

## 2020 3RD QUARTER REPORT: PANDEMIC RESPONSE UPDATE

### YEAR TO DATE SUMMARY

**50,228**

**Primary Care Patients Treated**

**1,404**

**Surgeries Performed**

**30**

**New CST Partner Health Centers**

Bulamu’s mission is to treat underserved patients who are not getting the medical care they need and to strengthen existing government health systems that are falling short. Since 2016, our 17 medical camps treated 154,690 patients at a cost of \$6.22 per patient. For 18 months, the Bulamu Health Center Excellence (HCE) Program has improved patient care and management systems at 27 Ministry of Health (MOH) clinics and hospitals in Sheema District treating 200,000 patients annually. With medical camps now off the table, our pandemic response strategy involves three different components that utilize our Core Team of licensed clinicians and build on our strong ties to Uganda’s local district governments and the MOH.

### BULAMU’S PANDEMIC RESPONSE PROGRAMS

In June, we signed a partnership agreement with Wakiso District, the largest in Uganda with 64 MOH facilities treating 690,000 patients annually. The **Bulamu Clinical Support Team (CST)** Program has now assigned 7-8 Core Team members to support 12 of Wakiso’s highest volume MOH health centers, spending two 4-week cycles at each facility. During the first three CST cycles, this program treated 33,022 patients, including the services shown in the table below, for an average cost of \$5 per patient treated. That includes COVID-19 training and PPE, vital signs equipment, patient treatment forms, much needed medicines and supplies, and ambulance transport for emergency cases.

Key Patient Indicators	JUN (2 CSTs)	JUL (4 CSTs)	AUG (4 CSTs)	Total
Patients Treated	5,273	13,440	14,309	33,022
Emergency Transports	23	99	81	203
Surgeries (incl. C-sections)	153	267	65	485
Natural Deliveries	611	1,064	751	2,426
Mamma Kits (Delivery supplies)	200	55	170	425
Family Planning Visits	693	2,040	1,789	4,522
Ante-Natal Care	3,635	6,482	4,595	14,712
Immunizations	734	4,320	5,111	10,165
HIV Tests	2,915	4,401	3,284	10,600
Infectious Disease Patients	2,243	3,769	3,339	9,351
Non-Communicable (NCD) Patients	2,193	5,120	4,930	12,243

For October and November, we are now shifting two teams each to Bunyangabu District in western Uganda and Budaka District in the east. By year-end, the CST program will have reached 20 different MOH hospitals and clinics, treating a similar number of patients at a comparable cost to our medical camps last year. With this new strategy, we are achieving longer term impact by improving clinical practices and positively affecting the culture across a range of government facilities, moving us toward our goal of **system strengthening**.

## **SURGERY INTENSIVES (SI)**

Of the different medical services Bulamu provides, our surgery programs have the greatest impact on patients' lives. While primary care is generally free within Uganda's MOH system, patients are expected to pay for surgeries, something most people cannot afford. Many of the patients we serve know their diagnosis but have been suffering without treatment for months or even years. When we found the operating rooms in Wakiso poorly equipped and staffed, frequently lacking basic supplies like sutures, we decided to offer a surgery program as part of each CST program. We now hold a "Surgery Intensive" the last 4-5 days of the CST cycle, with the host district pre-screening patients and scheduling appointments in advance. We bring in a team of 4-5 highly skilled surgeons who have worked with Bulamu's surgery programs in the past, and we support them with surgical assistants, anaesthesiologists, nurses, and the necessary equipment and supplies.

We have now held three Surgery Intensive programs in Wakiso in Q3. As word got around, the demand from patients and families has grown steadily. (See table.) Because of the success of this program, we are planning three more SI programs in the fourth quarter, in Bunyangabu, Budaka, and Wakiso districts and will make Surgery Intensives a permanent part of our CST Program going forward.

## **Letter of Appreciation**

from Wakiso District

*"With great honour, we would like to thank you for the services you offer to the facility, and the wonderful employees that you selected to run the program. They are working tirelessly with great medical ethics in this challenging environment due to the pandemic disease of COVID 19. The entire community has appreciated these services, as reported to us through the District Health Management Committee."*

**Clinical Officer Robert Bawudhura**

In-Charge Nakawuka Health Center III, Wakiso

<b>Surgery Intensive Cases, Wakiso District, Third Quarter, 2020</b>				
<b>Wakiso District</b>	<b>Cycle 1-JUL</b>	<b>Cycle 2-AUG</b>	<b>Cycle 3-SEP</b>	<b>Total, Q3</b>
Surgeries Performed	52	123	209*	384
Bulamu Cost	\$4,943	\$10,820	\$20,266	\$36,029
Cost per Patient	\$95	\$89	\$97	\$94

\*Includes 68 cataract surgeries performed in partnership with the Lions Club of Central Kampala.



