



# Kambia Hospital Appeal

Newsletter No. 12

www.kambiahospital.org.uk

Spring 2004

## Hospital to be completed in April



*Kambia hospital site*

Dr Santigie Sesay, the District Medical Officer in Kambia, informed us just before Christmas that the European Union's rehabilitation of the district hospital will be completed ahead of schedule during Spring this year.

The EU rehabilitation project does not include equipment for the hospital, so when it is rebuilt the hospital will have new walls and roofs but no operating tables, diagnostic or surgical instruments. We are currently lobbying the EU and the Ministry of Health and Sanitation to resolve this situation and are appealing for donations to purchase priority items of medical kit. Please complete the donation form on the back page to help us send vital equipment to Kambia.

### New way to give to charity

A change in tax legislation will mean that charities can benefit from individuals' tax repayments. From April 2004, taxpayers can donate any tax rebate which might ensue from completion of a tax return by completing a box on the return which invites the taxpayer to choose a charity to support by entering a unique number. The Kambia Hospital Appeal has registered with the Inland Revenue and has been issued with the following unique number **FAB09QG**. Donations of this type are eligible for Gift Aid Relief.

### VISIT TO SIERRA LEONE- NOVEMBER 2003

#### Report by James Dowling

I visited Kambia for the first time in November with Richard and Joey Kerr-Wilson to see how work on the hospital was progressing.

We spent the first few days of our visit in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, meeting everyone involved with the rebuilding programme, including the European Union delegation, the Minister of Health and Sanitation and DTI, the architects over-seeing the project. Everyone reported that the rehabilitation of the hospital was well under way and on schedule.



*Richard and Joey Kerr-Wilson with the Health Minister*

The journey to Kambia was quite an adventure, taking over seven hours to travel the 100 miles from Freetown due to bad roads and an untimely monsoon) When we eventually arrived I was able to see the hospital site for myself and was delighted with what we found. Most of the principal buildings, such as the three wards, the operating theatre, the pharmacy, x-ray and staff houses were near completion with walls, roof joists, rendering, doors and window frames. On many buildings corrugated iron sheeting was already being fixed for the roofs. Sylvester Kpange, the foreman, escorted us

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around the site and explained what was being done. You can read Sylvester's own report from November on page 3.

During our stay we got to know Dr Santigie Sesay, the new District Medical Officer, very well. He is already working energetically on making improvements to the health services in Kambia and is looking forward to doing more in the district with our help. The team from Médecins sans Frontières that currently provide emergency medical care from a temporary building in Kambia Town and support five of the thirty two medical centres in the rural areas, was also extremely helpful in providing us with up-to-date health statistics for the district, including the latest population count which is now well over 300,000.

Richard Kerr-Wilson operated on four VVF cases at the MsF hospital, all of whom are reported to be doing very well, and Joey visited several schools in the town, successfully establishing a link with the Kambia District Education Committee school. Joey also set up a fair-trade initiative with a tailor in Kambia to provide traditional Sierra Leone costumes for schools in Gloucestershire. For my part, I was able to take lots of photographs of daily life in the district, a selection of which can be seen on our website.

During the visit we met many old friends of the Kambia Hospital Appeal, including Tom Rogers, one time District Medical Officer in Kambia and Margaret Dumbuya, who was trained at Cheltenham General. On the final morning, the elders of Kambia Town assembled outside our hostel and greeted us with a great welcome of songs and speeches. They expressed their deep thanks to everyone in Cheltenham for their support and urged us to remain friends with Kambia for many years to come. We, of course, gave our assurances that we would and said that we were



*Richard and Joey Kerr-Wilson with members of the Kambia Town Council*

looking forward to a happy and healthy future for the district.

Everyone in Kambia was extremely optimistic about the future in Sierra Leone and eager to put the events of the civil conflicts behind them. Our task now is to help them achieve this by getting the Kambia hospital back into operation.

We were looked after incredibly well by our hosts in Kambia who provided excellent meals throughout our stay, including dinners of spicy chicken and beef stews with rice and fried plantain and lunches of pungent dried fish with cassava bread. All stomachs remained intact and we returned to the UK fit and healthy, if a little grubby and in need of a hot shower.

## Amazon.co.uk

Don't forget to buy your books, CDs and other goods from Amazon via the Kambia website. Click the link at the bottom of the Kambia homepage so that 5% of the value of your purchase is donated to the appeal at no extra expense to you. So far 210 items have been bought via the site, raising **£155** for Kambia. Tell your friends, children, grandchildren to do the same so that they can all do their bit for charity! Remember, you have to use the link on **www.kambiahospital.org.uk**.

## Christmas fundraising

The Kambia Hospital Appeal's Christmas cards were a great success, raising £950. Our thanks to Cheltenham and Gloucester Nuffield Hospital for its invaluable sponsorship. Next year we hope to have designs from school children in Kambia.

Despite the efforts of thieves who stole cakes and marmalade from Shona Lockyer's car the night before, the Kambia Hospital Appeal's stall at the Cheltenham Charities Christmas market raised over £500. The stall was laden with cakes, biscuits, jam, marmalade, mince pies and mulled wine, so thanks to every who contributed, especially to Si Cox for busking in the cold for many hours.

