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STOP PRESS!!

Read the HS Chronicle and pass it on to the next person

BIBLE VERSE

"Rise up; this matter is in your hands. We will support you, so take courage and do it." ~Ezra 10:4 (NIV).

CBC Health Services launches Three New Projects in Favour of PWDs

Launching of Rehabilitation Compass for Inclusion Project in Yaounde



Cross-section of attendees at virtual launching of RCI project

The CBC Health Services has launched a new project known as “Rehabilitation Compass for Inclusion (RCI)” aimed at improving access to quality of rehabilitation services for children, youths and adults with disabilities through the training of physiotherapists (PT), Occupational therapists (OT) and Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) workers in Cameroon.

The project was launched through a virtual conference on Thursday June 24, 2021 at the CBC Health Services Resource Center of Excellence, Mvan-Yaoundé, participated amongst others by the presence of Minister of Social Affairs, Irene Pauline Nguene, the Director of CBC Health Services (DHS), Prof. Tih Pius, the Director of the Liliane Foundation and the Director of the AFAS Foundation.

The Minister of Social Affairs in her launching speech noted that “The RCI initiative was not only necessary but urgent as they perfectly add up to other efforts that the government is doing to meet up with the WHO expectations under the 2030 agenda which targets an increase access to quality rehabilitation services as a major milestone for Universal Health Coverage”.

The Minister stated that the project is a huge opportunity to step up rehabilitation services in the country. In this light, she pledged to continue to support the CBC Health Services and its partners to ensure that all expectations are met for the good of children, youths and adults living with disabilities in Cameroon.

According to Agho Glory, the CBCHS-EDID Program Manager, the situation of persons with disability in Cameroon is very pathetic and needs urgent solution especially those in remote areas of Cameroon because there are no trained personnel to reach out to them.

To the Director of CBC Health Services, Prof. Tih Pius, “The opportunity to positively impact the disability landscape in Cameroon is here and the CBC Health Services is happy to be championing the attainment of this milestone in the country”. Prof. Tih said with 250 physiotherapists in Cameroon, it is pretty difficult to give quality care to people with disabilities given that such a task can only be performed by trained specialists.

The DHS went further to explain that “The Community Based Rehabilitation training will be done in the CBC Health Services Nursing school

in Kumbo in the Northwest Region, the physiotherapy training will be carried out in the Baptist Institute of Health Sciences in Mbingo and we are partnering with State Universities like the Universities of Yaoundé, Buea and Bamenda.

For Occupational therapy, Prof. Tih stated that “We’ve been working with the University of Cape Town, South Africa to develop the curriculum for the training and we hope to either partner with them or with other Universities that are offering training on Occupational therapy. He announced that “Classes of the Community Based Rehabilitation and Physiotherapists are due to begin in September at the start of the new school year”.

Over a period of 4 years, the CBC Health Services will collaborate with the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Higher Education and partners to develop standard curricular, support some Universities and institutions of higher learning to initiate and run certificate courses ranging from Diploma to Master level.

The RCI project will be funded by the AFAS Foundation in collaboration with the Liliane Foundation as a strategic partner.

Launching of Disability Inclusive Humanitarian Action (DIHA), Inclusive Eye Health Projects in Bamenda

The Government of Cameroon via the Northwest Regional Office has congratulated the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services (CBCHS) and her partners for assisting government in providing healthcare to the population, especially to persons with disabilities (PWDs). Viane Mekala, Secretary General of the NW region made the commendation on June 26, 2021 at the Baptist Center while launching two new projects initiated by the CBCHS and supported by her partners in favour of PWDs. The two projects include: Disability Inclusive Humanitarian

Action (DIHA) and Inclusive Eye Health (IEH).

The DIHA initiative will help to mainstream disability in the ongoing humanitarian assistance to increase access and protection for persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. On the other hand, the IEH initiative will ensure continuous access to eye healthcare, rehabilitation and other essential health services to PWDs in the context of COVID-19. Both project initiatives sponsored by the German Government through the Christian Blind Mission (CBM) will be imple-

mented in the Northwest region. The IHR project will run from June 2021 to April 2023 and will reach out to beneficiaries in all 34 sub-divisions of the Northwest region. Meanwhile, the IEH initiative will run from June 2021 to May 2023 for beneficiaries in 16 health facilities in the following 12 Health Districts in the Northwest region: Bamenda, Tubah, Fundong, Santa, Batibo, Ndop, Kumbo West, Nkambe, Bafut, Ndu, Wum and Oku.

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A press release to sanction the launching stated that the Disability Inclusive Humanitarian Action and the Inclusive Eye Health projects were born from the analysis of the contexts of the ongoing humanitarian crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic in the Northwest region. The assessment revealed huge access challenges to humanitarian assistance for persons with disabilities and other vulnerable persons such as women, older age people and persons with chronic diseases partly because humanitarian assistance is provided in non-inclusive ways. Similarly, vulnerable groups do not readily have access to quality eye health and rehabilitation services in communities of the crisis hit Northwest region.

Quizzed on the reason of funding these projects, CBM Country Director, Julius Niba Fon explained that inclusive eye health remains a pillar of CBM's interventions whereby "We strive to combat avoidable blindness by making eye care

inclusive, accessible and affordable". Mr. Fon explained that "At CBM, we understand that persons with disabilities are often the most affected in any disaster whether natural or man-made, reason why CBM heeded to the continuous cry from its partners in the Southwest and Northwest regions of the rapid eroding of the disability inclusive development endeavours caused by the ongoing socio-political crisis.

In response, a pilot program started in the Southwest in 2020 with CBM supporting the PCC for the 24-month program. "This inclusive emergency response program is being extended to the Northwest today with a CBM support to CBCHS for two years as well," the Country Director announced. While wishing for a successful implementation, the CBM Country Director prayed for an enabling environment and for return to normalcy in the two restive regions.

