



Biweekly Update – October 1st, 2008

INAUGURATION OF JEAN PAUL II SITE IN GUINEA

The Jean Paul II facility is a public medico social centre which falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of social Affairs. Based on the assessment of the facility conducted in April 2008, it was agreed that the Jean Paul II centre could meet the requirements for the provision of fistula care services.

From May to August 2008, the Fistula Care project provided the basic materials and equipment to the centre; members of the fistula repair team including 3 surgeons, 2 counselors, and 4 nurses were selected and trained.

A prescreening session of fistula clients was conducted in Kissidougou by a fistula repair team from Conakry, and 30 fistula clients were referred to the Jean Paul II site; 12 additional clients were also referred to the Jean Paul II site from Conakry and other prefectures.

In coordination with the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER), two experts joined the national fistula repair team to conduct the first surgical repair session at Jean Paul II site from August 25 to September 4th, 2008.

The inauguration ceremony of this new fistula site was successfully organized on September 2nd under the auspices of the Minister of Social Affairs and the mission. Mr. Steve Edminster, the Team Leader of the technical office of USAID/Guinea has participated to the ceremony on behalf of the mission director.

The ministry of health and other public entities, including representatives from the urban commune of Ratoma participated to the ceremony, as well as representatives from WHO, Unicef, UNFPA, other CAs and the local media (National TV, public and private radios).

At the conference room of the Centre, EngenderHealth conducted a well-received presentation of the Fistula Care project, followed by the pathetic testimonies of two fistula clients who made cry most of the attendees.