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UNICEF Visits Baylor-Uganda Supported Sites in Rwenzori

By Paul Mayende

UNICEF, one of the funding partners for Baylor-Uganda has conducted a field visit to supported health facilities in the Rwenzori region to witness the interventions in expanding paediatric HIV/AIDS services and maternal health.

The head of UNICEF's HIV/AIDS and Maternal & Child Health Unit, Dr. Neelam Bhardwaj visited the districts of Kyenjojo and Kabarole where Baylor-Uganda supports comprehensive HIV/AIDS and the *Saving Mothers, Giving Life* maternal health program.

"This is one of the best partnerships I am witnessing where the district leadership is well versed with the implementation of the health programs that they even give statistical information on maternal health and HIV performance", remarked Dr. Neelam while meeting the Kabarole district chairperson.

Dr. Neelam held meetings with VHT representatives, Boda-for-Mothers riders and ambulance drivers whom she referred to as 'the first line' of the health response system.

She said, "In my opinion, the greatest success of these interventions and Baylor-Uganda is the ability to bring together these volunteer structures, supporting them and ensuring that they contribute to the quality service that we know Baylor stands for".



Dr. Neelam with Scarf, Dr. Addy and the site engineer, right, prepare to enter the building being constructed at Kibiito HC IV in Kabarole

During the visit, Dr. Neelam together with Dr. Addy, the Baylor-Uganda regional staff and the district leadership visited Kibiito Health Center IV where a multi-million complex for maternal health services is being constructed. The building is collaboration between Baylor-Uganda, UNICEF and the Kabarole local government



The multi-million building at Kibiito, Kabarole district

This support comes after the building housing the maternity, theater and labour suites was struck by an earth quake, condemned for any use and later destroyed by a storm.

In an earlier meeting at Kyenjojo district local government, Dr. Neelam appreciated the political leadership for mobilizing women to access maternal health services, noting that continued strong partnership was critical for effective service delivery.

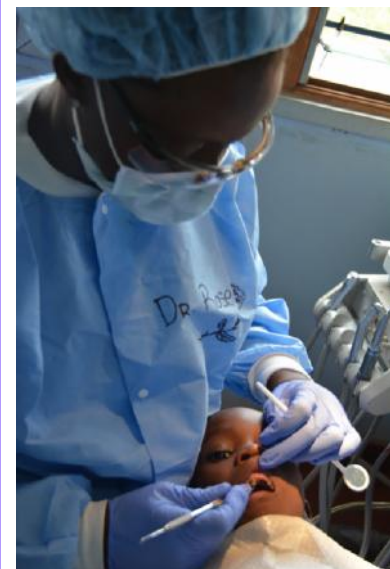
UNICEF had previously supported Baylor-Uganda in the National Expansion of paediatric HIV/AIDS services in the Rwenzori, Northern Uganda and Karamoja regions. During the interventions, Baylor-Uganda developed best practices in Early Infant Diagnosis and PMTCT. Based on these, UNICEF, is currently supporting Paediatric HIV care and treatment in Karamoja.

Baylor Children get expert treatment in dental camp

By Masturah Chemisto

Margaret Nansamba's smile is simply contagious. You would never know that less than an hour back, the six year old from Nakulabye had undergone a rigorous dental assessment and five of her milk teeth had been extracted and another 2 had been filled.

Margaret is among the 37 Baylor-Uganda children who benefitted from this year's dental camp at Mildmay Uganda. The children who were accompanied by their caretakers and two nurses were screened, assessed and managed for dental illnesses by 15 expert dentists from Minnesota, USA who came under the Uganda Dental Mission led by a Ugandan born paediatric dentist Dr. Paul Musherura. Through this ministry, more than 3,000 children have been treated at this free clinic.



Dr. Rose Kabalizi examining Margaret before the procedure

The doctors offered free services that included tooth extraction, tooth alignment, root canal therapy, cleaning and polishing. These procedures would have otherwise been very costly to the caretakers. 59 year old Dick Musisi, Margaret's father couldn't hold his happiness as he was very grateful for the initiative. 'I could not afford to take her to the private clinic since it is very expensive', says Musisi adding that such initiatives should be more often.