## Thanks

Pate's Grammar School donated over £700 from the proceeds of its annual concert in memory of David Kennedy, and Peter and Ka Boreham hosted a coffee morning sale which raised £464. Our thanks to them. Annabel Brittain at the Gloucestershire Echo has continued to support the KHA at every available opportunity, providing much-needed local press coverage. Thanks also to the Gloucestershire Hospital NHS Trust for coverage of our activities in Acute Angle.

## Rehabilitation of Kambia Hospital

### Progress Report by Sylvester Kpange, Clerk of Works, DTI, November 2003

The contract was signed on 28 August 2003. The contractor ModCon was mobilised between 7-15 September and work commenced on 22 September. The work is scheduled to be completed in March 2004. After that, DTI will be retained on site for maintenance for 6 months.

The rehabilitation work on the Kambia Hospital is progressing speedily on almost all the buildings simultaneously. Demolition of the specified structures of the old hospital has now been completed.

The hospital compound comprises 18 buildings, of which 7 were completely demolished down to the floor slab level. These were the 6 staff quarters and the hospital kitchen. The sub-structure for all these buildings, including the floor slab is 100% strong. Demolition partly took place on other buildings, on walls that were badly damaged. Some buildings, such as the staff quarters have also been extended beyond the original structures.

Most of the buildings are in line with the work programme; some are speedily progressing even beyond the work programme. Although roofing was due to commence this week (week 11) most buildings already have roofs, such as staff houses 3, 4, 5 and 6, the medical stores and the cool room. These are now complete with corrugated iron roofing.

Some major buildings including the operating theatre and laboratory, the male and female wards and the paediatric ward are behind schedule.

The main problem encountered on the site, and which is contributing to the delay on the main buildings, is the lack of good quality sand available in Kambia town and its environs. The contractor is having to import sand from Mange which is about 18 miles away.

The contractor, ModCon Construction Company, has 9 engineers working on the project as supervisors.



*Sylvester Kpange in the operating theatre at Kambia Hospital*

## Can you help?

Kambia Hospital Appeal relies on your support to make a difference in Kambia. Please continue to support our work by holding coffee mornings, cake sales, bring-and-buys and sponsored events. Every pound counts. Contact Godfrey on 01242 519078 if you would like information about organising a fundraising event on our behalf.

## A new focus for the Kambia Hospital Appeal



*Young mother and baby, Madina, Kambia District*

The November visit to Sierra Leone enabled us to assess how best to support Kambia in the coming years. Dr Sesay explained that the greatest medical problem is the number of women dying during pregnancy and child birth, so in response to his advice the KHA will now concentrate on funding actions to improve maternal health in the district.

A few simple implementations will have a hugely beneficial effect. By improving communication and transportation between the rural medical clinics and the hospital more women will gain access to antenatal and emergency obstetric care. To do this we are looking at providing additional vehicles, installing a high frequency radio network and setting up a community health education project. There is also a desperate shortage of trained medical personnel in Kambia - there are no registered nurses and only 5 midwives. By funding the training of a midwifery tutor at the hospital, we hope to provide a long-term solution to this problem. We are eager to encourage medical personnel from Cheltenham to visit Kambia to offer vital training to local staff. If you would like to do this or can make a donation towards training, please contact Richard Kerr-Wilson.

## New look

A new leaflet for the Kambia Hospital Appeal is being put together to reflect the new focus on improving maternal health in Kambia. Please contact us if you would like copies to give to friends and family, or if you are able to help distribute or display the leaflets at your church, library, doctor's surgery or school.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**Gift Aid**

Tax paid on any donation that you make can be recovered by charities at basic rate if you confirm in writing or verbally

- that this donation and any further ones should be treated as a **Gift Aid donation**.
- your name including forenames, title and address with postcode.
- that you are a taxpayer. N.B. You must pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax equal to the amount we reclaim on your donations.

So, a donation of £10 would be worth £12.82 for The Kambia Hospital Appeal.

NB Higher rate taxpayers can claim the difference between basic and higher rate tax on their tax return.

I would like to help the Kambia Hospital Appeal and enclose a donation for:

£10       £25       £50       £75       £100       Other £

or please pay The Kambia Hospital Appeal £..... each Month/Quarter/Year (delete as appropriate) commencing ...../...../..... until I cancel this order.

Signature: .....      Date: .....

**Your bank details**

Bank Account No: ..... / ..... / ..... / ..... / ..... / ..... / ..... / .....      Bank Sort Code: ..... / ..... / .....

Bank Account Name: .....

Bank Name and Address: .....  
.....

**OFFICE USE ONLY:** Kambia Hospital Appeal bank details (to be completed by the Kambia Hospital Appeal)

Bank Name and Branch: .....

Bank Account No: ..... / ..... / ..... / ..... / ..... / ..... / ..... / .....      Bank Sort Code: ..... / ..... / .....

**GIFT AID**

I am a UK taxpayer and would like this donation and any further donations I make from the date of this declaration, until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid Donations

Signature: .....      Date: .....

Name (Dr, Mr, Mrs, Ms) .....

Address .....  
.....

Tel no: .....      Email address: .....

Cheques should be made payable to "The Kambia Hospital Appeal" and sent to the address above

**Please send me information on fund-raising**

**Newsletter by email?** Please help to reduce our postage costs. If you would like to receive future copies of this newsletter by email, please let us know by sending an email to newsletter@kambahospital.org.uk

If you do not wish to be included in our mailing list, please tick here

**Registered Charity Number: 1014034**