



THE HEALTH SERVICES CHRONICLE

A Monthly Publication of the CBC Health Services Communication Unit

October 2021,
Vol. 5 No. 48



Indigenous women write figures and letters of the alphabet for the first time, thanks to CBCHS Humanitarian Outreach efforts... pg1

IN THIS ISSUE

Leadership Changes at CCC/CECPES.....Pg 2

Malaria Control and Prevention Program ignites Lab Technicians in WorkshopPg4

HIV-Free Project staff in Zone 1 charged to meet targets in the New Project Year...Pg5

STOP PRESS!!

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

BIBLE VERSE

“This is what the Lord says: Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, ‘We will not walk in it’”. ~Jeremiah 6:16

CBCHS Humanitarian Response Team recognized for Bravery



Water tank donated to needy community



Mass sensitization during community outreach

The horrors of war and domestic conflicts are not new to those who have lived through them. With the advent of social media, it is easy to come across its consequences. Far from social media are those who experience these atrocities firsthand. Such is the case of CBCHS' Humanitarian Response team, whose leader, Mme Maureen Ful, was awarded for Bravery and Outstanding performance.

This award, by the Director of Health Services, Prof. Tih Pius, "has boosted our morals. We are happier, stronger and more determined," affirmed Mme Maureen. The event was the 2021 CBC Health Services Chiefs of Center meeting that held in Mvan, Yaounde recently.

It will be very easy for a bystander to posit the reasons for such recognition. Their Comprehensive Child Response Programme, funded by UNICEF, began in May to be terminated in

December 2021. Its aim is to respond comprehensively to the needs of children in the two crisis-stricken zones, North and South West Regions of Cameroon. In their quest to offer basic health services ranging from vaccination campaigns, malnutrition prevention, fight against COVID-19 and WASH services, the Humanitarian Response team encounters life-and-death situations daily.

Embarking on a trip to Kumbo and its surrounding villages, they are met with hostile summons and questioning from both state and non-state armed forces. With both sides accusing the team of working for the other and being held at check points for long hours, it was never certain if they would continue their trip alive or be caught in cross fires. It was common to encounter about twelve non state armed control posts from Kumbo to Mbiami, one of the villages requiring attention.

The uncertain surge of violence and terrible roads could not stop the team from attending to vulnerable populations characterized by acute malnutrition, absence of potable water and latrines and children who have not been to school for four years. Communities with no rule of law, with disturbing rates of gender-based violence and where families spend their time in bushes and return to empty or burnt homes with nothing to eat or live by.

"With the pat on our backs through this award, we are not overwhelmed by the challenges and we encourage the populations to help one another, be conscious that we are in a crisis and be prepared for any eventualities," says Mme Maureen. The crisis may no longer have the devastating effects on the population of the city, but it remains a reality in the villages.



Means of transportation due to bad roads

Leadership Changes at CCC/CECPES

“When I am gone, you should talk less of me, but sing of My God’s Sovereignty”

- Rev. Dr. Ndongndeh

Rev. Mbu Julius, erstwhile head chaplain of Nkwen Baptist Hospital in Bamenda is the new Supervisor of the Community Counseling Clinic (CCC) and Centre for Clinical Pastoral Education (CECPES) in Bamenda. He took over the baton of leadership recently from the outgoing Director, Rev. Dr. Ndongndeh Godlove Nkwain who moves on to other pursuits. This was in a brief and symbolic event at the conference lounge of the centre.

Chairing the handover, Mr. Warri Denis, Chief of Administration and Finance (CAF) appreciated Rev. Ndongndeh for his services at CCC/CECPES and the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services at large. He qualified him as a daring

leader. “If our social services are relevant to the current dispensation, it is because Rev. Ndongndeh took the risk to align the services to the needs of the time. [For this] I congratulate him,” said the CAF. We shall work hard to consolidate the achievements thus far, and why not improve, as well as scale up the services to meet the ever growing demand, he added.

Rev. Dr. Ndongndeh was at the genesis of CCC/CECPES way back in 2009 at Mbingo Baptist Hospital. He says though it was a journey into the dark, the programmes offered at the centre has gained grounds and being sought after by all.

“Our services have touched lives of thousands

both from within and without the region. During the Anglophone crisis, the Clinic did a lot in trauma counseling and has since then been the center of consultancy to many practitioners around,” bragged the scholarly Psychotherapist in his handover notes.

In terms of training, CCC/CECPES has trained well over 1000 Cameroonians including social workers who are today being used by both the CBC and national/international Non-Governmental Organizations. Our students included but are not limited to pastors and seminarians taking units of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) for ministerial, academic and/or personal reasons, said Rev Ndongndeh.



