

The Happy & Satisfying Mozambique People

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For me, to serve in a free medical clinic is a blessing. One can tour many different places in the world, broaden knowledge with different cultures, and meet different people. Living in Taiwan, we enjoy affluent material lives, but we are not always happy. On the contrary, people in Mozambique are not rich, but they are easily satisfied and always feel happy. I am so glad to have the opportunity to meet these people who are happy and satisfied.



Dharma Master Cheng Yen constantly reminds us that we should shoulder the Buddha's mission on our left, the Tzu Chi lineage on our right, and carry the inner gracefulness in our heart. Before we departed for Africa, we were vaccinated for typhoid and yellow fever diseases, and took malaria prevention medicines. Even after returning to Taiwan, we continue the malaria prevention medicines for a full month.



We were all in heavy gears to protect ourselves.

Voluntary dental workers in Mozambique were hindered by the public health environment there. We were warned by the Superintendent of the Beira Central Hospital that dental works are high risk because of the high HIV infection rate. Therefore, we must put up goggles, hair caps, waterproof surgical gowns, double-layered masks, and double-layered gloves. In addition, all instruments must be protected by sensory films. Any gloves that touched the patient must be discarded and sensory films must be replaced. These requirements are enforced to protect the patients as well as to protect ourselves.

All Mozambique patients were happy with big smiles. When they came to the clinic, you could hardly see their smiles. Because their teeth were all shining white and their face were very dark. People there were really lovely and kind. Very good relations were established between us and the local people. Our major tasks there included filling, cleaning and extraction. Just to fill a few cavities was enough to earn their hearty smiles.





We travelled to Lamego village on May 19. This was a heavily damaged disastrous area. Volunteer Sister Dai-Lin led our visit. We came to one of their popular residence as shown in the picture. The “roof” was made of thatch, and the “walls” were thatch mud. Lights shined through the wall, well ventilated and illuminated. However, water level rises when it rains and the whole house is washed away. The ones we visited were rebuilt after flooding. The only thing to slow down the water from getting into the house was to pile black plastic bags. Mosquito nets must be used because the area was populated with mosquitos.



We also visited the school nearby. This picture shows the classroom after the disaster. I can still remember when I was little, the bricks and the doors pig huts. Here you can see some of the windows were blown off. Students arrived earlier would sit by their chairs and desks. But for those arrived late they would not have seats. Nevertheless, they all studied hard in class. We found that there was a teacher staying outside for a long time. Curiously, we asked why. The answer was that he was in the office working. How spacious was his office? (Blue sky was his roof, gentle wind was his wall and his lamps were the bright sunshine). He was actually there to grade the students' home work. This school needs to be rebuilt urgently.