On behalf of the CBCHS as implementing partner, its Director, Prof. Tih Pius Muffih saluted the long standing partnership with CBM since 1981 barely one year later when the CBCHS started Services for Persons with Disabilities in 1980. The Director of Health Services stressed on the Mission of the CBCHS, which is the provision of quality care to all irrespective of whoever is in need of health care.

The DHS equally saluted the key stakeholders who attended the launching notably; the hard working team of the Socio Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities led by the Program Manager, Mr. Awa Jacques Chirac, representatives of Associations of Persons with Disabilities in the Northwest, Humanitarian organizations, Mayors, Administrators and the Media.



NW's Secretary General launching DIHA and IEH projects on behalf of Governor Adolph Lele L'Afrique



Stakeholders poised to understand the projects from the start

CBC Health Services brings Sickle Cell Disease to Limelight

The Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services has shone the light on sickle cell as a disease that needs much attention just like any other public health concern. This was on the occasion of World Sickle Cell Awareness Day 2021 at Bonaberi Baptist Health Centre Douala (BBHCD).

Dr. Kifem Vincentia, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) revealed during the commemoration that nine percent (9%) of Cameroonians are suffering from sickle cell disease, with about 22 % being carriers. From the statistics, we [you] can conclude that it is high time we start investing in it because it matters like any other chronic disease. Therefore we are by this celebration involving the media to keep talking about sickle cell in a bid to increase public awareness, she said.

The pinnacle of the day was the launching of a sickle cell clinic at BBHCD. According to Dr. Kifem, the clinic will be a rallying point for children suffering from sickle cell disease fondly called warriors to come for regular follow-up. It will equally be an opportunity for them to interact, share problems and experiences when in crisis as well as receive health education which can improve their health and quality of life, she added.

According to the World Health Organization's Regional Office for Africa, Sickle-cell disease is the most prevalent genetic disease in the Region. In many countries, 10%-40% of the population carries the sickle-cell gene resulting in an estimated prevalence of at least 2%.

Quizzed on how to stem the tide on the burden of sickle cell in Cameroon and the continent at large, Dr. Kifem said knowing your hemoglobin electrophoresis status is central in reversing the trend. If you know your genotype well in advance, you will make an informed decision on who to marry thereby avoid having children with sickle cell disease. This is the only way to limit the burden on families and communities, the medic emphasized.

It's worth noting that over 140 people had their hemoglobin electrophoresis test done for free at BBHCD. The initiative was the brainchild of the BBHCD organized in partnership with the Ashu Egbe Foundation. The foundation is specialized in raising awareness on sickle in Cameroon.

CBC Health Services receives Ten Newly Trained Physiotherapy Assistants

"Unveil your skills, help those who come to you for help and follow the Mission Statement as you go to serve the Lord". Prof. Tih Pius Muffih, Director of Health Services (DHS) made this charge to Ten Physiotherapy (PT) Assistants who came to the end of their training course that ran from August 2020 to June 2021 in the

Baptist Training School for Health Personnel.

Cognizant of the fact that the training held within a difficult context plagued by the Coronavirus pandemic and the ongoing socio-political crisis in the Southwest and Northwest regions, the DHS congratulated the course

coordinator, Mr. Fanfon Timothy and his team of instructors for braving the odds in training the PT Assistants. Today they are full and well-baked employees of the CBCHS ready for deployment to any station of need.

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Physiotherapy assistant graduands and the Director of CBC Health Services

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The course coordinator, Mr. Fanfon Timothy who doubles as PT Supervisor of the CBCHS, said the course was initiated to meet the expansion need of the system, especially for the northbound stations. Thus, a majority of the graduands are able to express themselves in Fulfulde, the lingua franca of the people in the northern part of Cameroon.

The course coordinator appreciated all who contributed in the success of the training program notably; the course instructors, the Central Administration for logistics and the parents and guardians for paying the fees and supporting the students. Mr. Fanfon also congratulated the

entire class that had the lowest average of 13+ with Nganjoh Elvis as the overall best graduand with an average of 16.38. The three runners up, all females, received special prizes from the DHS. The PT Supervisor admonished the graduands not to be contented with the one-year training but to work hard and strive for further training even up to PhD level.

Speaking on behalf of his class, the overall best student, Nganjoh Elvis thanked God for the opportunity of training. He equally thanked the course instructors and pledged to represent themselves well in their new stations of work.

Earlier in a devotional from Deut, 28:13, Pastor Bambo Denis dwelled on "Discovering God's Purpose for your Life". According to the prelate, the newly graduated PT Assistants should discover their purposes by trusting God, pursue their purposes and celebrate their purposes.

The graduation ceremony held on June 17, 2021 at the DHS Conference Hall in Bamenda in strict respect of COVID-19 measures – no crowd except a few officials including the CBCHS Chief of Administration, the Administrator of Nkwen Baptist Hospital and the Manager of the Socio Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

CBC Health Services' WHP gets Additional Funding for Service Uptake

Dr. Manga Simon, Consultant for the Women's Health Program (WHP) of the CBC Health Services has obtained a grant worth \$50,000 from the Conquer Cancer Foundation, an arm of the American Association of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) to study the clinical outcomes at one-year post-treatment of human papilloma virus (HPV) and precancerous lesions of the cervix among female sex workers (FSWs) in Cameroon. The grant period runs from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. This will be among the first studies in Africa to examine the treatment outcome of FSWs treated for HPV and/or cervical precancer at one year.

This award comes as a follow-up of a FSW project, which Dr. Manga carried out last year sponsored by Prevent Cancer Foundation in the

amount of \$75,000. The project screened a total of 940 FSWs of ages 21 and above for cervical cancer and STIs in Bafoussam, Yaounde, and Douala, in collaboration with Horizons Femmes, an NGO that works with a network of over 20,000 FSWs to improve their health. The FSWs were screened with visual inspection with acetic acid and Lugol's iodine enhanced by digital cervicography.

