

September 2023

Vol. 6 No. 21



THE HEALTH SERVICES CHRONICLE

A Monthly Publication of the CBC Health Services Communication Unit



Professor Tih hailed as Legend in fight against HIV and AIDS in Cameroon ...pg2

IN THIS ISSUE

CBM/CBC Health Services pilots Inclusive Health Care in Five Health Districts in NWRpg04

Community Health Workers Capacitated on Vaccination in Practice and ZDC Tracking Logpg06

EDID program continues to empower schools to foster inclusive education in Northwest Region of Cameroonpg08



STOP PRESS!!

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



BIBLE VERSE

"Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear". ~". *Isaiah 59:1(NIV)*.

Professor Tih hailed as Legend in fight against HIV and AIDS in Cameroon

The US Ambassador-At-Large, Dr. John Nkengasong has commended the CBC Health Services for the work that they do in the fight against HIV and AIDS in Cameroon. Dr. Nkengasong, US Global AIDS Coordinator and Senior Bureau Official for Health Security and Diplomacy made the observations during his working visit to Etoug-Ebe Baptist Hospital on September 7, 2023. His visit aimed at witnessing the work done with PEPFAR-funded projects in the country.

Dr. Nkengasong visited the hospital as one of the implementing PEPFAR (US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) funded Care and Treatment sites in Cameroon. He used this occasion to thank the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the implementing partners in Cameroon like the CBC Health Services and Georgetown University. He called on them to continue to move the program forward and create impact, bringing more hope and happiness to families in Cameroon.

The US Ambassador-At-Large reiterated the trust bestowed on CBC Health Services across decades in the implementation of HIV and AIDS programs intended to provide HIV epidemic control. He challenged Cameroon to be the first country in Central and West Africa to hit the first "95 95 95" targets. That means 95% of the people who are living with HIV know their HIV status, 95% of the people who know that they are living with HIV are on lifesaving antiretroviral treatment and 95% of people who are on treatment being virally suppressed.



Dr. Nkengasong, US Ambassador at Large applauds CBCHS under Prof. Tih for the successful implementation of the HIVF project from beginning till now



Launching of CAMPHIA 2024 by the Minister of Public Health flanked by US Ambassador at Large & US Ambassador to Cameroon



US Ambassador at Large appreciates progressive impact of PEPFAR implemented projects in Etoug-Ebe Baptist Hospital in Yaounde

It is worth noting that thanks to PEPFAR funding, 25 million lives have been saved, and 5.5 million children born free from HIV. PEPFAR funding started in Cameroon as a PMTCT program (Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV). The results of the program have been visible.

Dr. Nkengasong expressed a lot of happiness with the real-life stories of children who have been beneficiaries of PEPFAR funding. In his words, "We just visited the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services where they are caring for HIV patients and preventing HIV infections. We saw many children who have been born free of HIV, we saw women who are HIV positive living healthy and have delivered several babies who are all healthy. We saw young people who were born with and living with HIV, but they are living a normal life. All of them are at the University. That is impact. That is saving humanity. I am very committed that we will

continue to partner with the Baptist and the Government of Cameroon to advance the program."

The Ambassador-At-Large further acknowledged the fact that Cameroon is on the right path to reaching epidemic control. The situation today has greatly improved as compared to 20 years ago, he recalled the precarious situation. However, a lot still needs to be done, he added. Resources, according to Dr. Nkengasong will be focused where there are needs.

He announced that the Cameroon Population-based HIV Impact Assessment (CAMPHIA) had just been launched. This survey will enable stakeholders in the fight against HIV to focus resources where the needs are, with hopes to finally bringing HIV to an end as a public health threat in Cameroon. "Cameroon is on the right trajectory," he concluded.

The CAMPHIA project, it should be noted, was launched earlier on the same day at the Public Health Emergency Operations Center in Yaounde. The announcement of CAMPHIA II was done by the Minister of Health, Dr. MANAOUA Malachie in the presence of the Ambassador-At-Large, Dr. Nkengasong, the US Ambassador to Cameroon Christopher John Lamora, and a host of stakeholders in the public health domain. The launching was characterized by presentations on the Global Health Security Agenda Implementation in Cameroon, PEPFAR's impact, and investments in Cameroon marking the celebration of PEPFAR's 20 years of implementation. During this event, Dr. Nkengasong elaborated on the US Government's support to Health Emergencies, PEPFAR's new 5x3 strategy Sustainability, and future investment plans.



Dr. Nkengasong being welcomed to Etoug-Ebe Baptist Hospital Yaounde by the CBCHS Administration

CBC Health Services, Partners Assess Barriers Limiting Access of Women and Girls with Disabilities to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services

The CBC Health Services in collaboration with the Liliane Foundation and the Radboud University together with academic partners in Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Zambia and Uganda have shared findings of a research study on the challenges faced by women and girls with disabilities in accessing sexual and reproductive health services as well as the role of Associations of Parents of Children with Disabilities (APCWD) in the advocacy for the rights of their children in Cameroon.

The findings were presented to stakeholders, advocates, partners and the public during a learning event organised by the CBCHS-Empowerment and Disability Inclusive Development Project (EDID) at the CBC Health Services Resource Centre of Excellence Mvan, Yaoundé under the theme, "Breaking Down Barriers".

The research findings revealed that women with disabilities experience great difficulties accessing sexual and reproductive health and family planning services due to inaccessibility in the provision of Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) care information, lack of interest in the provision of SRH information, and low level of education.

It further disclosed barriers limiting the access of women and girls with disabilities to sexual and reproductive health services such as negative attitudes portrayed by service providers towards women and girls with disabilities, negative religious beliefs, lack of interest in family planning, communication barriers, unavailability of SRH services and limited finance.

Speaking during the learning event, the Director of CBC Health Services, Prof. Tih Pius Muffih detailed that the research project marks the 9th in the series of research that the CBC Health Services has been partnering with the Liliane Foundation together with Universities in the Netherlands to conduct on Disabilities inclusion in Cameroon bringing to a total of 23 researches that have been conducted under the 'Breaking Down Barriers' project.

"The research was conducted by selected competent Master student researchers; Jaff Comfort and Kum Desmond from the University of Bamenda under the supervision of Dr. Ngalm Valentine of the University of Bamenda," the Director of CBC Health Services revealed.

According to him, the rich research findings will go a long way to influence behavioral change in the society towards women and girls with disabilities in accessing sexual and family planning services. "Findings done in the Northwest and Southwest regions will be applicable in all the other regions of the country," the public health expert added.

Prof. Tih Pius explained that the research findings was borne from the desire to understand the underlying causes of limited intake of sexual and reproductive health and family planning services by women and young girls with disabilities in order to close the gaps and make the services willingly available to these women.

