

Friends of Kagando

August 2011

The UK support Charity for Kagando Hospital and Community – A centre of excellence in rural Uganda

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Headlines

- Budget deficit growing
- Typhoid epidemic
- New Medical Director
- Fistula programme
- Electricity challenges
- Theatre Extension
- Containers
- Roles for volunteers



Typhoid recovery is slow and uncertain



Dr Asinja Kapuru, Specialist in O&G and Medical Director

Testing financial times ahead

On the surface Kagando is doing very well. The new School of Nursing buildings are finished and operational. The Hospital is busy and although there are never enough resources and staff for all that could be done, there are no major gaps.

However Kagando is not immune from the financial problems of inflation and debt affecting much of health care

and other services in Uganda.

The Trustees are particularly concerned, on KARUDEC's behalf, at their rising costs on top of some significant historical debts. **Friends of Kagando** is the only KARUDEC partner that donates directly into their revenue budget via Salary Support, but the deficit is growing beyond the **Friends**

current ability to help

We pray they will find a way through but know it will be difficult. As Friends we need wisdom and vision to know how best to use our funds and how to increase them in anticipation of future needs.

Please let us know your thoughts and ideas and what further information about Kagando you would find helpful.

Typhoid epidemic

The hospital has been experiencing unprecedented levels of late complications of Typhoid, mainly in the form of life threatening peritonitis following spontaneous small bowel perforations. Mortality rates are around 25% of those admitted. A new Task Force, chaired by Friends of Kagando Volunteer David

Lyth, is planning an awareness and prevention campaign. This will link with the Sand Filter project run by our Derbyshire based affiliated organization Kisinga Community Clean Water Project' (KCCWP).

The Task Force have been greatly encouraged by the decision of the Ministry of

Health to set up a Regional Response Team in recognition of this growing problem. It appears to be worst in the areas to the East of the Rwenzoris and down as far as Mbarara. A local radio campaign is planned.

There is more information on the website <http://www.friendsofkagando.org.uk/Typhoid.htm>

New Medical Director

KARUDEC has recruited a new Medical Director to replace Dr Baseka Yusuf. Dr Kapuru is also a Specialist Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, speaks Lukonzo and knows the area well having worked in nearby Bwera. He will also be involved in teaching student midwives and the fistula program. He took up his post in May.



Dr Kapuru joins **Dr Omech Bernard** (left) and **Dr Robert Olupot** (below). Dr Bernard has been a visiting Physician every Thursday and Friday since February 2010 from his main post at Kampala International University Campus, at Ishaka. His teaching and guidance for adult medicine is greatly appreciated.



Dr Robert, Specialist Surgeon, formerly at Kumi Mission Hospital, was appointed to Kagando in November 2010. He has been heavily involved in the surgical problems caused by Typhoid, is a fistula surgeon and has the main responsibility for surgical training.

Fistula Surgery – set to become the largest centre in Uganda

Kagando Hospital is expecting to perform more than 400 operations for obstetric fistula in 2011.

This will make it the largest provider of these operations in Uganda. The local surgeons (Dr Lyth and

Dr Robert) maintain a steady service supported by special 'camps'.



Electricians Stephen, Lavinia, Philemon and their apprentice with the new emergency diesel generator set awaiting the now completed housing (inset)



Electricity challenges

After many years of service the micro-hydro turbine and generator at Nsenyi has finally ceased working. The Hospital now relies on supply from the Kilembe Investment Company Rural Electrification Programme, which arrived in the vicinity of Kagando only in 2009. This has prevented a major power supply crisis but is expensive and with frequent service interruptions. A new 30KVA emergency diesel

generator set, donated in 2010 by Lister-Petter in the UK (left) has been installed, taking over from the very old air-cooled Lister engine, which is in urgent need of any overhaul and for which another donor, Mecc Alte UK Ltd, has provided a new alternator. The new diesel's capacity is not sufficient for all of the hospital functions at the same time. The whole electricity infrastructure of the Hospital

site needs re-design and re-equipping. Following a number of expert surveys a replacement of the hydro generator and repair or renewal of the high tension line from Nsenyi appears the most cost effective option for the medium term, but much work needs to be done to find partners for the high capital costs that could be in the region of £200,000 overall.

Theatre / Maternity Extension



Theatre extension under construction – Jun 2011

Plans for expansion of operating theatre space have been a capital program priority for some time awaiting agreed plans and adequate funding. The combination of generous donation from a private charitable Trust and a Parish Church Christmas appeal was

sufficient to allow the project to start. Relocation of the Sterile Supply area has allowed much needed extra space for the maternity Labour Ward. Building on the end of the current theatres will keep theatre staff together and when

finished it will reduce the number of interruptions to routine work caused by emergencies, particularly Caesarean Sections. Storage, examination and office areas are also being increased. A lot of very old equipment will need replacing.

Containers

MMN Containers, who have served Kagando and Kisiizi so well over the years have stopped shipping to Uganda. As a result we need to change our

arrangements. The most important need is volunteers willing to be locations for collecting, documenting and packing goods for Kagando.

We also need a coordinator with some shipping experience to liaise, advise and direct volunteers and those offering suitable goods.

Kagando volunteers needed

The leadership in Kagando has again repeated it's appreciation of the work of volunteers. Friends of Kagando has been delighted to facilitate some of these, including David and Helen Lyth, who will complete three years in 2012 and Dr Rachel Pagnamenta (left), recently returned from six months working in paediatrics.

We are aware of two medical couples actively planning up to 12 months starting in 2012. However it is not just doctors and nurses that Kagando values. There is a great need for electricians, mechanics and others willing to advise, supervise and train as well as teachers, agriculturalists, engineers, indeed almost

anyone with skill and experience they are willing to have put to use in a rural Ugandan environment. Volunteers must be largely self-supporting or sponsored. If interested please email admin@friendsofkagando.org.uk or write to Rob Morris at the 'Friends' main address.



Friends of Kagando Volunteer Dr Rachel Pagnamenta and new friend

Donations

The Trustees have been delighted and humbled at how well donations have been holding up despite difficult economic times. This is particularly so for regular monthly standing orders and

giving to the General Fund. These allow assignment to priorities on the basis of the most recent information. Please pray for wisdom in relationships with the

leadership in Kagando to help them to make decisions that build for a secure future and encourage an effective service.

Details for donors are on our website:
<http://www.friendsofkagando.org.uk/contact.htm#Online>