The CAF receives handover notes from the Outgoing Director of CCC, CECPES



Transition of leadership at the Community Counseling Clinic (CCC)

To the incoming, the CAF pledged the support of the administration. “Rev. Mbu though you are new to this office, you are not new to the service. We will give you the necessary support and didactics you need to function well,” he said.

As Rev. Ndongndeh moves on to other ventures, he used the occasion to implore the staff of CBC Health Services, who were now more to him like family, to talk more of his God whose sovereignty enabled him to accomplish what he did during his stay at CCC/CECPES. “I covet your prayers

as I serve God in similar ways elsewhere for the benefit of the larger Church of God. I promise to remember you in my prayers as God prompt me to do so,” he said.

Referring to the words of William Carey, an American Missionary to India, who once said, “When I am gone, talk less of William Carey, but more of William Carey’s God,” Rev. Ndongndeh said. “I therefore similarly urge you that when I am gone, you should talk less of Rev. Dr. Ndongndeh, but sing even on roof tops about Rev. Dr.

Ndongndeh’s God who was sovereign, compassionate, caring and humanitarian in the real sense of the word. I sincerely love you all and will miss you dearly,” he crowned.

The new Supervisor of CCC/CECPES, Rev. Mbu Julius is an experienced hospital chaplain. Before coming to Nkwen Baptist Hospital, he served as head chaplain of Mbingo Baptist Hospital for several years.

CBR Long Awaited Course Finally Kicks-Off in CBC Health Services

The need to improve on the quality of rehabilitation services provided to Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in the communities in Cameroon is the motivation that the CBC Health Services through its EDID Program initiated the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Certification course. This training, which is taking place at the Head Office of the CBCHS in Nkwen, Bamenda, North West Region, began on October 16, 2021 to run for a year. The course is sponsored by the Liliana Foundation.

After undertaking a needs assessment of the ca-

capacity of field workers, the CBCHS realized the need to improve on their skills. The training will build on concepts related to disability, give an insight into International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) tools and Disability models. It will help them see how disability is not isolated from the environment, but get them to look at it from a holistic perspective, which has not been happening. Participants were selected from different regions and work with partner organizations that collaborate with the EDID program of the CBCHS.

Mr. Biloa Rodrigue, a differently abled participant from the Center Region, believes he is better placed to help other PWDs like him see reasons to the fact that we are all humans and that they can do more than those without a disability. “My greatest desire will be for them to be re-integrated back into the society, and that being a handicap doesn’t mean your life is over. So, we must overcome this handicap by adopting strategies that will build our confidence, help us live like others, and better,” he intimates. Mr. Biloa hopes to learn skills that will help him convince his peers to see themselves in a better light.

[Cont pg 4](#)



CBR students maximizing learning time

from pg 3

Mme Matilla Banfora, another participant reveals that she decided to take the course in order to be trained and better informed on how to actively be involved in fostering the course of PWDs. She also hopes to acquire skills that will help her educate the general public on how to better the livelihood of PWDs.

This course comes as a response to the inadequate response of the public and governing bodies to Persons with Disabilities, otherwise known as differently abled persons. As cited by Catherine Marshall in her article, Life through the eyes of a disabled person, "Why is it that you stare, Is it because I'm in a chair, or is it because you really care? Are you looking for respect, Are

you feeling some neglect, Are you trying to understand, Are you trying to lend a hand?" gives an idea of how PWDs feel. The general public whether disabled or not are thus encouraged to take this course to gain knowledge to improve their actions towards disability.

Malaria Control and Prevention Program ignites Lab Technicians in Workshop

The Malaria Control and Prevention Program of the CBCHS held a 2- Day Workshop on Laboratory Diagnosis of Malaria at the Health Services Complex, Mutengene. The training that held from August 11 to 12, 2021 brought together 37 heads of laboratory from all facilities with some braving it from distances like Ndu, Mbem, Tibati, Banyo, Sarkibaka etc.

The Malaria Focal Point, Dr. Nfor Emmanuel said that past data had shown very large discrepancies between suspected and confirmed cases of malaria from the different facilities. It was thus necessary to bring together all heads of Laboratory in a training of trainers meeting to refresh minds on the proper diagnosis of malaria and review challenges on the field.

Modules covered during the training included; an overview of malaria and national endemicity, an overview of malaria data within the CBCHS for 2020, malaria disease management, approaches to malaria diagnosis, misdiagnosis of malaria and consequences, the role of biomedical engineering in laboratory diagnosis, and novel technologies in malaria diagnosis (Gazelle Hemexhealth Diagnostic Tool).