In addition, those 30 years and older were screened with Ampfire HPV in which 15 oncogenic HPV types were genotyped. Ampfire is a simple and fast HPV detection technology which uses multiplex isothermal real time fluorescent detection. This technology was developed by Atila BioSystems, located at Silicon Valley, California. FSWs who were positive for

cervical precancers were treated with thermal ablation or loop electrosurgical excision procedure (LEEP) depending on the grade and characteristics of the lesion. Those positive for one type of HPV and having no visible lesion on VIA/VILI were treated with thermal ablation. The funding from this award will be used to follow up the sex workers who were positive for HPV and/or cervical pre-cancer in the Prevent Cancer Project. It will still be done in collaboration with Horizons Femmes.

As consultant, Dr. Manga Simon has been passionate in seeking funding for service improvement and uptake in the Women's Health Program. In addition, he was instrumental in its creation many years back.

CBCHS Strengthens Councils' Ownership of Inclusive Development Strategies

Within the framework of committing Councils to inclusive development in Cameroon, the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services (CBCHS) in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs organized a two-day workshop to strengthen the capacities of over 25 Mayors and representatives to effectively implement inclusive development and to foster disability inclusion in 25 partner Councils. The workshop was held at the CBC Health Services Resource Center of Excellence, Yaoundé, in the presence of the representatives of FEICOM, United Councils and Cities of Cameroon (UCC) and the Ministry of Decentralization and Local Development, (MINDEVEL).

In order to ensure that children, youths and adults with disabilities are not left behind in all development endeavors, the Program Manager

of the Empowerment and Inclusive Development (EDID) program, Agho Glory stressed that "the workshop is aimed at building the capacity of those responsible for defining development agenda at the grass root level to know how they can include children and youths with disability so that no one is left behind, as indicated in the 2030 sustainable development goal".

With the current decentralization drive in the country, the Director of the Department of Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Ambe Angelica, reiterated that the grassroots authorities are better placed to boost the inclusive development project: "It is good we start with the Councils because if we target those who are on the field, we'll have better results," she explained.

The Mayor of Balikumbat Council, Fon Doh Gahnnyamnyin III said, "With skills acquired in the training, we will go back and strengthen the implementation of inclusive development in our Councils to ensure that we do more than what we are doing already". According to Fon Gahnnyamnyin III, the stumbling blocks are still very much present in the various Councils. He noted that the majority of the population in his Council is labeled handicapped, with limited resources at his disposal to cater to their needs.

It should be recalled that the CBCHS has remained committed in supporting Councils to upgrade their existing plans and strategies to become more inclusive especially for persons with disabilities. The support is provided in partnership with the Lilliane Foundation and the Christian Blind Missions (CBM).

NCD Program Champions Inclusion on World Hypertension, Tobacco Day

"Now I know my high blood pressure status. We are encouraged to know our status and engage more in sports to fight hypertension"

This is the impression of Dieudonne Fon with mobility impairment, Coordinator of the "Think Big Amputee Football". Like Dieudonne, these feelings are expressed by some amputees who participated in the 2021 commemorative activities of the World Hypertension and World Tobacco Day organized by the Non Communicable Diseases (NCD) Prevention program of the CBC Health Services recently.

Amongst the commemorative activities were the amputee football, gold ball, health education, free screening and counselling for hypertension, disability, and risk for developing other Non-Communicable Diseases especially among persons with an impairment.

The commemoration this year was described as being inclusive giving that persons with disabilities were not only involved in the implementation stage but right from the planning. Before the commemoration, planning meetings were held between the NCD Program and the leadership of the Coordinating Unit of Associations of Persons with Disabilities and Think Big Amputee football.

Program Supervisor, Dr. Njome Epie said, the CBC Health Services has actively been involved in NCD screening for the past 5 years but from the statistics, persons with disabilities have been missing so it became a worrying issue, reason why this year they decided to intentionally involve them in planning and implementation of the activities.

Dr. Njome added that persons with impairments are exposed to traditional risk factors related to their perceived reduced level of physical activity, and limited access to screening, diagnoses, and management. He announced that NCD services in the CBC Health Services are accessible to persons with disabilities. For this reason, measures were intentionally put in place to ensure accessibility to the event site and for screening.

The strategy of planning and implementing the commemoration activities and free screening for persons with disabilities is considered a good practice worth emulating by other health structures given that it falls in line with the April 2010 disability right which highlights the free access to health by persons with disabilities.



Checking your blood pressure regularly is key in the fight against NCDs

CBC Health Services Trains Research Assistants on Assessing capacities of Inclusive Education Stakeholders

The CBC Health Services has trained Research Assistants to conduct a baseline assessment of the current capacities of Inclusive Education stakeholders to deliver Inclusive Education in the Northwest Region.

For the past decades, several stakeholders have used different approaches to promote Inclusive Education in the Northwest Region of Cameroon. With many of the stakeholders working in isolation, there is a need to synergize the efforts to ensure collective action and improve the quality of education delivered to learners with disabilities. The strategy for ensuring collective action is through the Inclusive Education Community of Practice project that was launched on February

19, 2021. A key starting point of the Inclusive Education (IE) Community of Practice (CoP) project is the baseline assessment of the current state of stakeholders' capacities to deliver quality education to learners with all types of impairments.

Preparations for the conduct of the baseline assessment include the hiring and training of Research Assistants to collect research data in the field. Hence, the six Research Assistants recruited received a 3-day training from May 25-27 2021 at the DHS Hall in Bamenda, to conduct the baseline survey in 32 stakeholder institutions comprising of primary schools, secondary schools, the University of Bamenda and some Rehabilitation Centers in the Mezam Division.

The Research Assistants were guided on how to plan and conduct research interviews as well as the ethical practices to consider during the conduct of research interviews. The comprehensive research tool that had been designed for the purpose of the baseline survey was also examined and tested in the field.

It is hoped that the results from the baseline assessment will inform and provide a foundation for determining action and for measuring and evaluating progress and success of the work of the Community of Practice in the months ahead

CBC Health Services Grabs More Media Accolades



Prof. Tih crowned 'Most Peaceful' Health Service Director for bringing health care closer to the populace

The Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services once again has been singled out by the media in Cameroon, as the leading health provider with people-oriented services. The recognition was conferred on the organization recently during an award ceremony organized by My Media Prime International.

