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Dentist teaches the drill to help patients in Africa

People in East Africa can now access emergency dental care previously denied to them, thanks to volunteer dentist Sarah Kime.

Miss Kime, a specialist in special care dentistry with South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's community dental team, has returned from her sixth dental volunteer programme with charity Bridge2Aid. She led a clinical training team which trained local healthcare workers in basic and urgent dental treatment, enabling them to extract teeth to relieve pain.

Miss Kime, of Newcastle, said: "Eleven out of the 12 clinical officers we trained passed the course and received their dental instrument kits so they can continue to provide this care free to their local communities. Since Bridge 2Aid dental volunteer programmes started in 2005, 348 clinical officers have been successfully trained. As a result, 3,480,000 people in Tanzania's rural areas have been given access to emergency dental care and the total number of patients treated for free to date is almost 30,000."

South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's community dental team is made up of highly trained staff who provide specialised NHS dental services, not usually available in general dental practice, for adults and children in South Tyneside, Sunderland and Gateshead who have been referred by a doctor, a dentist, or other health or social care professional. Miss Kime thanked her colleagues, who have helped her to raise hundreds of pounds to support the work of Bridge2Aid. For more information about the charity go to www.bridge2aid.org/ends

Pictured above: Dentist Sarah Kime pictured trekking the Great Wall of China, which she did to raise money for Bridge2Aid

Issued on behalf of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust by Kay Jordan

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