

## Safe Motherhood – enabling women with fistula to receive repair



**408 WOMEN WERE REPAIRED OF FISTULA IN 2013**

93% of fistula cases were repaired and healed

IPASC identifies women with fistula through local Health clinics, radio broadcasts and direct contact with communities and health workers. The time and place for surgery is negotiated. Women are transported to the Hospital and students buy sufficient food and other essentials for their stay.



Normally people in hospital are cared for by family members but in the case of fistula repair this is not possible as there is only sufficient room in the vehicle for the women.



After the repair and recovery, the women are returned to their homes. IPASC works with the women to reintegrate them into their families and communities. IPASC also helps women to work again so as to be financially independent.



*A cooperative of women who have been given a piece of land for cultivation by the Chief of the community*

### **Testimonies:**

#### **Mrs MONUKUMA**

Now aged 49 years she has known real tragedy. Married too young, her first labour was protracted and as a consequence she had a caesarean section. Following this she became doubly incontinent and to add to her troubles she could no longer live with her husband who had no option but to take another wife. She suffered this for almost 23 years. Rejected by her husband, marginalised by her community, she isolated herself in a small one room thatched shelter outside the village. She found salvation with the arrival of IPASC as it travelled through the area seeking women living with fistula. She was repaired and afterwards thanked IPASC for her reintegration into family life. With great emotion she said, 'Thank you, thank you and again thank you to IPASC for giving me an unforgettable service – I am truly a new woman'.

#### **Mrs PARITSIA**

This woman now aged 38 years has been a victim of fistula for 16 years. She lives in a small village close to the border with Uganda. She was 22 years when she had her first pregnancy. There was no maternity clinic near her home and so she went to Uganda for her delivery. Contrary to her expectations, after she had given birth she became incontinent. All this time she has lived a life of suffering and sadness. Her fistula repair was organised by IPASC in collaboration with Dr. Christina. After the repair she said, 'I have regained my place in the family, thanks to IPASC. A thousand times thank you to IPASC without whom I would already be dead from depression and isolation'.

#### **Mrs UCIDA**

Mrs Ucida has been repaired twice. The first repair broke down because she failed to follow the advice given and returned immediately to heavy work and lifting. She said, 'I was so discouraged by the mistake I made'. In this particular case, unlike most others, her husband had stood by her. She told IPASC, 'I could hardly cope with my humiliation. I sincerely thank IPASC for rescuing me again'. This lady now proposes to raise awareness amongst other women not to be ashamed of their condition as she was, but to seek help from IPASC.