Presenting the award to the Director of CBC Health Services on June 2, 2020, in Bamenda, Thomas Mokom, Journalist saluted the CBC Health Services' commitment to rendering exemplary, standard, and quality care to Cameroonians amidst odds.

"You have eased the transportation of patients to and from Mbingo Baptist Hospital (MBH) in the stalemate we are all experiencing in the Northwest and South Regions. We [My Media Prime] have watched you closely and by this award appreciate you for being at the services of humani-

ty," stressed Mokom.

Prof. Tih Pius Muffih, Director of Health Services in response said: "I am surprised that someone is watching all that we are doing as a service". I thank you for this recognition, he added.

The Director further stressed that the CBC Health Services is more and more seeking collaboration with community-based organizations, sister health providers, and non-governmental organizations to work in synergy to ensure that everyone who seeks medical attention in any of its facilities receives timely quality care.

Prof. Tih used the opportunity to call on the general public to utilize the services the organization is offering. "We are improving our services every day especially the Mother and Child Health (MCH) Service, to ensure that no mother should lose her life giving birth. Equally, we are bent on reducing

neonatal deaths which are still very high in the country."

Talking about service improvement, we are doing this along with infrastructure. The recent development of infrastructure across the Health Services is from a felt need. We have seen lots of congestion in all our facilities. Once there is congestion, infection prevention and control become very difficult. Therefore to prevent infection and promote quality care, there should be quality infrastructure in place. That is the reason our infrastructure are sprouting here and there, expatiated Prof. Tih.

The award reads, "The CBC Health Service is awarded Winner of the Prime Award 2021 in recognition as the best Service Provider with people-oriented services. You stood tall among other Health Service Providers in the period of crisis and COVID-19 Pandemic".

SEEPD Partner Councils poised to initiate Policies to foster CBID

The SEEP Program Manager has announced an award from her funding partner, Ausaid to the best Council promoting Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID). Awa Jacques Chirac disclosed this during a 2-day workshop organized by the SEEPD Program for partner Councils in the Northwest Region. The workshop, which took place at Mondial Hotel in Bamenda had as objective to provide participants with specific tools and skills required to introduce context-specific measures required to translate their CBID strategies into action. CBM Ausaid sponsored the workshop.

In 2020, a training workshop (CBID) was organized for 13 Councils to build their capacities to mainstream disability in local development plans and practices. Beyond the workshop, further support was provided to specific Councils to develop and adopt CBID strategies in their municipalities. The workshop in Mondial Hotel was thus focused on providing further support to the Councils trained last year to enable them to mainstream disability in their policies and practices.

According to the Inclusive Local Governance Advisor of the SEEPD Program, the central focus of the workshop was to move from strategies to

practice and policy that will influence CBID in the Councils. He noted that not long from now, the SEEPD Program will be visiting the different Councils to assess policies that have been put in place in the areas of Health, Education, Livelihood, Gender, and Inclusion.

The Inclusive Local Governance Advisor expressed optimism that the participants selected for the workshop are the right target given their influence in their Councils. As a former Mayor of Ndu Council, the Inclusive Local Governance Advisor of the SEEPD Program, Mr. Mbunyi Emmanuel said, he knows exactly how Council activities are structured and how to provide advice to them to foster CBID.

The workshop brought together participants consisting of Secretary Generals, Civil Status Registrars, and Education and Social Committee Chairpersons from 11 Councils.

Quizzed in an interview, the Civil Status Registry from Bafut Council, Ngum Abongnwi noted that the Civil Status is a central office in the Council which offers services in the area of birth, marriage, death certificates etc. Inclusion is very important to them because the services they offer are supposed to be used by everyone. Thus,

policy on inclusion in the Council will be very useful and beneficial to all in the municipality, she concluded.

"Inclusion is not expensive but rather it is good-will for those in place to be able to practice it," Vities Gilbert, chairperson of the Social and Education Committee for Tubah Council noted. He explained that the knowledge of the workshop is timely for him because he is still at the beginning of his mandate. In the next four years, he will be able to ensure the movement from strategies to practice and to policies in the area of education and health in the municipality.

The workshop had as resource persons the SEEPD Program Officer, Community Project Officer, and SEEPD Program Manager who commended participants for their enthusiasm demonstrated in CBID. Awa Jacques Chirac disclosed to the participants that one of the outcomes of the workshop was to create a community of practice that will enable them to share best practices. The workshop rose on the pious hope that knowledge acquired will not remain on paper but will be translated into policies to ensure the implementation of CBID at all levels.

CBCHS Mvan Resource Center continues in Path of Quality

The CBCHS Resource Centre in Mvan, Yaounde continues to raise the standards of hospitality high and set a pace worth emulating. The Center continues to host top level meetings and Conferences which has put it in the spotlight and given it more public recognition.

Of recent, the Mvan Resource Centre hosted hitch-free Goals and Budget and Postings and Transfers meetings in the month of May. The leaders who were about 70 in total expressed their satisfaction on the hosting of the event. This came barely a month after hosting the "We Ring the Bell" 2021 virtual campaign organized by the EDID Program. The Centre continues to play host to several meetings and events on weekly bases, both for the CBCHS and for the public.

The quest for quality is also displayed in the Centre's desire to sustain energy supply to its clientele during their stay. In this light, the CBCHS Resource Centre has finally installed a 70KW heavy duty transformer to ensure steady power supply, necessary for the rendering of her services. The transformer which costs a colossal sum of about 18,000,000 FCFA was installed by ENEO in the month of April. The Assistant Administrator, Mr. Kadzem Claude told CBCHS Communication Unit that 'getting the transformer has been a very challenging task with lots of back and forth arrangements between him and the Electricity Company (ENEO). He revealed that even though the transformer was already installed, the Centre still had a little portion of the amount to pay to ENEO. However, the Assistant Administrator expressed delighted that the transformer will enhance the services significantly, especially the

operation of the ultramodern lift.

