

**Activity Report – Outreach to Karugutu Health Centre,
 Ntoroko District.**

On the 27th September 2014 Kyanninga Child Development Centre physiotherapist Fiona Beckerlegge and occupational therapist Rachel Lassman were invited to join a medical outreach day being conducted in Ntoroko District, 45km from Fort Portal. The day had been organised by Rwenzori Special Needs Foundation (RSNF) and Organised Useful Rehabilitation Services (OURS) from Mbarara. This was the second annual outreach that the 2 organisations had collaborated on. RSNF had spent the previous weeks working with community leaders to sensitise and mobilise the community to attend the day, through community visits, radio programmes and advertising and by speaking to the health centre staff.

The medical team from OURS had travelled from Mbarara the previous day, and included an occupational therapist, vision specialist, orthopaedic technician and a community health worker, while the project coordinator from RSNF was overseeing the running of the day.

When we arrived at the Karugutu Health Centre there were a large number of families waiting under the trees, having heard that people were coming to help their children. Unfortunately the staff within the health centre were not involved and did not join in our activities, but it would have been useful to have them involved as well so that were able to continue with the patient management once the outreach was complete.

The gathered families were informed of the specialists present and were advised to visit the one most appropriate to their child's needs. In total 86 children were assessed by the various specialists with a range of disabilities:

Occupational Therapy - 33		Orthopaedic Technician - 19		Vision Specialist - 34
Cerebral Palsy	14	Club foot	8	
Developmental Delay	7	Cleft lip & Palate	3	
Mental Retardation	5	Other	8	
Malnutrition	8			
Other	7			

Most children and their families were given advice and strategies for management; some were referred for surgery at CorSU hospital in Kampala or to OURS for rehabilitation. Some were referred to the Regional Referral hospital in Fort Portal, though many of these families do not have the means to pay for the transport to reach Fort Portal, which is why conditions such as club feet go untreated as the management for this is non-surgical but requires weekly casting in plaster of Paris by an orthopaedic technician for a minimum of 6 weeks and there is currently no one trained in the District to provide this service.



Below are pictures of physiotherapist, Fiona Beckerlegge, and occupational therapist, Rachel Lassman, during the medical outreach in Ntoroko district.





Unfortunately follow up for most of these families is difficult due to the financial constraints of the organisations visiting and the families themselves. We were able to follow up on one child however: during the day this 9 year old girl, Joyce, explained that she was struggling at school as her wheelchair didn't fit under the desk and so she had to work on the floor. KCDC took her to the Buhinga orthopaedic workshop to have a tray fitted so that she is able to work from her chair at school.

