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Latest news from THET

Somaliland update

This month sees cause for much celebration amongst the Somaliland team at THET. Official confirmation was received from DfID of funding for the next health systems strengthening programme "Harmonised support for Somali Maternal and Child Health". This programme builds upon the previous body of work strengthening the health system in Somaliland with a particular focus on reducing the rates of maternal and child mortality which are amongst the worst in the world.

Somaliland's second elections were held on the 26th and were widely reported to be free and fair. Election results were released on Friday the 2nd of July and saw the Kulmiye Party win the election with a 49.2% majority.

In other news there have been a large number of trips taking place this year through funding from the EC. In April THET recruited a finance trainer, Andrew Craig, to assist partners at nursing and medical training institutions with their financial development. The partners were very appreciative and feedback and comments seemed to be very positive. Andrew was in country for 2 months carrying out his work. Frieda Von Gyer, a retired nurse practitioner in gynaecology, spent 5 weeks in country dividing her time between Hargeisa Group Hospital (HGH) and the Edna Adan Maternity Hospital (EAH). Her time at HGH was spent supervising and providing bed side clinical training. Although she noted that the hospital is restricted in both physical and human resources she was hugely impressed by the welcome she received and enjoyed all her time in country and hopes to return to providing further training.

In Somaliland 1 in 5 people suffer from mental health issues and 1/3 of all beds in Hargeisa's main Hospital are taken up by the mental health ward. In May, Susannah Whitwell and Mary-Jo Doyle from Kings Hospital Partners (KHP) and Maudsley Hospital went on a trip to carry out teaching for final year nursing students and medical interns. It was the first time that nursing students at Boroma have received any external training in mental health and the pre and post testing showed a vast improvement in attitude and knowledge of mental health at the end of the trip. It is hoped that this training may be possible again in the future and the nurses felt it essential.

THET – Events and Activities

Shaping the future: Growth, Impact and Innovation

THET's UK Health Links Conference 2010 will take place on 4th November 2010 at 9.30 - 16.30 at the East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham.

The conference will explore good practice in health and development, examine the ways in which Links are addressing challenges in global health and look at the benefits of linking for UK health professionals. Registration fees are £25 (£15 students). If you register before the 1st August 2010 and pay only £20 (£10 students). For registration details, please email info@thet.org.

Support Team THET at the British 10k run!

26 runners will be taking part in the British 10k run on Sunday 11th July 2010 at 9:35am for THET. If you would like to come along and cheer us on, we will have 2 cheering spots. Family, friends and other supporters are welcome to join THET staff to cheer our runners on. The more the merrier! Cheering spot number 1 will be on the Embankment (along the river). Cheering spot number 2 will be at White Hall (on the finish line). After the run, THET will host a thank you lunch at **The Old Star Pub** in St James' Park (just opposite the station). If you can't make it, but want to support our runners, please sponsor us through THET's [fundraising page](#).

Collection of case studies

THET is putting together a collection of case studies and interviews of people involved in Links for the first time. If you are a UK health professional involved in a Health Link and are about to go on your first overseas trip, we would be grateful if you could take part in a short interview. To find out more, please email Anna Downie anna@thet.org.

Health Links – Events and Activities

"Changing lives for good", Wales for Africa Health Links Conference

Wales for Africa Health Links are putting on their annual conference on Thursday 8th July 2010 at the Swalec Stadium, Cardiff. It will focus on maternal health, child health, environmental health & the challenges involving students in Health Links. For more information and how to attend please click [here](#).

Resources for Links

Edulink website relaunched

EDULINK – financed by the European Union and implemented by the ACP Secretariat, which funds cooperative projects between Higher Education Institutions in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States and the EU Member States– has launched a redesigned website to better promote the programme and its projects, increase its news coverage, and enable better exchange of ideas. For an overview of the EDULINK programme, please click [here](#).

The Africa Unit's 'Good Practice in Educational Partnerships Guide'

The Africa Unit aims to promote, facilitate and enhance partnerships between African and UK Higher and Further education institutions. In response to the lack of knowledge and data about the scope, nature and depth of UK-Africa partnerships in this area, the Unit has worked with the Gondar - Leicester Health Link and others to prepare the 'Good Practice in Educational Partnerships Guide'. Further details and a link to the guide can be found at www.ukafricapartnerships.org.

WHO has launched a new report on caring for the injured and disabled primarily focused on case studies from developing countries which may be useful for Links. The report is called

'Strengthening care for the injured: Success stories and lessons learned from around the world' and can be downloaded **here**.

Vacancies

Somaliland Programme Manager

THET is recruiting for a Programme Manager to lead the implementation of a high quality programme of work designed to help strengthen health care systems in Somaliland. For more details and how to apply click **here**. The closing date for applications is 19th July 2010.

Biomedical Engineer

THET is recruiting for an experienced volunteer to assist in the design and development of a course that will produce trained hospital-level medical equipment technicians for the health sector in Zambia. For more details and how to apply click **here**. The closing date for applications is 31st July 2010.

BSc Midwifery Lead Tutor

THET is recruiting for a Midwifery Tutor to plan, implement and run a high quality BSc Midwifery Programme for qualified midwives in Hargeisa, Somaliland. Subject to funding approval, the position will be on an 18 months contract. For more details and how to apply, click **here**. Closing date for applications is 16th July, interviews week beginning August 5th.

Medsin-UK Board of Trustees

Medsin-UK are looking for candidates enthusiastic to join our new Board for a minimum term of 2 years from this Autumn. More details about the role and how to apply is available **here**. Please note the closing date for applications is Friday 31st July. ****Please note this is not a THET vacancy****

RCP teaching visits to West Africa

The Royal College of Physicians is looking for consultants in various specialties to go on short teaching visits to West Africa as part of a collaboration programme with the West African College of Physicians. For more information, please click **here**. ****Please note this is not a THET vacancy****

Other news

RSM Conference

The Royal Society of Medicine have a conference on 'Health, wealth and ways of life: What can we learn from the Swedish, US and UK experience?' on Thursday 23 – Friday 24 September 2010.

For more details on this and other RSM conferences please click **here**.

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