

# Saving Lives in Uganda

## IA equipment helps Ugandan bishop wage war against malaria

When Rt. Rev. Stephen Kaziimba heard the news, his heart plummeted into his stomach.

He had known Uganda was waging war against malaria, and he had known that the Diocese of Mityana—the area he presided over as bishop—was losing.

But when he heard that, in two month's time, over 520 children in his diocese had died of malaria, he knew he could no longer stand by and watch the disease destroy his people.

“Children are dying in my hands, and I know more will die,” one nun had told the bishop. “I know what to do [to help them], but I do not have the equipment.”

Desperate to empower his people in the war against malaria, Rev. Kaziimba committed to equipping Mityana's clinics with the medical equipment they needed to properly and effectively treat malaria and other ailments. Working with Fellowship Reformed Church in Muskegon, Mich., Rev. Kaziimba turned to International Aid for help. Last year, we were able to send him a container of medical equipment and medicines for Mityana's largest clinic, the Buwaata Health Centre.

Now, 12 months later, we can hardly contain our joy at how God has used the faithfulness of our donors to bring healing and restoration in the country of Uganda.

When Rev. Kaziimba visited us this summer, his report on the effectiveness of the medical equipment truly amazed us. He said the high quality of the equipment we sent him prompted the



Ugandan government to invest in the Buwaata Health Centre, both increasing its security and placing government health professionals there to aid in the fight against malaria.

But the biggest shock? While 520 children died in two months in 2010, Kaziimba reported that—in the six months since the clinic received aid from International Aid—not one child who was brought to the clinic for treatment had died from malaria. In fact, only two or three children in the entire region had passed away since they received our equipment.

Kaziimba said that the people of Uganda are “very, very grateful to International Aid.”

“Most of our people in that area where International Aid sent support, they don't understand English... but when we tell them, ‘These things came from brothers and sisters who love you,’ they understand that language very well,” Rev. Kaziimba said. “God bless you and bless you, now and evermore!”

## To The Ends of the Earth: IA equipment used to reach the unreachable in Haiti

As Lou Hoekstra traveled the difficult mountain road to Depales, Haiti, he was no longer surprised that no doctor had ever made the trip there before. To get to the community, he had to follow the trail of a river that often flooded, and the Haitian Support Ministries president was certain the people in these mountains had no where to go when they got sick.

But that's why he was there.

His team was small--beside Lou, there were only two American doctors, one Haitian nurse and a local pastor. However, they had a portable tool they knew would make all the difference: International Aid's Lab-in-a-Suitcase (LIS).

When they reached the town, the group set up camp in a small wooden structure that functioned as the community's church. Electricity was out of the question so they quickly set up the solar panels that came with the LIS. The equipment worked flawlessly. Within a short period of time, the lab was up and running. The lab enabled the doctors to conduct



highly-needed diagnostic tests, and many patients were treated then sent home with bags of rice and beans.

"The 'mountain people' had probably never seen doctors before--certainly not in the mountains where they live," Lou wrote in a letter to International Aid. "Without the Lab-in-a-Suitcase, medical care of this level could never be provided."

Following the 2011 earthquake in Haiti, International Aid supplied Haitian Support Ministries with an LIS, an advanced clinic and a generator. The LIS has created many opportunities for the ministry, enabling them to reach some of Haiti's remotest areas. The advanced clinic is currently functioning out of a girl's home, but will soon have a permanent home inside a church later this year.

Lou's thrilled with the donation, saying that it will have a significant impact on the area's healthcare.

"With this equipment, we will be able to attract and put to good use medical technicians from the U.S. as well as train a Haitian staff," he said.

## Countries Recently Shipped To:

- Bangladesh
- Brazil
- Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Congo DRC
- Ecuador
- Ethiopia
- Fiji
- Georgia
- Guatemala
- Guinea
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Kenya
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mongolia
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Russia
- Togo
- Ukraine
- United States

# EQUIPMENT HIGHLIGHT: IA's Surgical Equipment

## Equipping Partners In Health: Long-time partner discusses the pros of receiving IA surgical equipment

For roughly eight years, IA has helped the nonprofit organization Partners In Health improve the health of the poor and marginalized in Haiti, Rwanda, Malawi and Lesotho by providing them with affordable and appropriate surgical equipment.