The children received gift packages that consisted of a green back pack, sun glasses, a photo, dolls, teddy bears, a tooth brush and a bible. After receiving treatment, the children were engaged in sports, painting and other games that kept them occupied as they waited for those still undergoing treatment.

Dr. Rose Kabalizi, the coordinator of the program urged caregivers to help the children maintain dental hygiene to reduce the incidence of dental illnesses. She called for continued partnership between Baylor-Uganda and Mildmay Uganda so as to achieve common goals of healthy lives for the people of Uganda.



6 year old Margaret Nansamba smiling away even after 5 teeth were extracted.



Dr. Rose counseling Mr. Musisi Dick a care giver on the importance of good dental hygiene as a way to reduce dental illnesses.



Backpack ...Backpack.....We all know how important backpacks are to children. Children carrying their backpacks with goodies given to them as gifts from the American expert dentists as they wait for treatment



Children play with the play therapist on site



Nurse Beatrice Nagaddya (in back ground) helps organize the children to register

All about Fun Learning at the Sanyuka Camp

By Christine Kaleeba.

Participating in Sanyuka camp as an adult is one of those rare moments to reminisce on the joys of childhood and how really laugh hard. It is a happy place with lots of games, camaraderie and fun. What is really striking about the experience is the warmth and welcome everyone is given and the strong sense of belonging that engulfs you whether you are dancing to silly Village people songs in circles or discussing more serious matters such as sexuality and adherence. It is like a members club with signals, special songs and chant and it is clear the bonds and memories created there have a lasting impact on the children.

The Mulago Adolescent HIV clinic at Baylor-Uganda provides comprehensive HIV/AIDS care for adolescents and their families infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. This care involves; Adolescent Sexual & Reproductive Health Care (ASRH HIV care and treatment, psychosocial support, mental health assessment using HEADSS (Home, Education /employment, peer group Activities, Drugs, Sexuality, and Suicide/ depression) approach.

There are over 3456 adolescents & youth (9-24 years) registered and supported at the Centre Of Excellence. Every year as part of their psychosocial support, a select number of adolescents (9-11 years) and youth (12-19 years) attend the Sanyuka and Power of Hope camps. The young people are chosen according to their needs and challenges, especially those faced with adherence and is a combination of play therapy, skill and confidence building and peer support

This year, the Sanyuka camp took place at Taibah International Junior School situated on Entebbe road and brought together 96 campers for five days of learning, fun and sharing experiences. Prior to the campers' arrival, staff received residential Leadership training and residential staff training for four and five days respectively from 7th Jan -24th Jan 2014. On return, campers shared their experience with the Kids (10-12 years), Sharp (13-15 years), Bright (16-19 years) clubs and youth explaining what they had learned about good adherence and positive living before busting a few Sanyuka moves.

Sanyuka Camp this year was supported by *SeriousFun*, a global family of *camps* and programs which help children and their families reach beyond illness to discover joy, confidence and new possibilities.



Members of colour blue and yellow exude the energy and zeal that purely defines the attitude of the Sanyuka campers



Imparting skills in children in an integral part of the camp activities.
Left : Children making tie and die
Right: T-shirts made in tie and die that send out messages





Peer Support Groups Giving a Sense of Belonging to Children

By Brian Hastings Nganwa

**Brian Hastings Nganwa,
Filing Clerk , M&E
Department**

Come in on any second or third Saturday of a month, Baylor COE could be mistaken for a recreation centre or a 'happening place' as the adolescents would say. Dressed to kill – like celebs, blaring music and children and youth showing off their best dance moves. Behold....the over 400 children and youth are here for a peer support group meeting.

Peer support groups is an initiative by the psychosocial department of Baylor Uganda that involves bringing children together in groups to socialize and mingle as well as learn how to deal with daily life challenges.