The growth of the Mvan Resource Centre can also be attributed to an intentional marketing strategy put in place by the CBCHS spent the months of March and April when flyers and service proposals were sent out in both hard and soft copies to organizations, individuals, bus agencies, churches, schools, etc, in order to expose the facility. According to the Assistant Administrator, this was very necessary since the Centre is very new in Yaounde and most people are yet to know about its existence and the services and facilities it offers. He said the result of the outreaches can only really be assessed after a few months and especially when the COVID-19 snare is under control.

Sabga marks World Nurses Day

Nurses of Sabga Baptist Health Centre (SBHC) commemorated "World Nurses Day 2021" on May 17, 2021 with promises to work harder than in the past. This year's theme, "Nurses, Voice to lead, a Vision for future health care" will spur the nurses as a guiding principle to provide quality health care to all.

Speaking on behalf of the Director of Health Services, the Chief of Center (COC) Mr. Ekfw Godlove, a nurse himself, called on his peers to

remain dedicated especially during this period of COVID-19. As a noble profession, he urged the nurses to remain proud, compassionate and committed in serving mankind and yet striving to acquire more knowledge as opportunities present.

The Chief Medical Officer Dr. Looh Clifford as well as the village fon appreciated the nurses for their hard work in promoting the health centre. The officials urged the nurses to continue in this

same spirit.

The occasion was graced by the singing of the Nurses' anthem, and the performance of two plays, projecting the role of the nurses in maternal health care, as well as cautioning them against lukewarm attitude on duty. Chaplain Nseibou Elvis prayed God to grant the nurses wisdom in the discharge of their duty.

Sabga Baptist Health Centre prioritizes Infection Prevention Practices

The Sabga BHC organizes weekly conferences to acquaint staff on practicing those things will enable them protect themselves and others from infections especially during this period of COVID-19. To this effect, a month long capacity building of staff of the health center ended on May13, 2021.

The CMO, Dr. Looch Clifford and the Chief of Centre, Mr. Ekfui Godlove Fonkwa, the facilitators discussed infection and its preventive measures. They noted that care must be taken to prevent infection prone practices both at the level of staff and clients. They hammered on hand washing techniques and use of hand gel and the proper use of hand sanitizer especially at this period of the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Looch

stressed on the importance of "5 moments for hand hygiene" as patients are being taken care of in the wards.

On waste management and disposal, Mr. Ekfui Godlove told staff to make good use of both the incinerator for the burning of dry waste and the biodegradable waste pit. All sharps objects used he stressed, should be put in sharp containers available. Staff we cautioned to educate clients on the use of water facilities available as well as the use of waste buckets and trash cans for both dry and wet waste.

The Infection and Prevention nurse, Mme. Neng Gladys advised that picking food items dropped on the ground and eating especially by children

should be discouraged as well as moving around with bare feet and even shaking of hands. A practical demonstration on hand washing with running water and soap (Hand gel) was presented by the P.P. Nurse.

At the end of the seminar, a plan of the action was drawn to facilitate the implementation of infection prevention practices, disposal and management of waste, orderly arrangement of equipment in the departments' and the cleanliness in the entire compound. Relatedly, children from the quarters have been restricted from haphazard playing and destroying flowers in the compound.

Mvan Staff Hail Prof. Tih for Inspirational Leadership



A toast for many more joyous birthdays

Staff at the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services' Mvan Resource Centre in Yaounde have expressed gratitude to the Director of Health Services, Prof. Tih Pius Muffih on the occasion of his birthday. This event took place in Yaounde on June 21, 2021, one day after his birthday which fell this year on Sunday, June 20, which was Father's day in CBC Churches. Addressing the celebrant, the Program Manager of the Empowerment and Disability Inclusive Development (EDID) Program, representing all staff in the facility, thanked the Director for his fine, inspiring leadership, and fatherly attitude towards all his staff members. This was re-ech-

oed by representatives from the Director's family and close collaborators who unanimously wished him long life and prosperity. The housekeepers at the Resource Center wished God's protection for the Director, whom they commonly refer to as "Daddy". They presented him a special gift with messages, "The Lord is your Shepherd", "The Lord is always ahead of you" drawn from Psalms 23 and Psalms 16:8 respectively. According to the housekeepers, this recognition is, thanks to the indiscriminate

leadership of the Director who places all staff including auxiliary staff in an equal pedestal of respect and encouragement. Responding, Prof. Tih genuinely thanked the staff who planned the event with much love and concern for him. He challenged all workers to be each other's keeper and strive to recognize and appreciate positive things in their colleagues and work as a team for collective growth. The birthday came as a surprise and was a great delight for the Director who was happy to see his grandchildren around the world joined participants at the event to sing the Happy Birthday songs to him, in an atmosphere of conviviality.

EBHY suffocating under Budget Restrictions

The long expected medical/maternity project of Etoug-Ebe Baptist Hospital is yet to see the light of day, much to the disappointment of the staff and patients as direct beneficiaries. Quizzed on the reason for the long delay, the Administrator, Mr. Yongwa Zaccs attributed it to budget constraints within the entire system owing to the protracted armed conflict in the Northwest and Southwest regions that has direct consequences on 'our institutions'.

"We are generating enough funds to take off our building project, but as a family, we need to share with our sister institutions in these affected regions," Mr. Yongwa explained helplessly. However, as the saying goes, "When crying, be moving!"

Users of the Rest House in EBHY may need to start planning to lodge elsewhere during their next visit to Yaounde. The hospital is relocating the Observation Ward to the Rest House building, which at the time of this report, was being renovated for that purpose. The Administrator revealed that the two floor building will contain 40 beds and also begin maternity services to serve the ever yearning clients (pregnant women) who attend ANC 'with us' but are compelled to go and deliver elsewhere against their wishes. This was expected to go functional by the end of June 2021. The Administrator admits that optimum quality cannot be assured in the current context, but "We must begin somewhere," he noted.

