

## **GPHF thanks its donors**

**The GPHF would like to thank the following donors for their generous support of its project work in the past year:**

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## **New address for the GPHF**

The GPHF can be reached, with immediate effect, at its new address in Frankfurt am Main:

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## **GPHF annual general meeting of members**

This year's annual general meeting of GPHF members will take place on 7 March 2007, in the offices of the GPHF head office in Frankfurt am Main, Walther-von-Cronberg-Platz 6.

## **Bork Bretthauer is the new GPHF Chairman**

Bork Bretthauer, head of the International Relations and Country Co-ordination division at the Verband Forschender Arzneimittelhersteller e.V. (VFA) (The Association of research-based pharmaceutical companies), was elected as the new chairman of the GPHF. He takes over from Siegfried Knecht, who has stopped working for the VFA and so is also stepping down from the Management Board of the GPHF.

In addition to Bork Bretthauer, the GPHF Management Board members are: Dr. Jürgen Knackmuß (Merck KGaA) - managing director - and Dr. Thomas Weber (sanofi aventis) - treasurer.

## **GPHF funds AMREF publication**

The GPHF has in the past already found many ways of supporting the project work carried out by the African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF). The result of this joint work was, among others, a guide for laboratory work in rural medical clinics in Africa. The GPHF Management Board has now decided to fund another AMREF publication: The Clinicians' Guide to Quality Outpatients Diagnosis. The Guide has been edited by the British clinician, Dr. Jane Carter, who was previously editor of the laboratory guide. The new guide should be available in hospitals and clinics in Africa very soon.

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### **Imprint:**

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## Basic healthcare in Ethiopia:

# Attat hospital treats over 65,000 patients

For just over twelve months the GPHF has been supporting the basic healthcare programme at the Attat hospital in Ethiopia. The project partners are BILD hilft e.V. and the Bischöfliche Hilfswerk MISEREOR e.V. A first interim report sets out how the project funds donated by GPHF are being used. This report was at the same time the basis for the decision taken by the Management Board of GPHF to continue to support the Attat hospital and its healthcare programme in 2007.

The Attat hospital is located at about 150 km south of the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, in the Guraghe Region. It was founded in 1969 by the "Missionsärztliche Schwestern" (Medical Mission Sisters or The Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries) to provide affordable or free medical care for the people in this densely populated region of Ethiopia. The Mission Sisters believe in involving the population. Only by doing so can the population become better able to look after itself.

Six Mission Sisters currently work at the Attat hospital, assisted by 160 Ethiopian colleagues, including two doctors. In 2006 a total of over 65,000 patients were treated as outpatients or inpatients and almost 1,500 births were assisted. In addition to the medical help, the initial and continuing training of indigenous staff plays an important role in the overall basic healthcare programme. Three nurses have completed their training, and two pharmacists, two laboratory technicians and an X-ray technician have received further training.

## Network of healthcare clinics established

The Attat hospital is part of a network of 24 basic healthcare clinics in the Guraghe region. Across the network, well over 8,000 people were treated over the past year. Malaria, fever and diarrhoea are the main health problems seen. Medical treatment was also given in connection with nearly 800 pregnancies and births, in order to minimise risks for mother and child. In addition,

62 under-nourished children were admitted to the hospital.

At a special nutrition clinic, the children's mothers learn how to prepare affordable and nutritious meals and

how they can ensure healthy and balanced meals for their family using the ingredients they have to hand.



People wait patiently in the outpatient clinic of the Attat hospital, which handles several hundred people a day.

Photo: Misereor

In general, great importance is placed on health education within the basic healthcare programme and across the Attat hospital network. Using role play, songs, and interviews, it is possible to discuss relevant health problems with the villagers. Health concerns also form a major topic for discussion in the women's groups – consisting of more than 2,000 members – set up by the hospital.

This applies in particular to the topic of family planning, which is well accepted. As soon as a woman understands how her cycle works, she can use this knowledge throughout her life as a natural method of planning a family. This work has led to a long-lasting drop in the region's birth rate.

### At a glance:

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## HIV/Aids a major health problem

As in many parts of the world, HIV/Aids is also a major health problem in the region in which the Attat hospital is situated. From January to September 2006 alone 2,470 HIV-tests were carried out, of which 149 proved positive. For those affected, anti-retroviral therapy is available with the drugs provided by the Ethiopian Health Ministry. At the moment, 132 patients are being treated in a special ward of the hospital, financed through the Global Fund. In addition there is also a programme of home care for Aids patients, which already covers twelve villages.

## Drinking water supplies improved too

Securing and improving the water supply is also a key element of the healthcare programme. In recent years 132 water supply points have been set up in the areas surrounding the Attat hospital, which now provide almost 150,000 people with clean drinking water. Thanks to the education work done by the village health assistants, a growing number of households have started to use latrines and rubbish pits, leading to a noticeable reduction in the number of people catching infectious diseases.



Parents bring their sick and undernourished children to the mother and child clinic at the Ethiopian Attat hospital, where they are cured or brought back to a healthy weight.

Photo: Misereor

## Medical help in India

# The Baruipur rolling clinic

**On the occasion of its 20th anniversary in 2005, the GPHF decided not only to support the Attat hospital in Ethiopia, but also to fund the so-called Rolling Clinic in the Indian city of Baruipur, south of Calcutta. In a report from the project partners, Ärzte für die Dritte Welt (Physicians for the Third World), a first interim balance sheet was drawn up after a year of support through the GPHF.**

Ärzte für die Dritte Welt has been present in Howrah, Calcutta's sister city, since 1983. Since then, many doctors have volunteered six weeks of their time to provide basic medical care in a stationary treatment centre or through mobile clinics to people in Howrah and Calcutta who otherwise could not afford to see a doctor.

