Supplying the Danja Fistula Center

There are many challenges to operating a hospital in Niger. In a country with limited resources, almost everything is more difficult to accomplish. Our staff on the ground works diligently to provide excellent care for our patients and they need quality medical supplies to do so. Unfortunately, many of the medical supplies our team needs are not readily available in Niger.

The Worldwide Fistula Fund tackles this dilemma in many different ways. All staff and volunteers traveling to the hospital carry enormous amounts of supplies in their luggage (check out one staff member’s packing list here). We place a yearly drug order with IDA, a nonprofit organization that ships essential medications directly to Niger. We also send containers of supplies across the Atlantic on cargo ships. Shipping a container is one of the only ways to get large critical supplies and equipment into the country.

This fall, we were thrilled to partner with Project Cure to ship a 40-foot container to the Danja Fistula Center. Among some of the items loaded onto this semi-truck trailer-sized container were an anesthesia machine, oxygen concentrators, gurneys, medicine cabinets, syringes, surgical equipment, hospital gowns, thousands of exam gloves and hundreds of catheters, sutures. More than 1500 boxes are now en route to Niger.

Mama Aisha is the first occupant of a patient bed in Danja Fistula Center who is not a patient. She is the grandmother of a 15-year old patient who has a developmental disability in addition to an obstetric fistula. Mama Aisha reports that her granddaughter’s mother, one of her six daughters, wasn’t fit to bring her daughter to the Danja Fistula Center, so she took the responsibility. The two of them traveled across the Nigerian border after hearing favorable reports of a new fistula hospital from a returning patient whose surgery was successful. Mama Aisha displays infinite patience with her granddaughter, following her around the ward, sleeping in the bed next to her, making sure her catheter tubing does
It was extremely exciting to know that these supplies will soon be on the grounds of the Danja Fistula Center, and we'd like to extend a huge thank you to the many organizations and people who donated these supplies including Project Cure, Direct Relief and Teleflex in addition to the team of volunteers who packed the container at the Project Cure warehouse. This contribution will make such a difference in the lives of the women who are suffering from obstetric fistula in Niger.

We've added a profile to GreatNonprofits and are hoping for more reviews to increase our visibility. From now until November 15, nonprofits with new, positive reviews could win the chance to be on the site's 2012 Top-Rated List. The list will be distributed this holiday season to media like Huffington Post, TakePart and Parade Magazine and 2,000 corporate foundations. One of our generous donors has agreed to give us $5 for every new review of our work posted on the GreatNonprofits website between now and November 15, up to $100. Will you please help us out? It takes just a few minutes. Click here to see our profile and add a review. We appreciate your support!
There are so many ways to support our mission. Please stay tuned to our blog for more news out of Danja, stories of the women we’ve served and updates on our progress.

To continue supporting the Danja Fistula Center -- and help bring healing and medical care to thousands of women living with the agony of obstetric fistula -- please make a tax-deductible one-time or recurring gift today. We thank you for your incredible generosity.

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