

**HEALTH – Hospitals in Bangladesh and Iraq to benefit from surplus stock**

**ANDREW PAPWORTH** NEWS REPORTER

**PATIENTS in faraway countries are set to benefit from a generous gesture by Peterborough hospitals.**

Many overseas hospitals have to endure a serious lack of equipment – even to the extent where patients are treated on the floor because there are no beds.

Now the Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundations Trust has given its old beds to two charities so they can help medical centres in Iraq and Bangladesh.

On Thursday, dozens of beds were loaded into two lorries to be shipped out to the Disabled Rehab Centre in Jalalabad, in Bangladesh, and hospitals in Iraq.

The beds have been given to the Human Relief Foundation, which helps rebuild communities in Iraq, and Give Us A Lift, which supports the centre in Jalalabad.

Aminul Islam, chairman of Give Us A Lift, said: "The conditions in Bangladesh are very poor.

"One ward often has 50 people in beds and another 130 waiting for treatment on the floor, all in one room.

"They are all in pain or are bleeding."

A trust spokeswoman said: "In Bangladesh and Iraq they just do not have enough beds for their patients.

"There are people over there who have been treated on the floors of hospitals as a result, so we felt obliged to do something."

The trust has just bought 650 new beds under its replacement bed programme, leaving 100 beds



**GENEROUS:** Human Relief Foundation project manager Yousaf Razaq, left, with assistant director of risk and occupational health David Ireland overseeing the loading of hospital equipment bound for Iraq. (5PF0519323)  
Picture: PAUL FRANKS

# Beds gift to ease patients' plight

surplus to requirement.

But knowing the plight of patients in Iraq and Bangladesh, trust staff decided that, rather than throw them away, the beds could be put to good use if given to the two charities, which both help hospitals in

less fortunate countries.

Only 60 of the 100 beds could be fitted on to the lorries on Thursday, and the remaining beds will be sent out in June.

David Ireland, assistant director of risk and occupational health at the trust,

added: "If we were not donating the beds to charity they would have been scrapped."

The remaining beds will be taken away by lorry on Tuesday, June 14.

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