

HOPE



SUMMER 2014

NEWS

Africa Field Notes: #1

You Saved Miriam, a Little Girl Dying of Tuberculosis

As soon as we meet Miriam, a tiny 9-year-old girl, we see her big brown eyes, expressive and beautiful in her sweet face. Then we learn that this little girl has a deadly form of tuberculosis.

She's in the clinic supported by Project HOPE, a long and narrow concrete-block building with cement floors, a tin roof and open windows.

In one of the rooms, there's Miriam's bed, a thin cushion on a metal frame, shrouded in mosquito netting. Miriam sits on a plastic chair. Unfortunately, we weren't permitted to take her picture. Her denim dress is torn and frayed. A white mask covers her mouth. She looks up at us, but she's too shy to talk.

Suddenly, she erupts into a rattling cough that comes from deep in her lungs, and she winces in pain. Sometimes, she burns up with fever so bad that her sweat soaks through her clothes. And she gets chills that freeze her.

The truly sad part of Miriam's story is that her treatment was stopped when her disease was less severe and could have been cured more easily.

Her family is nomadic. They travel with the seasons in the deserts of Africa. So when it was time for mom and dad to move on, they packed up, and naturally took Miriam with them.

It's true that Miriam did



One of the patient rooms in the clinic. The poverty is evident, but what you can't see is the love and dedication of the doctors, nurses and staff who care deeply about patients like Miriam.

seem to be getting better — she was getting treatment, after all — so her parents thought that she'd be fine.

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How you can get more from your gifts to fight disease and save lives.



Your generosity multiplied. Always.

An Orphan Boy Has HOPE for the Future, Because of You

Children singing and dancing — that’s the joyful greeting we receive when we arrive in the poverty-stricken village. And that’s when we meet Matiti.

A young, thin boy who’s a little taller than the others, Matiti beams his big, 100-watt smile as he hugs each of us in turn. At 10 years old, Matiti is in the same situation as all of the other children here. He’s an orphan.

Matiti was abandoned by his mother when it became apparent that he had a learning disability and wasn’t developing like the other kids — a condition considered a curse in the village. So he’s here, in Project HOPE’s program for orphaned and vulnerable

children. It’s part of the lifesaving work that you make possible through your generous support.

Matiti came here with nothing ... not even clothes. And more importantly, not even a birth certificate. Without that crucial document, he can’t get the special schooling he needs.

So for now, he’s finding care and compassion through Project HOPE and a local woman named Mary. Trained by Project HOPE field staffers, Mary has opened up her home to these children, helping to feed and care for them. She’s also passing on her training to others, so that they can help care for all the other children in the village who have been orphaned.

And even though Mary and the other Project HOPE staffers have so many children to look after, they continue to search for a way to get Matiti admitted into school. It’s a challenge. But it’s one that we hope you’ll help with through your continued and generous support. Just as we hope that Matiti’s big, friendly smile will never dim.

Despite being abandoned by his own mother, Matiti is a happy little boy who desperately needs our help.

A Community Comes Together Through Your Support

One mom in the group speaks up. She says she’s learned how important it is to make sure that she and her children wash their hands with soap and water, and also wash their bedding in order to prevent disease. The group nods with approval.

Another mom explains how she learned to recognize the early symptoms of tuberculosis so that she can know when treatment is needed.

Yet another mom says that she now understands how to better care for the orphans in the village who have lost their parents because of AIDS, and how to help these vulnerable children in their grieving.

These women and others in the group are sharing their thoughts about the help they’ve received from Project HOPE — vital, life-changing help that you make possible.

It’s an “under-the-tree” — one of many utterly charming customs in Africa in which people gather together under the spreading branches of a shade tree to have a community meeting.

We sit with folks as they talk, laugh, share their concerns and work together. Most of them are subsistence farmers who are barely able to grow enough crops to survive on in this arid climate. But the way they support each other and join together is truly inspiring.

At this point in our under-the-tree, a Project HOPE staffer begins handing out information about tuberculosis. The bright yellow leaflets he passes out explain how early diagnosis and treatment will help stop this deadly disease as it rages across Africa. People read the information carefully.

Next, the community savings lockbox is opened. Yes, this is part of Project HOPE’s work in Africa, too. Inside the lockbox are passbooks for each community member, and each person comes forward with their hard-earned money

to add to the community savings. Then the group discusses how best to use the funds. A loan to a local farmer? Purchasing materials to make baskets for sale? A grant to help someone get medical treatment? It’s a heartwarming experience to see people working together for the greater good.

With help from Project HOPE, they’re taking their future in their own hands — a future that

you’re helping to create through your generous support.



