HOPE WARD UPDATE
(JANUARY 2010)

INTRODUCTION

Hope Ward is a charity ward on the first floor of International Hospital Kampala (IHK). The Ward was first opened in April 2006. Almost four years later the ward has a 17 bed capacity and hosts a Cancer Treatment unit. Half the ward is set aside for children and the other half is divided into Male and Female sections with one isolation room. IHK provides the Ward space, facilities and utilities for Hope Ward and in addition subsidizes all Hope Ward bills by 30% thus charging only marginal cost on Hope Ward patient treatments.

The Overall Aim of Hope Ward is to… cater for the underprivileged in need of high quality complex treatment, who would otherwise not afford this much needed and often life saving care. We intend to do what we can to alleviate the suffering and improve the quantity and quality of life of our patients.

A number of Corporate companies and Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) such as IAA Health Care, Suubi Trust, Stanbic Bank, MTN, Muvule Trust, Bead for Life, Narrow Road as well as other volunteers and Friends of Hope Ward (listed on page 10) partner with us to achieve our Overall Aim.

Hope Ward offers the following complex medical interventions either free or at highly subsidized rates:

a) Victims who have been traumatized from the war in Northern Uganda and who require plastic surgery.
b) Complex cancer treatment for both children and adults.
c) Restoring the physical and psychological victims of burns and acid attacks.
d) Caring for children with complications arising from HIV and AIDS.
e) Complex gynaecological surgery (vesico-vaginal fistula repair).
f) Surgery to repair Atrial-Septal Defects (ASD) commonly known as a hole in the heart.

To identify such 'needy' people, Hope Ward partners with our specialist surgeons as well as various organisations such as the sponsors mentioned above, Reach Out Mbuya (R.O.M), Baylor College Paediatric Infectious Diseases Clinic (PIDC), Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF), The Touch Namuwongo Project (TNP), Soft Power and Dwelling Places.

To make a contribution to Hope Ward contact the IMF Office at International Hospital Kampala-Hope Ward – Telephone: 0312 200 339, mobile: 0775 159 129 or email: jemimah.kiboss@img.co.ug . Cheques may be written out to **International Medical Foundation.** If giving from the UK visit **www.suubitrust.org.uk** .

PATIENT'S STORIES

NB. Express written consent has been obtained by patients or guardians and to protect our clients, real names are ONLY used when the children and their guardians actively request

Please be aware that you may find some of the following pictures and information disturbing.

- **The Magumba Brothers**

The Magumba brothers are from Jinja in Eastern Uganda. They came to us from a local NGO (Soft Power). They have a complex skin cancer that causes abnormal growths and requires surgical removal from time to time. In January they both came to Hope Ward with unsightly tumours. Dr. Ben operated on them. We saw the boys again in November and they were very happy and tumour free.

The brothers pictured above before and after their surgery.

- **Michael**

Michael was brought to Hope Ward by a remarkable woman he calls "Jaja (grandmother)". He had a skin condition that affected his entire body and caused his family to disown him. His 'Jaja' found him in her village and was moved to give him a home. She went to many health facilities in search of a cure for his illness. She came with Michael to Hope Ward in May and our specialist physicians treated his illness; when we saw him again in August we could hardly believe he was the same boy we had seen only five months before then. Michael's Jaja now faces one major challenge because she only bearly has enough money to feed her own family; she has come to us seeking for sponsorship to take him to school.

- **Lwasa**

Lwasa was abused by his family, he was locked in a small metallic box for months without food. He was brought to Hope Ward by a Hospice Uganda nurse who found him at Mulago hospital. His hand and leg were broken and he had wounds all over his body. He was severely malnourished and as a result his hair was so thin. After about seven months on Hope Ward Lwasa was so happy, his memory had returned, he could talk again, he would laugh often and exclaimed "…eh!!! I have hair!! Jaja, I didn't know my hair could grow!!". Interestingly, as in the case of Michael above, the lady looking after Lwasa is also a 'well wisher'. She often volunteered at Mulago hospital to provide care for patients who did not have a caretaker; that is where she found Lwasa. She has been at his bedside day and night from the day he was admitted to date. He too calls her "Jaja".

Lwasa pictured above when he first came to Hope Ward and five months after his admission.