During an interview with reporters, the supervisor of the researchers, Dr. Ngalm Valentine laid emphasize on the need to put in place policies, programs and intervention strategies that respond to the various needs of women and girls with disabilities. Dr. Ngalm, stressed that women and girls with disabilities are not a homogenous group as such different identities affect their access to sexual and reproductive health/rights services including impairment type, financial autonomy, level of education, religious affiliation and geographical location.

For her part, Jaff Comfort Akikea, one of the researchers, alluded to the fact that information on reproductive health doesn't take into consideration the different types of impairments including communication barriers where these women and girls with disabilities get to the hospital but are unable to communicate with the health service providers. She also made mention of religious beliefs where women and girls with disabilities think that family planning is a taboo and shouldn't go in for it as well as proximity of health unit from their living environment and displacement challenges.

"These, couple with the fact that they lack knowledge on their sexual and reproductive health rights and what sexual and reproductive health is all about. Intrusion of their privacy by intermediaries who accompany them to the health unit, financial autonomy and age range hinder these women and girls with disabilities from accessing sexual and reproductive health on equal bases with every other person in Cameroon," the researcher reiterated.

During the presentation, the other researcher, Kum Nji Desmond stressed that efforts to build inclusive communities that accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities will not be sustainable without the involvement of The Association of Parents of Children with Disabilities (APCWD). According to him, most of the existing APCWDs face challenges that require the active involvement of government, NGOs, communities and other stakeholders.

He therefore laid emphasis on the need for parental collaboration with teachers of Children with Disabilities (CWDs) in schools where the children are learning, economic empowerment of parents of CWDs and reinforcement of sensitization on APCWDs via door-to-door and the media, as fundamental tools to support Associations of Parents of children with disabilities in Cameroon.

The learning event was graced with the presence of stakeholders from government ministries at the national and regional level, heads of national and international NGOs, directors of organizations and health institutions, representatives from partner organizations of the Empowerment and Disability Inclusive Development (EDID) program and researchers from Sierra Leone, Zambia, Cameroon, and the Netherlands.

Key recommendations made during the learning event was that Hospital authorities should be sensitized and encouraged to enforce subsidized or free (SRH) services to persons with disabilities in line with the 2010 law.

- The prevalence of disability in Cameroon should inform budgetary allocation for the promotion of disability rights across sectors using a bottom-top approach including councils, regional assemblies, and national assemblies.
- Inclusive SRH education should be a key element in the training of health service providers among others.



Cross session of participants during the learning event



Director of CBC Health Services, Prof Tih Pius presenting a welcome note to participants



Stakeholders, Partners, government representatives, advocates and staff from the CBC Health Services during learning event

West Region embraces Hope and Healing International funded projects to cater for Persons with Disabilities

Major stakeholders, mainly interested government departments in the West region of Cameroon have wholeheartedly embraced the CBC Health Services' clamor to provide holistic healthcare services to persons with disabilities in the entire region with particular focus on children with disabilities.

Representatives from the following agencies: Governor's Office, Regional Delegations of Health, Basic and Secondary Education, Social Affairs and the CBC Health Services led by Prof. Tih Pius Muffih, met on September 21, 2023 at the Conference Hall of the Sare Hotel in Bafoussam to set up a Technical Working Group that would fast-track future perspectives

of the initiative.

The future perspectives include among others; to establish a school disability program for eye and other forms of disability, continue activities on river blindness and neglected clubfoot, establish a multi-year program for river blindness and expand the scope of activities to involve more districts in the region. This initiative is supported with funding from the Hope and Healing International, Canada via the Socio-Economic Empowerment of People with Disabilities (SEEPD) program of the CBC Health Services.

In a presentation, SEEPD Assistant Program Manag-

er, Tamon James disclosed that since 2021, the Hope and Healing International has been supporting the CBC Health Services in implementing activities in the West region in three initiatives: River blindness/prevention of blindness, neglected clubfoot/other bone deformities and obstetric fistula using the CBR approach. These resulted in major achievements such as the provision of didactic materials to over 200 children treated with bone deformities including over 70 with neglected clubfoot, provision of livelihood support to families of these children, treatment of 10 girls and women with fistula and the profiling of over 2000 children with disabilities among others.



Mr. Njie Fidelis, West Regional Delegate of Social Affairs welcoming CBCHS' services for persons with disabilities to West region



Stakeholders pose in support of services to persons with disabilities in West region

From these achievements as justifications to expand the scope of activities to other districts and divisions in the region, Mr. Tamon solicited for total collaboration from the stakeholders, a request they quickly granted in the discussions that ensued the presentation. This led to the formation of a Technical Working Group led by Mr. Nkouongnam Inoussa, an official from the West Regional Delegation of Health with members from the Delegations of Basic and Secondary Education, Social Affairs whose Delegate, Mr. Njie Fidelis admonished the CBC Health Services to add an element of psychosocial support in the initiative, Women Empowerment and the Family, Municipal Councils, officials from the department of school health and the CBC Health Services.

Addressing participants before and after the discussions, the Director of Health Services, Prof. Tih Pius

Muffih said, "I am convinced that the collaboration we have demonstrated will enable us all contribute effectively in the elimination of disabilities in the West region". The DHS urged the stakeholders to play their roles so that these initiatives of the CBC Health Services will contribute to improve health and the social status of the population of the West region.

Prof. Tih said the expectations of the CBC Health Services are to obtain administrative support from the Regional Delegations of Public Health, Social Affairs, Women's Empowerment and the Family, Basic Education, Secondary Education, and Municipal Councils to implement activities in the communities; obtain administrative support to implement school health programs to prevent, treat and rehabilitate disabilities; expand CBR work to cover the entire West region; ensure regular reporting to stakeholders and

adopt a district approach to identification, referral, treatment, rehabilitation and follow up of people with disabilities.

Quizzed on his impression of the formation of the Technical Working Group, the chairman, Mr. Nkouongnam Inoussa saluted the wisdom and experience of the Director of Health Services, Prof. Tih Pius for making the proposal. He pledged that his Committee will work hard to foster the aspirations of the CBC Health Services in the West region especially in the domain of services to persons with disabilities. The chairman of the Technical Working Group thanked the Hope and Healing International Canada for funding the CBC Health Services to carry out this initiative in the West region of Cameroon.

CBM/CBC Health Services pilots Inclusive Health Care in Five Health Districts in NWR

The CBC Health Services through the Comprehensive Program for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Inclusive Access to Basic Services of Health and Education in the Northwest Region of Cameroon is piloting an inclusive health care service delivery initiative through a system strengthening approach in five health districts in the Northwest region.

