



COMMUNITY PROJECTS AFRICA

Empowering communities for sustainable development

Background to the Keyit (formerly Arkwasylie) Project:

In the remote Simien Mountains region, in areas such as Keyit, there are Amhar villagers who live far from any medical support. The plight of these people was first brought to the Charity's attention by Gane and Marshall trekkers who visited the region 3 times in the late nineties.



Those treks identified an urgent need for medical support for serious health issues such as tuberculosis, gut infections, aids, and trachoma (which can lead to blindness if not treated). Child births without midwifery can go wrong with tragic and appalling consequences. The nearest medical support for Keyit is a two day walk away.

For various reasons the project did not develop until on 11 November 2006, 20 individuals from accountancy firm BDO Stoy Hayward left the UK and went to Ethiopia to start a 9 day trek across the Simien Mountains, having raised funds to start a medical outreach program.



In February this year Susie Pope, the Charity's Secretary and her husband and four friends went out to Keyit to see the villagers and meet with the Charity nurse, Mr. Hawlt. They took with them various medical supplies and water purifying kits.

The purpose of their trip was to finalise the details of the building of the health post that is so desperately needed in the Simien Mountains. Subsequent to their visit it has now been confirmed that the clinic itself is finally finished and that the accommodation for Mr. Hawlt and the mobile nurse is underway



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The actual Health Post is now being built at Keyit because Arkwasyie village was destroyed and the villagers moved in order to increase the boundaries of the Simiens NP.

It has taken four years for us to get to this point, and having been to Keyit, it is quite obvious that the need for health care in that remote part of the Simiens is paramount. Whilst with the villagers of Keyit, a girl came to the clinic having walked 10 hours. She had recently given birth to a stillborn baby. This is all too common in these remote areas. The consequence of the trauma was that she suffered a fistula and was in considerable pain and discomfort and had been ostracised by her family and her husband. Had there been a midwife present none of this would have happened and she would have had a perfectly healthy baby. Thankfully the CPA trekkers were able to get Abnet and her husband onto a lorry which took them on a two and a half day trip to the nearest fistula hospital in Bahir Dar. There she was treated, 'mended' and sent home again, a happy healthy woman. Now with the building of our new health post we will be able to embark on more educational projects and deal more efficiently with minor ailments of which there are far too many – septicaemia, eye infections, chest infections etc..

About a year ago Wendy Lovatt sought our support for a mobile health clinic (donkey and health nurse) to operate in the remote Simiens and be based out of Keyit. We helped her fund the set up costs and we are building a room for the mobile nurse at the Keyit Health Post. We are at present advertising for a new mobile nurse.

Once the accommodation and toilet blocks are finished we shall post more information on the website.

For further information or to make a donation please contact:

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