- **Amina**

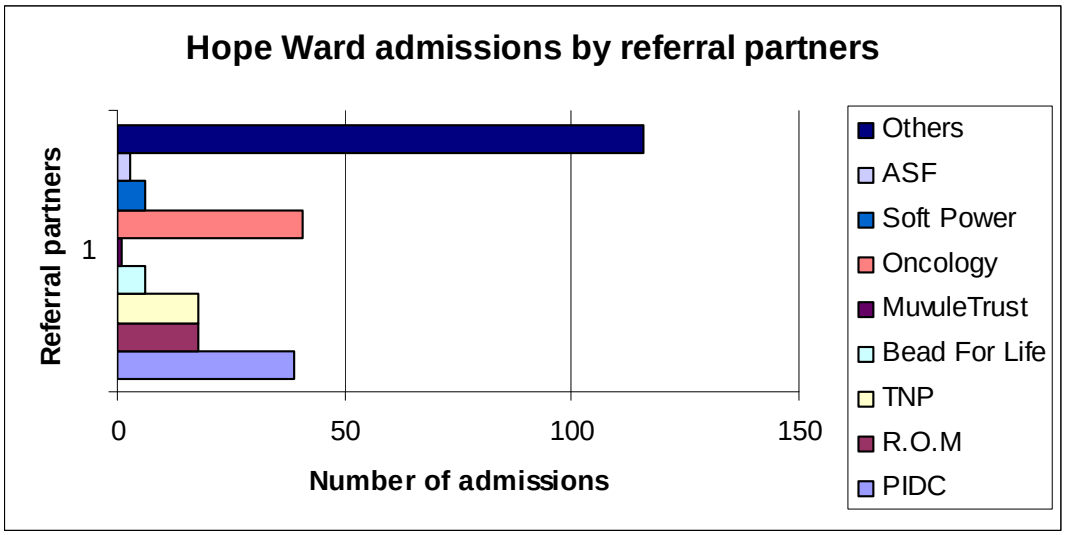
Amina was brought to Hope Ward by a wonderful lady who was on a VSO placement in Masindi. She had served so many ladies as a TBA in her community. However a motorcycle accident left her relying heavily on a pair of crutches unable to bear weight at all on her broken leg. Amina came to us eight months after her accident; she had spent 5 of those months in a plaster without much improvement and little hope. Amina spent only five days on Hope Ward, had surgery and within less than a week after she was discharged; she could bear weight and had improved remarkably!

Amina pictured above before her surgery and after her discharge bearing weight.

SUMMARISED NUMBERS OF PEOPLE ADMITTED TO HOPE WARD IN 2009:

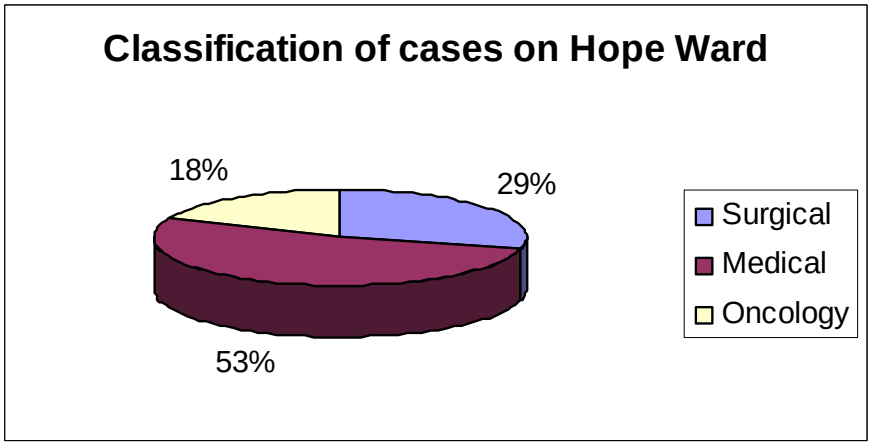
In 2009 we had 248 admissions on Hope Ward with 2,437 bed nights; 57% of the bed nights were sponsored by Stanbic bank, Muvule Trust, Bead for life and Narrow Road.

This year we partnered with various organizations and individuals who helped us identify truly needy patients in need of complex medical assistance on Hope Ward. The various referrals are represented in the bar chart below.



Other partners not mentioned above include Revelation life, various VSO volunteers, Tender Trust and other individuals and volunteers working in local communities across Uganda.

Many of the people admitted on Hope Ward were in need of mainly medical treatment; these include people requiring TB treatment and people with various complications secondary to AIDS. This may have been because most of the referrals were made by Paediatric Infectious diseases Clinic, Touch Namuwongo project and Reach Out Mbuya which are projects providing mainly outpatient treatment to people living with HIV and AIDS.



Of all the 248 admissions on Hope Ward 93 were children no older than 10 yrs, of the adult admissions 79% were women.

THE HOPE CANCER CLINIC

The Hope Cancer Clinic is one of what we now call the ***IHK Hope Projects*** (Hope Ward, Hope Cancer Clinic & Hope Physiotherapy Charity). On the Hope Cancer Charity we treated 55 patients in 2009; 22 of them will continue with treatment in 2010, 9 new patients are doing well and in remission. In this report, we would like to include a special feature on the Hope Cancer Clinic (written by our Oncologist Dr. Helena Nam).