This initiative is intended to bridge the gap of health inequalities persons with disabilities continue to experience, resulting in premature deaths, poorer health, and more limitations in functioning than those without disabilities. The promotion of inclusive health care service delivery in 5 districts' health systems through a system strengthening approach will demonstrate good practice in health care service provision with the hope that district healthcare services will be more accessible to everyone in the communities.

The activity commenced at the start of 2023 with capacity building workshops on inclusive health delivery to the Nkambe, Wum, Fundong, Nkwen, and Santa Health Districts and SAJOCAH in Bafut. The workshops attended by nurses, physicians, social workers, clerical staff of the different districts, were organized and facilitated by the Project team.

During the trainings in the different districts, the lead facilitator and Project Coordinator, Lohshie Eugene drew participants' attention to global, national and local development agendas, beginning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its implication on inclusive health and universal health coverage. He underlined that promoting inclusive health as medical practitioners is supporting the government in achieving goal 3 of the SDG. The staff were also trained on disability inclusion in the health care system, Gender and Safeguarding and the intro-

duction of disability data management systems in the hospitals.

The training in each district was followed by disability inclusion assessments and safeguarding risk assessments aimed at improving access to primary health services in the districts using the district approach. The accessibility audits done in the presence of administrative staff of the different Districts were focused on the entrances of the hospital facilities, parking space, doors, toilets and generally, access to services delivery points in the facility.

The training and disability inclusion assessments culminated with a one day work session with the District Medical Officers, Directors of District Hospitals, Mayors, and Secretary Generals from the five Districts.

Cont. pg 05



Dr. Ambe Leonel hails CBCHS for being a great partner to the MoH



Mayor of Nkambe Council, Shey Musa Nfor making a point in the work session

From pg 04

According to the Project Coordinator, the purpose of the meeting was to present the assessment report, and reflect on the priority areas of each hospital so that the project will accompany the districts in demonstrating good practice in those areas. Presenting the audit report, the project coordinator highlighted the limitations in the different health facilities that make accessibility to different service points challenging. In his report, he recommended improved knowledge on disability inclusion amongst staff, improved physical access to services such as lab, consultation, pharmacy, and toilets, and improved signages for identification of services with the facility amongst others. All present commended the Nkwen District for its strides to make their health care services accessible to the population and those with disabilities in particular.

At the start of the Workshop, the representative of the Director of CBC Health Services, Mr. Wango Barnabas said given the importance of inclusive health as stated in international and local legislature and other development agendas the districts have the role and responsibility to ensure that no one is left behind. He announced that as part of strategies to foster inclusion, the Director of the CBC Health Ser-

vices is launching a District Excellence in Inclusive Health Award intended to recognize and celebrate districts that will demonstrate good practices in promoting inclusive health in their districts.

To support the districts in their efforts to promote inclusive health, the Director's representative announced the donation of some hospital equipment such as accessible wheelchair scales, wheelchairs, crutches, and stretcher beds amongst others. He added that the donation will be handed to the Regional Delegation of Public Health for onward distribution to the various facilities.

Representing the Regional Delegate of Public Health, the Chief of Brigade for Control of Health Care Services and activities, Dr. Ambe Leonel regretted that the uptake and implementation of disability inclusive practices within the health system not only in the region but the nation at large is slow and, in some cases, not available. He described the CBC Health Services as a significant partner to the government to enable them to promote inclusive health in the region. He appreciated the CBC Health Services for supporting the government in achieving inclusive health services. "Health

care provision is only a reality when everyone is considered in the provision of services irrespective of their age, gender or vulnerabilities," he stated.

Worthy of note is that, the Project Manager, Awa Jacques Chirac in his presentation shared the expectations of the project, calling on all to make provisions in their budgets to implement recommendations from accessibility audits and make provision for health subsidies for vulnerable groups amongst others. The participants were also drilled on the Complaint and Feedback Mechanism put in place by the Services of Persons with Disabilities program of the CBC Health Services to get feedback on its work on inclusion in the region.

At the close of the workshop, the Mayor of Nkambe Council, Mayor Shey Musa Nfor on behalf of all participants applauded the CBC Health Services for championing inclusion in the region and for strengthening systems to promote inclusion. He implored the administration of the districts to get to work so that inclusive health will be a reality in the region.

CBC Health Services Sends Out Seven New Screeners to Support their Doctors

course have been charged by the Director of the CBC Health Services to "Go and deliver quality health care to all who need it with love as they are the beacon of light". Prof. Tih Pius Muffih was speaking during the end of course ceremony at the Nkwen Baptist Hospital Chapel Hall in Bamenda on September 23, 2023. The Director saluted and appreciated the trainees for devoting themselves fully to the training by reading and burning the midnight oil to be able to score the minimum of 70% which was expected of them throughout the course to have merited graduation.

Prof. Tih, in his charge, recounted the history of the screeners program, which started some-

time in 1986 in Mbingo Baptist Hospital using low standard notes for the first trainees. At the time, there were just four medical Doctors, two in Mbingo and two in Banzo and it was not possible to have all of them go out for outreach and come back and work in the hospital. There was therefore the need for the screeners to extend the Doctors staffing and it worked so well.

The DHS continued that Dr. Julie Stone developed a set of notes for the training when she took over and then mentored Mr. Yosimbi Promise and Mr. Takwe Boniface to do it at our level and they have done a good number of trainings. He noted that many people think that nationals can not do it as much as mission-

aries can do but then he said "Yes we can do it and do it even better.we are training people of quality. We are training the screeners that are the best. Standards were set, they have been respected, and there were no favours," the DHS reiterated.

The DHS was accompanied powerfully during the ceremony by the Deputy Director for Administration and Finance, Mr. Warri Denis, the Personnel Manager, Mr. Ndosak George, the Nkwen Baptist Hospital Administrator, Mr. Kangong Joce and a host of other dignitaries to give the event the grandeur it deserved.



Newly trained screeners poised to boost nursing care in CBC Health Services

Presenting the candidates to the audience, the Course Coordinator, Mr. Takwe Boniface appreciated the lecturers, both visiting and those on the ground as well as various department heads and nursing staff for building up the Screeners who all started on March 2, 2023 and are receiving their Certificates this September 2023. He christened the class, "The Beacon of Hope Batch" while emphasizing that the screeners wrote four major cumulative exams. The course included classroom work as well



CBCHS Central Administration leaders pose with graduating screeners

as physical examination and management of common diseases.

The graduating screeners via their class coordinator, Mr. Monju Mark rendered special thanks to the CBC Health Services Central Administration for the material and financial support and for creating an enabling environment for them to enjoy their training. He equally thanked the Nkwen Baptist Hospital administration/staff

who assisted in ensuring that they get the best studies and practical experience. They duffed their hats to their lecturers who devoted their time, family comfort and personal activities to impact them with knowledge especially Mr. Tekwe Boniface and Mr. Yosimbi Promise, permanent tutors who worked tirelessly. It was their hope and promise to uphold the standard of care offered by the CBC Health Services.