It comprises of 3 types of groups; adolescents, youth, and teen mothers peer support groups. Under adolescent group, age groups of attendees are between the ages of 10-17 years. This group is further broken into three subgroups based on their ages. There is the kids club, 10-12 years, Sharp Club 13-14, Bright Club 15-17.

The youth is from 18 and above while the teen mothers are of those who have children or are pregnant. The topics of discussion range from basic health care to finance generating ideas. The adolescent group for example may discuss about adherence, the do's and don'ts of sex, Abstinence, where the participants come up with solutions to problems. There is no wrong answer given however the facilitators are there to guide them in the right direction.

Meanwhile the youth talk about relationship challenges, adherence, safe sex practices, family planning issues in addition to sharing income generating ideas. The teen mothers on the other hand talk about family planning, breast feeding, PMTCT, adherence, dealing with relationships and tips on child birth.

However, behind all the 'jazz' (serious issues of discussion) , peer support comprises of the most focused outspoken, innovative and talented group of individuals one could ever meet.

'I have made many friends'

I met my husband through peer support. ' Gloria Kawuma

'I have a sense of belonging'

'These are the shoulders I can comfortably lean on'.

'My self esteem has been boosted'



One of the adolescents sharing her experiences with group members during one of the meetings held at the COE waiting area.



Godfrey Okiror the CHBC officer facilitating in a youth group meeting. They are the above 18s and they talk about relationship challenges and safe sex practices



Its all fun and learning for the kids club. Prossy Nerima makes fun and gives inspiring tips to the children

Feature

Empowering children through skills development

By Masturah Chemisto

'I have been able to pay my school fees (170,000/=) this term from money I got from selling table mats', says Rogers Seruwoza, an 18 year old S.2 student of St Mary's New Hope, Nabweru and a beneficiary from Baylor-Uganda's skills development initiative- a program in which he enrolled in 2009.

He was taught to make paper bags and table mats which he quickly learnt and started making on his own since the materials could be easily got. Such items include threads, pins, wood glue, a cotton cloth and food colour.

On a good day, Rogers can make six sets of table mats which he sells at 10,000 shillings each along Yusuf Lule road to customers held up in traffic jam. In addition to paying fees and buy food, Rogers has also been able to start a small business of selling shoes and clothes through the proceeds from the tablemats.

He is all praise for Baylor-Uganda for the initiative and his teacher Nagawa Jane Florence who taught him 'how to fish rather than giving him the fish'.

A teacher by profession, her passion and energy to teach is immense. Nagawa Jane Florence is the creative arts and crafts skill builder for Baylor-Uganda children working under counseling department.

Every Tuesday since 2008, she has trained children in different skills not only in arts and crafts but also in cooking and other life skills like behavioral change and career guidance. The lessons are held at the children's play centre at the clinic near the patients waiting area and therefore she teaches not only the children but even some caretakers.

Through arts and crafts, the children are taught to make bags and purses, table mats, scurfs both handmade and machine made, and table cloths. They also make assorted jewellery ranging from bracelets, earrings, necklaces, hair bands plus head bands in addition to the sandals, baskets, mats, candles, beading, paper bags, dolls, balls, counter books, and red ribbons. Jane also teaches tailoring and the children saw clothes, bandanas, sanitary towels. As part of art, they draw portraits of individuals, paintings and graphic design. Meanwhile, the caretakers are specifically trained on candle making, counter books and exercise books.

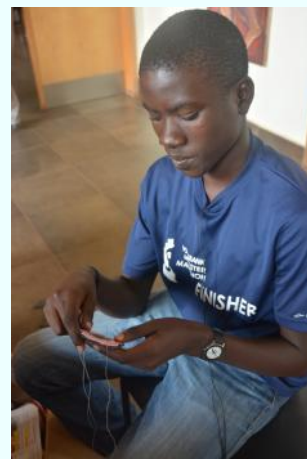
Once the items are sold, 40% of the proceeds go to the individuals who made the item while 60% goes to material purchase.

