

Rotary Global Grant I529067
“Hepatitis Free Mongolia”
2017-2018

In the fall of 2017 and the fall of 2018, the following activities were completed under the global grant a collaboration of the Flagstaff Rotary Club in District 5495 (formerly 5510 and 5490), the Ulaanbaatar Rotary Club in District 3450 and FIRE – Flagstaff International Relief Effort based in Flagstaff, AZ and Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Funding

\$112,264 was raised from 31 Rotary Clubs, 17 individuals, 8 Districts, representing 6 countries and Rotary Foundation. 15.5% of the budget was saved through in-kind donations and partnerships in Mongolia.

Screening Activities

From these 5,017 people, the following tests and results were found.

- 2,588 ultrasound examinations were given
- 1,419 FibroScan examinations were given
- 1,897 people were seen by a hepatologist
- 105 people were seen by an oncologist
- 300 people were tested for AFP

- 733 (14.6%) people tested positive for HBV
- 446 (8.9%) people tested positive for HCV
- 45 (.9%) people tested positive for both HBV and HCV
- 181 people were found to have cirrhosis
- 352 people were found to have fatty liver
- 44 people were suspected of having liver cancer
- 11 people were suspected of having some other kind of cancer

The 44 people that were suspected of having liver cancer (HCC) were sent to the National Center for Cancer for further testing. All 44 cases were first-time diagnoses. We have followed these 44 people since the screening. Today, their status is as follows;

- 16 people had started treatment such as TACE, RFA and surgery
- 6 people were diagnosed too late for treatment
- 1 patient died within 1 month of our screening event
- 4 people have a nodule in cirrhotic liver and are now being followed by regular doctor visits
- 9 people did not have liver cancer yet but will need to be followed by a doctor
- 3 people did not go to for further examination due to financial constraints

36% of the people seen through this project received some kind of first-time liver-related diagnosis. 1,1812 people are now empowered with vital health information to change and save their lives.

Hepatitis B Vaccination

2,000 HBV vaccine vouchers were given. Due to the start of the national Healthy Liver program, there was no HBV vaccine available in all of Mongolia until November, so we were unable to administer the first dose of the vaccine during the screening. Instead, we recorded the name and contact information for each participant and gave them a voucher to return and receive the vaccine.

We purchased and delivered all three doses of the HBV vaccine for 2,000 participants to the Dornod Province Health Department. They are working with the family and county clinics and have administered the first dose. They will continue until all 2,000 people have received all three doses of the vaccine

Community Awareness Activities

In collaboration with local governor's' office and local health department, we conducted a community awareness fair in the center of the province capital. T-shirts and hats with the project logos were provided to the all health care workers who took part in the project and worn during the fair.

We educated community members through the distribution of pamphlets and posters and provided speakers and information booths, which included doctors the local clinics. The fair was family oriented with singing and dancing performances and activities for all ages. The national and local TV stations broadcast several interviews and news stories about the event. An estimated 800 people attended.

In addition to the community awareness fair, we also spent one week at the local central market distributing information and promoting awareness.

50,000 copies of five types of pamphlets, 400 copies of a poster, and 4,000 patient record books were printed and distributed to local communities.

Health Care Worker Training

36 health care workers from 13 counties, the provincial hospital, and the health department participated in the classroom training at the Province capital for two days. All healthcare workers were given Continuing Medical Education credits for the two-day training. The local health department, FIRE team members and the visiting specialist from Ulaanbaatar taught these sessions.

The training included the following focuses:

- Basic information on the prevalence of viral hepatitis in Mongolia and throughout the world
- Diagnosis and treatment of B, C and delta hepatitis
- The current situation of liver cancer in Mongolia
- The modern trend of diagnosis and treatment of liver cancer

400 copies of "Guidelines for the screening, diagnosis, and treatment of viral hepatitis", which was approved by Ministerial order #249, were printed and distributed to local health care

workers. We had intended to print the “Physicians Guide to Viral Hepatitis” For HBV and HCV, but the Ministry of Health asked us to print and distribute their official guidelines. We viewed this change as an additional way to positively support the local leadership in Mongolia’s and their own initiatives, encouraging local ownership of the project as well as long-term sustainability.

During this training, we also distributed 20 computers, one computer to each clinic as well as the health department. MobiComm, a Mongolian communications company, donated the processors. These computers will be used for long-term support and training over the Internet.

The visiting specialists from Ulaanbaatar also worked side by side with 16 local health care workers when visiting each hospital and taught them techniques through a hands-on “shadow training” approach.

Advocacy Meeting

Twenty community leaders, business owners and policymakers took part in a three-hour meeting. Four speakers including doctors, FIRE representatives, and government leaders, spoke about the nation’s viral hepatitis and liver cancer morbidity, the current situation of viral hepatitis in Dornod Province, and this project’s results. They were also presented with ideas on how to care for their community through logistics and financial influences for further solution-based programming.

Hepatitis Coordinator Training (2018)

We worked with the Health Center of Saga University, Japan to organize a training for the nation's first "Hepatitis Coordinators" in Töv province. A visiting specialist from Saga University trained 108 participants including health care workers, social workers, and health insurance inspectors from across Töv province. This was a pilot training program aimed at creating awareness and increasing participation in the national "Healthy Liver" program.

Photos and Videos

You can view a full video report of the project on our non-profit partner’s YouTube page. It is just over 8 minutes long. You are welcome to share this video anywhere you would like.

<https://youtu.be/5gUijNAKQu4>

You can view the personal story of one of the families who benefited from this project at the link below. PLEASE note, this video can not be shared on Facebook or YouTube in order to protect the privacy of the featured family.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NUBnZxRYrCU>

For photographs of the project, please visit the below photo album.

<https://fireprojects.smugmug.com/Dornod-2017/>