**Elisa** (6 months old) was referred for a cleft lip procedure to our partner, CoRSU Rehabilitation Hospital. What a difference! For Angel Patients, Bulamu covers the family's travel expenses and patient's share of the surgery cost.

The table on the right shows the different types of surgeries Bulamu is currently performing across all programs. The CST surgeries are simpler outpatient cases, the Surgery Intensives are more serious inpatient cases, and the complex Angel Program cases are referred to specialty hospitals. In the first 9 months of 2020, including the February Supercamp, we performed or supported a total 1404 surgeries, many of them dramatically improving—and even saving—lives.

Surgical Procedure	Patients	%
Hernia repairs	448	32
C-sections	244	17
Tumor Excisions	221	16
Cataract Surgeries	166	12
Hemorrhoidectomy	69	5
Thyroidectomy	49	3
All Other	256	18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,404</b>	<b>100%</b>

### MARY'S STORY

The goiter that Mary, age 29, had suffered from for years was excised by Bulamu's Surgery Intensive team with an overnight stay at the Wakiso District in September. She was thrilled with the result!



## UGANDAN SURGEON PRAISES BULAMU SURGERY INTENSIVE



Prof. Patrick Kyamanywa, MD, a leading Ugandan surgeon, medical school Vice Chancellor, and Bulamu board member, said this after joining our team for the August Intensive:

*"It's a great service that Bulamu is offering. The smiles on the patients' faces alone were enough reward for the team's dedication to treating everyone who was waiting for us. Thank you again for the mission Bulamu has taken on to serve patients in need and strengthen health systems serving the poor in Uganda."*

## INTRODUCING THE HCE-1 PROGRAM

Wakiso District's leadership team did not want Bulamu to leave when the last CST cycle ended. We decided we should not miss the opportunity to have a permanent impact on the quality of patient care in this district, which surrounds the capital of Kampala on three sides. We have now signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and will be installing a "Phase 1" modified version of the HCE program we developed for Sheema District over the last 18 months. Under this new "**HCE-1 Program**", we will provide all 5 Wakiso Health Center IV's (community hospitals) and 25 HC IIIs (maternity hospitals) with the same equipment and services as the 12 initial CST facilities, while adding weekly and monthly management dashboard reports.

Unlike the CST Program, where our clinicians are treating a high volume of patients, with HCE-1 the emphasis shifts from **primary care to system strengthening**, as we train the local staffs to carry-on the new procedures without us, although we will continue to provide follow-up support as needed. Within the next six months, when the HCE-1 program has been installed at all 30 HC IVs and HC IIIs in Wakiso, it will become the standard of care at facilities serving 440,000 patients per year. We will also continue to hold periodic Surgery Intensives at our HCE-1 partner districts, due to the popularity of this program. At the conclusion of the 9-month MOU with Wakiso, we expect their HCE-1 program will roll into the standard HCE-2 Program, which also tracks staff attendance and clinician productivity using the cloud-based Bulamu HCE-IT system. At that point the program will be extended to Wakiso's 33 HC IIs (village walk-in clinics staffed by nurses), which treat an additional 198,000 patients per year.

With our new three-part Pandemic Response strategy that includes the **CST Program, Surgery Intensives, and HCE-1 Program**, our clinical disciplines will be installed in 4 districts by December and 10 more districts by the end of 2021. At that point we will have trained and supplied 14 districts that operate about 300 health centers, representing 10% of Uganda's 135 local government districts. More importantly, we will be laying the groundwork for improving patient care and management processes across the full network of 3200 public facilities, as the MOH recognizes the impact we are having at relatively modest cost.

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Bulamu's local resources model means that your donation goes directly to pay for medicines, supplies, and the teams of Ugandan doctors and nurses who provide care. We have no fundraisers on staff, and our Board of Directors supports our limited administration costs (14% of expenses in 2019). We appreciate your support for our cost-effective programs that **treat the sick and strengthen health systems serving Africans most in need.**



**Dick Chandler**  
Board Chair and CEO



**Richard Siegler**  
President

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[contact@bulamuhealthcare.org](mailto:contact@bulamuhealthcare.org)