Since in recent years, increasing numbers of people from the rural districts around Calcutta have been making their way to where the rolling clinics are stationed and have often had to travel by train and to queue for hours, it was decided to go out to reach these people and to set up two outpost clinics in the city of Baruipur to the south of Calcutta.

## Help at hand for 400 patients a day

In accordance with the strict rules of the German Doctors, as they are known, here too patients are examined free of charge

and supplied with medicine. Consultations are held in the direct vicinity of train stations, so that patients can also come from further afield without having to make the journey to Calcutta.

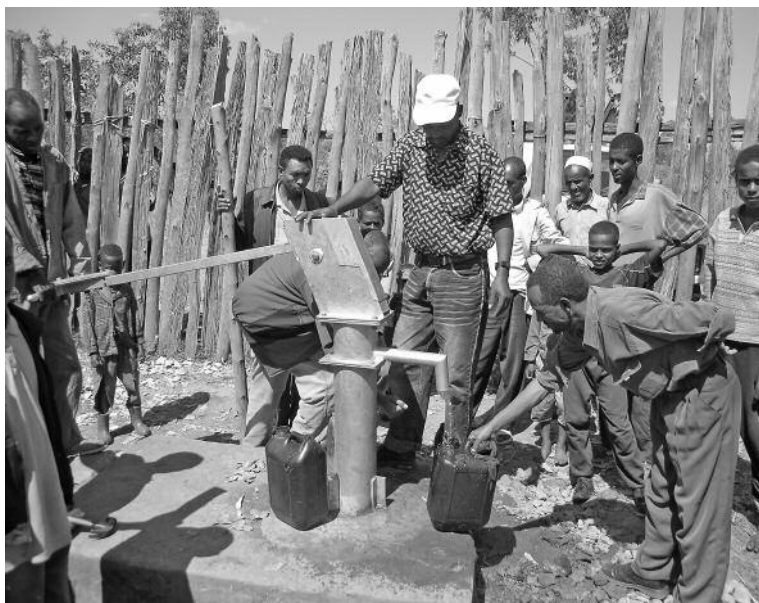
From 120 patients to start with, the number of patients in each of the rolling clinics has risen to over 200. In addition to the two German Doctors, a total of twelve Indian staff is now responsible for caring for the patients.

In addition to acute medical care, guidance on health matters is offered to patients waiting for treatment - something which is very much appreciated. Moreover, cooperation with two labs within easy reach of the rolling clinics has led to improved diagnosis. Emergencies requiring hospital admission are sent to Howrah.

Following on from the successful establishment of both rolling clinics, the intention this year is to focus on expanding the

therapeutic possibilities of providing physiotherapy to patients with chronic joint and bone conditions.

Thanks to the positive interim results, the Management Board of GPHF recently decided to continue to provide financial support to the Baruipur Rolling Clinic in 2007.



The provision of clean drinking water plays an important role in the efforts to improve basic healthcare. Thanks to the support of the GPHF, many new wells have been installed in the areas around the Attat hospital.

Photo: Misereor

## New initiatives against the counterfeiting of drugs

A new WHO working group, the *International Medical Products Anti-Counterfeiting Taskforce (IMPACT)*, will work together with pharmaceutical companies, government and non-governmental agencies to tackle drug counterfeiters. An anti-counterfeiting plan was set up in mid-November at a two-day forum in Bonn, attended by representatives from over 30 countries.

Specialist working groups will look at themes such as medical products legislation and the authorisation of medicines. The GPHF will in future work together with the Technology working group, which has also been set up. Further information: <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/84/9/06-010906/en/>

## 220 Minilabs already operating in 60 countries

The compact laboratory developed by the GPHF to identify counterfeit drugs, the GPHF-Minilab<sup>®</sup>, is now operating in 60 of the world's countries. In the past months, lab units were delivered to Burkina Faso, Liberia and Senegal. A total of 20 Minilabs were ordered from the GPHF in 2006.

In a few weeks time, a 61st country of operation will be added to those already on the list, since the health authorities in Uganda intend to acquire four Minilabs and operate them in the country.

## Minilab Test for Tamiflu<sup>®</sup> developed

The methods developed by GPHF together with the United States Pharmacopoeia (USP) to test for Oseltamivir (Tamiflu<sup>®</sup>), currently the only available oral drug against bird flu, will soon be available and will be able to be incorporated into the GPHF-Minilab<sup>®</sup>.

The background to these test methods is the multitude of counterfeit versions of the original compound, which are in particular being offered over the Internet. Over 40 drug agents can already be checked using the GPHF-Minilab<sup>®</sup>.

## GPHF contributes information on tropical diseases

The editors of the handbook, *Notfall- und Katastrophenpharmazie*, (Pharmacy for emergencies and disasters) published by the Bundesamt für Bevölkerungsschutz und Katastrophenhilfe (BKK) (Federal German office for civilian protection and disaster relief) have invited contributions from the GPHF on the themes of drug counterfeiting, the GPHF-Minilab<sup>®</sup>, as well as information on the medical handling of infectious tropical diseases.

The article by the Head of the GPHF project office, pharmacist Dr. Richard Jähnke on the theme of infectious tropical diseases has also appeared in slightly abbreviated form under the title "Arzneimittel gegen tropische Infektionskrankheiten" (medicines for infectious tropical diseases) in the German pharmaceutical journal, *Deutsche Apotheker Zeitung* (Issue No. 4/2007, pages 56 - 65).