



## May 2024 Report for Serving In Mission



### In Partnership with ELWA Hospital Paediatric department, Monrovia

More information at: [www.elwachildren.com](http://www.elwachildren.com)

The program remains under significant pressure and we welcome any interested partners. In order to make a summer donation please visit the SIM websites:

US: <https://www.simusa.org/give/>: Type in "sustaining God's Children" and follow the steps.

UK: <https://sim.co.uk/support/donate/donate-by-card/> Select "to help a particular project/ministry" and write "sustaining God's children Liberia".

### Introduction

May 2024 was a busy month once again for the paediatric department at ELWA hospital. The team serve with dedication and a very high skill level, caring for the most unwell children in the country with great compassion. The inpatient feeding unit has been

particularly busy with very high numbers of children presenting in an extremely critical condition.

### **Clinical Activities**

There were 419 admissions to the inpatient services (paediatric ward and emergency room) in May. The majority of these children were treated in the emergency room, however many others were critically unwell and needed to stay for a longer period. There was a high number of newborns presenting.

The under 5 clinic saw 904 new patients with a total of 2464 consultations. Once again these children were suffering from very treatable conditions including malaria, pneumonia, diarrhoeal illnesses and other conditions. These conditions are very important to treat early in order to prevent deterioration.



### **Special Malnutrition Update**

There were 119 admissions to the inpatient feeding unit, primarily from the under 5 clinic. Once again finding sufficient space for all of the children remains a challenge, as does providing sufficient clinical coverage for this number of children, many of whom are extremely critical. Recruitment of many people to treat the most unstable children remains a high priority, and we are thankful for the support of SIM in this process.

The outpatient feeding unit treated 219 new children during May. 156 were discharged as cured, leaving 167 children currently undergoing treatment on the outpatient feeding program. This was the highest number of new children admitted to the program in its history, as well as the highest number discharged. The OTP provides a huge service to Montserrat county and beyond in preventing children with malnutrition from deteriorating.

Nursing staff in front of the inpatient feeding board:



### **Patient Stories:**

Little James (name changed for privacy reasons) was 12 months old, living with his young mother and grandmother in a neighbourhood called “Soul Clinic”, close to ELWA Hospital. James had been sick and was gradually struggling more each day. His grandmother noticed that not only did he have a fever, cough and sore stomach, but the fontanelle on top of his head had become very sunken. She decided to take action and brought him to a local clinic where he was treated for a few days.

While at the local clinic, the staff suggested that James really needed to be admitted to the hospital. He was referred to the ELWA Hospital free malnutrition program. The grandmother was told, “don’t worry, all you will have to pay is US \$1 and the rest of the program will be free for you.” She was greatly relieved as she had just about exhausted all over her resources trying to get help at the clinic.

Upon arrival at the ER, James was weighed, measured and diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition (SAM). He was severely dehydrated and placed on medications to help his very weak body. The doctor noticed that he had severe sores all around his mouth, buttocks, legs and a wound on his thumb that was infected from sucking and biting. He was unable to eat, needed oxygen and had a nasogastric tube inserted just to help him take in the specialized F-75 milk which would begin to heal his body.

3 weeks later, James is still very weak. However, he is able to eat plumpy nut, the sores around his mouth have healed, and he is off the oxygen and looking far better.

Staff are calling James a true success story. He came in without much hope, and after 3 weeks of specialized care, he is thriving and on the road to recovery. We anticipate that he’ll be discharged any day now.

It is in Jesus’ name we serve. We are thankful for another child survival story. Would you continue to pray? For every child that makes it to ELWA Hospital and receives help, we know that there are probably 20 that never even arrive! We thank God for his provisions each day and for those that invest in the care of these precious ones!



## Future Goals

- ) Support for surgical children to commence June 1<sup>st</sup> 2024.
- ) Consolidation of previous learning for PAs and nurses during 2024 through ongoing mentoring.
- ) Review of structure of under 5 clinic and possible movement of clinic to an alternative location with improved utilities and airflow.
- ) Further ETAT plus workshops in Bomi county in June and Bong county in September.
- ) Ongoing partnership with Ministry of Health to train and mentor interns and other doctors coming through the paediatric ward, set to restart summer 2024.

## Acknowledgements

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We are privileged to have the support of many individuals and churches around the world who are deeply invested in the work of ELWA hospital paediatric department.

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Links programme