Renovation works in preparation for the relo-

cation include, a ramp linking the hospital to the Rest House area for easy transportation of patients, pavement of bad road between the hospital and the Rest House, construction of additional toilets in the Rest House, a security post and three other small rooms.

Meantime, the hospital has created emergency consultation to meet felt and expressed need. The Administrator lauded the staff for working hard both in good and difficult times.

In other news, EBHY has a new Assistant Administrator in-charge of Finance. Mr. Fochang Festus took over service on April 19, 2021 from Mr. Shang Kinsley who goes to Mboppi Baptist Hospital Douala in same capacity.

Etoug-Ebe fetes World Nurses Day

This year's World Nurses' Day in Etoug-Ebe Baptist Hospital Yaounde (EBHY) took an interesting dimension spanning three days beginning on Monday, May 10 and ending on the day proper, Wednesday, May 12, 2021.

On May 10, the Supervisor of Nursing Services (SNS), Miss Nshom Grace made a presentation on the topic, "Why the Nurses' Day?" She explained that the day is celebrated on May 12, in honour of the birthday of Florence Nightingale, founder of modern nursing who worked tirelessly throughout the night with a lit lamp to treat the wounds of British soldiers during the Crimean War in the 1850s.

On day two, May 11, the nurses sang the nurses anthem in chapel during morning devotions and staged a dance demonstrating gowning and doffing. In the afternoon, they carried out outdoor games including; tug of war between male and female groups, eating competition, dancing competition, 100 meters race, and handball game between the nurses and other staff of the hospital.

Crowning the celebration on May 12, the Administrator, Mr. Yongwa Zaccs congratulated the nurses for their tireless commitment to the sick even in very challenging situations and context. He challenged them to keep up and

to be proud nurses as their anthem says.

Some senior nurses delivered four other presentations namely: Definition of nursing and the role of nurses, The role of the nurse in the context of COVID-19, Nurses, a vision for a future healthcare and Nurses' Challenge: stress, burnout and shortages.

According to our reporter in Etoug-Ebe, Yengo Ruth, the doctors joined the Administrator and the SNS to tease the celebration cake and to award prizes to winners in the three-day event. A fashion parade by the nurses and feasting crowned the day.

Donate Blood Regularly, EBHY Staff Encouraged

The staff of Etoug-Ebe Baptist Hospital Yaounde (EBHY) have been encouraged to donate blood to the blood bank of the hospital. Mr. Yongwa Zacc, Administrator made the call on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day 2021. "Donate at least a pint of blood today to our blood bank to save lives," he entreated.

During the commemoration, EBHY staff were schooled on the importance of blood dona-

tion to the donor and the recipient in general. Miss Suika Beatrice, Head of Department used the opportunity to dispel myths about donating blood, thereby encouraging many to donate voluntarily and regularly.

World Blood Donor Day is an annual event observed on every June 14 to raise awareness and remind people of the crucial role which donating blood plays in the health industry.

According to www.nationaltoday.com "blood [once donated] has a range of uses [in] ways more diverse than anyone thinks. From plasma treatments to research and emergency uses, donating blood has been an important cornerstone that has aided the world on several occasions."

This year's event was marked under the global theme "Give blood and keep the world-beating".

EBHY PT Department Commemorates World Clubfoot Day

Issues surrounding clubfoot deformity came to the fore on June 3 when the Physiotherapy (PT) Department of Etoug-Ebe Baptist Hospital Yaounde (EBHY) joined in commemorative activities to mark this year's World Clubfoot Day. PT Assistant and head of department, Nfor Ngala said activities ran throughout the week from May 30 to June 3 in churches, in chapel and in all the hospital OPDs. Reports say, the department involved staff from other depart-

ments in the sensitization activities using posters and brochures from the Clubfoot Program Office in Bamenda. Focus this year was for everyone to take action against clubfoot deformity.

In other news, the visiting orthopedist, Dr. Nana Christopher is expected to be in Etoug-Ebe on July 14 and in Ekoumdoum Baptist Hospital on July 15, 2021. Mr. Nfor lamented that

the orthopedist has not come around for the past three months, thus making things difficult for the patients that need his services.

In staff news, a staff of the department has resumed work after three months of absence. Mrs. Nfor Asana had a motorbike accident while coming to work and sustained a tibial plateau fracture, which kept her down at home.

EBHY Chaplaincy Holds Couples, Singles Seminar

Rev. Dr. Jikong Joseph, Senior Pastor of Etoug-Ebe Baptist Church has impressed on the staff EBHY to stay true to their status either as married or single. The 2-day Seminars held on May 26 for the Couples and on May 27 for the Singles.

For the couples, Rev. Dr. Jikong said marriage can either be beautiful or endured depending on the approach they take. The bottom line, he said, is that there is no perfect marriage. Drawing inspiration from Scriptures, the speaker outlined seven things to ensure an enjoyable marriage. These include: Pray for your partner, protect spouse from third party, pamper your spouse, give gifts, touch your spouse physical-

ly and emotionally, plan together and progress. The speaker stressed on purity in marriage.

The singles received admonition from 1 Cor. 1:1-2; 6:18-20 under the topic, "Do not regret as a single". According to Rev. Dr. Jikong, there are four categories of singles; those who are never married, those who were married but separated, widows/widowers and those who are comfortable as singles without regret. He acknowledged that singlehood is difficult but encouraged the single staff not to regret but to allow God to use them accordingly.

The head chaplain, Rev. Shey Felix the Couple

and Single Seminars fall in line with this year's theme for EBHY, which is, "A workman approved by God". Reports say, the COVID-19 pandemic has made it impossible to implement outreach activities to further express the 2021 theme.

Another major challenge is the influx of IDPs to the hospital on daily basis needing help either for basic needs or to pay huge medical bills. The chaplain lamented that EBHY has no benevolence fund to attend to these cases as charity. However, the chaplaincy organizes monthly collection of offerings in chapel, which is tended over to the social workers to assess the conditions and give a little support.