It should be noted that this was the very first time for laboratory staff of the CBC Health Ser-

VICES to be brought together for a training like this one. From the interactions and discussions that followed, the laboratory staff brought out many challenges amongst which were the following:

- Seminars or workshops for laboratory staff to share their knowledge and challenges on the field and improve on their skills have never been organized in the past.
- The last training for laboratory technicians was done in 2005 and since then laboratory staff are recruited and not given any orientation or refresher courses to upgrade their knowledge and skills, and recent advancement in diagnostic procedures.
- Laboratory work is neglected, without proper and regular inspections, nor organization of workshops and seminars as other units do.
- Some laboratories in certain facilities have a single technician who is overworked on days when patient's attendance is high, and laboratory is closed when he/she is out of the facility.
- Quality assurance is not intentionally carried out in most laboratories since there are no regular inspections.
- Some technicians have remained in the remote areas for too long with no opportunity to learn new test procedures, no supervision and expo-

sure to recent developments in the diagnostic field making them redundant.

Despite these challenges, the technicians left Mutengene with the firm determination to keep the laboratories functional and to henceforth communicate regularly among themselves, thanks to the WhatsApp Forum created.

The Malaria Control and Prevention Program within the month also received ethical clearance from the CBC Health Services' Institutional Review Board to carry out two studies;

- 1 Challenges and Knowledge Gaps in Malaria Management within the CBC Health Services: A Stakeholder Approach to Improving uptake of Malaria Prevention and Treatment Options for childhood Malaria in Cameroon
- 2 Trends in Plasmodium falciparum parasitaemia in Pregnant women and Children below 5years in selected Health Facilities in Cameroon – a three (3) years Retrospective Cohort Study.

Findings from these two studies will help to improve on malaria management and service delivery in general within the CBC Health Services.

HIV-Free Project staff in Zone 1 charged to meet targets in the New Project Year

The kick-off of the new project year for the HIV Free project has taken place in the three implementing regions that make up Zone 1 of the project - Southwest, West, and Northwest Regions of Cameroon. This project implemented by the CBC Health Services in this zone, witnessed the launch of COP21 on October 13, 14, and 15, 2021 across these three regions.

The official launching of the project year was officiated by the Director of CBC Health Services, Professor Tih Pius Muffih who doubles as the Principal Investigator (PI) of the project. Across the three regions, the message from the PI stressed hard work from all project staff to meet the targets set by the funding partners. These targets are geared towards reaching epidemic control as prescribed by the WHO, UNAIDS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Atlanta, and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

As the CBC Health Services starts the Project Year with all the enthusiasm and optimism to realize epidemic control, the Ministry of Health

in Cameroon also requests for epidemic control (when new HIV infections have decreased and fall below the total number of deaths among HIV-infected individuals) in the country. With the renewed enthusiasm and commitment, the zeal is to attain UNAIDS 95-95-95 strategy that aims to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030 by achieving 95% diagnosed among all people living with HIV (PLHIV), 95% on antiretroviral therapy (ART) among diagnosed, and 95% virally suppressed (VS) among treated cases.

The launching referred to as "A time of reckoning" by the Regional Technical Group Coordinator (RTG), Dr. Tayong Gladys, witnessed an elaborate self-evaluation of the activities of the just ended COP20 in all three regions in the following areas: achievements registered, challenges faced, and the way forward to ensure a more successful COP21 and strive towards meeting the 95-95-95 targets of 2030.

It is worth noting that the HIV Free project started in Cameroon in 2011 implemented by the CBC Health Services in the Northwest and Southwest

regions. The start of the project witnessed hard work and gained PEPFAR'S support to scale it up to four regions with an addition of the Littoral and Centre Regions. It was eventually scaled up to all the regions of Cameroon with the addition of implementing partners.

The CBC Health Services now implementing in Zone 1 (Northwest, Southwest, and West Regions) counts the scale-up as a great achievement in working hard to give a better life to PL-HIV. The downward trend in the sero-prevalence rate of HIV in Cameroon can also be attributed to the relentless efforts of all implementers of the HIV-Free project, work that has led to greater viral suppression, the main target to be attained.

With viral suppression, carriers can no longer transmit the virus to others. The treatment coverage is now higher and case identification through overall testing has also improved with more people placed on treatment. They have prolonged healthy lives.



Excited HIVF program staff at launching of Project Year

Successes registered by the project in recent years have been in the midst of the socio-political crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, impediments overcome by the CBC Health Services to render much-needed services, as "nothing can stop us from forging ahead with services for the people of Cameroon," notes Prof Tih.