CBC Health Services reaffirms Resolve to beat NCDs through Sports

Staff of the CBC Health Services Central Administration in Bamenda have confirmed their commitment to continue in the fight against Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) prevention, Control and management within the health facilities and in the communities. The pronouncement was made by the Deputy Director for Administration and Finance, Mr. Warri Denis after a match pass to crown activities carried out during the week to mark the Global Week of Action against NCDs, which are silent killers.

Leading the Walk on September 22, the Deputy Director of Administration and Finance noted that a lot of sensitization has been done and so they came out as health providers to say that the time for action is now. He promised that as an organization, they will continue to work hard to prevent NCDs, they will continue to engage individuals and communities towards the fight against the spread of NCDs despite the predisposing factors that expose people to NCDs like lack of physical exercise, dietary mal-practices, use of tobacco/alcohol as well as the intake of salt amongst other things. He noted that there is need to continue educating the communities to adopt life styles that will prevent the development of NCDs while demonstrating the Health Services commitment to manage cases of NCDs that come to their facilities.

"Treatment of NCDs is very expensive, so access to treatment of NCDs is very challenging because of the economic barrier

to it. You will see here that not only the nurses and those that are directly involved with patient care came out for the walk, those in administration and management also came out to show our commitment to prioritize NCD interventions in our planning and in our resource allocation so that together as an organization and as a community we will beat NCDs," Mr. Warri added.

The week was launched on September 14, 2023 and the CBC Health Services NCD-PCP, Program Manager, Mr. Takwe Boniface used the occasion to create awareness on NCDs as well as advocate for NCD prevention, control and management to be given the priority it deserves in the global sphere. In this light, the program carried out radio talks in four radio stations in Bamenda namely: Christian Broadcasting Service-CBS Radio, Ndefcam Radio, the Cameroon Radio Television-CRTV and the CBC Radio. There was also a special presentation at the Bamenda City Council during a council session during which screening was carried out and counseling done to those with odd numbers and referrals were also made.

It is worth mentioning that other CBC Health Services facilities across the Board carried out health talks in their facilities, churches, and markets just to name but these.



DDAF leads Walk marking the Global Week of action against NCDs



Walk Through Finance Junction by CBCHS Central Administration Staff

Community Health Workers Capacitated on Vaccination in Practice and ZDC Tracking Log

The Bakassi Health District is constituted by health areas with riverine communities and accessibility to the area in the meantime is only through Sea. The cost of transportation is also high thereby hindering movements of inhabitants (who are mostly Nigerians). The limited and unavailability of health personnel is discouraging for the handful who seek medical care especially vaccination of their children. Engaging Community Health Workers who spent most of their time in the community will assist in navigating the hard to reach and underserved communities which is a hub for Zero Dose children. However, most are not properly orientated to carry out vaccination and also document the activity.

It's against this backdrop that with the GAVI support-

ed Projects to reach zero dose and under immunized children that the RAISE for Sahel ZIP Project in collaboration with the Regional Expanded Program for Immunization Southwest has trained Community Health Workers (CHW) and Chiefs of leading health facilities in Bakassi Health District. The 20 community health workers and 5 Chiefs of Center were capacitated on Vaccination in practice, EPI Data gathering/reporting tools, and the zero dose children (ZDC) tracking log amongst others.

The training, embedded in the ZIP initiative detailed implementation plan, took place on September 1, 2023 at the District health service Conference hall in Isangele - the administrative seat of the Bakassi Peninsula. The purpose of the training was to equip

community health workers and Chiefs of Center with skills on planning, implementing, as well as monitoring and reporting vaccination activities in the community and also present a scope of the ZIP Initiative. Emphasis was laid on the new vaccination calendar, the catch-up calendar, health facility level planning with the community and the monitoring. The facilitators who were the Regional Data Manager and RAISE for Sahel Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning officer worked the participants through the tools in a practical session. The Regional Coordinator of R4S presented an overview of the project reiterating the need to identify, reach and immunize children in the community.



Bakassi workshop

Present at the start of the ceremony was the Divisional Officer of Isangele Subdivision, Mr. Messina Joseph who saluted the ZIP Initiative in Bakassi. The D.O. indicated that ZIP is a welcome Initiative to provide quality health care. He promised the security of all persons present for the training.

The District Medical Officer (DMO), Dr. Eyong Clinton on his part, beckoned on the COCs and CHWs alike to implement the training in other to boost their indicators.

It's worth noting that the Bakassi Health District has poor indicators in EPI. As recounted by the Community Health Workers, the difficult accessibility to health facilities, insecurity due to rampant pirate kidnapping, poor health seeking behaviour by the population, misinformation, birth at home and through traditional birth attendants, cultural beliefs, limited and absenteeism of health personnel, movement of parents or displacement to other health areas or to Nigeria contribute to the high zero dose children in Bakassi.



Braving all odds to Bakassi for vaccination

"They are in their community, it will be somehow difficult for them to abandon their people...we plead they are supported especially in the area of transportation to effectively carryout vaccination," Chief of Health Area of Kombo Adedimo pleaded.

The team from the health areas were encouraged to plan vaccination sessions immediately when the skills learned during the training will be put into practice. All the health areas received registers, tally sheets, ZDC tracking logs, monitoring curves, and an updated version of the vaccination calendar.

R4S Project Success Stories

45 months Fighter gets the first Life-Saving Dose of Vaccine



45-month old Fighter is now sure of growing up healthily after receiving her first dose of vaccination



Some women in the Far North turn out to vaccinate their children for the first time

Ngamdjakwa learned through the Community Health Worker that a vaccination campaign would be organised in Kaola, a community in her neighbourhood in Yagoua Health District, Far North Region of Cameroon. She decided to forgo farm work to take her 45-month-old daughter, Fighter, to receive the life-saving vaccine. "I kept postponing taking Fighter for vaccination, and when I had the opportunity to travel to Bougaye Health Facility, I was told she had passed the age to be vaccinated," Ngamdjakwa explained.

Bouyage Health Facility focused on implementing the routine immunisation calendar that vaccinates children from zero to twenty-three months. Though the catch-up plan covers children till 59 months, the facility does not plan for such sessions due to limited resources.

Ngamdjakwa attributed the delays to wrong prioritisation. She defended herself by saying she could not afford the transportation cost to travel over 30 km to the closest health facility to vaccinate her child.

