

Fistula Surgeries Change Lives in Danja

by Bert Haaga
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SIM is partnering with the Worldwide Fistula Fund (WFF) to provide surgery and care for women injured with obstetric fistulas. During the first two weeks of December 2009 the WFF sent a surgical team to Niger to operate on five women with obstetric fistulas.

The team operated on the women during the first week and provided post-operative care the second week. Since this was the first surgical visit by the WFF they also greeted the Governor and local public health officials. All were very positive about the work to help these women.

The Worldwide Fistula Fund is sending a second surgical team in April and May of 2010. They plan to operate on 10 women during this visit. They are using the Danja Centre for Health and Leprosy operating room during these initial visits. After the new fistula centre is constructed adjacent to the leprosarium, they plan to keep a surgeon here and operate continuously through the year.

The foundation footings and blocks were laid in 2008 and construction resumed in April 2010. We hope that the fistula hospital will be completed in early 2011.

The fistula centre work at Danja has four main aspects:

1. Prevention and education—teams will visit local villages to encourage people to take women to a government hospital in cases with prolonged labour. Local midwives will be instructed in how to avoid this injury.
2. Surgeries for obstetric fistulas will offer new life to the thousands of women suffering from this injury.
3. African surgeons will be trained to do obstetric fistula repair surgery at other hospitals.
4. Rehabilitation training will be offered to women who are on their own as skills or trades will be taught after their recuperation from the surgery.

Pray

Please continue to pray for this vital ministry taking place at Danja. Praise God that women are being healed and given a chance at new life! Please pray also for the construction of the new building that will allow these surgeries to go on year round.

Learn more

To read more about the project to raise funds for the Fistula Centre, or to make a donation to this vital ministry, [click here](#).

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Urgent Prayer Need

Bingham Academy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, urgently needs a [French teacher](#) to join their staff team in August. Pray that God will provide the right person to meet this need.