During the launching, the entire project staff was appreciated for their resilience to these crises to ensure that services are delivered. The PI made a firm call for efforts to be multiplied to get the needed viral suppression which is the ultimate goal of the project, while also prioritizing Case Identification and Treatment.

The project staff were admonished to put in their best and work with all integrity in respect of all the necessary Standard procedures in their respective sites, encourage and practice teamwork, and create a good rapport and working relations with all stakeholders and communities.

COP20 ends with recognitions for work done by facilities and achievements acquired by individuals. Fhi360 awarded certificates of excellence to facilities across the three regions for outstanding performances in the execution of CQI projects in the HIV Free project in the Regions. Meritorious Coordinators/Facilitators received certificates of appreciation from the University of Washington for their committed services in

the Online Course in Clinical Management of HIV offered through the University of Washington Department of Global Health E-Learning Program from April to June 2021. Students who undertook this Course also received their certificates. It should be noted that staff are allowed to study while they work to improve work efficacy.

Present during these meetings were project field staff, Senior Management Team of the HIVF project, site leads, the Focal Points of PEPFAR supported sites and the Regional Technical Group Coordinators.

CBC Health Services DIHA Project Staff Gain Skills on Disability Inclusive Cash Programming, Data Collection

Staff of the CBM funded Disability Inclusive Humanitarian Action (DIHA) Project of the CBC Health Services and Presbyterian Community Rehabilitation Services (PCRS) alongside leaders of the Coordinating Unit of the Associations of Persons with Disabilities (CUAPWD) in the North West region have received skills on inclusive cash methodology and inclusive data collection in two separate workshops.

The workshops organized by the CBM Cameroon Country Office Humanitarian team took place in Bafoussam from October 18-21, 2021. The workshops were aimed at capacitating the CBC Health Services staff and CUAPWD leaders (who are key stakeholders in the implementation), to be able to ensure effective disability inclusion in the implementation of the DIHA project activities, especially in the aspect of cash transfer.

During the first workshop on inclusive cash programming that took place for the first three days, the participants were exposed to knowledge and case studies on identification and targeting of beneficiaries, the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the process, monitoring and evaluation, sensitization of communities and beneficiaries and fraud prevention.

Participants at the workshop deliberated and developed strategies of communicating the cash transfer process and other activities with beneficiaries and other community stakeholders in the context of the crisis in their respective region. They also developed indicators to facilitate the identification of vulnerable persons with disabilities as beneficiaries in the cash transfer program.

The Disability Inclusive Humanitarian Action (DIHA) project was designed and is being implemented within the context of the socio-political crisis characterized by violence in the north west region of Cameroon. Consequently, the last day of the workshop, in addition to disability inclusive data collection, was dedicated to acquainting participants with knowledge on safety and security measures.

Another key topic that was presented during the workshop was the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment with participants being told that as humanitarian workers, they should make sure they do not engage in any actions that could be perceived as such.

Following the workshop, the CBCHS DIHA Project team will use knowledge gained from the workshop to train Field workers and Volunteers

selected from communities in all the 7 regions of the region who will facilitate the implementation of project activities in the areas of identifications, basic rehabilitation, awareness raising and community mobilization among others.

The workshops were facilitated by the Project Manager of the CBM Germany Humanitarian Team, Paul Scherer, and the CBM Country Office Humanitarian Project team including the Coordinator, Mr. Mouti Emmanuel, the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Officer, Mokom Njang and the CBM Regional Safety and Security Adviser, Mr. Ndikum Terence.

At the end of the workshops, the CBM Country Office Humanitarian Coordinator thanked all the participants for their effective participation noting that he hoped to see and receive the output and outcome of the 4-day intensive training in the near future.

The DIHA project is funded by the German Federal Foreign Office through CBM and implemented in the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon by the CBC Health Services and the Presbyterian Community Rehabilitation Services respectively.

2021 World Sight Day

Population told to Prioritize Eye Health, Care

The Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services has called all to prioritize eye health. According to Dr. Lydia Njkam, Ophthalmologist at Mbingo Baptist Hospital (MBH), a regular comprehensive eye check is the surest way to prioritize eye health. "Love your eyes, preserve them, and have regular checkups, she advised.

"Many conditions that affect the body, affect the eyes. The eye is the lamp of the body, so you cannot know you have a condition if you do not get your eyes checked," stressed Dr. Njkam.

The need to prioritize eye health was emphasized as the CBC Health Services commemorated the 2021 World Sight Day. World Sight Day is an event to raise awareness of blindness and vision impairment as a major public concern; it is also a moment to spur action to improve access to eye

care and raise funds for blindness prevention initiatives.

This year's event was commemorated at a time when "more than one billion people worldwide do not have access to eye care services," says the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB).