The RAISE for Sahel team worked with the hospital administrators to follow-up the catch-up vaccination calendar as stipulated, ensure they had adequate supplies to cover the extra children and capacitated the Commu-

nity Health Workers in Kaola to educate the population on the vaccination calendar and its target population. Thanks to these activities, Ngamdjakwa learned that her child was at risk of an epidemic outbreak and that she could salvage the situation. *"I panicked when I realised my child could die from vaccine-preventable diseases. I had seen children die or develop complications in my communities, but I did not understand why."* Fighter's mother worried.

On the day of the outreach organised in Kaola, Ngamdjakwa, left early to the announced site. She was the first to arrive at the venue. *"I was informed it would start at 8 a.m., but I just couldn't wait at home again."* Fighter was amongst the first of the 25 zero-dose children vaccinated on that faithful day.

"Thank you for giving my daughter a chance to be protected" Ngamdjakwa beamed. Thanks to the GAVI Zero Dose Immunisation Project implemented in Cameroon, unimmunised children in hard-to-reach, underserved communities like Kaola can now pride themselves on their immunity against vaccine-preventable diseases.

R4S Cameroon capacitates its M&E Teams on Data Collection Procedures

With the kickstart of immunisation activities in Cameroon, the R4S brought its M&E teams to capacitate them on the data collection pathways to ensure quality and timeliness. During this meeting, which brought together Regional staff, the EPI M&E lead, and the Commcare consultant, the participants were drilled on data collection processes and the use of the Commcare app.

"This training was timely, and it would help us bridge the gaps we were already identifying on the field with the kickstart of immunisation activities. Our teams can

now hit the ground running, and we are there to provide them with the support needed to achieve their goals," Banlack Hilary, the R4S M&E lead expressed his satisfaction at the end of the session.

This training would go a long way to empower the team to track the R4S efforts in identifying and immunising Zero-Dose children in the hard-to-reach, underserved, conflict-infested areas to ensure Cameroon reaches the last mile.

R4S Team resolute to leave no child unvaccinated



Wound Care Trainers build Capacity to provide Quality Services in CBC Health Facilities

Some 30 wound care trainers of the CBC Health Services have been equipped with necessary skills to better care for wounds and injuries in CBC Health facilities. This was during a 2-day annual-come-together meeting organised at the CBC Health Services Resource Centre of Excellence, Mvan Yaoundé. Chaired by the director of CBC Health Services, Prof Tih Pius Muffih, the workshop provided a platform to keep wound care Trainers abreast with new trends in wound care services.

Speaking during the workshop, the Wound Care Supervisor of the CBC Health Services, Mboni Loveline Gam highlighted that the Wound Care services have undergone a facelift in terms of quality within the CBC Health facilities, all thanks to Evidence Based Wound Care practices introduced by Mrs. Carolyn Brown, pioneer facilitator of the Evidence Based Training program in 2017.

The Evidence Based Wound Care Practice seeks to diagnose and treat wounds and injuries with a specific line of treatment patterning to each wound.

"Before 2017, wound care practice within the CBC Health Services were highly based on inherited concepts many of which had limitations leading to delays in wound healing and sometimes physical disabilities such as contractures and amputation. Today, we celebrate the continuation of what we describe as our success and dream come true....," Mboni Loveline emphasized.

She added that 12 wound care nurses, who enrolled into the first batch of the Evidence Based Wound Care Training in 2017 have successfully trained 19 other nurses in the capacity of trainers making 30 trainers within the CBC Health Services.

The pioneer facilitator of the Evidence Based Training program, Mrs. Carolyn Brown reiterated that the overall objective of the annual-come-together meeting was to share experiences and success stories but also to address possible gaps in routine activities in order to ameliorate the quality of services offered to patients in all CBC Health facilities. She however, urged wound care trainers to always be willing to teach other nurses new skills in wound care services.

The workshop featured presentations on diverse topics including: types of Skin damage, common anal rectal abnormalities, atypical wounds, supply inventory of wound care products and daily patients' schedule, traumatic wounds, Arterial ulcers and Buruli ulcer.



CBCHS Wound care trainers



wound care trainers pose with DHS

EDID program continues to empower schools to foster inclusive education in Northwest Region of Cameroon



NW Regional of Delegate of Secondary Education, Mr. Nwang Roland challenging teachers to spearhead inclusion in their schools



Teachers brainstorming on their successes, challenges and good practices in the last academic year

The Regional Delegate of Secondary Education, Mr. Nwang Roland Yuven has disclosed that thanks to capacity building workshops for teachers from Schools of the Community of Practice for Inclusive Education in Mezam Division - Northwest Region, the performance of children with disabilities at the end-of-course examinations in the said schools has witnessed significant improvement, with success rates as high as 86% in the basic education sector and 81% in the Secondary Education sector.

He was speaking at the opening of a 3-day workshop on inclusive education for mainstream teachers of the Northwest Regional Inclusive Education Community of Practice which took place at the Baptist Center, Nkwen in Bamenda from August 22-24, 2023. The Regional Delegate applauded the CBC Health Services for her efforts in promoting inclusion in schools in the region. He said the workshop was timely, as it will allow the teachers to refresh their memories with knowledge on inclusion.

While thanking the teachers for their hard work towards inclusion, the Regional Delegate pledged the support and availability of the CBC Health Services, the Regional Delegations of Secondary and Basic Education to the schools to ensure inclusive education.

The workshop, which was aimed at enhancing the capacity of mainstream teachers for effective inclusionary practices was organized within the Commu-

nity of Practice as a Leverage for Sustaining the Gains of Inclusive Education Project of the Empowerment and Disability Inclusive Development (EDID) program which is funded by the Liliane Foundation in the Netherlands.

During the workshop which was characterized by work sessions, the lead facilitators - Mrs. Bridget Fobuzie, CBCHS Education Adviser, and Mr. Ndintek Kennedy, the Project Coordinator, led the teachers to reflect on challenges, successes, and good practices recorded in fostering inclusive education in their respective schools during the last academic year.

Working in group sessions, the teachers who were drawn from the Catholic, Presbyterian, Baptist, and Government Schools in Mezam Division, illustrated through presentations, their different strategies for ensuring inclusive practices in their schools such as the training of sign language teachers to facilitate communication with learners with hearing impairment, the creation of circle of friends for learners with impairments, brailling of notes for learners with vision impairments using visual aid for proper understanding, awareness raising, improving access to classrooms and school environments, amongst others. These strategies that were put in place by the schools contributed to the improved academic performance of the students/pupils with impairments.

One striking observation from the presentations at the workshop was that some schools of the Community have embraced inclusive education so well that they are providing subsidies to their teachers to gain specialist skills that would make them more productive in the classroom. In one of the presentations, a teacher recounted how in their school, they didn't give up on a learner with a profound orthopedic impairment but persevered with her and gave her all the rehabilitation support that she needed, to the point that the learner began to walk on her own and developed self-care skills.

