

VVF CAMP REPORT
SITE: KISII LEVEL 5 COUNTY HOSPITAL
From 13-26 Sept 2015

Compiled by

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The 8th Fistula Camp

Background Information:

Fistula is highly stigmatizing and afflicted women often become social outcasts because of the presenting symptoms. In most cases, fistula development follows prolonged labour, in recent times; social upheavals such as rape also contribute to this problem. In patients with fistula, the characteristic continuous urination causes untold suffering; physical pain, social isolation, divorce and in most cases these women are depressed. As Africa's prime teaching and research institution, the University of Nairobi continues to expand its horizons in improving lives across the country. Kisii hospital is one such satellite fistula centre where university staff in collaboration with Kenyatta Hospital provides holistic services to the marginalized groups at no cost to the patient.

In the past 7 years, the University of Nairobi has made tradition in serving these voiceless women; in this context, we focus on those living with stigma and rejection owing to fistula development. The 8th VVF camp was held at Kisii Referral and Teaching hospital from the 14th day to 26th September, 2015. The overall aim of this event was to restore women dignity through fistula surgery and supportive counselling. Community mobilization was done prior to the screening sessions. Both print and electronic media were employed in dissemination of basic information regarding fistula, prevention and treatment available at the hospital.

The Fistula Team

- Lead Fistula Surgeon: Dr. Weston Khisa
- Lead Social Scientist: Dr. Sabina Wakasiaka
- Assistant Surgeons: Drs. Enock Ondari, Okutoyi, Mitei & Matasi
- Anesthetist: Hospital Anaesthetic Team
- Coordination Nursing Services: Jerusa Omari

During this camp, a total of patients received care. The youngest was aged 4 years while the oldest was aged 70 years.



Dr. Wakasiaka attends to a 4 years old fistula patient at Kisii level 5 hospital. Next is a team of Kisii Fistula Nurse Mentees with women who benefitted from the program, their smiles speak a thousand words.

Opportunities and Challenges

1. **High Patient Turnout** was attributed to good publicity and community goodwill.

Recommendations:

1. More Nursing staff need training on screening methods and post-operative care since the influx of patients outstrip current staffing capacity.
2. Mainstream social science research in Fistula prevention and care in the country.

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