In line with access to eye care, Dr. Njkam says the policy has a central role to play. "It is not all about checking the eyes, it is about policy. While we emphasize the need for the population to observe the 4Ps (protect, prevent, preserve and prioritize), as governments and as institutions, we must set eye health as a priority so that we can diagnose eye conditions early and manage them appropriately," underpinned the expert.

Visual impairments are today becoming a pandemic. According to Sight Savers, over 2.2 billion people across the world have visual impairments, though many are largely preventable.

Quizzed on what it takes to avert the impairment pandemic, Lawyer Scholastica, Ophthalmic Medical Assistant at Nkwen Baptist Health Centre says prevention is the way out. "Many eye diseases can be prevented if we adopt a healthy lifestyle. By cutting down on smoking and drinking, maintaining a healthy weight through physical exercise and healthy eating, we can prevent most eye diseases," she added.

World Sight Day 2021 had as theme, "Love Your Eyes". Loving your eyes entails being aware of your eye health by getting a sight test and recommending others to do same.



A regular comprehensive eye check is key to prevent many blinding conditions

Free Eye Screening Records Massive Response in EBHY

The populace of Etoug-Ebe and its environs in Yaoundé has turned out in their numbers for sight testing at Etoug-Ebe Baptist Hospital Yaounde (EBHY). Over 60 people were screened daily during the eye screening.

The free eye screening was part of EBHY's activities marking World Sight Day 2021. The campaign was in line with the day's theme, "Love Your Eyes",

which encouraged all and sundry to have a sight test while recommending others to do the same.

During the event, the staff of the Eye Department pledged to combat eye problems one eye at a time, a move saluted by the community. Dr. Nana Hyacinth, Ophthalmologist in a presentation during chapel admonished the staff to follow the 4Ps (prevent, protect, preserve and prioritize) to care

for the eyes.

At the time of compiling this report, our EBHY based correspondent, Lukong Enock reported that scores of people continued to queue at the temporary eye screening cubicle of the hospital to check their eyes.

Palliative Care: CBC Health Services Calls for More Resources

"Let's join hands and unite our resources and leave no one behind, as multitudes can benefit from what we can do [put together]. Ndzi Eric, Palliative Care Nurse at Baptist Hospital Mutengene made the clarion call to all and sundry on World Hospice and Palliative Care Day, which was commemorated recently in the hospital.

Mr. Ndzi explained that Palliative Care is the attention given to people with life-limiting conditions, by supporting them and their families in relieving pain. This is done by offering good nursing care, treatment, listening, offering our presence, educating and advocating for them as they journey through their condition.

By that definition, it takes just a lot of resources to fully offer Palliative Care. However, in a setting like Cameroon where Palliative Care is a rare service and yet to gain ground nationally, it means many patients with incurable conditions go unattended to.

For an organization like the CBC Health Services that has implemented Palliative Care services for

a while now, there is an avalanche of problems that have stalled the progress of the service in recent times.

"First, the situation in the country, especially the social-political crisis and Coronavirus pandemic, has made it worse for those with palliative care needs. Due to the crises, many patients get to the hospitals at a late stage of the disease. When you present to the hospital early, the outcomes are better, but, when you present late, you come along with complications that are difficult to manage. This means that the palliative care needs are increasing and suffering as well," he said.

Mr. Ndzi added that funding too is a major issue. Many patients with life-limiting conditions are the poorest of the poor in our setting and do not have money to pay for the required care. Even those who can afford at the start, at some point they still get overwhelmed with the daily investments they have to make in their health to stay alive.

"The palliative care services of the CBC Health

Services initially could do home visits, supply a lot of things to patients because she had funding. Today, there is no funding and so we are not able to reach out to the patients or meet their needs," regretted Mr. Ndzi.

Faced with such a bleak picture, the CBC Health Services on the World Hospice and Palliative Care Day launched a call for greater investment in the service so as not to leave anyone behind. It was equally a time to ask the government to make available oral liquid morphine which is a drug used to relieve pain.

Besides making drugs available, it is time for the government to prioritize Palliative Care and include it as the major activity in the training of its health personnel. "With the right education, many will know about Palliative Care and subsequently offer it," he stressed.

The theme for this year's World Hospice and Palliative Care Day was "Leave No One Behind: Equity in Access to Palliative Care".

BIHS Begins Bachelor Course in Physiotherapy

Students for the Bachelor degree in Physiotherapy Course of the Baptist Institute of Health Sciences (BIHS) have begun taking lessons. The course began on October 12, 2021, with an orientation that lasted one week.