EBHY Care & Treatment Centre

The site coordinator, Mrs. Tamfu Hilda has noted with satisfaction the steady supply of first line drugs to be given to patients at least for one month for use before they return for refill. She expressed the need for psychosocial workers to intensify efforts to improve retention given that patients travel a lot from one place to the other necessitating lost to follow-up.

Meanwhile, the Care and Treatment Center is working with two Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in Yaounde to attend to stable clients in the community while the Center focuses on new cases enrolled at the site. Reports say, this has decongested the clinic that has current enrolment of over 2800 clients.

The EBHY Care and Treatment Center has been

given a pass mark as one of the six pilot sites in Yaounde implementing the Electronic Medical Record (EMR). The commendation was given recently by government officials that visited the site. The site staff have received EMR trainings from the government to improve record keeping at the site, in the laboratory and at the pharmacy.

EBHY Dental Department

The dental department is moving on smoothly in the midst of its challenges. One of the dentists, Dr. Nkengateh Joycelin Tankeng observes that while a new dental chair is still being anticipated, the department has procured two scaler machines and a cautery machine for operculectomy, oral warts and some major surgeries. She notes that out of the 4 dental chairs in the clinic, only two are fairly manageable.

The dentist also notes a drop in patient attendance, perhaps, due to the COVID-19 scare, which some people are yet to overcome, thus keeping them away from accessing hospital care. Patient attendance has dropped from an average of 350 per month before the pandemic to about 200 today. This has also affected income from 11m fca to 9m fca accordingly.

In staff news, five dental medical students were on internship at the time of this report; three from the University of Yaounde 1 and two from the Universitaire du Montaigne in Bagangte. Similarly, three dental auxiliaries from the Baptist Training School for Health Personnel (BTSHP) Bango are on six-month orientation effective May 17, 2021.

Nkoabang Baptist Health Center in Need of Additional Staff

The Chief of Center (COC), Mr. Ndukong Godlove has remarked that the situation of nursing staff in Nkoabang Baptist Health Center (NBHC) is a cause for concern. He told CBCHS Communication Unit that the situation is acute at the maternity with only two midwives. "A unit such as the Know Your Number (KYN) has been temporarily suspended due of lack of staff to run the service," the COC lamented.

According to the COC, the onset of COVID-19 led to a drastic drop in patients' attendance causing the transfer of many staff to other stations of need. Today, patients' attendance is on the increase and there is need to bring back more staff to cope with the situation. Quizzed, the COC revealed that the staffing situation fell from 80 before the pandemic to 68 now.

To buttress his point on rising attendance, the COC said 3,445 patients came to the health center in first four months in 2020 as compared to 5,174 within the same period in 2021. In-patient attendance also moved from 240 from January to April 2020 to 369 in 2021.

In other news, an electric signpost has been erected at the frontage of the health center to give it a better visibility, especially at night. Still in the area of visibility, there are plans to repaint the health center structures to make them look attractive. Reports say, the study has been made, approved and the cost estimates given.

The center procured an auto-refractor in the eye department to limit the referral of her patients to other hospitals with the machine. This has led to an increase in patients' retention at the eye de-

partment. Similarly, the health center acquired a new centrifuge for the laboratory and a fridge at the OPD to keep soft drinks and snacks to sustain patients during consultation given that NBHC has no canteen as yet. A temporary ultrasound machine was bought for use while waiting for a more appropriate one to be obtained.

The Physiotherapy department went operational in January 2021 with a staff. The center provided space and equipped the department.

NBHC's infrastructural expansion has been stalled by a supposed imposter who passed for the land-lady of the piece of land where the expansion was intended. This, according to the COC, has dragged the Center into legal battles, which are ongoing, causing waste of time, energy and resources.

EBHC receives Cardiologist, other Staff

Ekoumdoum Baptist Health Center (EBHC) now has a consulting cardiologist every Monday and Friday. Dr. Kotta Sylvia Christine started work in April 2021. The Assistant Administrator, Miss Tangwa Faith says the coming of a cardiologist meets the need of the teaming patient attendance. Relatedly, the health center also received four new security guards. This, according to the Assistant Administrator, would facilitate work given that EBHC security guards also covers Rain Forest International School, BHS Awae and CBCHS Mvan Resource Center.

In other news, sensitization campaigns were carried out in churches towards World Blood Donors Day on June 14, 2021. Reports say the Ekoumdoum Blood Donors Association took active role in the sensitization. Meantime, service conferences for nurses hold every Wednesday for capacity building.

A service provider, ICAN donated some commodities to support the fight against COVID-19. The items came through Mr. Munjoh Anthony, Supervisor of Nursing Services of Mboppi Bap-

tist Health Center. A 4-day Infection Prevention training held from April 27-30, 2021. Nkeh Jenny, Ngam Brenda and Munjoh Mark facilitated the IP training.

A 2-day retreat for the health center held from May 22-23 on the topic, "Be ready for Christ's Coming". Two pastors expounded on theme from Matthew 24:36. These were Samari Elvis and Nfor Divine.

EBHC PT Department

The Physiotherapy (PT) department of Ekoumdoum Baptist Health Center (PT), which began in 2010 with one staff to day has steadily grown to three staff and seeing an average of 280 patients per month.

The head of department, Nchamcham Isaac Bong believes that the department's growth is stifled by visible challenges. The challenges range from limited space, limited medical sup-

ply to meet patients' needs and lack of equipment or obsolete equipment. The department is located on the second floor on the health center building without a ramp, making accessibility difficult for patients with mobility challenges, especially when the lift is not working. The two-room department is not spacious enough for ideal PT services including maintenance of confidentiality. The department has only one obsolete wooden bed, not presentable enough to re-

ceive some VIP clients thus, so there is a need for an additional modern bed for better services.

