

Rehabilitation Initiative ~ 2011

Returning to Goma after a one-year hiatus, I was delighted to find the rehabilitation department well-integrated into the hospital system and to hear positive feedback from IPOP's physician and nurse team about the care the physical therapists were giving to the pediatric patients. During my one-month stay in Goma, I focused on raising the level of skill and knowledge of the physical therapy staff and student interns, providing lectures, practice sessions and clinical mentorship. The staff and students requested particular topics, based on the illnesses and injuries they see on a regular basis at the hospital; this included how to treat neglected orthopedic conditions, working with children with brain injuries and pediatric burn care.

I also continued my role as a guest teacher for HEAL Africa's Orthopedic Officer school, providing classroom and clinical instruction, as well as re-organizing and updating the school's library, which was established last year by IPOP's Rehab Initiative team. Another important component of HEAL Africa's orthopedics program involves the clubfoot clinic, which aims to identify and treat this congenital deformity in infants and young children, in order to prevent complications and the need for surgery later in life.

Working with the clinic director and a local artist, we designed a series of posters to educate the community about identification and treatment of this anomaly (example shown). The posters will be printed and posted in health centers and bulletin boards in and around Goma in the months to come.

Laura Keyser

October, 2011



**Wakati wa matunzo inatuomba
kuheshimu kanuni za matunzo**

