

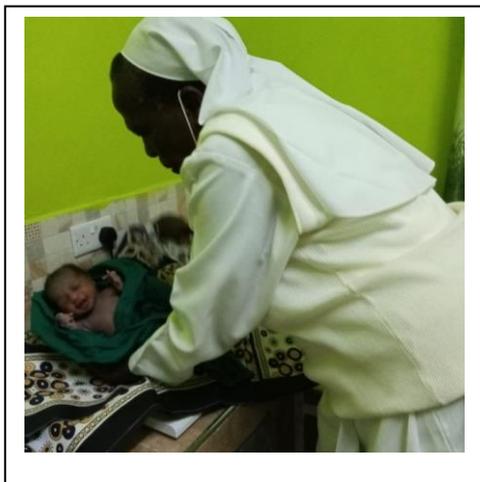
## ***Building a Maternity Unit in Kalemunyang, Turkwel - The Realization of a Dream***

### **Completion Report**

When we issued our progress report in May 2020, work on the Maternity Unit in Kalemunyang, Turkwel was well under way (see <https://www.dennehycrossparish.ie/2020/05/13/12917/>). Construction continued apace over the following few months, and the unit was completed and fully equipped by October 2020.



On 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020, an official commissioning ceremony was held. The Unit was blessed and declared open by the Bishop at 9.00am local time.



Within hours the first baby, Rosalie Pascalia, was safely delivered. Appended to this report is a heart-warming first-hand account from Fr. Oliver Noonan, SMA, which clearly demonstrates the significant benefits the maternity unit has provided for mothers and babies in this isolated desert area.

We are very grateful to Fr. Oliver for his help and advice to us since the project was first mooted.

Sr. Pascalia, a member of the Kenyan Sisters of Mary of Kakamega, has worked in Lorugum Health Centre for the past 17 years and is also in charge of the Kalemunyang Clinic, where the new Maternity Unit has been built. The successful completion of the project is due in no small measure to Sr. Pascalia's extraordinary dedication and skill. It was she who had the original dream of building such a facility, and it was she who oversaw the design, interviewed and appointed the successful builder, and supervised every stage of the building, equipping and commissioning of the unit.

Not only was it completed within a very short time, it was also completed within budget. The full estimated costs, including solar power and an additional water tank, were Ksh 10,894,156. The actual costs were as follows:

| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>   |                      |
|--|----------------------|
|  | Amount (Ksh)         |
| Construction Costs: Labour   | 6,225,224.00         |
| Construction Costs: Materials                                      | 2,058,576.00         |
| Equipment & Furniture  | 2,111,598.00         |
| Solar installation and water tank                                  | 410,519.00           |
| Professional Fees  | 57,000.00            |
| Extras, including bank charges                                     | 14,858.00            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>10,877,775.00</b> |
| Total transferred to bank account in Turkwel (€99,388.20 inc fees) | <b>10,935,332.00</b> |
| Balance in bank account in Turkwel (approx €428)                   | 57,557.00            |
|  |                      |

When we reported in May, we had retained a contingency fund of €5,125.55 in the Faith in Action Turkwel account in Cork. Since then further donations have been received, bringing the current total in the account to €12,470.39.

| INCOME  |                    | EXPENDITURE          |                          |
|---|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Donations   | €101,855.34        | Transfers to Turkwel | €99,328.20               |
| ElectricAid   | €10,000.00         | Bank fees            | €60.00                   |
| Interest  | €3.25              |                      |                          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>€111,858.59</b> | <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>€99,388.20</b>        |
|   |                    |                      |                          |
| Balance in Faith in Action Turkwel Account 17.01.2021 |                    |                      | <b><u>€12,470.39</u></b> |

We wish to acknowledge a donation of €10,000 from ElectricAid towards equipment for the maternity unit. Ballineaspig Parish and ElectricAid co-funded the building of the original clinic in Kalemunyang in 2009.

### **Future Plans**

The news of the new maternity unit has spread throughout the district, which in turn has led to greatly increased attendances. The dispensary now operates as a 24 hour rather than daytime only facility. This in turn has led to a need for more staff and for facilities for them and the new mothers

and babies. Sr. Pascalia has identified a pressing need for a kitchen and storeroom. She also plans to have the entire compound (650 metres) fenced for the safety and security of staff and patients.

As we have €12,470 remaining in the account, we asked Sr. Pascalia to send us detailed costings for both projects. We received those this week. The cost for the kitchen and storeroom is €20,491, the fence will cost €16,238 (€ amounts estimated, based on average rate of exchange applied to previous transfers).

We have submitted an application to the Staff of the HSE Association for the Relief of Poverty (SHARP) for the balance of €8,021 required to complete the kitchen and storeroom. We hope to receive a favourable response.

We plan to raise funds for the fence later this year.

### **Warmest thanks**

Our sincere thanks to each and every donor whose extraordinary generosity made Sr Pascalia's dream come true. Mothers and babies will live, who otherwise might have died. Every time a pregnant woman gives birth in Kalemunyang in safety and dignity, every time a healthy baby is delivered, know that you have played a part in this everyday miracle. You can say with truth that you have made a difference between life and death. May God reward you for your goodness.

Faith in Action Group

16 February 2021

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### **Report from Fr. Oliver Noonan, SMA**

**15<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Elisabeth Koriang is from the village of Niapa in Turkwell Parish, Lodwar Diocese, Kenya. Naipa is 105 km from Lodwar District Hospital, a journey that could take two days. The roads are extremely rough; they are made out of gravel and stones, there is no public transport from this village, it is an outpost far from all necessary amenities. Elisabeth is nine months pregnant and needs medical care for a safe delivery. In the past, it is unknown what might have happened. Fortunately, Kalemunyang is not too far and through word of mouth – there is a new maternity clinic. Hazardous as it may seem, Elisabeth managed to reach Kalemunyang with the aid of a motorcycle. It was a tedious journey but knowing that in Kalemunyang she would get the necessary help, motivated her to reach it.



*Elisabeth Koriang*

I arrived at Kalemunyang at 10am on the 15<sup>th</sup> January to visit the new maternity unit. This is a fine building, it has all the necessary rooms, equipment and space that is necessary to function

and offer quality services to expectant mums. There is a reception, pre-natal room, delivery room, post-natal room and a qualified staff to insure safe deliveries. Next to the maternity unit is the clinic which has laboratory, a clinical officer and a pharmacy. All providing a remarkable medical facility to the local people.



*The New Kalemunyang Maternity Clinic with the very proud staff.*

When I first visited Kalemunyang in 2003, there was an old clinic made of timber, with one room. I often carried expectant mums to Lodwar and there were sometimes occasions when the baby did not survive. What has happened in Kalemunyang is nothing short of a miracle for expectant mums. Many miracles happen around us every day and are the result of people's generosity, kindness and looking out for their fellow human being. This is what happened in Kalemunyang and a great appreciation goes to

all of you who donated towards this maternity clinic with special thanks to the Faith in Action Group who spearheaded the fundraising and to Sr. Pascalina. She is a wonderful Kenyan Sister who worked tirelessly to bring this project to its successful completion.

Let's get back to our friend Elisabeth Korieng. Just before I arrived at Kalemunyang, Elisabeth gave birth to a beautiful baby girl named Ruth. Thanks to the medical help from the staff, Mum and baby are doing well. I asked Elisabeth could I take a picture of Baby Ruth and she agreed. I hope one day Ruth will come to learn that her birth was greeted with joy seven thousand miles away in the Church of the Holy Spirit, Dennehy's Cross, Cork, Ireland.



*Baby Ruth*