A few Hope Cancer Stories

Currently on treatment – some of the children….

From left to right, Brian, Fiona ('friend' of Hope Cancer Clinic), Faith and Dennis on 'chemotherapy day'

Fiona volunteers herself as 'Auntie' to the children and has just brought in a box of toys, which is why the kids are grinning!

Faith 12 yrs, pictured below when she first arrived at Hope Cancer Clinic, July 2009

We hardly had a smile from Faith for many weeks when she first started chemotherapy for Hodgkins lymphoma. Her father was in despair as Faith was teased and left out by her friends from school. Many thought she was 'cursed' and would be afraid to go near her or touch her. Faith beaming a wide smile in the picture above is currently doing well on chemotherapy, as you can see.

We wish to acknowledge the NGO Softpower Jinja who initially brought Faith and support 70% of her treatment.

Completed treatment in the last 6 months and in remission….

'BB' was found by a 'good Samaritan' – 'BB' was just 14 yrs old, desperately trying to care for all his younger siblings in the West of Uganda Kagondo district. His mother had just died and father imprisoned in Luzira high security jail. Carers noticed a rapidly growing mass on his back. This proved to be a lymphoma (NHL).

'BB' XR showing mass on the left chest After chemotherapy

'BB' was referred to Hope Cancer Unit and has received several cycles of chemotherapy and radiotherapy since April 2009 over 6 months. A plastic surgeon at CoRSU removed loose skin and scar tissue and we are pleased to note that everything was clear of disease. 'BB' is now back home after all his months of treatment, where his brothers and sisters were overjoyed to see him alive, well and happy.

Richard

Clear tonsils

This handsome young man consented to relate his story – Richard comes from the North of Uganda and struggled to travel south to Kampala for treatment, a day's journey away. He is one of many young people who have seen great suffering across the North, following the atrocities of the LRA war, but he has the bravery and the 'spirit' to keep fighting to get something better for his life. Richard had a large cancer of the tonsils (Kaposis sarcoma) which prevented him from being able to swallow, but now he has put on weight and is proudly showing that everything is clear after sponsored chemotherapy.

Some of our partners may remember **Tom** from the last report.

Position of shrunk tumour

Tom and CT of the brain after treatment.

Tom is known as one of our Hope rascals – he is a bright boy and plays on our computers and mobile phones whenever he visits and gets a chance! We are pleased to note that after completing several months of chemotherapy and radiotherapy, tests confirm that his disease (Burkitts lymphoma) is in remission. Tom has recently been sponsored by several sources to go back to school and is just as mischievous as ever!

‘Old Patients’…

Hope Cancer clinic recognises the need for clear accounting and feedback on patients that have been treated in the past.

Laetitia is **our very first Hope Cancer patient who suffered from breast cancer she is still in remission.**

Laetitia’s testimony:

What does Hope Ward cancer care mean for me as a patient?

“I am a lucky survivor by God’s grace. ***I was able to get support at the time I was completely helpless…. If I were to worry about funds for medication, it would in itself hasten my death. I was able to go to hospital all the time I felt great pain because I had no fears about the financial implications. ….***

Today, I am a living testimony among the sick. Many do not believe that I passed through such a horrifying experience and I survived. When I narrate my story in full it is like a movie, very miraculous…..”
Survivor: Laetitia Lilian Basemera

Laetitia is now in remission and at the time of this photograph is doing consultancy work for USAID –She is a very determined and courageous woman!

Elizabeth, with chemotherapy nurse, sister Joshi, 3 years in remission Elizabeth had a widespread choriocarcinoma (a womb cancer that is very responsive to chemotherapy). Although Elizabeth is now well, her husband and brother never took her back in again. When they found out she had cancer, they shut the door in her face and left her in the street. Now, Elizabeth is healthy and lives with her mother in the West of Uganda. She is struggling to look after her 2 small children and an aging mother, but tries to smile and gets work as a ‘house-girl’ (cleaning homes).

Emmanuel (‘Emma’) – wriggling away from his mother as he knows he is going to have a bone marrow test!

Remember, this little 5 year old who started treatment for acute leukaemia with us in 2007. He sadly relapsed last year after 18 months of remission – prior to the relapse, the clinic was struggling to afford the high cost maintenance drugs. We appealed to several sources to assist for a bone marrow transplant but sadly, these were not available to us. Since then, our oncologist has restarted Emma on aggressive ‘reinduction’ chemotherapy (UK MRC protocols). Emma has done exceptionally well over the last 6 months since relapse, considering the circumstances. Emma’s mother wishes to say a heartfelt ‘thank you’ to all those who have supported him, as she holds her breath awaiting new results of bone marrow checks.