Despite the success recorded, the teachers also brainstormed on the challenges they faced in the course of the academic year such as stigmatization of learners with disabilities by teachers and pupils/students in some schools, lack of assistive devices for most pupils/students, and inaccessible classrooms,

amongst others. The discussions focused on different impairments such as vision, hearing, hard of hearing, orthopedic, and Intellectual impairments, amongst others.

Mrs. Fobuzie drilled the teachers on Universal Designs for Learning (UDL) which is a concept that promotes inclusion and increased access opportunities for everyone. She encouraged the teachers to always assess the learners to understand their learning needs and provide appropriate accommodations using different strategies that would enhance their performance. Using their lesson plans from last academic year, the teachers were trained on how to adapt and incorporate UDL concepts in the development of lesson plans.

The workshop came on the heels of a similar workshop with resource teachers that took place earlier

from August 16-18, 2023 under the distinguished patronage of the Regional Delegate of Basic Education.

Last year, the CBC Health Services worked in collaboration with the Community of Practice (CoP) schools to design admission registers to track children with different types of impairments in the schools. During the workshops, resource and mainstream teachers reviewed the registers to enhance their understanding of the use of the registers.

According to the Assistant Head Teacher CBC School Nkwen Complex, Mrs. Dubila Patience, the initiative to adopt the new registers is a laudable one because it will inform the interventions that schools need to put in place to support the teaching of children. "It also helps us to give parents feedback on the academic achievement of their children," the assistant head teacher testified.



Teachers set to foster inclusive education in their schools

World Physiotherapy Day across the CBCHS Facilities

Bonaberi celebrates World Physiotherapy Day

"Fit your work to yourself and not yourself to work," Nyingcho Raxon, PT Assistant cautioned staff of Bonaberi Baptist Hospital Douala (BBHD) on the occasion of World Physiotherapy Day (WPD) commemorated every year on September 8 as agreed by the World Confederation of Physiotherapy in 1996. This year's theme is, "Prevention and management of osteoarthritis".

In prelude to the WPD at BBHD, health education was delivered to patients at the OPD every morning to educate them on joint and physical related malaises. In these outings, our Bonaberi based reporter, Elvis Nyuyseni noted that the old system of using rubs and hot water to massage wounds and injuries was prohibited. The PT staff revealed that the RICE method (Raise, Ice application, Compress, and Elevate) is always the best before seeking medical expertise.

On August 7, 2023, the physiotherapy (PT) staff unleashed a presentation on Osteoarthritis and its management to the staff during morning devotions at Chapel. Mr. Nyingcho Raxon, PT Assistant began his presentation by figuring out the aim of the WPD: The presentation

highlighted the unity and solidarity between Physiotherapists, recognized the services Physiotherapists are rendering to patients and communities, the efforts made by member organizations to booster PT services, and created awareness about the services rendered at the physiotherapy department to the public.

Osteoarthritis is an acute and degenerative joint disease in which the cartilage in the joints wears away causing the rubbing of bones against bones. This can lead to inflammation, swelling, redness, pain and stiffness of the joints. Nyingcho Raxon highlighted overweight, over usage of joints, age, and certain health conditions among others to be the primary causes of this disease.

From the presentation, it was noted that the multidimensional aspect of physical function encompasses diverse yet interrelated areas of performance such as Improving balance and mobility, progressing flexibility, equilibrium, cardiopulmonary endurance, neuromuscular control, muscle performance, postural stability and control among others.

As the adage goes that "Prevention is better than cure," he called on the audience to not ignore pain but rather take quick preventive measures as it might become chronic and unmanageable. Maintenance of healthy body weight, Management of blood sugar, Being active, Avoiding joint injury, Practicing work ergonomics, Heeding pain (no neglect of pain) were outlined as preventive methods.

The chapel presentation was spiced with awards given to two doctors of BBHD who continually referred patients to the PT unit for better management.

On Friday 8 August 2023, the PT staff took the message to the diabetic patients during their routine clinic meet. Here, Mr. Raxon told the diabetic patients that everyone is prone to physical injury irrespective of the cause(s) but drew their indulgence to the fact that they are more exposed to joint diseases and other physical injuries due to their condition. The interaction with these clients was punctuated by questions and testimonies of how physiotherapy treatment has helped them at Bonaberi Baptist Hospital.

Mboppi on World Physiotherapy Day

Mboppi Baptist Hospital Douala (MBHD) based reporter, Andrew Ekele says the day began with health talk and presentation at the OPD area and in the chapel during morning devotions. Mr. Nfor Wilfred, head of the department (HOD) for Physiotherapy (PT) gave a brief history about the day. He disclosed that the World Confederation of Physiotherapy (WOPT) was founded 1951 and in 1996, the Confederation designated September 8 as world PT day.

Mr. Nfor harped on the significance of this day which marks the unity and solidarity of the global physiotherapy community and also an opportunity to recognize the work that physiotherapists do for their patients and

the community. The theme of this year celebration is, "PREVENTION and MANAGEMENT of OSTEOARTHRITIS". According to the senior assistant physiotherapist, Osteoarthritis is one of the most common types of arthritis and it is a degenerative joint disease in which the cartilage in the joint wears away, causing the rubbing of bones against each other.

He drilled the MBHD staff and the administration on some tips on how to manage and prevent Osteoarthritis including: individual exercise, maintenance of healthy body weight, management of blood sugar and being active. A tailored management plan for the movement and exercise can help in symptomatic control. Some

strategies are; individual exercise programme, building strength and stamina endurance, and finding the balance between rest and activity.

At the end of the presentation, Mr. Nfor encouraged the audience to be fully involved in the ongoing keep fit exercise (DHS Tournament) not only to combat NCDs, but also to prevent Osteoarthritis.

It should be noted that MBHD physiotherapy department is located at the ground floor of the hospital precisely Room 21. Also, it is one of the centers in the littoral region where clubfoot is corrected. "Regular exercise keeps the body healthy," says our Mboppi based reporter

Sabga Baptist Health Center cues in on World Physiotherapy Day

Sabga Baptist Health Center (SBHC) joined the rest of the world to commemorate the World Physiotherapy Day with a series of health education delivered to patients at the OPD every morning to educate them on joint and physical related malaises. In these outings, reports from Tonga Gilbert say, more emphasis was directed to the prohibition of the old system using rubs (deep heat) and hot water to massage wounds and injuries. The PT staff identified two methods to manage injuries; the RICE (Raise, Ice application, Compress and Elevate) and the PRICE (Protect your environment, Ice application, Compress and Elevate). She noted the RICE method to be the best before seeking medical expertise.

On August 8, 2023, PT staff unleashed a presentation on "Osteoarthritis and its management" to the staff during morning devotions in chapel.

