Child' and is easily translatable in the languages spoken in the 5 countries.

In February the third IDP workshop took place in Zambia and there was a buzz in the room as Pippa Hoyland presented the outcomes of the workshop at the St John International Development Advisory Board.

St John Malawi staff member Rodney tells us about his involvement in the IDP..

Name: Rodney Chiwengo

Country: Malawi



What is your role in St John?

I have a primary role of marketing but I'm also responsible for liaising with customers, establishing partnerships and networks, establishing First Aid clubs for the schools programme and I'm currently responsible for managing the Kauma Community Health Program

which has 30 volunteers and 8 Health Surveillance Assistants

What involvement have you had in the development of the IDP programme?

Since the IDP started, I have been part of almost all activities St John Malawi has been engaged in. The first was a workshop on Participatory Rural Appraisal which was aimed at equipping us with the right approaches in all assessments involving us with communities..It was so touching to listen to community members explain the challenges they face when a mother is pregnant.

Tell us something about the last workshop...

The last IDP workshop in Zambia was very different from the other workshops as we were building a feasible project from the different assessments done in the five countries. In fact, it is not easy to develop a program with a common theme for five different countries though there is homogeneity in some health needs. Through project development and planning

lessons from McKinsey group we were able to reach a consensus of the outlook of our program, development of timeframes, Association capacity assessment and presentation of the program to others.

What aspects of Mama Na Mwana are you most looking forward to?

I'm looking forward to seeing Mama Na Mwana contribute to the government's efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goal's on maternal and child health but also doing more than we used to do which will help to create the visibility of St John in Malawi. I see our communities being empowered and St John responding to the health needs of mothers and children.

How do you think Mama Na Mwana will benefit the communities you work in?

Through our project approach, we will help the vulnerable to attend antenatal and post natal care services in the community reducing the money on transport, more children will be screened, their growth monitored and immunized in their respective communities. The communities will also see a reduced number of deaths of mothers related to deliveries.

Community Health Facilitator, Dr Ian Campbell, shares his motivations for sitting on the IDP Advisory Board:

"St John is a movement of diverse people motivated by community belonging, which spills over into sharing their time and energy with other communities so that health and hope and wellness possibilities can really grow"

"I see our communities being empowered and St John responding to the health needs of mothers and children"

Keep up to date with all the new developments of Mama Na Mwana on our website www.orderofstjohn.org/what-we-do and look out for a full update in the June issue of the Link.

News in brief....

St John Investiture in Uganda

Four members of St John Uganda officially received honours from Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, in an investiture ceremony that was presided over by the Lord Prior, Professor Anthony Mellows OBE at the All Saints Cathedral Nakasero on Friday 11 January. The four members invested were:

Professor Gordon Wavamunno, Chairman/Commander of St John Uganda invested as a Knight of the Order

Bishop Emeritus Wilson Mutebi, Vice Chairman of St John Uganda invested as a Commander

Mrs Christine Nandyose Kasirye, the National Executive Secretary of St John Uganda invested as an Officer Sister

George William Katatumba, the Treasurer of St John Uganda invested as a Serving Brother.



"It is difficult to imagine a more important event in my life in the Order of St John"
Professor Gordon Wavamunno, pictured here with the Lord Prior

"I have been admitted in the Order of St John as a Commander, a title I'll treasure so much as one of the most top titles in St John and for this, I have no regrets for spending my entire life with St John" Bishop Emeritus Wilson Mutebi

The function was attended by over 500 people including the retired Archbishop of the Church of Uganda, Luke Orombi, who implored Ugandans to emulate the great example of the four investees by striving

to improve the lives of communities in the country. The Afrinena Orphanage cadet division of St John displayed their talents through a musical performance outside the Cathedral.

St John supports the Zambia Music Awards

St John Zambia and Red Cross partnered to provide First Aid cover at the 2013 Zambian Musical Awards. Many Zambian musicians were present. St John Ambulance was on standby with two paramedics and two volunteers from Zambia Red Cross. Farai of St John Zambia says this:

"It was fantastic that St John Zambia and Red Cross partnered to do the service for the Zambia Musical Awards. A lot of companies were present and it was good to market ourselves".

visit: www.stjohnzambia.org

Dates for the Diary....

Monday 15 April - OHAC Submission Deadline

Monday 13 May to Wednesday 15 May - Grand Council, Newport, Wales

Tuesday 14 May - 125th Anniversary of the Royal Charter

The International Office welcomes Sherona

With Gemma Mullick now on maternity leave Sherona Parkinson has joined the Development Team to take on responsibility for driving programmes and providing assistance throughout the Caribbean and Asia and the Pacific. Australia born, Sherona has worked in International Development in both Australia and the UK. She holds a Bachelor Degree in International Relations and is currently completing a Master of International Development. We are very excited about having Sherona on our team for the coming months.

Meanwhile, we can report that Gemma's little girl has arrived and both mother and baby are doing very well!

Gemma has the following message for the St John family: "Thank you to everyone for their best wishes and I look forward to coming back soon.."

If you would like to support our Mama Na Mwana programme you can give through:
www.justgiving.com/orderofstjohn

For all the latest news and resources from the Order go to the website
www.orderofstjohn.org

If you have any stories you would like to be covered in The Link or you would like any information on any of the news featured in this edition, please contact Saffi Jones at the St John International Office at saffi.jones@orderofstjohn.org or 0044 (0)20 7251 3292