

# Panzi Hospital - Newsletter #1 July 2010

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## The Sange explosion

After the fuel truck accident in Sange, 70 km south of Bukavu, patients were evacuated to several hospitals throughout South Kivu. Panzi Hospital received 18 people with severe burns, all of whom required surgery.

Unfortunately, 11 patients died of their injuries, and others are in critical condition. The treatment of burn injuries has been extremely demanding on human resources, medicine and medical supplies.

Currently the patients are being treated with antibiotics, fluid nutrition and painkillers. There is also high consumption of anesthetics. The biggest challenge for the medics and patients has been to fight infections that often follow when the body is to a large extent an open wound.

For those who survive, it will be a long recovery process. Many of them will be kept at Panzi Hospital for three to six months, before they are strong enough to have the plastic surgery and as they follow physical therapy routines.



**Donations for the Sange victims:** **Doctors Without Borders** (medicines, food, materials, transport of cadavers) **Minister of Social Affaires** (1000 dollars, food and water and funeral costs), **Banro Mining in Bukavu** (medicines, food and water), **MONUSCO/Panzi à Bukavu** (food), **WHO in Goma** (medicines and materials), **CRS in Bukavu** (medicines and materials), **Sud-Kivu Governor** (funeral costs), **DRC Government** (medicines and materials), **BDOM in Bukavu** (food and water), **Bralima Bukavu** (medical supplies, food and water), **International Red Cross** (volunteers) **SNEL** (diesel), **PMU Interlife** (2900 dollar for food, water and medical supplies) **Private donations** (100 dollar), **National Social Security Office** (food and water), **Central bank of Congo** (medicines and materials).

## President visit at Panzi

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On Wednesday July 6 DRC:s president Joseph Kabila made his first visit to Panzi Hospital to meet with the victims of the Sange explosion. He also chose to visit the nutrition program at the hospital and talked to some of the patients, donating 50 000 dollars to fight malnutrition.

In the same week also the governor of South Kivu, Marcellin Cissambo and the minister of social affairs visited the victims of Sange and made donations.



- We are pleased the president, governor and minister made visits to Panzi showing their compassion for the victims of the Sange accident. It is important for the victims, but also shows support for the medical team. President Kabila also told he will be back in August to visit other projects in the hospital, such as the Gender Based Violence projects.



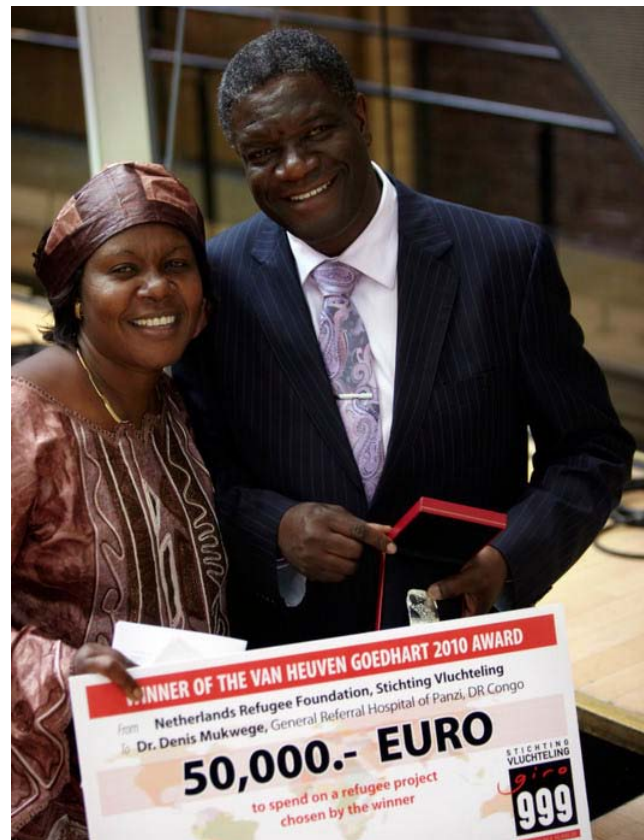
## Dr Denis Mukwege winner of the van Heuven Goedhart Award

In June Dr Mukwege was honored with the van Heuven Goedhart Award from the Netherlands Refugee Foundation (Stichting Vluchteling). The prize ceremony was held at Beurs van Berlage in Amsterdam. Dr Mukwege was awarded for his “...dedication to medical assistance in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, particularly his commitment to the many women and girls, victims of sexual abuse and genital mutilation.”

The prize included 50 000 euro to be spent on a project to assist refugees and/or displaced persons—program staff at the hospital is currently in the planning stages for how best to use this funding.

The Netherlands Refugee Foundation (Stichting Vluchteling) is a NGO working to promote awareness among the Dutch population about refugees and to raise funds. Goedhart was the first High Commissioner for Refugees at the United Nations.

Last month Dr Mukwege also attended a medical conference in Brazil, where he spoke about the great dilemmas of Africa and its relationship with the world, regarding humanitarian aid, health, education, human rights and consolidation of democracy.



## HIV/AIDS

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Hiv continues to be a grave problem in Bukavu and the surrounding area.

- One trend is that HIV is increasing among young people since some believe that now there is now a cure. It is of both dangerous and disconcerting if this misunderstanding becomes wide spread, says Dr Tina Amisi, in charge of the HIV/AIDS- project at Panzi Hospital.

At the moment 570 HIV-patients are being treated at Panzi Hospital, more than half receiving ARV-therapy (Anti Retro Viral). All are adults since pediatric ARV is currently unavailable.

At the end of June PNLs announced that two HIV-centers in town, that have been treating 3000, will close. Panzi Hospital was asked to take care of 200 patients. Due to such short notice it was decided that instead of a transfers it was better that patients came voluntarily to Panzi.

- The patients must feel that their confidentiality is respected, that they are treated in a secure environment and treated with respect. Otherwise we risk that people with HIV will stop caring about their own situation and not follow treatment protocols, says Dr Tina Amisi.



## Victims of Sexual Violence

### -June report

The number of women treated in the VSV (Victims of Sexual Violence)-project at Panzi Hospital reached 324 for the month of June. The women and girls range from children to over 60 years. 58 % of them were raped and the perpetrators were found to be domestic partners, men in uniform and other civilians.

Last month Panzi Hospital surgeons performed 84 operations in the VSV-project, 25 of which were fistula repairs.

Most of the VSV-patients came from Kabare, south of Bukavu.



## Panzi Hospital

The General Reference Hospital of Panzi (GRHP) is located Bukavu, capital city of the South Kivu province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The hospital began in 1999 and has specialized in severe gynecological disorders, specifically sexualized trauma and fistulas. Panzi Hospital provides services in Obstetrics, Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, general and specialized Surgery, Ophthalmology, Dentistry and Nutrition. It also has its own laboratory, radiology, ultrasound and endoscopy units.

Panzi Hospital is a private hospital run by Cepac (Communauté des Églises de Pentecôte en Afrique Centrale).

Dr. Denis Mukwege is the Medical Director of the Panzi Hospital and the Executive Director of the Panzi Foundation which supports the hospitals work and outreach to clinics and communities across the nation.

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