At the moment, there are over 50 children on the program. She is indeed proud of her work as she quickly names some of the children who have started their own crafts shops. Ssenkubuge Godfrey has a shop in Kawempe, Muhereza Timothy has in Kamwokya while Twinomujuni Aggrey has established his in Nabweru. Other children have been inspired by what they learnt in Baylor to pursue their dreams further. Bukirwa Miriam is now a fully fledged tailor who decided to go and study at YMCA for a certificate in tailoring.

Jane Florence decries the lack of space to for production, storage and sell of their products. 'We need an exhibition board and a permanent setting point where to refer people who want to buy the finished products. 'Even staff don't know where to access some of these beautiful items. Giving us a craft corner will solve this problem and also this will empower the children with practical business skills', explains Jane Florence.

Through our department head, we plan to engage management to

'consider our products when purchasing for the organization as a way to boost skills and development program'. She also notes that time allocated to them for the activities is very short as it affects the lesson plan and is forced to change to something else even before the children internalize a topic. 'We call on management to make skills development a fully fledged program because not empowering these children will have a spiral effect on their health', Jane Florence advises.



Rogers Seruwoza sawing beads on a sandal



Jane Florence Nagawa teaching the children beading of sandals



Two ladies display the dolls they bought from the Baylor stall



The team has made use of exhibitions to sell their products during events like the World AIDs. Above was during last year's international Candle light Memorial event in Luwero



ACTIVITIES

Sanyuka Camp 2014 in Pictures



Cissy Ssuuna, the camp coordinator welcoming Dr. Denise Birungi, Dr. Lorraine Biraho, and the Communication team led by Paul Mayende to the camp at Taibah Junior



Cissy with Judy Miller, the Vice President of the Conrad Hilton Foundation who had joined the campers to get a feel. They were here to assess the camp for possible funding through Serious Fun.

Learning through Drama



Captivated! Children watching a drama skit on adherence



Dr. Francis Kanyike (in red) narrating the story of a young girl called Princes Pia (Left) while the actors dramatize the relationship between drug adherence, HIV, and CD4s

Arts and Crafts



Children are taught how to make tie and die and some of the finished products are the t-shirts above



And the Winner is..... Camper Ow'omulembe is rewarded for his outstanding performance in a task



ACTIVITIES

Intense Sports Drills



Intense.....An instructor takes the children through drills in the field



Food time



Food for Energy. Campers are served balanced meals



Left: Camp facilitators meeting to evaluate their performance.

Right: One of the campers standing beside the 'wall of Fame' displays his certificate for winning a task.



SUCCESS STORY

Play therapy helps child walk

By Masturah Chemisto

Born a premature and HIV positive, Peter (not real name) could not walk at 2 years old. His mother was 6 months pregnant when; during the antenatal visit she was told that she was HIV positive. She was too shocked and immediately got hypertension and went into a coma for 1 month.

While in coma, she was operated and the baby was saved. With a birth weight of only 1kilogramme, by God's grace, Peter lived on although his legs were very weak. On his first birthday, he could not even stand. This situation was very frustrating and worrying for his mother. Peters mother always admired other mothers whose children would play freely and always wondered if her son would ever walk

'When the doctors examined his ankles, they assured me that although it would take time, Peter would eventually walk', recalls Peter's mother who thought that this was just consolation from the doctors.

At the time, Sarah was having problems with her husband who was never there as he was engaged with other women. When he dropped by home, he was always lamenting how it was my fault that his son would never walk.

When we came for treatment, the children playing at the play area always caught my son's attention. 'Whenever the children were playing and singing, he would crawl towards them', says Sarah. To celebrate this miracle, Sarah threw a party for her son and invited friends and relatives

One time as we were waiting for treatment, as he usually does, he struggled to be put down and then he crawled towards the play area. After a few minutes, all over a sudden, 'I saw him walking towards the children's play area. At first, I thought it was another child since I couldn't believe my eyes', Sarah narrates with a lot of excitement as though it had just happened.

