

## CAN YOU IMAGINE A WOMEN AND CHILDREN HOSPITAL WITH NO ULTRASOUND?

### CAN YOU HELP KASESE?



In 2020, a small village clinic in the east of Uganda, in a territory called Kasese, approached the UK Community Hospitals Association for technical educational help and business case guidance as a UN agency had invited the clinic to apply for development funding. The help given to Uganda by the Community Hospitals Association included development guidance to the Clinical Director of the Uganda Ministry of Health.

Kasese has a population in Uganda of 750,000 people but the local healthcare demand is boosted by women and children crossing from the Democratic Republic of Congo daily. 25,000 cross legally each day and many others illegally.

In 2010, a small “not for profit” clinic was established in Kasese, especially to provide women and children services. The maternity mortality and morbidity statistics in Eastern Uganda were amongst the worse in the world. The small clinic that was established is known as the:



Plans to develop the clinic into a substantial rural community hospital had to be scaled back because of Covid. The development was further retarded by the landslides in Kasese in September 2022. The development was limited to a more modest premises redevelopment including acquiring rural land to grow and provide more nutritious diets to patients.

Notwithstanding the difficulties, the clinic director of RCRA, Dr Jostas Mwebembezi, won a prize in the “Packard Foundation’s Quality Innovation Challenge (QIC)”. He was invited to Thailand to present the RCRA achievements and to receive his award.

Kasese is a small remote district which appears to regularly lose out on the more major donor projects. Despite the big numbers of pregnant women that they help, the RCRA is short of standard technical equipment. They have been made small awards by several charities over the years to help their development. These awards have included staff going to more developed parts of Uganda to train on using ultrasound equipment in the hope that one day, Kasese would have an ultrasound system. They are still without one!

### APPEAL FOR KASESE?

Currently, the Ultrasound market in the UK is quite buoyant with several new models being delivered. Are there hospitals in the UK with surplus older models that they would be prepared to release for Uganda? If some are identified, are there health charities, you know of that could contribute towards the Ultrasound equipment refurbishment and/or shipping costs.

We would welcome any suggestions sent to [infocommunityhospitals@gmail.com](mailto:infocommunityhospitals@gmail.com)

Thank you!

