

December 2023

Dear Friends,

Advent Greetings in the name of Jesus. I apologize for the delay in submitting a new Dear Friends letter. The next two letters will cover some major updates from the project. First, my name is Elijah Yego, the new clinic director who took over after Amos Liangor Limo left in the first half of 2022. He left to pursue a career in politics via the County Assembly of West Pokot. While pursuing my clinical officer diploma, I completed my medical attachment, volunteered, and served at the Alale clinic whenever I could for three years under the tutelage of Amos and other experienced workers. Amos and the health committee could see my gifts, skills, and passion for leadership. When Amos decided to leave, the health committee decided to appoint me as the new director. I am a young man married to my wife, Philomena Cherotich, with one son, Normans Propcho. It has been a joy to serve as the new clinic director and provide quality health care in our community.

We hope the grace of our Lord is sufficient to all of you there in the USA, just as it is to us here in Alale, Kenya. The hard global economic times have strained many people in terms of getting their basic needs. The price of every commodity in the market has shot up. The rainfall patterns have changed to the point that it has confused the economic activities of farming here in Kenya and Alale, in particular. Despite all that, the Lord has been good to us and we have every reason to thank Him. Join me as I report on the following aspects of the project:

Health Center

We are grateful for your support which enables us to provide quality healthcare in our community. Over the past three years, the Health Centre committee has been working closely to see that the running of the Center is moving smoothly towards sustainability. We thank God we made it through COVID-19. With good management, we have been able to grow towards greater sustainability and utilize additional funds to make some much-needed renovations of buildings at the facility and address major repairs.

We have been working with AIC Health Ministries (AICHM) and exploring what will be needed for us to grow from being a clinic and inpatient center to a full hospital. We visited a couple of nearby hospitals that have done this. We are learning a lot and have been developing our plan of action to achieve our goals. We laid the foundation for the maternity wing this year and will be working with the RCA and AICHM to complete this wing. Pastor Benjamin Korimuny, the health facility treasurer, has been attending Christian Health Association of Kenya (CHAK) Annual General Meetings in which our health center has been one of the members. The organization has been helping us buy some of the expensive equipment such as solar a refrigerator, weighing

scales, ward beds, blood pressure machines, and other equipment. We have shared with them the need for a modern maternity wing in our health center. They were happy to hear we have saved 1.5 million Kenya Shillings, approximately 1/3 to start this project. By God's grace and your support, we look forward to completing this over the next 6-9 months. Seeing our initiative, CHAK promised to equip at least one room with some beds and any necessary items that may be required as soon as the project reaches completion. As a way of showing their commitment, they shared with us a maternity wing architectural plan sketch map to check if it would meet our needs and fit our budget. Getting such a plan on our own would have cost us 50,000 Kenya Shillings (\$500 US Dollars).



From Left: Mr. Elijah Yego, the Clinical Officer in charge, and Mr. Silas Krop the Accountant having a chat at the facility's gate with Larry McAuley when he visited the facility in April 2022.



Maternity wing foundation laid in 2023.

Our new accountant Mr. Silas Krop who took over from the former accountant Irene Chebet is doing a good job in the facility in keeping good financial records.

Ambulance

The ambulance is functioning well, though its repair costs have been getting higher and higher. We are grateful that AICHM and RCA are in talks about replacing this old 2007 ambulance. We pray it can be finalized over the next six months.





Above left: ambulance; Above right: Pokot Mother Son being treated for burns after falling in cooking fire March 2023

We are pleased to report that the health facility executive committee has opened an independent bank account in Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB Bank) in Kapenguria Branch. The account will be accessed by the three signatories: Mrs. Janet Alany, Chairperson, Pastor. Benjamin Korimuny, Treasurer, and me, Mr. Elijah Yego-Clinical Officer in Charge. Having an independent bank account for the health facility separate from the Pokot RCA account is an essential requirement for us to be able to work with the government and other interested potential partners and supporters.

Prayer Requests

- 1. Praise God for the start of rains. Pray we have a good rainy season and productive crops.
- 2. For the ongoing success of our clinic to meet the needs of the underserved in our community.
- 3. For the plans being worked out to secure a new ambulance by AICHM and RCA Global Mission.
- 4. For our progress and plans to complete the maternity wing and grow to become a full regional hospital in five years.
- 5. Continued prayers for the new student pastors and the Alale Girls Secondary School scholarship recipients that they may focus and do well in their studies.
- 6. Continue prayers for the new 33 churches engaged in CCMP which is breaking the cycle of poverty and enabling the Pokot to move towards greater sustainability.

Thank you for your faithful support. We will share more in January. Receive many greetings from your beloved friends in Alale, Kenya. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Report shared by: Elijah Yego, Clinical Officer in Charge Lokeno John Lochoge, Community Development Facilitator (CDF)