

Last year a dream came true in the village of Mwembe Tayari when the government built a new health clinic. No longer would the villagers have to walk the 15 miles to the nearest town. The villagers were particularly pleased when they realised that the nurses were careful to put **SAFETY FIRST**



Sophia what's wrong?

I feel a bit queasy.



There you go, Mama Tobi. You'll need to bring her back in 4 weeks time for the next one.



Here let me put the syringe into the rinsing bowl for you.



I'm fine but its been very busy this morning. We're running out of sterile syringes. We'll have to ask them to come back tomorrow.

We're sorry but we've run out of sterilized syringes. We'd be grateful if you could come back tomorrow so that we can finish the session.

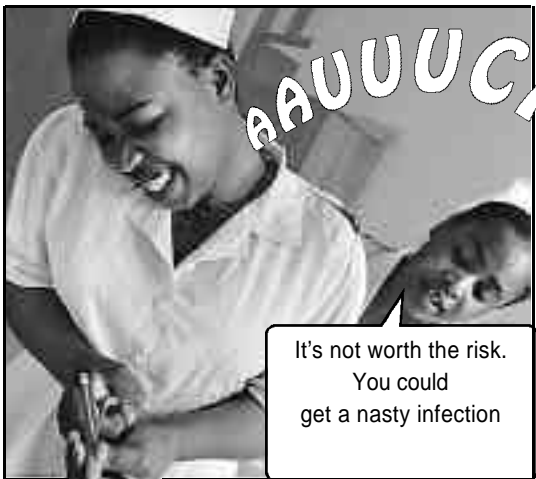


Let's start sterilizing the needles and syringes for tomorrow.



These needles are so blunt, I'll have to re-sharpen them.

Sophia wait, don't.....



It's not worth the risk. You could get a nasty infection

It's easy to injure yourself if you re-sharpen needles. For your safety re-sharpening is no longer recommended. Blunt needles must be disposed safely in a safe sharps container!





We're short of supplies at the Mwembe Tayari health centre. We need new needles and syringes. And parts for the sterilizers too. We haven't had fresh supplies for over a year.



For over a year. Are you sure? Let me look at my ledger.



It's your responsibility to check that your sterilization equipment is in good order. If you are short of supplies inform the appropriate authorities as soon as possible. If necessary use new disposable syringes and needles until you can sterilize safely again.





You're in luck! We've just had a big delivery from the regional store. Sign here.



Wait! I've brought my own syringe. Last time yours was so blunt it really hurt my child.



Its OK, Mama Beatrice. You don't need to worry. We got some new needles only this week.

And this particular syringe doesn't have the correct dose of vaccine we give out.



Yes, You know it's not wise to bring your own syringe. Firstly, if you bought it from the local shop we can't be sure it's really sterile.





Therefore it's easy to under or overdose.

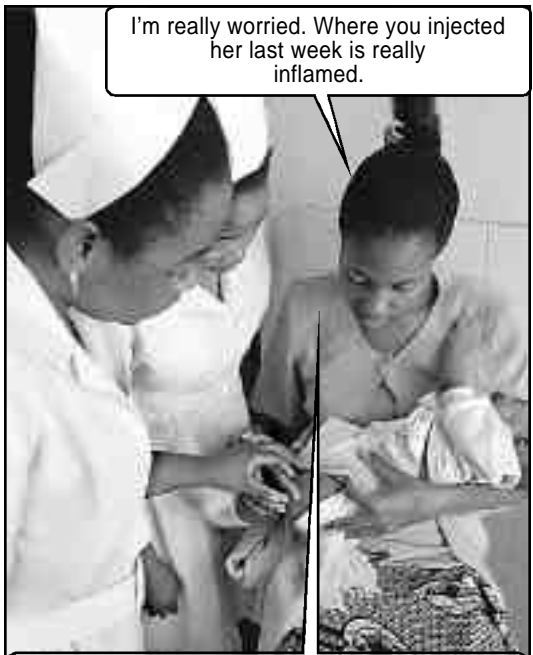
Alaaa!



Next patient.



Why are you back again so soon, Mama Tobi. You're not due to bring her back for some weeks?



I'm really worried. Where you injected her last week is really inflamed.



You know that's really worrying. That's the second injection abscess this month. Maybe there's something wrong with our sterilizer. Let's check.

Yes perhaps it's infected. We'd better take her to see the Medical officer.

Yes, look the gasket is really worn. Let's replace it.

Better change the valves at the same time. Just as well the DCCO sent the new supplies.



Oh, don't forget we can use one of those TST spots that came with the delivery.

TST spots?



TST (Time, Steam, Temperature) spots are a simple device that help you to sterilize safely. Stick one of the spots onto the inside cover of the steam sterilizer before you close the lid and conduct the sterilization cycle. If the cycle has been successful it will change colour.



Careful! This month's kerosene is nearly finished. We need to remember to ask for more next time.

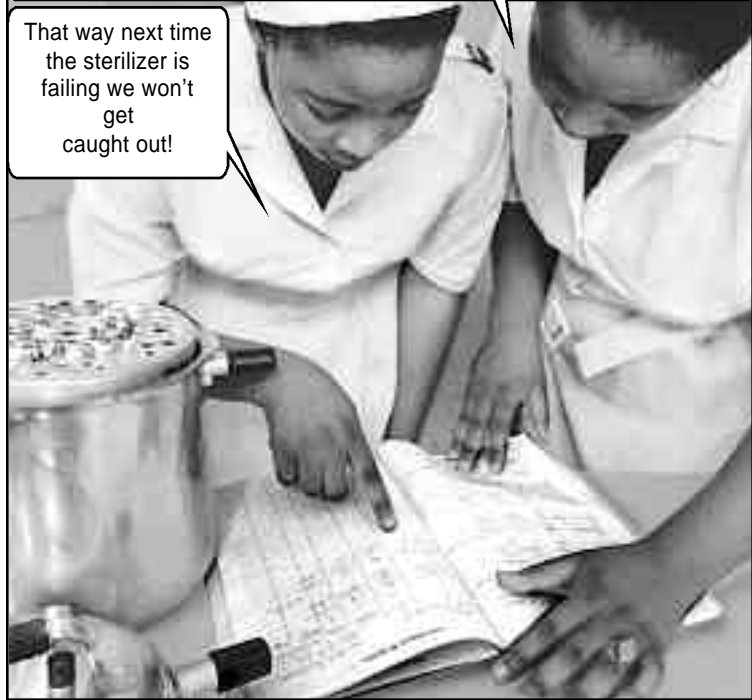


Oh, I see it's turned from yellow to purple!



Yes, and we can stick it into this book to keep a record of how the sterilizer is sterilizing.

That way next time the sterilizer is failing we won't get caught out!



Yes I've noticed that you might have a special reason for showing interest in the safety of the sterilizer. Am I right?



Yes in a few months time we'll both be watching you very closely!