Seeing her son walk was a miracle from God since hopes of seeing Peter walking were fast disappearing. She attributes this miracle to the children's play centre in Baylor-Uganda clinic. 'I believe that the children's play environment is what made Peter to walk as he would have taken much longer if we had not come to Baylor', says Sarah adding that she always looks forward to their appointments because 'my son loves it here because of the many children playing. Where we stay, there are no children he can play with'.



Messi in making.....Peter is now able to play like a normal child



Children listening attentively to Teacher Jane Beyeza during story telling at the play centre.



Peter joins the children singing and dancing at the Baylor clinic play centre

Client Corner

Sharing experiences to give hope

By Christine Kaleeba

In the December issue, we met Solomon, 20 years old and using his voice to spread HIV/AIDS care, prevention and treatment messages. In this issue, Solomon recounts the circumstances that led him to coming to Baylor-Uganda and the impact on his life. *'It's hard to talk about my background because whenever I talk about it I feel sad because it reminds me of what happened but I have to share my experience with the world, my peers, my audience, my people and my fans. They need to hear my background because it gives them hope when they most need it'.*

'I was saved from the streets by Pastor Jackson Ssenyonga of Christian Life Church Bwaise and brought to Baylor-Uganda in 2005. Before I was rescued from the streets of Kampala by pastor Jackson Ssenyonga, I was eating from the dumpsters, sleeping on the streets, you know, at the Independence statue near Standard Chartered bank.

Every evening at around 7pm all the kids gather together for safety and to look for food, sometimes, we would spend the whole night looking for food for the next day. One evening, I was resting, it was about 7pm. Being near the bank, we saw a pastor coming out counting money. He was counting the money because he was travelling that very day to an important meeting and had withdrawn large sums of money.

One of the kids, a 'omuyaye' (thug) snatched his bag. Because the pastor was travelling on that very day he needed the money and had his passport in the bag. The pastor pleaded with the thug to take the money but leave the passport, the money amounted to about three million Ugandan shillings. He did not raise an alarm he simply asked for his passport.

I knew where the thug would run to so I followed him when he did. There were certain places we could go but were not safe for an outsider, like a network of streams and back alleys we called 'Beiruts'. So I followed the thug on the pastor's behalf and when I caught up, asked him to give the pastor his property back.

You see down there, there are places we could go yet but were too dangerous for the average civilian. In those places the city council sections off areas but we had ways of getting squeezing through them. We knew all the routes because that's where we slept when it rained. I managed to get back 1 million shillings and the passport.

When I returned the property to the pastor he was very happy and asked what he could do for me, I told him I wanted nothing. I was tired of living with people, I was free with the life I was living. The pastor had to cancel his trip as he no longer had enough money to travel, I thought nothing more of it.

We would get up very early in the morning because we used to walk distances as far as kampala to Entebbe looking for items that have been dropped and entering shops. I used to move with big people because I was very young and thin, I don't know if you know thugs they call 'ba bulaka', I used to move with them, mostly for protection, life went on.

The pastor eventually travelled but instructed his wife to find me and take me into their home or rent me a home with my boys if that would make me more comfortable. I said no, I hated living with people. Eventually my boys asked me to leave as I was bring too much attention to the group 'tukoye okutulabusa' (tired of drawing attention to us). When a stranger comes along they call it 'kulabisa' (to draw attention to). They asked me to leave but allowed me to return if I couldn't handle the new situation. So I took courage and went with the pastor's wife.