Gaius Ngeh, Student and Class Coordinator says it's been a longing to sign up for a Bachelor in physiotherapy. Having worked as a physiotherapy assistant before, I thought it wise to upgrade my skills to better meet the needs of the clients, as well as provide evidence-based services. Following the period of orientation, some expectations are already being met. "I look forward to the training with much expectation," he said.

A Bachelor degree in Physiotherapy is not a new concept elsewhere in the globe, but, that offered at the BIHS has been customized to meet local needs and realities.

Timothy Fanfon, Deputy Course Director says the course was carefully designed to meet the local needs of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) especially children in the country. It is intended to build the right skills, making sure that thereafter we have the right personnel in the communities, and service delivery areas offering the right kind of care to all in need.

"At the end of the course, we look forward to seeing a highly qualified and locally relevant thera-

pist. We know Cameroon has many PWDs and physiotherapists consult everyone, especially those whose movements are compromised by anything. The class size is small and this will give us ample time to concentrate impact the right skills, he said.

The course is being offered as part of the Rehabilitation Compass for Inclusion project with funds from AFAS Foundation through Liliane Foundation.

With a strong national and international faculty, the training will equip students with evidence-based skills for the period that the course will last.

Ndu Field contributes to Ndu Baptist Health Center Theatre

In an unprecedented move, the Exco of Ndu Field of the Cameroon Baptist Convention paid a visit to Ndu Baptist Health Centre on Saturday, September 25, 2021 to contribute their quarter to the efforts of the health center to erect a theater. The team was led by the Ndu Field Pastor, Rev. Koyoh Nformi Lawrence. They were welcomed by the Chief of Centre for Ndu Bap-

tist Health Centre, Mrs. Shey Florence who expressed her gratitude for their coming on behalf of the entire staff.

"We as the Ndu Field Exco have come to support the ongoing theatre project with our own token," Rev. Koyoh disclosed as he introduced the members of his team. The field pastor again

commended the dream for such a great project, which he prayed should grow into the Ndu Baptist Hospital in the near future. He said it was a privilege to support the project with an envelope of 1,230,000 FCFA, which he immediately handed to the Chief of Center, Mrs. Shey Florence.



Ndu Baptist Health Center theatre near completion

From pg 7

On how the money was raised, the field pastor added that each Christian of the field has surrendered their transport to Kumbo during these difficult times to see that the project is fully realized and functional for the welfare of many in

and out of the field. He concluded by thanking the chief of centre and staff for their collective efforts to carry the project to be at this state. It should be noted that Ndu Field is made up of 56 churches and 12 associations.

In response, the Chief of Centre, Mrs. Shey Florence saluted and appreciated the Ndu Field Exco for their coming and support. She promised that the money will be used judiciously towards the finishing of the project.

Nkwen Baptist Hospital

Nkwen Baptist Hospital Doing Well despite Crises

The Administrator, Mr. Kangong Joce says Nkwen Baptist Hospital is well on course and posing itself as the most feared competitor in the Northwest region in the provision of quality healthcare. In spite of the huge effects of the double crises: Coronavirus pandemic and the three-week lockdown imposed by the ongoing crisis in the two English speaking regions, Nkwen Baptist Hospital (NBH) has not lowered its guard and commitment to attending to the teaming patients who also brave the odds to seek quality care.

Reports say although the clients sometimes complain of the cost, they end up being amazed and fascinated by the quality and compassionate care they receive from the caring and hard working doctors and nurses as well as the quality of medication and equipment used.

In terms of quality, the hospital has current staff strength of 618 among who are clinical personnel (doctors, nurses), paramedical staff, support

staff and program staff. They attend to an average of 450-500 patients of normal busy days and as many as 600 on very busy days. According to the Administrator, this number of staff would likely increase with the rapid expansion of the hospital. At the moment, the staff are overwhelmed with the workload but encouraged the satisfaction expressed by the clients. He lauded the CBCHS Central Administration for the support NBH in her expansion drive both in personnel and infrastructure.

In spite of these positive aspects, the Administrator noted a number of challenges standing on the way. The porous nature of the hospital compounded by the breakages to construct the highway opens the hospital to insecurity leading to petty theft and harassment, thus putting the security department on the edge. The epileptic power supply in the region damages a lot of expensive equipment, causing the hospital to constantly run on generator using fuel, which is very expensive. The Administrator lamented to

CBCHS Communication Unit that these capital expenditures push NBH to fall into deficit more than the effects of the crises. Another challenge is space and the difficulty to ambulate patients from one unit to the other. However, he is optimistic that the space challenge may reduce when works on the attached building are completed.

