



BWINDI COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 issue 2 March 2023

BCH partners with NICHE in a bid to reduce Neonatal Mortality rate



Uganda's neonatal mortality rate (NMR) is falling and currently stands at around 19 deaths of babies under 28 days of life per 1000 live births. The UN sustainable development goals want to see it "at least as low as 12 per 1000 live births" by 2030.

Newborn, Infant & Child Health Education (NICHE) International, a UK based CIO has been working with Bwindi Community Hospital since 2022 to try and bring the NMR down by educating health care professionals in top quality newborn care.

The 22nd of February 2023 saw the end of a first Generic Instructors Course (GIC). A team of 12 health workers from Bwindi Community Hospital (BCH) and lower level health facilities in her catchment area fully qualified as instructors of the Neonatal Care Course.

This means that they will be able to share their knowledge and skills with the wider health care work force in Kanungu District and equip them with principles of excellent newborn care.

The team later embarked on teaching the first of 2 Neonatal Care Courses starting with 23rd of February. Whereas the GIC focuses on training local instructors in teaching skills to deliver the Neonatal Care Course, the course itself entails coverage of core areas identified by WHO to be leading causes of neonatal mortality inclusive Resuscitation at birth, Early breastfeeding, Recognition and management of the sick newborn. The course also covers Skin to Skin Care, a practice that has been documented to extend incredible medical, emotional and mental health benefits both babies and

their parents. Learners will be from BCH and the outlying health facilities within Kanungu District and the course will eventually span into pre-service programs at Uganda Nursing School-Bwindi and Uganda College of Health Sciences Bwindi.

Dr Julia Thomson, from NICHE says "We are all so proud of the amazing instructors here at BCH and the phenomenal enthusiasm they have shown in helping to lower the infant mortality rates in Uganda and promote the principles covered in the Neonatal Care Course. Thank you for welcoming the NICHE instructor team so warmly!"

BCH is very proud to associate with NICHE in promoting quality health care to the Bwindi Community.

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BCH partners with Azimuth World Foundation to support the Batwa

Bwindi Community Hospital (BCH) has partnered with Azimuth World Foundation (AWF), a US based charitable organization, to bring healthcare to the Batwa, a severely underprivileged community.

AWF raised a US \$25000 Grant for BCH meant to improve the living styles of the indigenous population living in Kanungu District South Western Uganda.

This partnership was geared towards improvement of sanitation and hygiene

among the Batwa pygmies. So far, hand washing facilities have been set up in the community with an aim of reducing diarrheal diseases. Besides, with involvement of Batwa, 45 pit latrines have been constructed. The project has also supported the installation of 12 solar panels in different settlements and distribution of 36 mobile phones to the Batwa leaders in the community.

This was done in a bid to improve access

to communication most especially through the BCH (mCHIS), mobile Community Health Information System, an innovation championed by BCH to promote maternal and child health. Additionally, 10 settlements have been empowered in poultry through distribution of chicken and cages.



Sanitation facilities set up in the Batwa community



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Bwindi Community Hospital gets digital X-ray machines



Installation of the new X-Ray System

The efficiency of radiology department at Bwindi Community Hospital (BCH) has been boosted significantly with the addition of two new X-ray Machines, thanks to Catholic Medical Mission board, Rotary club of West Port Rotary International.

These machines are expected to take the department's operations fully digital. The Executive Director BCH, Murezi Mereth, noted that the new pieces of equipment will be used to replace the x-ray systems previously employed at the hospital, which significantly affected the department's ability to provide time-efficient service to the public. He further highlighted that quality diagnostic service delivery is one of the pillars of outstanding clinical service delivery and the machines were a significant boost towards engagement in telemedicine which is

fundamental for a rural based health facility such as BCH.

The hospital no longer has to employ x-ray films for every client, an approach that was previously used and proved to be time-consuming and costly because the recently received two x-ray machines—one portable and one fixed—are entirely digital.

If you require an x-ray for any region of your body, it will take much less time, and it will also benefit the hospital and the community, according to Kiconco Arthur, a medical imaging technologist at BCH. "Our old machine was pretty bad at maneuvering, but this new one is really wonderful. It's simply easier to use than our other equipment. Arthur further highlighted that unlike before were physical x-ray films had to be

processed for every client, currently films will be shared with clinicians electronically and will always be available for future reference with ease.

The new portable x-ray machine has made it possible to offer real time services to the critically ill patients with no need to move them around the hospital particularly those receiving intensive care services. This is anticipated to further reduce of risk of complications that different patients have always stood during transportation to the central x-ray unit with fixed machine.

In addition to the new portable machine, BCH also installed a new room-based X-Ray machine and accompanying technology. The new machine offers extensive flexibility that the old machine did not.





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UCHSB gets a new Principal



Mr Keizire Onesmus has been hired as the new principal at Uganda College of Health Sciences Bwindi.

Onesmus, is not new to Bwindi, having served as the head of our outpatient department, and also as a public health dental officer at Bwindi Community Hospital. He later went back to school to pursue a bachelors in medical education at Health tutor's college, Mulago Makerere University where he graduated with a first-class honors degree.

“Our students deserve a spectacular

leader and I believe they are getting one,” said Murezi Mereth, the executive director Bwindi Community Hospital. Onesmus is a visionary leader with a very strong record of collaboration and discipline. I am excited to see what he will bring to UCHSB.”

Onesmus replaces Ofumba Yabin, who has gone for career development.

Our prospective courses include: certificate in medical laboratory, diploma in public health dentistry, diploma in sonography and finally a diploma in medical records and health informatics.

Relatedly, Ms Nkamusima Ingrid has also joined Uganda Nursing School Bwindi as a tutor. Ingrid previously worked as a midwife at BCH before joining Health Tutors College, Mulago Makerere, University, and graduated in February this year.

Ingrid brings extensive knowledge and experience of newborn and maternal care to the nursing and midwifery school students.

The recruitment of these staff fit in our vision of having the best staff as we prepare to become a University by 2025.

You can support our work by making a donation

In the USA

The Kellermann Foundation
P.O. Box 832809
Richardson, TX 75083-2809
www.kellermannfoundation.org

or

Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy
<http://www.akphilanthropy.org>

In Germany

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In the UK,

REACH BWINDI
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Or make a direct transfer to our bank accounts in Uganda with the following details:

Account Name: **Bwindi Community Hospital**

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