The PT department is in need of equipment such as combined ultrasound machine, infrared lamps, wax pot, and TENS machine. According to the HOD, the ceiling is not strong enough to hang/carry the traction machine, which means patients needing this service are deprived.

EBHC WHP faring Well

Women's Health Program (WHP) nurse, Beatrice Futuh Bongkwu says a campaign in April led to an uptake of family planning services from 60 to 90. Quizzed on the form of the campaign, Miss Beatrice Futuh explained that they carried out intensified sensitization around the hospital, and used posters and health talks in churches to increase understanding of the importance of screening for cervical cancer.

Meantime, the price of cervical cancer testing moved from 5000fcfa to 10.000fcfa because the procedure changed from visual inspection to HPV testing. Reports say, the women are adjusting to march up with the new price. For now, an average of 25 clients access the service, but the program staff say there is need for outreach sensitization to open up the cervical cancer testing to more women. Miss Beatrice Futuh expressed satisfaction that doctors and screeners now re-

fer clients to the WHP clinic after a presentation by Dr. Manga Simon, WHP consultant.

In terms of challenges, the change of price has put off some clients and many with pre-cancers do not come back for treatment. More disappointing for the staff is the fact that some clients fail to come back to collect their HPV results either positive or negative for follow-up.

EBHC Eye Department

The department is faring well, according to the head nurse, Mr. Issa. At the time of this report, the ophthalmologist, Dr. Lydia Fokunang was on leave, while her colleague from Etoug-Ebe

Baptist Hospital Yaounde, Dr. Nana Ango comes to cover up on Mondays for consultation and on Tuesdays for surgeries.

The HOD noted a major challenge for the department is the operating microscope that no longer functions adequately. The good news is that plans are underway to replace it.

EBHC Maternity/MCH Services Blooming

If there is one department that brings a health facility as Ekoumdoum to the limelight, it is the Maternity and Mother and Child Health (MCH) services. The maternity continues to receive many women who come for ANC and delivery. The MCH Supervisor for the Center region based at Ekoumdoum, Mrs. Ndze Grace reported averages of 400 ANC, 120 deliveries and 4 premature babies in the nurseries per month at EBHC.

ling the midwives to discharge some newly born babies in good condition after 24 hours and not up to 48 hours as recommended by WHO, simply to create space for others. Sometimes, clients prefer to sleep in unbearable conditions than accepting to go and deliver elsewhere, just because they want to enjoy the quality services intended with a compassionate touch. The other serious challenge is limited incubators to resuscitate pre-mature babies.

receive counseling on how to feed these babies. The maternity also needs cots to admit sick babies. A baby born with cleft lips and palette in the maternity was booked for operation in Mbingo Baptist Hospital when the baby clocks three months.

In the face of these challenges, Mrs. Ndze Grace expressed appreciation to the administration for sending three additional midwives bringing the number to 19. At the time of this report, three other midwives were on leave.

This boom and quest for MCH services at Ekoumdoum puts the staff and the health center administration constantly on the edge. The principal challenge is limited space for admission compel-

This busy maternity had only one incubator, which had a baby boy in it when this reporter visited the maternity. Mothers of pre-mature babies

MBHD Marks World Clubfoot Day

Mboppi Baptist Hospital Douala under the leadership of the Physiotherapy (PT) Department has celebrated World Clubfoot Day 2021. The day at MBHD was a time to retrace the path covered thus far in correcting clubfoot deformity in the country.

During the event staff from clubfoot clinics in the Doula rallied at MBHD to share knowledge and chart the way on how to empower more clinical staff to identify and refer cases to the treatment sites early, explained Wilfred Nfor, senior PT Assistant at MBHD. "It was equally an opportunity for parents whose children with clubfoot had been

treated to share testimonies of their journey from diagnoses, treatment and correction of the deformity," he added.

One of the high moments of the celebration was a clinical presentation on the standard treatment method for the deformity known as the 'Ponseti Technique'. According to physiopeia, "The ponseti method is a conservative and manipulative technique utilized to correct clubfoot," developed by Dr. Ignacio .V. Ponseti.

Activities marking this year's Clubfoot Day began at MBHD on May 26, 2021, with awareness-raising

on the deformity on the media. The weeklong activities culminated with an evaluation meeting on the treatment of children with clubfoot in the mapped-out treatment sites in the region.

Celebrations at MBHD unfolded under the watch of Dr. Ndasi Henry, Clinical Supervisor of the Cameroon Clubfoot Care Project. The Cameroon Clubfoot Care Project is an initiation of Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services with the sole purpose of ensuring that children with clubfoot deformity should access care through specialized clinics.

MBHD seeks Improvement on Customer Satisfaction

Customer satisfaction, it is believed, is at the heart of any successful service or business. Conscious of this, Mboppi Baptist Hospital Douala has equipped staff with all that it takes to give its clients satisfactory care. This was in a weeklong training with all staff of the facility recently.

Mr. Kouamo Alain, Assistant Administrator in-charge of Personnel said the training was on

the backdrop of complaints from the customer reports of the hospital. Following the numerous complaints, we decided to organize a training to enhance staff skills to better serve our clients, he underscored.

MBHD now has monthly customer care feedback, thanks to the Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (PMEL) system in place. From these

reports, the hospital is now able to take decisions to improve services and care so that clients derive maximum satisfaction.

Njumbir Mispa, participant said the training was a wake-up call to her. "I have seen lots of areas I need to improve in to make my clients satisfied. I love the initiative and pray such pieces of trainings should come up often," she reckoned.



1. The CBCHS launched three new projects in the month of June to reach out to persons with disabilities in a holistic manner. Thank God for these initiatives.
2. Pray the leaders of these new projects should truly reach out to the beneficiaries.
3. The CBC is once more bereaved. Rev. Tah Martin Bunikih, Ndop Field Pastor and former Director of CBC Youth and Students Ministry died on the night of June 22, 2021 in Mbingo Baptist Hospital after a brief illness. The funeral is scheduled to take place on July 13, 2021. Pray for the Church and for the family to cope with this great loss.

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