

## Bishops' Appeal Project update – October 2013

### Supportive Seating for Children with Cerebral Palsy in Northern Uganda

#### The story so far...

##### World Health Organization (WHO) management training

Three women and seven men participated in a two-day training workshop which has been newly developed by the WHO to enable countries to establish and manage high quality wheelchair services.

These were:

The manager's module provides an overview of the rehabilitation/wheelchair service manager's role in engaging people and leading the implementation of the eight steps of wheelchair service delivery and issues related to it. This includes the human and physical resources required to provide a wheelchair service, including; planning, service costing, funding, monitoring and evaluation.

##### The workshop helped to:

- ◆ generate advocates for good wheelchair delivery systems, which are accessible, cost effective and responsive to the needs of wheelchair users.
- ◆ generate a clear vision for the future wheelchair provision within rehabilitation services.



*This boy has just been fitted with the Motivation 'Moti-Go'. It is the first time in his life he has sat upright.*

#### World Health Organization (WHO) basic training in wheelchair services



*Motivation trainer Rob Mattingly giving our partners technical training.*

A two week training course took place at partners, Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services in Uganda in July. Seven participants attended product familiarisation, 16 attended WHO basic training and seven attended intermediate level start-up. A Libyan INGO attended as they wanted to take full advantage of our expertise.

Twenty people with disabilities were fitted in appropriate wheelchairs. Sixteen of these were fitted during the training and four immediately after the training to provide an opportunity for the trained wheel technicians to practice their skills.

	no	F	M	comments
Children	11	2	9	Four fitted in supportive seating, five in local products one modified four wheeler and one in a three wheeler
Adults	9	5	4	All fitted in ¾ wheelers

##### WHO Training included:

- Technical skills around product familiarisation and assembly of products
- Understanding and spotting pressure sores
- Making and fitting pressure cushions
- Assessing beneficiaries, assessment interviews and prescribing and fitting appropriate wheelchairs to their individual needs
- The practical application of skills learned
- Maintenance and repairs
- Follow-up

At the end of the training course Rob introduced partners to fitting intermediate seating, such as the supportive seating wheelchairs usually required by children with cerebral palsy. Partners are now set up to attend full intermediate training at the beginning of this month.



*This lady was invited along to the WHO Basic training course to be assessed as part of the practical side of the training. She was clearly unable to walk upright and had a sandal on her left hand. She was assessed and fitted with a wheelchair which she was then able to keep. Cushions were cut and fitted to provide her with postural support. The provision of this wheelchair will make life a lot easier for this lady and enable her to be much more mobile. She was very happy despite her rather serious face on the right!*



## Parents and carers training



*Mary Atyela, mother of Solomon, told us about her neighbours advising her to dump her baby in the nearby river when it was raining, to clear their family of witchcraft. Now that they see Solomon making progress, they recognise that he also has value. Mary says she is feeling emotionally much stronger and is better able to care for him*

Five master trainers were identified from our partners for training facilitators. They then participated in a two-week training course in August-September. During the master training they contributed to training seven facilitators from Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services in Uganda (CoRSU) and Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDP). These included three physiotherapists and four Community Based Referral workers (two men and five women)

Parents and carers' training by partners from Gulu was carried out. Gulu Disabled People's Union and St. Jude Children's Home trained one group each during the month. GDPU's group had five parents and St Jude's 14.

Training for parents and carers is currently divided into seven modules: Introduction to cerebral palsy; Evaluating your child; Positioning; Feeding; Play; Communication; and Everyday activities. 'Introduction to cerebral palsy' clearly explains the risk factors that can result in cerebral palsy before, during and after the birth. It also discusses how every child has the right to go to school.



*Lying on tummy to help with strengthening neck muscles*

Our Africa office has been collecting baseline data from our partners which is already producing some interesting results. 60% male and 40% female were interviewed and registered. The baseline data revealed that the project is definitely relevant to the targeted beneficiaries. Exclusion of children with cerebral palsy from education was revealed as the biggest need, followed by low level of household income and lack of knowledge and confidence in looking after children with disabilities respectively.



Preparation for inclusion training started in August. A total of ten inclusion trainers were identified by the partners. Invitations were sent and COMBRA was booked as venue for the training.