Osteoarthritis is an acute and degenerative joint disease in which the cartilage in the joints wears away causing the rubbing of bones against bones. This can lead to inflammation, swelling, redness, pain and stiffness of the joints. Miss Faith added that over usage of the joints, overweight, age and certain health conditions to be risk factors of Osteoarthritis. Miss Yusinyui Faith, PT Assistant began her presentation by stating the aim of the WPD being to recognize the efforts made by member organizations to booster PT services and create awareness about the services rendered at the PT

department to the public. In other to prevent this disease, she called on the audience not to ignore pain but rather take quick preventive measures as it might become chronic and unmanageable. She further highlighted that maintenance of healthy body weight, management of blood sugar, being active, avoiding joint injury, practicing work ergonomics, heeding pain (no neglect to pain) are preventive methods to developing Osteoarthritis.

The chapel presentation was spiced with prizes given to two active staff for their brilliant participation. The COC, on his own part, congratulated and encouraged the PT staff for the hard work to boost the department given the fact that it is a new department.

CP recommended for ISO 9001:2015 Certification



CP and ISO officials hand in glove

The CBC Health Services Central Pharmacy underwent a certification audit (Stage) as requirements for ISO 9001:2015 from September 7-9, 2023 at the Health Services Complex Mutengene. External auditors from Uganda carried out the Audit namely: Martin Muriuki (lead Auditor) assisted by Barry Toah Babei (QMS representative).

Opening the Audit, the lead auditor, Martin Muriuki explained the purpose of the audit exercise, which scope included: The production of intravenous infusion and eye drops, Procurement, Storage and Distribution of essential medicine and medical supplies.

According to correspondent report, the audit went on as per the program with the reviewing of CP documents and visit to the different process areas to confirm the practice.

During the closing meeting on Saturday, September 9, 2023 the auditor was pleased with CPs performance vis-a-vis the scope of the audit and stated his recommendation of CP for the certification against the requirements of ISO 9001:2015 for implementing a quality management system (QMS) on the condition that CP team would submit a CAPA plan within two working days after the close of the meeting.

Field Reports

Littoral Zone resonates in NCDs Race

The environment at the Mboppi Baptist Hospital Douala premises on Saturday, September 9, 2023 was picturesque and electrifying as teams and fans of the Littoral zone turned out to witness the sports dance competition and the female football match between Mboppi and Bonaberi, a continuation of the DHS Keep Fit Tournament games for the zone.

The sporting activities debuted with the chanting of the CBCHS mission statement. The Sports coordinators from Kribi, Bonaberi and Mboppi were united in their greetings to the audience with a dingle objective being, 'Victory for the Littoral zone'. This paved the way for the events to commence with dance sports.

The explosive environment was ignited by the sport dancers of Mboppi and Bonaberi. The agile and energetic dancers performed very brilliantly with their bright colors and calculated dance steps. Bonaberi proved to her mother Mboppi that the child has got more active bones and joints to dance. BBHD defeated MBHD 22.5 against 20.7 rated on 25.

In what was termed as a veteran game, table tennis was equally played after the dancing; a game new to many. Four players (3 from MBHD

and 1 from BBHD) battled over the table. After four rounds of play, Mr. Ngoh Sherald from Mboppi emerged the table tennis winner for the Littoral.

The epicenter of the day was the female football match at Camp Militaire Mboppi. It was a serious tussle dotted with fun between Mboppi and Bonaberi. Despite the watery and bad state of the field, BBHD mastered their play as the players navigated through the MBHD lineup with little difficulties. In around mid time of play for the first half, BBHD left the Mboppi's goal keeper confused with a powerful strike from her attacker to find the back of the net. The second half was played in the same rhythm with BBHD keeping the ball and possession. In all two halves Mboppi was handicapped to play only to midfield area. MBHD made one dangerous move in BBHD's area in the second half marking their first and last attempt towards the pole. At the blast of the final whistle from the Central man, it was BBHD 1 : 0 MBHD.

According to our formidable Bonaberi based reporter, Elvis Nyuyseni, the ladies from both sides gave in their all for the match. It is very important to highlight that these were the pioneer female football teams for the Littoral zone.

Further report says, in the 2022 tournament, the Littoral had no female football team, and with one in 2023 is a sign of improvement.

The BBHD Administrator, Madam Fon Rose Nyimeh was electrocuted by the flying electrons as she joined the fanclub to cheer up her girls. The match ended with a general "crowd dance" animated by the fanclubs.

Under the umbrella of Central Administration, BBHD Administrator brought kind words to the sporters. "We are happy that we do not only have football boys but we'll be having football girls as well, and you have shown us how wonderful you can play...I saw the men very supportive, thank you everyone for cheering our girls. There is a wonderful difference when girls play football than when they play handball... There is one thing I noticed; you looked more beautiful when you were playing than when I used to see you. As we will be pushing forward, we pray we'll come back with victory," the Administrator quipped in conclusion.

Our reporter leaves us with these slogans, "For Bonaberi! Ndamba na Joy" and "For Littoral! Ndamba na Health".

Success Story

“Discipline helps me adhere to my treatment” - Victorine

Kuemo Victorine is a seamstress who has held unto her trade to be able to sustain her family's daily bread, take care of their hospital bills as well as pay for her monthly medication to stay healthy and strong. Her children greatly support her at the job side, a job she never abandoned despite her sick situation.

She started taking HTN drugs in April 2018 at the Bafoussam Baptist Hospital alongside observing the counseling given to her during clinic days and appointments at the hospital. Following the counseling she received, Kuemo Victorine took her medication regularly while controlling and maintaining

a balance diet plus regular exercise. She testifies to have never missed any of her appointments or follow up.

Two years later during one of her regular visits for checkup, it was discovered that Victorine now had normal BPs and for that reason, the doctor had to stop her from taking medication for HTN. Presently, she visits the hospital for control every three months.

Even though Victorine was also diagnosed of diabetes, she also has some problem with her eyes and is undergoing treatment at the Bafoussam

Baptist Hospital. There is hope for a good outcome since her fasting blood sugar levels are low.

In her words, “My advice to those on treatment is discipline. Discipline on what you eat and drink, regular exercise and adherence to your medication. There's no magic or traditional help I got anywhere just what I mentioned above and prayers to God for healing” Victorine stated. Kuemo Victorine appreciates the CBC Health Services for their holistic care, relentless pursuits and efforts in making Cameroonians have good healthcare in all domains.

SBHC celebrates Housekeeping International Week

Sabga Baptist Health Center (SBHC) for the first time joined the world to celebrate housekeeping week under the theme, “Everything we touch turns to AWESOME”. The week started in SBHC with general cleaning of the environment and infection prevention services carried out in the facility. This activity included all the staff who joined the house keeping department to recognize their hard work and celebrate with them.

