



Zimbabwe Community Health Intervention Research Project

Drums & Cymbals

Greetings Everyone!

I can almost hear the drum rolls as the excitement continues to grow. The arrival of our visitors has certainly added to the “buzzing” at Zichire. The first arrival was our old friend Cynthia Woodson from RTI whose brief was to assess if our ethnographic team came up to scratch. Happily all the members of the team have now been CERTIFIED, so well done Zichire field staff – ***Congratulations! – Makorokoto!! - Amhlope !!!!***

Thank you to Cynthia for “taking the trauma out of the certification process” (quote from Reggie); for the Moon Pies and for the Chocolate Bites – these goodies reinforced the Zimbabwean philosophy that everything that is imported is better!

As the saying goes, “all good things come to an end” – thus we said goodbye to Cynthia on 23 January, goodbye to Moon Pies and Chocolate Bites.

Next to arrive were Dan & Keira on 20 January – what a saga – more about that in the next Bulletin. Dan & Keira are here to assist with the training of the field staff and have also been helpful in other areas – to borrow another of Danka’s expressions: “They are really cool”. Next, Chris Kelly of RTI breezed in on 22 January, boggled our minds with “Bill Gates”-type jargon, and breezed out again – oh yes, he sorted out the server somewhere between breezing in and breezing out. He was good fun and we look forward to seeing him again.

Next was Betsy on 23 January, who is anxiously awaiting our acquisition of the Lab site so that she can demonstrate her skills in setting up a laboratory.

Well friends, we’re getting there and each new day sees the Zichire project take a few more “next steps” forward.

So until next time,

*Ciao,
Sherla*

**ALL HUMAN BEINGS ARE BORN
EQUAL
IN DIGNITY AND RIGHTS**

Universal Declaration of Human Rights No 1

Bulletin

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IN THE FIELD *by Prof*

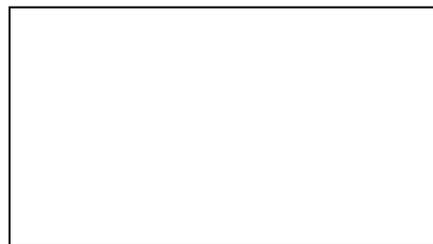
The findings from the Acasi Pilot have just been made available and analyses will shortly be done. However, a preliminary look at the data suggests that the data appears to be reliable and with none of the anomalies found in the China and Indian data. It seems then, that we will be using Acasi in the field! Preparations to Field in mid-February are well underway.

The TWO 4WD Land Cruisers have arrived and have already been licensed and registered. Tasmin Steenbok has gained valuable experience and skills in the long and arduous process of clearing these vehicles through Customs, which has also meant a considerable saving on clearing costs for ZiCHIRE. Well done, Tazz.

The Lab equipment is due to arrive in the next week or so (all 2.5 tonnes of it) and we are now considering having a work party to unpack and check the equipment! So far we are still on track to meet our start date.

UZARI Lab News

by Sharon & Luanne



The new ZiCHIRE Mobile Lab

Luanne Rodgers has finished measuring up the Mobile Laboratory. We have found a portable loo, but it’s the size of a telephone booth (The Executive) and will take a team of strong men to transport – so much for portable ...

We are looking forward to the Unpacking party. We have our ‘McGyver bag’ packed and will be ready for absolutely *anything*. We’re going to co-opt anyone willing to help. Danka is fighting in our

corner for non-humungo labels (that's gi-normous in Zimbabwean).

Pre-Baseline, Biological & ACASI Training

By Keira Armstrong - "Foreign Correspondent"

This week has been a chance to bring our new, energetic, ever-growing team together! We have all learned a great deal about the project that we hope to do. We have asked questions, brought up important issues, had discussions and have gotten to know each other a little bit better. I'm sure that it is only the beginning! The following is a light-hearted look at the "intense" week of training.

Day 1: Everyone came together for introductions and a project overview, from the team of new Research Nurses, to the ever-bustling office staff, to drivers, to Prof Woelk. Everyone was asked during the introduction to describe him or herself. I think that some of the descriptors listed below will help us to get to know our new colleagues:

Godfrey (aka: Prof—described by Mark): "Our Hero."

Martin: "I enjoy meeting new friends."

Faith: "I like my space."

Gertrude and Patricia: "I like laughing."

Petronella: "I'm a pleasant young lady."

Reggie: "Some people say I'm too serious."

Joseph (Gawe not Garwe): outgoing.

Winston and Chiringa: "I'm just a Nice Guy."

Mark: "I can't repeat it in polite company."

Betsy: "Quiet but Persistent."

Tasmin (aka: Queen of Customs): "Persuasive."

Dan (aka: Danka's husband): "I'm methodical and a perfectionist."

Danka (affirmed by those who met her): Intense and energetic

Penny (aka: the famous musician): "Musical."

Gift (described by the office staff): A gentleman.

