



SAVING LIVES

IMPACTS & SUCCESS

at the

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTRE

IN KURON

COMMENT Napil Resident 2021: *“I think the [hospital] is the most important program of HTPVK. That one helps people stay healthy and save the children. Many come from very far and before we saw so many people dying, but now it is much better.”*

Mathew Haumann Health Care Centre started in 2006 serving the wider area around Kuron Region. This is the only health facility for over many kilometers around. It is used extensively by the Toposa who live around.

On Sunday.21.Nov.2021 at around 5:00 AM., Ms. Napir from Namuton, arrived at the Primary Health Center in Matara, Kuron area. She was expecting a baby any time now and she wanted to have the midwives of the Centre check her out. She had been a participant of the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) awareness programs the health staff had carried out over the past month. From this Ms. Napir knew that she must go to the Health Facility if she thought there was any problem.



Figure 1 Matthew Hauman Primary Health Care Centre in Matara



Figure 2 Midwife Alia Beatrice

Midwife Alia Beatrice thought that everything seemed normal except that the babies head was too high. The mother was ready for delivery and Beatrice kept her in the centre overnight. However, things were not going according to usual birth phases. First of all, even though Ms. Napir had dilated sufficiently for a birth, the child was not coming out. Alia monitored mother and child throughout the night barely getting any sleep herself. On Monday morning, she knew that there were complications with the labor. The amniotic sac was showing a greenish color, which is a sure sign something is wrong.

A quick meeting was called of the Clinical Officer and the other nursing staff. It was decided to directly refer this mother to Kapoeta Hospital where they had the proper equipment and medications to treat such a case. The problem was that the Health Centre has no vehicle. The main office of the HPTVK programs was contacted and transport with driver was quickly mobilized. Midwife Patricia Nakalong volunteered to accompany the mother on the 10 hour road trip. She quickly gathered a supply of medicines, water, food, and other things she would need along the way. Within a very short time everything was prepared and they were on their way. The

case was so desperate that before they left, Fr. Henry baptized the baby and blessed the mother as they hurriedly left for Kapoeta. Everyone was thinking the worst and praying for a miracle.

Experienced Peace Village driver, Peter Ayala, moved along the torturous and difficult road as quickly as possible. He understood the gravity of the situation. By the Grace of God, he was able to arrive in Kapoeta at around 11:00 pm. During the bumpy and rough journey, mother and child were slowly growing worse and there was real concern for their lives. Patricia prayed that there was still time.

They found the Kapoeta Hospital Duty Nurse at her station and ready to assist. The Doctor was called and at around 3:00 am in the morning a C-Section was performed on the mother. SUCCESS ! Mother and child survived and both are healthy. Ms. Napir will have to stay in the hospital about two weeks to allow the stitches to heal. In the meantime, all the Peace Village staff breathed a sigh of relief.

Every life is precious and so often, there is death and disease all around. Amidst all the paperwork, meetings, and reporting requirements, one can forget that people are the most important part of the presence here. This is why HTPVK is here! To save lives. To improve living conditions. To improve the health of the mothers. It was through the coordinated and quick actions of many HTPVK staff that this woman and her child are alive today.



Figure 3 Midwife Patricia talks to Toposa mother

2021 Comment by woman at health clinic when her sick child was cured: “...In past days, people would die like nothing, but now, our children can live...”

Thank God for Miracles!.....IT’S A BOY !!!

(sources: interview with health staff edited by Gabe Hurrish: 25.Nov.2021)