On Friday, September 15, 2023, the HOD of the house keeping department unleashed a presentation on the house keeping international week in which she recounted the origin of the week and why it is vital to be celebrated. According to her, housekeeping started since 1981 when Integrated Environment and Health Assessment sponsored a week to celebrate those who were working as

house keepers and it spread globally and it is today celebrated. She added that the international housekeeping week is a celebration of staff members who work behind scenes to maintain the quality and cleanliness of facilities like hospitals, hotels, nursing homes and college campuses.

The HOD called the attention of the audience to understand that housekeeping is a job with a lot of work but with little or no reward. She lamented that many people don't realize there is hard work involved in housekeeping and that is why this week came to existence as an opportunity to thank the house keepers for their efforts in keeping everything tidy and safe for people to touch or be with.

Other highlights of the celebration in SBHC included beautiful singing, drama presentation, gifts and

awards of certificates of hard work to all the house keepers.

In his closing remarks, the chief of center, Mr. Ekfui Godlove said he we lack words to express the great and marvelous work our house keepers are doing in our facility. “Imagine a hospital or health center without housekeepers; in fact, you are the back bone of our health center and thanks for making SBHC small London,” the COC commended.

The COC also thanked other staff who are making the work of housekeepers lighter in one way or the other. He promised to increase the staffing of the house keeping department as need be. In conclusion, the COC challenged the house keepers not to be satisfied where they are but seek to advance themselves by going to school.

Pioneer International Housekeeping and Environmental Service Week observed at BBHD



BBHD and DHL staff unite to keep the environment clean



Presentation of gifts to a beneficiary

According to reports, the birth of the International Housekeeping and Environmental Service Week (IH and ESW) dates back to 1981. The celebratory week was founded by the Integrated Environment and Health Assessment (IEHA), a division of the International Sanitary Supply Association (ISSA), and the organization remains its official sponsor. IH and ESW is held every year during the second full week of September. This year's celebration was slated from September 10-16, 2023. The special week was dedicated worldwide to recognize the efforts of hard-working housekeepers who are custodians on the front lines, cleaning up so others can get by.

In a maiden celebration, Bonaberi Baptist Hospital Douala (BBHD) stood abreast with the international community to commemorate the week. Housekeepers of BBHD together with the nursing office had a consortium to clean all “neglected” areas of the hospital as a way to commemorate the week, which was celebrated under the theme, “Housekeeping: We are a mess without you”.

On Saturday, September 16, the housekeepers came out with presentations at Chapel during morning devotions including; singing, drama and a poetic write up. Our Bonaberi based reporter, Elvis Nyuyseni observed that the drama captioned, “The importance of a Housekeeper” captivated the audience. The scenes narrated an imagery of a newly created hospital recruiting staff for service delivery. Recruited nurses said they will perform double functions as Nurses and Housekeepers, but, however the death toll and infection rate will increase due to lack of time and concentration from nurses to carry out the double functions. This is then crystal clear that the presence

of Housekeepers in the hospital setting is paramount. Their display was capped with words compiled in a poem titled, “I am a Housekeeper” presented by Madam Mbinkar Juliet (a Housekeeper).

The Administrator Madam, Fon Rose Nyimeh appreciated this special group of health workers for their sacrificial work at BBHD. In her words to the housekeepers, she said, “You are cleaning your future”, calling on them to forge forward. The Supervisor of Nursing Services (SNS) Mr. Mbanje Lucas was short of words to describe them, highlighted that he is keeping a close watch at the great contribution they are adding to the health cycle at Bonaberi Baptist Hospital Douala (BBHD).

It's worthy of note that the facility keepers are not only cleaning but equally contributing in the consultation process at the Out Patient Department (OPD) and other Patient-concentrated areas of the hospital. Mr. Tonga Godwill, one of the housekeepers and an artistic drawer at the hospital noted with delight that their recognition by the hospital is a source of encouragement.

According to reports, these Facility keepers are not just practicing the rag and water cleaning system, but also performing evidence-based hygiene practices. They are always equipped by the nursing office on up-to-date cleaning techniques following the Housekeeping training and waste management manuals of CBCHS. Recent training dates back to 7 months when the newly recruited were equipped for work.

World Patient Safety Day in BBHD

In prelude to the World Patient Safety Day celebrated on September 17 every year, the Supervisor of Nursing Services (SNS), Mr. Mbanye Lucas in a powerful outing, educated the staff of Bonaberi Baptist Hospital Douala (BBHD) through a presentation titled, "Effective Communication". Talking to the staff on September 13 in Chapel during an afternoon session, he encouraged them to assimilate and incorporate the habit of effective communication in order to build an enjoyable working milieu.

Celebrated under the theme, *"Engaging Patients for Patients' Safety" and under the slogan, "Elevate the Voices of Patients," the SNS noted that effective communication and infection prevention amongst others are measures to enhance patient safety. "Effective Communication is an aroma*

that attracts more patients to the hospital and more blessings to the staff," he said.

With the international Housekeeping and Environmental Service Week and Patient Safety Day celebrated, one can say BBHD is on the right path to quality health care delivery in a clean and safe environment for both her patients and equipped health personnel.

STAY SAFE



1. Pray for the Director, Deputies, CMO's and various administrators of the Hospitals and related services that God will give them wisdom as they lead.
2. Pray that God will grant good health to all the staff as they take care of the patients who come to receive care.
3. Pray that God will protect all CBCHS staff from harm and work-related accidents.
4. Pray that God will provide for the personal needs of the staff and their families.
5. Pray for God's provision of resources for the CBCHS to accomplish the 2023 goals.

PUBLISHING TEAM

Publisher/Executive Editor

Prof. Tih Pius Muffih
(Director of Health Services)
TEL: +237 677 936 495

Head of Department

Clementina Njang Yong
TEL: +237 654 258 457

Editor-In-Chief

Bonkung Handerson
TEL: +237 679 369 779

Editorial Team

Freida Fanda Gelam
Njoka Divine
Maureen Moody
Anyang Amedia

Distribution Team

Defeu Colince

Layout/Design

Jini John

CONTACT

PO Box 01 Bamenda
NW Region, Cameroon
Email: pressdivision@cbchealthservices.org
Website: www.cbchealthservices.org

If US residents want to support any of the CBCHB programs, they can send tax deductible donations to:

Cameroon Health and Education Fund (CHEF)
4265 45th St South - Suite 111-13
Fargo, ND 58104

For questions, contact:

CHEF President, Alison LaFrence, MD.
Home phone: 952-898-4054,
Cell phone: 952-237-4095
E-mails: alafrence@gmail.com , or
visit the CHEF website:
<http://cameroonhealthandeducationfund.com/chef/>