Sherla (aka: Mrs. Greenland): "An organizer."

Shingi: "I'm just myself."

Gugu: "I'm a friendly person."

Sihle (aka: Judge Gubbay): She is opinionated and talkative.

Anna: "I'm an extrovert."

Girley: "I'm pleasant and talkative."

Irene: "I'm very serious with work."

Dorcias: "I'm quiet."

Elizabeth: "I love harmony."

Rutendo: "I'm quiet but I am very particular when it comes to accuracy. I enjoy working."

Sharon: "Some say I'm resourceful."

Arthur: "I'm reserved."

Patrick: "I'm a perfectionist and am demanding from everyone, even my friends."

Hlanai: "I'm willing to learn."

Luanne: "I'm a perfectionist."

Monica (described by Reggie): Hardworking and quiet

And me, Keira (assigned by Gertrude and Faith): Full of energy and able to organize.

Thank you to Gertrude for standing up to fill us in on the progress to date with visiting and selecting growth points. Despite some delays in the morning we were able to end a bit early on day 1!

Day 2: Everyone gathered in the morning to discuss how to avoid becoming the next international ethics controversy. The Protecting Human Subjects session went off well and will allow us to certify that all of our office and field staff are ready to protect the rights of our future research participants. Reggie took over to lead us through contacting subjects. In the afternoon, Shingi was able to introduce the paper and pen interview and the new interviewers tried out the most sensitive survey questions on the old field team.

Day 3: Wednesday was spent getting acquainted with the computers and the infamous ACASI. Patricia walked us through the many different bits of equipment in the backpacks. Petronella had been assigned a "short" session on informed consent which erupted into a very fruitful discussion of important issues to consider before going into the field. After lunch, Shingi led us through an introduction to the ACASI and we all hoped that there would be NO lightning strikes! Everyone had a chance to practice with the computers and we are looking forward to getting the new version from RTI.

Day 4: Thursday has been pleasantly spent with a smaller group of just the research nurses. Monica conducted a comprehensive session in the morning on pre- and post-test counselling. Reggie demonstrated the use of many of the supplies and we tried to imagine how we will pack all of these items into a backpack and cooler bag that doesn't weigh 30 kgs. Someone stated that the research nurses will be getting very fit carrying all of the supplies around. Luckily, Reggie's idea of practicing blood draws on each other was over-ruled. Sharon and Patrick came by to talk about all of the proper places to stick the 300 labels that each participant will have and Dr. Laura led us through a rousing after-lunch session on discharges and sores and what to do about them.

On Friday we will wrap up the week with a discussion of the choreography of an actual day in the field, from trying to fit everyone into our brand-new Land Cruisers, to remembering where we parked the mobile lab, to the terrifying evening debriefing sessions with serious Mrs. Reggie. We will also have an opportunity to practice any of the pieces that need more attention (I, myself could use another explanation of those laptop batteries and lab forms).

But in all seriousness, this has been a very productive week. Everyone has pitched in to make sure that the sessions run smoothly and have been enthusiastic participants in the training session. Most importantly, everyone has brought up important points for discussion, has contributed opinions and valuable past experience and has been patient with the evolving nature of this project. I have been exceedingly impressed with the team that has been assembled, the infrastructure that we are developing, and the ability to take each day as it comes. I know that we will work together well to meet our goals!

Thank you everyone for your hard work and dedication!

The Zimbabwe Team

... omissions & new commissions

- Tasmin Steenbok (alias TAZZ) was left out of the last Bulletin. She is an Administrator for ZiCHIRE and a valuable member of the team. [Apologies Tazz.]
- Bevelyn Muhwati will not be joining the team.
- Replacements and new appointments are therefore :

Rutendo Ndudzo – Research Nurse

Anna Guyo – Research Nurse

Girly Nyabeze – Research Nurse

Hlanai Gumbo – Lab Technician

Welcome !

... and the Lab Team :

Patrick Mateta – Laboratory Manager

Arthur Chaminuka – Lab Technician

Jackias Chiwanza – Mobile Lab Technician

Hlanai Gumbo – Lab Technician

Luanne Rodgers – Lab Technologist

Sharon Whytehead – Lab Administrator

The US Team

Keira Armstrong – US-based Project Coordinator

Alvah Bittner - Statistician

Chris Harmon – Senior Administrative Asst

Susan Hauth – Office Administrator

Betsy Johnston – Lab Specialist

Danuta (Danka) Kasprzyk – Principal Inv.

David Katzenstein – Lab, Medical Consultant

Dan Montano – Co-Investigator

Janet St Lawrence – Co-Investigator,

Intervention Specialist Consultant

FACES of Africa :

Although WE don't have a digital camera, all identity and other pictures have been provided courtesy of Sharon Whytehead. Here are some of them.

Thank you, Sharon.

Prof Woelk

Reggie Mutsindiri

Gugu Ndimande

Luanne Rodgers