An under-the-tree session where this community joins together to work for the good of all, including the vital health education that your gifts make possible.



With Project HOPE’s guidance, members of the community are pooling their money to create a fund that will benefit them all.

Discover the More Convenient, More Effective Way to Give



HOPE Lifters is our caring group of supporters who commit to giving each month. As a HOPE Lifter, your gift does 105

times more, because every \$1 you give helps to send \$105 worth of donated medical supplies into the world’s poverty zones. For example, if you pledge \$15 a month, that gets multiplied 105 times, sending \$1,575 worth of help each month. And over 12 months, that adds up to an amazing \$18,900. Being a HOPE Lifter is easy and affordable, and the impact you have is huge.

To find out more, check the box on the reply form, call Donor Relations at 800-544-4673, or visit: projecthope.org/hopelifters.

Leave Your Legacy of Compassion

You can help shape Project HOPE’s future through a unique gift opportunity known as a charitable gift annuity. You make a donation and we, in turn, pay you a fixed, dependable payment for the rest of your life. After your lifetime, the remaining balance allows Project HOPE to continue saving lives around the world.

Another way to maximize your support is to include Project HOPE in your estate plans. A charitable bequest does not affect your current cash flow or assets, and is simple to revise, should your circumstances change. Best of all, you have the satisfaction of knowing that your legacy will be one of hope for others.

For more information about charitable gift annuities, bequests and other ways to create your legacy, please call our Planned Giving Office at 800-544-4673, ext. 472.



What will your legacy be? Here’s how you can start building it today with Project HOPE.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dr. Howe is grateful for your continued support of Project HOPE's work in Africa, and around the world.

Your Gift to Africa

Dear Friend,

So much joy in people's hearts, and yet so much suffering. So much genuine hospitality and love, and yet so much poverty.

This is Africa.

Welcome to the special AFRICA FIELD NOTES edition of *HOPE News*. I've been privileged to see Project HOPE's work in Africa many times on humanitarian missions. Project HOPE has been taking an active role in these beautiful, yet struggling countries since 1964. In fact, the first mission in Africa was a voyage by the SS HOPE to Guinea. You remember the SS HOPE. It's the World War II ship that was converted into a floating hospital and served as the early home of Project HOPE.

Today, that tradition of help in Africa started by the SS HOPE continues through your generous support. Because of you, we're working in Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Egypt and Tanzania. In all of these countries, people are suffering and dying from AIDS, tuberculosis and other deadly diseases. And they're struggling with oppressive poverty. Many countries in Africa are so poor that medical care simply isn't available for broad swaths of the population, and people are left on their own, with tragic consequences. So many die agonizing — and completely avoidable — deaths.

But with your help, we're determined to put a halt to this suffering. We're working to get diseases like AIDS and TB under control, improve detection and diagnosis, and improve treatment so more people will be saved.

Your support is vital — because it's a big job. As big as the beating heart of Africa.

Sincerely yours,

John P. Howe, III, M.D.
President and CEO

You Saved Miriam, a Little Girl Dying of Tuberculosis *(Continued from front page)*

But when one of our Project HOPE field promoters in Africa heard that Miriam was gone from the clinic, he took action.

Just as the family was getting ready to leave, he went to speak with Miriam's parents. He explained to the parents that their little girl was not cured and that — even worse — she would die without more treatment.

Miriam's parents let her return to the clinic.

And that's where she is today. The good news is that she's getting help and treatment again for her tuberculosis.

But the bad news is that the disease has turned into the multiple-drug-resistant type. This form of TB is curable, but it's more difficult and takes longer to treat. But that just means Miriam's doctors and nurses are going to work harder

to save her.

And thanks to your continued and kind support, we'll be there until this little girl is well again, ready to return to her family.

The clinic where patients like Miriam are treated for tuberculosis and other deadly diseases — treatment made possible by your generous support.



PHI-1409

Your Gift Will Do 105 Times More Good!



CLIP ALONG THE DOTTED LINE, AND RETURN WITH YOUR GIFT OF SUPPORT.



255 Carter Hall Lane
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Millwood, VA 22646-0255

YES! I know that my gift will multiply 105 times — sending donated medicine and supplies into poverty zones to save lives.

Here's my gift of:

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$250

\$_____ to help as much as possible.

I want to join HOPE Lifters by making this an automated monthly gift. I understand that my account will be charged each month for the amount indicated above.

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to Project HOPE, and mail it, along with this form, in the envelope provided.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

My email address is: _____

Since 1958, Project HOPE has worked to make health care available for people around the globe. Your gift supports our lifesaving work wherever the need is greatest, including educating health professionals, strengthening health systems, providing humanitarian assistance and fighting disease.

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