



Kambia Hospital Appeal

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When were you last in hospital ?

How would you feel if your hospital wasn't there when you needed it?



Burnt operating table in derelict Kambia Hospital

Site visit to Kambia

21-29 January 2002

Richard Kerr-Wilson and David Gould

It is exactly ten years since our first visit to Kambia. The civil war officially ended on 18th January and there is a feeling of optimism in the country. This may be due to the presence of the UN and NGOs, but entry into the country is easier and there is no need to change currency unless you want to. The airport is being rebuilt (by Realini Bader – see later in this newsletter), people are punctual for appointments, there are very few hold ups at road blocks, and the EU road from Freetown to Rogberi junction is still in good condition. Even the Connaught hospital looks a little better. On the down side, various Ministry buildings have been burnt out in the centre of Freetown and there is very little traffic on the roads.

WANTED £1 million

WE NEED YOUR HELP

The Kambia Hospital Appeal has been asked by the Government of Sierra Leone to join with them in rebuilding Kambia Hospital.

There are many ways in which you can help us (eg cake sale, non-uniform day, concert, coffee morning, auction).

You may have your own ideas of what you could offer.

WE HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU !

FACTS ABOUT SIERRA LEONE

Sierra Leone is one of the world's poorest countries.

80% of the population live below the poverty line.

The average life expectancy is around 38 years.

30% of the population are literate.

The external national debt is US\$ 1.2 billion.

The present situation

Kambia itself feels like a ghost town and the hospital is derelict. There is no resident government medical officer, as there is no residence, although this is about to be resolved. For the time being, acute medical services in Kambia are provided by Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) in the form of a British nurse midwife, and a doctor from Holland. They are providing in-patient services from an improvised hospital in a guest house, and are assisted by both Alice Batty and Anthony Sesay. Dr. Wilson has recently been appointed as a replacement for Dr. Koroma, and will work with the doctor in the MSF hospital for the time being. Anthony works at the out-patients, which takes place in the old Under Fives Clinic and is staffed by two community health officers. There is a new Red Cross health centre on Tower Hill, run by Makalay Mansaray. (Allieu Sannoh and Francis, who previously worked in the laboratory in Kambia, are both working at the Princess Christian Maternity Hospital in Freetown. Janet, the anaesthetic nurse from Kambia is working with her cousin, Dr Tom Rogers, in Bo.)

After discussion with their country director, MSF are prepared to stay in Kambia for another year, until a new hospital can be built. They have recently introduced charges for outpatients (500 leones) and will start charging for in-patients as well if asked to do so by the Sierra Leone Ministry. This was suggested by Dr. Dafaë, in order to make the transition from MSF to Sierra Leone government hospital easier.

Apart from visiting the hospital site, we also visited Kolenten school. This is well on the way to being completely rehabilitated, which is again very encouraging.

It appears that Kambia is only one of two hospitals in the country that have been completely destroyed during the civil war. Others, like Port Loko have survived sufficiently for the old buildings to be restored. Even these have only managed to have this carried out with overseas aid. The SL government does not seem to have any money of its own to put towards rebuilding. Nevertheless, we were assured by the Minister for Health and Sanitation, Dr. Tejan Jalloh, that import taxes will be waived for any materials required for the hospital.



Presenting the plans to the Deputy Paramount Chief

The means

Kendall Kingscott Partnership (KKP), hospital architects based in Bristol, are very enthusiastic about the project and would like to help as much as they can.

KKP are working very closely with Realini Bader Associates, a firm of architects based in Freetown. Realini Bader will act as project managers, and formal methods of working have been agreed between them and KKP. A legal contract has been drawn up, which unfortunately is based on Sierra Leone Law, but that should not be an insurmountable problem. When the final plans have been agreed, Realini Bader will obtain six tenders from contractors. Once the work is completed, there will be a signing-off procedure, to make sure that everything has been carried out correctly.

The plans for the hospital are in three phases, although the first phase is by far the most important. This will provide a 60 bed hospital, with two operating theatres and all essential services, including running water and a generator, as well as living accommodation for staff, and a perimeter wall. After discussion with Dr. Dafaë and Makalay Mansaray, we have included provision for district health services and space for nurses to change. The Minister of Health suggested a kitchen garden, and even a bakery, possibly generating funds from selling produce, although this would need careful accounting.

