

# PROGRESS

The quarterly newsletter from Doctors Worldwide - Summer 2006

## VOLUNTEERS

time to start brushing up on your French!



## HEWA BORA HOSPITAL OPENS

This 40-bedded facility in the city of Lubumbashi, was officially opened on June 17th 2006.

In Hewa Bora area, not far from the airport, we have completed our largest infrastructure project to date. The area is rapidly swelling with people migrating from the centre of the city towards the outskirts, and this new 40 bedded facility will do much to serve the growing population of more than 20000, as well as surrounding areas. We also intend to use this centre as a base for future project initiatives and public health campaigns such as those dealing with HIV/AIDs, malaria, nutrition etc.

One of the key issues we aim to achieve at this centre is self-sufficiency, and that with the

introduction of operative, radiological and laboratory services, fees could be charged to those who could afford (which would still undercut private health clinic fees) and this would in turn help with running expenses as well as allow for health care to be delivered at subsidised rates to vulnerable and needy groups (eg: single mothers, widows, HIV patients, children).

The Hewa Bora Health Centre is only one of our many activities in southern DR Congo, and we have now also established links with the local medical school so as to develop teaching training projects.



For further information, please check our website, [www.doctorsworldwide.org](http://www.doctorsworldwide.org)

# NIGER



## Snapshots

The above three pictures taken by one of our volunteers typify life in Niger. Goats and cattle often represent wealth and income for a family, whereas cereal crops such as millet, provides the staple food, albeit after much pounding. The river Niger, like many great rivers, is the lifeblood of the country.

## In May 2006, eight intrepid trekkers took to the hills.

The mission, to raise funds for obstetric fistula operations in Niger, as well as to enjoy the beauty of Ennerdale Valley in the Lake District. The sponsored trek began along the banks of Ennerdale Water and then through the valley to reach the secluded Black Sail Youth Hostel. Nightfall brought with it a clear starlit sky.

*Take a hike!*

Some of the group went up the nearby hills for some 'night navigation' and stargazing. The return journey meandered next to a stream back up to the lake. Throughout the 20 mile hike the walkers were blessed with glorious weather, and to put the calories back on, the group indulged in some of the best sticky toffee pudding around in a local cafe before heading back home.



## So, you want to be a Volunteer?!

We have always been keen in utilising our volunteer resource base as circumstance allows. However, it also one of the more challenging aspects of our work. It is not surprising therefore that most other charities do not entertain volunteers on medical relief trips. Having learnt much over the past few years, we have given much thought and deliberation on how to develop and implement changes.

One of the key issues with having a highly skilled workforce of

different backgrounds and specialities is general training with a medical aid perspective. To this end we will begin our own training courses to take place initially once a year, and increase them according to demand and level. In addition, funds permitting, we will subsidise recognised courses for our volunteers. We believe that such training will allow volunteers to be better prepared for work in the field, where often the clinic work is the easy bit! Volunteers within the UK who have attended such courses will be chosen preferentially for medical relief missions.

In order to achieve such changes, we will be commencing a volunteer subscription fee. The fee for UK volunteers will be £10 a month, as of August 31<sup>st</sup> 2006. Registered students in full time education

will receive a concessionary rate of £5 a month. Subscription will entitle volunteers to attendance of annual training course and annual review event free of charge. However, get more people involved, and we may be able to offer further subsidies with regard to other training courses and materials. It should be noted that we hope to continue to develop membership of the volunteer community into a more useful service over the coming years.

Volunteers within the UK who do not wish to subscribe are encouraged to join or remain on the mailing list. However, should you decide to attend training day or annual review event, standard fees will apply.

Unfortunately we as yet do not have the scope to develop such a programme outside the UK, but get more people involved and we may soon be able to! In the meantime please remain on the mailing list.

Contact us or visit the website for more information.





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## CLINIC COMPLETED

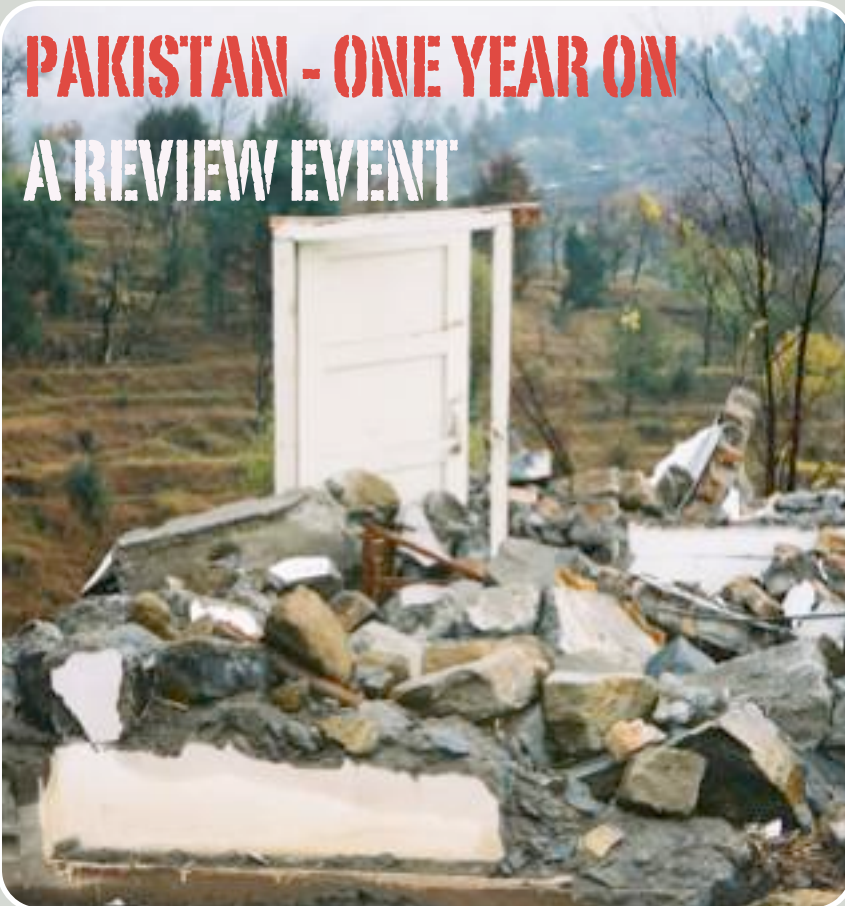
**Daulat Khan, Bhola Island,  
Bangladesh**



June saw the completion of a much needed facility in Daulat Khan. This project was implemented in partnership with Green Crescent which is a UK based charity involved with work for the needy in Bangladesh.

However, it should be noted that the main stake-holders were the local community who donated the land and built the clinic themselves. Primary and maternal care services will be run through the clinic, alongside medical education classes.

## PAKISTAN - ONE YEAR ON A REVIEW EVENT



JOIN US ON OCTOBER 1ST FOR IFTAR, PRESENTATION AND PHOTO EXHIBITION. VOLUNTEERS WHO WISH TO SUBMIT PHOTOS FOR THE EXHIBITION, PLEASE CONTACT US.

EVENTS	AUG 25-27	OCT 1	DEC 2
	<p><b>Istanbul</b></p> <p>Meeting between key members of the executive committee from the UK, USA and Turkey.</p>	<p><b>Leeds</b></p> <p>An iftar as well as review of our work over the past year with the focus on Pakistan, a year on. (tickets will be available from September)</p>	<p><b>Venue TBC</b></p> <p>First volunteer training day. Contact us to register your interest.</p>