Goodbye…

Enock broke the nation's heart when he passed away

He was already ''famous' when he first came to Hope Cancer Clinic having been interviewed and discussed on many national TV and newspaper communications.

FROM: THE DAILY MONITOR UGANDA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

"The major deaths of 2009

November 4: Enock Ssebanga, Uganda's poster-child for torture, succumbs to leukaemia at 21 years. His parents; Mr Charles Kayongo and Ms Regina Nabakoza, who locked and starved him for days in an abandoned store, are out after serving their jail sentences. The Monitor's August 7, 2000 cover picture of Ssebanga's scraggy body is a rude reminder of sorts about ongoing parental wickedness in our society."

Enock had advanced disease and sadly died within a year of receiving 6 months of chemotherapy at Hope Cancer Clinic. Dr Helena relates that towards the end, Enock knew he was fading, but tried to make his peace with his past and forgive the things that had happened to him.

Public Campaigns for Cancer Awareness and Early Detection International Breast Cancer Month

Cancer Health Information booklets were specifically written by our oncologist for the cancer awareness event

In November 2009, Hope Cancer Clinic collaborated with the International Hospital Kampala Well Clinic, Barclays Bank and Bless a Child Foundation (a children's cancer charity) for a cancer awareness month. At this event, free breast screening and cancer advice was given to the general public at Garden City, Kampala City's premier retail / leisure centre. Within 3 days, 600 consultations were recorded, 150 general cancer queries, 450 breast examinations; 8 clients required further investigations and 2 went on to receive treatment.

Thank You…

The oncology team, Dr Helena and specialist nurses – Aisha & Joshi, with assistance from Irene and Maria wish to thank all of our sponsors for their generosity and help. Quite simply, each gift means life or a better quality of life for each cancer sufferer and helps to relieve often immeasurable suffering. We thank all Individual sponsors who gave us support through Suubi Trust. We thank IAA Health Care for their generous donation of UGX12,000,000 for cancer patients. Bless a Child Foundation has partnered with us at various level of cancer prevention, treatment and palliative support – we are grateful for their provision of a hostel for patients who travel from far off to get treatment over many weeks in Kampala, Softpower Jinja who kindly assist with treatment and transport – for 3 children at present.

Rapid appropriate referrals have and will continue to save lives: we appreciate partnership with Hospice Africa Uganda which does a great job in finding desperate patients who need oncology support. – we currently have 7 patients referred from Hospice on treatment.

Finally we would like to acknowledge and thank the CoRSU - Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services in Uganda, which is a fully equipped Rehabilitation Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre, providing orthopaedic and plastic surgery as well as rehabilitation and other specialities (www.corsu.or.ug). – for their additional surgical support.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR HOPE WARD IN 2009:

Rose's Journey July 2009
Raised USD15,000 for Hope Ward

MTN – Hope Ward charity Fun run – November 2009
Raised UGX 3,300,000 and an additional special donation of UGX 5,000,000 from MTN

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO HOPE WARD:

Corporate	Suubi Trust	Individual	Events	Total
96,662,778	56,657,438	22,618,460	4,820,000	180,758,676

The total amount of money spent on Hope Ward in 2009 was UGX 499,000,000. This includes money spent on patient treatments, Hope Ward staff salaries, specialist fees, as well as transport and other assistance given to very needy patients. Hope Ward sponsorships covered 36% of the total Hope Ward costs. The remaining costs (approximately UGX 319,000,000) fell back on International Hospital Kampala.

Friends of Hope Ward :

Corporate Sponsors			
Organisation	**Logo**	**Nature of Sponsorship**	**Period of Sponsorship**
Bead For Life www.beadforlife.org	BeadforLife Eradicating Poverty One Bead at a Time	Bed Sponsorship	2009
Mvule Trust www.mvuletrust.co.ug	Mvule Trust	Bed Sponsorship	2009
Stanbic Bank www.stanbicbank.co.ug	Stanbic Bank	Bed Sponsorship	2009
Rose's Journey & Narrow Road www.narrowroadintl.org	Narrow Road	Bed Sponsorship	2009
Suubi Trust	Suubi Trust *Bringing hope in Uganda*	Cancer Charity Funds	Continuous as funds are available
International Hospital Kampala www.img.co.ug	IHK	64% of all Hope Ward bills	Continuous
Individual sponsors			
Sharon O'Brien, Steve & Laurel Kay		General donation	-
Walter & Geoff Brooke		General donation	-
Lydia Sanyu		General donation	-
Brian Wallas & Swedish Ambassador to Uganda's Family		General donation	-
Fiona (Bless a Child Foundation)		Toys for Hope Ward Children	Christmas gift

Thank You All For Your Continued support of Hope Ward.