In terms of projections, the Administrator announced the need for NBH to maintain its status as catchment point for the reference hospital in Mbingo. In this light, the hospital will scale up on surgery turnover so that only surgeries requiring fewer days of hospitalization are done in Nkwen while complicated cases are referred to Mbingo Baptist Hospital for optimum care. There is also need to obtain better equipment to minimize open surgeries, purchase a mammography machine and upgrade to be outstanding in neonatal care.

NBH Security Department on the Edge at New Site

The expansion and changes in Nkwen Baptist Hospital (NBH) has direct consequence on the security department that needs to step up her game in order to respond to the realities of the time. The security chief, Ndula George says this has put him and his 16 elements on the edge, working tirelessly round the clock to beat the pockets of insecurity experienced now and then compounded by the porous nature of the hospital.

They are now working from their office transferred from the entrance of the hospital to a more centralized location for better vigilance. The security chief noted that the office space is very limited to contain all of them with no space to place a shelf for letters and luggage in transit.

In addition to the challenges is the need for an office space for the security chief, a fence round the compound to deter clients who may want to abscond with unpaid medical bills and intruders

who may come in from any corner of the hospital. More importantly, the security department needs a permanent wheel chair to assist patients who cannot walk on their own.

Quizzed, the security chief disclosed that the department needs four additional guards, bringing the number to 20. With this number, he assures that the compound would be adequately covered.

NBH Dental Department

The dental department of Nkwen Baptist Hospital is busy seeing an average of 17 patients per day. In spite of the 2-week lockdown in September, the department attended to a total of 516 patients. The Assistant Head of Department, Ngong Ernestine noted that the department major activities include daily consultations and treatment. The department take calls till 6pm

daily. These services are provided by 17 operational and non operational staff including a dentist, Dr. Nguni Fochin E.

The department is faced with a couple of challenges paramount among which are: constant fluctuation in electricity leading to frequent breakdown of equipment, frequent lockdowns

as a result of the ongoing war in the region and non functional panoramic x-ray machine making work challenging.

The department desires and prays for normalcy to return to the region and for the aforementioned challenges to be overcome for optimum performance.

NBH Physiotherapy Department to intensify Sensitization

The staff of the department have identified the need for increased sensitization and community awareness as the principal means of educating the population to take action in preventing common conditions that bring them to the physiotherapy (PT) department. According to PT Assistants, Tohbam Secunda and Nweyang Marcel, the common conditions are back pain, joint pain, fractures, neurologic conditions such as stroke, cerebral palsy and Down Syndrome etc. They spoke for the head of department, Mr. Fonbi John who was on annual leave.

Presently, the department carries out health talks at the OPD to share knowledge and create awareness about physiotherapy. Plans are underway to begin outreach visits for increased sensitization as well as do health talks on radio.

At the time of this report, the department had 7 staff; 3 old, 3 newly transferred and one on internship. They attend to an average of 655 patients per month.

Like other departments of the hospital, the PT department witnessed dwindled patient attendance in September due to the ongoing crisis. Other challenges include the fact that the department waiting area is shared with another department which is confusing to some patients to follow through smoothly. The department needs the following equipment for better functioning: dythermy, infra-red lamp, TENS machines, backup machine, stationery bicycle and dome bell for exercises.

NBH Eye Department hopes to redouble Efforts

The head of department, Mr. Lucha Johnson says Nkwen Baptist Hospital has future plans to take the eye department a step further ahead. The low vision specialist looks forward to the commencement of a low vision clinic as soon as the equipment are sourced and received. Other goals are to start major eye surgeries, ensure steady drug supply and maintain a motivated staff team.

For now, the department carries out the following activities; minor surgeries, regular eye care at the OPD, community outreach, low vision services but no outreach yet and refraction and dispensing of glasses. An appreciable 10-man team under the leadership of an ophthalmologist provide these services.

Patients' attendance is on a steady rise. The department saw a total of 14,262 patients between January to October 14, 2021 distributed as follows: OPD consultation – 11,852, outreach – 2,265, and low vision – 145.

Besides the lockdowns caused by the crisis, the department is equally faced with other challenges. The few available machines suffer from frequent breakdown. One of the mobile ophthalmoscopes is not functioning well. The lone visual field machine used in the diagnosis and management of glaucoma cannot function for several months now. Although management is working towards a solution, Mr. Lucha laments that the situation is very frustrating to them as

service providers.

Lack of surgical instruments is another challenge, which the Socio Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disability (SEEPD) program is preoccupied with and sourcing. Another aspect of concern is the out of stock of some essential drugs, rendering treatment difficult. "Sometimes, we send clients to buy from town which is not a good practice," the HOD remarks.