But what makes our partnership with Partners In Health unique is that our surgical equipment has been used in a variety of contexts. We've sent small shipments that have supplemented their existing operating rooms in Haiti as well as help PIH prepare for surgical services in an underserved district of Malawi.

Our reconditioned equipment has helped PIH set up temporary operating rooms in Rwanda's Burera district to serve the community until the regional hospital was inaugurated as well as start an operating room in another Rwanda district. All three PIH-supported hospitals were established to conduct emergency obstetric surgeries, c-sections and hysterectomies. This year, we were able to put together an operating room shipment that will serve to women living in poverty in Lesotho's rural mountain communities.

According to Amber Guamnitz, the senior manager of international procurement for Partners in Health, IA has been a consistent partner of her organization because IA provided an economical way for PIH to provide surgical care.

"Because of IA's relationships with manufacturers, we have been able to get affordable equipment, allowing us to free up money for patient care," she said. "This really did make these surgical interventions possible."



However, it's not just the affordability of our reconditioned equipment that makes IA attractive to nonprofits like Partners In Health. According to Guamnitz, Partners In Health has greatly appreciated IA's dedication to ensuring that our surgical equipment will work in the receiving country's context.

"IA has been particularly sensitive to voltage issues," she said. "It's really great when the equipment can be retooled for the setting."

Not only does IA ensure that our equipment will be compatible with the receiving country's power source, but our on-staff biomedical technicians also put our equipment through a series of tests to make sure it is patient-ready.

This thoroughness is another quality that makes IA stand out.

"Because of the expertise in-house, IA is able to do thorough biomed checks and have equipment that is appropriate for the setting," she said. "We have other partners who don't have that type of expertise in-house."

Many thanks to Partners In Health for letting International Aid help them in their mission, and to God for making this ministry possible!

**"[International Aid] really did make these surgical interventions possible."**

**Amber Guamnitz**  
Partners In Health

## IA Surgical Suite

Anesthesia machine  
Operating table  
Surgical Lights  
Monitors  
Sterilizers

Electrocautery  
Endoscopy  
X-Ray  
Surgical Instruments  
Suction machine

**Options include:**  
Surgical furniture  
Ventilators  
Infusion pumps  
Blanket Warmers

## HEALTH PRODUCTS HIGHLIGHT:

# Caring for America's cancer patients

There are some organizations that International Aid can't help but partner with. Their hearts for ministry move us to action, their mission resonates with the calling God has given our organization, and the people who receive their aid linger in our hearts, minds and prayers.

One of those partners is The Cancer Fund of America, Inc.

The Cancer Fund of America provides assistance to cancer patients who live in poverty and cannot afford to meet basic needs due to the financial strain placed on them by cancer treatment costs. According to their website, the nonprofit "provides aid to thousands of cancer victims and their families every day." This aid is given free-of-cost.

Some of these patients are elderly and alone. Others are parents to young children. Others are elementary students who just want to feel normal

again. Others are infants whose parents simply can't pay the both the medical and grocery bills.

These people are in great need, and International Aid is committed to serving them.

For years, International Aid has proudly supported The Cancer Fund of America by connecting them with socially-conscious

organizations and providing them with aid at a minimal service fee. In the past two months alone, International Aid has shipped the Cancer Fund of America assorted over-the-counter medications, protein bars, mouthwash, burn gel, antibiotics, hydrocortisone, hand wipes, soap, body wash, shampoo and conditioner.

According to CFA's Lance Connatser, International Aid's partnership with his ministry has been "a true blessing."

"International Aid assists our organization greatly by helping us locate products that we need to provide to our cancer patients and their families," he said.

We are so thankful for the opportunity to work with The Cancer Fund of America, and we pray that God continues to use our ministry to bring relief and comfort to these patients.



## Upcoming Events

### TECH Conference, Nov. 9

Held at the Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, Kentucky, this conference will bring together over 100 nonprofit Christian medical relief organizations committed to integrity, quality, generosity and excellence.

### Global Missions Health Conference, Nov. 10-12

Also in Louisville, Kentucky, this conference exists to inform, train and equip health care professionals and students to further God's kingdom by sharing the Gospel with those in need.

**Please stop by our booth at these events and say, "Hi"!**

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