



## **Interface annual report 2009 written by Andrew Hodges**

Interface has played a very large part in sourcing and shipping essential equipment for the new opened hospital - CoRSU rehabilitation Hospital – CoRSU (**C**omprehensive **R**ehabilitation **S**ervices *for People with disabilities in Uganda*) for example: all the hospital beds and mattresses, as well as theatre trolleys were shipped by interface. Theatre tables, X Ray processors and many consumables have been sent. A container packed last year and which has just arrived has a huge amount of equipment including theatre lights which will enable two of the theatres to be put in use. Interface has now sent 4 containers and the volunteers have become expert at selecting and packing valuable equipment. None of the sensitive equipment has broken and everything is clearly labeled which really helps in the clearing in Uganda.

The new CoRSU hospital opened in 2009 and has 65 beds on the ward as well as 50 beds in a hostel and 6 well equipped operating theatres. The new hospital management has decided that CoRSU is primarily there for children and therefore treats children for free but charges adults. However they have a significant number of very needy adults who require reconstructive surgery, but who are unable to pay. Interface has provided a valuable role in enabling these patients to receive treatment. For such patients, Interface has covered all the operation costs.

As well as working in CoRSU Interface volunteers also visit other hospitals, including Kagando Hospital. Kagando is a busy mission hospital in a rural area and the people are mostly very poor. Interface has therefore also assisted in helping these patients, particularly if they need to travel to Kampala for treatment.

In 2009, 3 surgeons visited from the UK through Interface. Tim Goodacre (Chairman), taught cleft and general surgery, Peter Saxby (Exeter) taught among other things, nose reconstruction, and Vik Devaraj (Exeter) came with Jo James (anaesthetist and trustee) and Neil Tarn (plaster technician) and conducted a very successful hand surgery course. Interface also supported a visit by Professor Jimmy James from COSECSA (College of Surgeons of Southern, East and Central Africa). He came to assess Kagando Hospital as a centre for training surgeons, as well as CoRSU Hospital for training plastic surgeons. This was a successful visit and he recommended that both hospitals be accredited for training.

In the UK, the interface team continue to keep people aware of the immense need and 10 years on from inception, Interface continues to receive steady support. Bekki Devaraj has created an excellent short documentary describing the work of Interface, and cards have been produced using images of Uganda and its people. Interface is having a significant impact by putting resources where they are most effective - supporting doctors, providing training, sending equipment and financing operations.

In 2010 we hope to continue along the same lines, and now that the new hospital is functioning, will also send staff to support and train and receive staff in the UK for upgrading and training.

Course participants learning how to suture goat tendons!



Course participants observing in theatre



Unpacking the latest container