The general problem of frequent power cuts is responsible for the breakdown of some these equipment. "We need electricity to function," notes Mr. Lucha.

NHB ENT Department Progressing

The Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) surgeon of Nkwen Baptist Hospital, Dr. Bonko Neville says the ENT department is doing well and is more advanced than expected. He reveals that the department has the basic equipment to enable them carry out procedures in all the branches of ENT.

This steady progress, reports say, is slowed down

by the perennial challenges of space for expansion and privacy and need for more staffing. At the moment, the department has only the ENT surgeon and an ENT Clinical Officer. They see an average of 500 patients a month but the number dropped to 300 in September due to the 3-week lockdown imposed on the population by a faction in the ongoing crisis in the region. The department has plans to intensify sensitiza-

tion in the hospital OPDs to increase awareness about ENT services in NBH.

At the time of this report, two ENT clinical officers in training from Mbingo Baptist Hospital were on internship at the department for one month. They are Ayori Claire (BNS) and Nkemache Killian (SRN).

NBH Maternity, poised as a Reference

The maternity of Nkwen Baptist Hospital is marching on to meeting its goal of standing out as reference in the region. NBH Maternity department offers the following services; ANC consultation, post partum care, labour and delivery and nursery. These units are all manned by very experienced mid-wives. According to the head of the maternity department, Lum Perpetua, all these units witness very high attendances.

The maternity has a total of 28 staff including

midwives and nurses. At the time of this report, 10 nurses were on practical experience. The gynecologist left at the end of August for further studies and there is need for his replacement. Besides, the head nurse expresses the need for additional staff to work especially in the nursery to make it optimally functional.

The head nurse beams with optimism that the presence of a theatre in NBH is a blessing to the maternity department. She notes that the thea-

tre runs 24/7 to attend to all emergency cases. It should be noted the Ms Lum Perpetua took over as head of maternity barely four months ago. She took over the baton from the veteran midwife, Mrs. Kenchi Hope who becomes the Mother and Child Health (MCH) Coordinator for CBC Health Services.



CAMEROON BAPTIST CONVENTION HEALTH BOARD AIDS CARE AND PREVENTION PROGRAM [ACP]



OVERVIEW OF ADOPT A HEALTH CARE WORKER SCHEME (AHCWS) ACC. 471706/400

BACKGROUND

Acts 2:44-45 "Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common. And sold their possessions and goods and divided them among all as anyone had need". This scheme started in 2003 with the original purpose of supporting fellow workers of the Board who were infected with HIV because treatment was so expensive that they could not afford. As the Scripture rightly says, the healthy person-

nel were willing to share with the sick as was the practice of the early church and with the evolution of the scheme, there's now no restriction as to which health crisis a member staff can benefit from. The staff or staff's family member and the amount to benefit depends on evaluation by the AHCWS management after which it is forwarded for approval to the Director of Health Services. It should be noted that,

this does not replace the medical care of personnel given by the CBCHS as stipulated by the policy. It only occurs when the amount goes beyond what the policy covers. All of the above benefits are done exclusively for staff who actively or currently contribute to this scheme.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions are either monthly or yearly and either on cash bases or payroll deductions. The monthly contributions begin from 500fcfa and yearly begins from 6,000fcfa. The Administrators or Chiefs of Center of all institutions are in position

of the contribution forms and usually encourage new and old staff to enroll. This scheme is different from external insurance schemes such as Mutual Health and BEPHA which belong to different organizations. In 2020, the Director of Health

Services issued letters to some heads of institution to encourage staff to enroll and contribute to this health fund scheme, as a results, many enrolled and contributed. Total number of staff contributing in to the fund by December 2020 stood at 1,682.

Challenge:

The main challenge is getting more staff understand the purpose of the scheme.

Way forward

Complete the transformation of this scheme (AHCWS) into health fund.

Sincerely,

Pastor Bambo Denis

AHCWS Coordinator

WORLD AIDS DAY

2021 Ending the HIV Epidemic:
Equitable Access, Everyone's Voice

HEALTH MIRROR

A Publication of the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services

People, Institutions, Communities,

June - August 2021

Vol.1 No. 16

Towards HIV Epidemic Control...

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Epidemic
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**Antiretroviral
Therapy: The
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Epidemic Control
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UNAIDS Vision
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STAY SAFE



1. Thank God for his continuous love for us; for His protection and care over the staff.
2. Thank God for healing the staff who are sick (Name those you can remember around you).
3. Pray for team work and collaboration amongst workers of the CBCHS.
4. Pray that staff will make seeking the Kingdom of God a priority by being lovers of God.
5. Pray that, God would give the staff the grace to remain committed, focused and steadfast.

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