

Information on Treatment Sites for the “Fistula Fortnight”

Kano State

The Laure Fistula Ward of Murtala Muhammad Specialist Hospital is one of the main fistula repair centres in northern Nigeria. Established in 1987, the centre has 34 beds for fistula patients, with access to an additional 60 beds at the nearby Kwali Rehabilitation Centre. Murtala Muhammad has the capacity to train 15 doctors and treat some 1,500 fistula patients annually.

In preparation for the Fortnight, patients will be screened and housed at Zoo Road VVF Centre. They will then be treated at Murtala Muhammad and sent to Kwali Rehabilitation Centre for post-operative care.

Katsina State

The Babbar Ruga Fistula Hospital, run by Dutch surgeon Dr. Kees Waaldijk, is one of the largest centres in the world providing fistula treatment and training services. Over the past 20 years, this centre – in partnership with a number of other facilities in the region – has treated some 21,000 women, pioneered innovative surgical techniques, and trained hundreds of doctors and nurses in fistula repair.

The Babbar Ruga hospital has an operating theatre dedicated to fistula surgery, with over 200 beds for pre- and post-operative care. Sewing and literacy classes are provided by the Ministry of Women’s Affairs. Though Dr. Waaldijk now performs about 1,500 fistula operations annually at this facility and plans to expand its training capabilities, the caseload there continues to grow.

Kebbi State

The Birnin Kebbi VVF Centre is a new government-funded facility attached to a family support clinic with two large wards, an extensive operating theatre, and large laundry and kitchen facilities. Dr. Hassan Wara is the sole surgeon at this facility, with occasional support visits by Dr. Kees Waaldijk. The Kebbi Centre can accommodate 50 women at any one time. An estimated 1,000 fistula patients await surgery.

Sokoto State

The Maryam Abacha Women and Children’s Hospital in Sokoto has three doctors trained in fistula repair, with up to 10 women treated each week. The fistula wards – destroyed by a fire last year – are newly constructed, equipped and furnished. The centre boasts an extensive operating theatre, large laundry and kitchen facilities, and a rehabilitation room with sewing and knitting machines.