

# NEWSLETTER

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## *The story of Porman*



We first met Porman Sinambela, a young boy aged 2, in September 2007 when he arrived at Harapan Hospital with his father to register for a cleft lip operation. However on first sight it was obvious that Porman was suffering from severe malnutrition and that this had to be corrected before he would

be well enough to undergo an operation.

Porman's family is extremely poverty-stricken, with sickness and a lack of food part of their everyday lives. Porman's father, who is severely underweight and blind in one eye, made the trip with Porman to Harapan Hospital alone, as Porman's mother was too sick to come herself. Sadly, despite great efforts and the good quality of care he received, Porman's body weight did not increase sufficiently at this time for surgery to go ahead. We had no option but to discharge Porman home with extra milk supplies and to remain in touch with the family.

Porman and his mother attended the registration day in September this year with the hope that the operation could finally proceed. However, once again, Porman proved to be too malnourished and consequently failed a blood test. He was admitted into Harapan Hospital and every effort was made to get him fit enough for the operation. Two weeks later he once again failed his blood test, but we could not give up and kept him in hospital with more care. Two weeks later we finally heard the news we had been waiting for, that Porman had passed his blood test and was healthy enough to have his operation. It was just in time as 22nd October was the last day that the Dutch doctors were there. So Porman was the last child to be operated on in 2008.



*Porman and his father receiving treatment at Harapan Hospital 2007*

*Porman and his mother a few days after lip surgery*



*Porman October 2008 ready to start a new life*