After a while I got herpes zoster, I still have the scars. I had been eating well, I had good hygiene, I had learned to swim, play basket ball I believe the herpes zoster was a result of the change in life style. Life had been heaven on earth then. When the pastor's wife saw the herpes zoster she alerted the pastor who had me sent me to Kampala International Hospital. Now imagine coming from the streets and ending up being treated in Kampala International Hospital! I was amazed and said to myself my! This is 'uplane'. I who used to eat in dumpsters? My heart however remained with my 'boys' I'd left on the street, I wanted to see my 'Charlies' and I would go out there to take them clothes. Sometimes we would eat haute cuisine from the Sheraton waste probably because the wealthy would take three bites of their meals and discard them. The Sheraton staff were kind enough to keep the leftovers for us. We never let the kisenyi street kids in on our deal, we were on another level, clean and smart, it was about survival. Once the president even came over and served us soda, life was good as I saw it but with hindsight I am glad I got a chance to get a proper shot at it by leaving the streets, my life seems to have a lot more purpose now than it did then.



Solomon in studio recording a song

HEALTH



Joseph Kyeyune, Nursing Officer, COE

NEW YEAR – NEW START

I can imagine a little over a month into the new year, many of us have failed to adhere to our new years resolutions. All is not lost however, there are a few simple steps we can all take in our lives to ensure that we are at the very least healthier than when we don't. Here are a few steps to guarantee you a new start

N – Nutrition, consider everything you put in your mouth and how much of it you put in there. Strive to have a balanced diet

E – Exercise, intergrate a work out in your routine, walk to work, go for a walk or a run at least three times a week for 20 minutes

W- Water, drink as much as you can but at least 3 litres a day for men and 2.2 litres for women a day

S – Sunshine – embrace the free Vitamin D ... in moderation

T – Temperance – employ moderation and mindfulness in everything – No stress

A – AIR – take a deep clean breath whenever you can

R – Rest. Sleep allows your body to recharge. Fatigue can lead to health risks, especially in a clinical setting

T – Trust in God, or whatever swings your boat, everyone needs a bit of spirituality.

POEM

HIV/AIDS, THE BLACK CANDLE FLAME

HIV/AIDS, the black candle flame.
Unseen! Rather small. Frightens the shelter
Brightness is for. No visible tongue
No red, not yellow, no white. Still hot and scalding
Soft in befriending and subduing its shelter
Though torment the host, making it small.
As we call so.
The host is always not sizeable.

HIV/AIDS, the black candle flame.
No brightness. Poor flame producer.
Perimeters attract unlike poles.
Put the black flame. End up in scuffle
Referees stick landing on good neighbors.
The flame fighter, endures and
Cutting a-would be red flame.

HIV/AIDS, the black candle flame.
The black flame standing less
Though aching the shelters and neighbors
Stem shortening. And flame little it goes.
Perimeters cheering effort of referees and neighbors

HIV/AIDS, the black candle flame.
The black flame, stem no more. Off it goes.
Enduring shelter cheers! Flame fighter cheers!
Perimeters cheer! Neighbors cheer! Referees cheer!
Poor flame producer, trudging, no calorie
Oh! Extinct and, a new world born!

By:

Dr Francis Onen Sebabi

Care and Treatment Coordinator, West Nile

"Baby Philosopher and novelist"

BAYLOR STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW STAFF- WELCOME TO BAYLOR- UGANDA



Joseph Kyeyune
Nursing Officer, COE

Pamela Kizza
Accounts Assistant, COE

Nassina Sylvia Cornelia
Medical Officer, Kamwenge

Benedicto Mugabi
Nursing Officer, CEO

BAYLOR FAMILY MOMENTS

Haidar Lule's Introduction and Wedding Photos

A truly Baylor Mugole (in Baylor colours).....

Left: Haidar Lule, the COE Stores Officer with his honey Nusfa Makula during their introduction in Wakiso

Right: Finally.... The couple outside Kibuli Mosque after exchanging their vows. They later hosted their guests at a reception at the Sports View Hotel



Dressed to Kill....From L-R: *Kojja Simon Mwijuki, Senga Evelyne Kyosimiire, Melissa 'Nabbanja' Mazzeo, Christine Nakiyemba and Mulamu Samalie Nalule* during Haidar's introduction ceremony



United We Stand..... the team of staff members who represented the Baylor family at the ceremony