We have been offered an increased area of land for building by the Paramount Chief of Kambia, and local unskilled labour at reduced rates. We hope to make use of this, as well as involving ex-combatants from the war, to help in the rehabilitation of the country and give local people a feeling of "ownership" – if they have built the hospital themselves, they are less likely to stand by and see their work destroyed in future.

The proposal

We showed the initial plans for the new hospital not only to the Paramount Chief and the Minister of Health, but also to the President (and appeared twice on national television). Thanks to David Gould's (David is a hospital architect and partner with Kendall Kingscott Partnership in Bristol) lap-top and video presentation, they were all very enthusiastic about the proposal. Since they were let down by the EEC last summer, they are relying on us to rebuild the hospital. They are aware that we do not have funds of our own, and we have asked them to make clear to donors such as DFID and the EEC that rebuilding the hospital is a high priority for Kambia. They see the hospital as an example of a hospital for other districts and even other African countries. They have all guaranteed us their enthusiastic support, even to the extent of using the Sierra Leone government crest, together with our own logo, on notepaper when we are applying for funds, to show that we are working in partnership with them.



Burnt beds at Kambia Hospital

The timing and finances

It is proposed that the enabling work (knocking down old buildings, levelling ground and building a wall) is done before the start of the rainy season in April/May, 2002. Construction work will then begin in earnest at the start of the next dry season around October, 2002.

The budget costs from KKP and Realini Bader are as follows:

Construction cost	£1.1m
Fees for Realini Bader (5.5%)	£60,500
Fees for KKP	£30,000 Vat

This is for phase one and does not include equipment costs.

Dr Dafaë

Dr Dafaë, the District Medical Officer for Kambia, has visited the UK twice since the last newsletter. In 2000 the Appeal sponsored him on a three month course on Reproductive Health in Developing Countries (Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine/Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists). In 2001 he returned to England for a year and studied for a Masters exam in Public Health at Leeds University, financed by the government of Sierra Leone.

Dr Dafaë returned to Kambia in September 2001 and the Appeal sent £1000 worth of drugs and £150 of books from TALC (Teaching-aids at low cost), to be kept in Freetown at the Ministry of Health, to enable Dr Dafaë to start work again.

London Marathon 2002

John Horan, who visited Kambia in 1994 and is a former member of the Appeal's committee, is going to run 26 miles in the London Marathon on 14 April 2002.

If you would like to support John, sponsor forms may be obtained from the Appeal's Website,

www.kambiahospitalappeal.org.uk

or from the contact address at the end of this newsletter.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 29 May 2002 at the Postgraduate Medical Centre, 1 College Lawn, Cheltenham. There will be a talk about the rebuilding plans for Kambia Hospital, presented by David Gould and Helen Morgan from Kendall Kingscott Partnership.

Fundraising Events

- In June 2000 a very successful coffee morning was held at the home of Mr and Mrs Boreham which raised £904.
- The Appeal had a stall at the Pentecost 2000 event at Cheltenham Racecourse. Our trustees spoke to HRH Princess Anne who seemed very interested in our work.
- Mr and Mrs Morris held a Christmas evening at The Priory in December 2000 for supporters of the Appeal.
- On 10 February 2001 a Nearly New sale was held in Leckhampton Village Hall, raising £473.
- In September 2001 a very enjoyable Cheese and Wine Party was held at the home of Mr and Mrs Morris, with a chamber group providing music. The evening raised £910.
- We are very grateful to Mr Wood for organising three concerts for Kambia at Pate's Grammar School. The latest concert, held in November 2001, was in memory of Mr Kennedy, a teacher who had supported the Appeal, and it raised £555.
- Aseem Garg of Amnesty International at Carnegie Mellon University, US, organised 2 concerts and an art auction called "Jam for Justice" and raised £407. He has further plans to help the Appeal in 2002.
- A Caption Competition, based on an amusing turkey photo with President Bush raised £165, the prize being a bottle of Turkey Whiskey. The winning entry, from Deb Handford, was "*When you promised me a bird called Monica for Christmas, this isn't what I had in mind.*" Deb does not like whiskey and she has kindly offered to raffle the whiskey to raise more funds for the Appeal.

Contact details for further information

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