

2021 Mid-Year Report

45,013

Clinical Support Team Patients Treated

1,628

Total Surgery Patients

128

Health Center Excellence Program Partner Health Centers

Year to Date Summary

As the pandemic continues, Bulamu's programs have evolved to respond to the impact COVID-19 is having on access to healthcare for the poor. We now conduct 3 health systems strengthening programs in partnership with 8 local government districts.

I. Clinical Support Teams (CST): Each Bulamu Clinical Support Team of 7-8 Ugandan doctors, nurses, and midwives spends 8 weeks in 2 rural health centers, treating patients alongside the existing staff while upgrading the systems, equipment, and standard of care. CST staff are COVID-19 certified trainers and bring PPE, vital signs devices, and essential medicines and supplies while modeling our high-productivity culture. Year to date, **45,013** patients have been treated by our **8** CSTs at **16** health centers in **4** new partner districts. CSTs have provided more than **2,800** natural deliveries, **300** C-sections, and emergency transportation for **161** patients at a cost of under **\$30** each in districts that lack an ambulance.



Robert lived with this lipoma for 10 years, as it got increasingly painful. Doctors agreed it needed to be removed, but Robert could not afford the operation. At Bulamu's Surgery Intensive in Wakiso, it was removed for free, and he has now made a full recovery!

II. Surgery Programs: So far in 2021, we treated or supported care for **1,628** surgery patients across all programs, despite the lockdown that restricted travel for two months. CST doctors performed **360** surgeries (primarily C-sections) at our 4 partner districts YTD. We completed **656** more complicated surgeries at **3 Surgery Intensives (SI)**, where Bulamu surgical teams of 30+ clinicians bring supplies and perform scheduled surgeries at one of the district's community hospitals. Through the Bulamu Angel Program, we referred the **16** most complex patients to the best acute care hospital in Uganda for each condition, where we paid for the patients' transportation and treatment costs. Finally, through Bulamu's new **Essential Surgical Supplies (ESS)** program, we provided surgical supplies to partner Health Center IVs that performed **596** surgeries, which were only possible because we had given them uninterrupted access to supplies.

III. Bulamu's Health Center Excellence (HCE) Program is a train-the-trainer approach that provides each district with new tools for improving healthcare for the poor on a year-round basis, after our clinicians leave. The HCE program has now

"After two years, the HCE program has proven to be a great success.... I am therefore recommending Bulamu Healthcare to you, so you can explore partnership opportunities and collaboration.... [The MOH] and you can evaluate the programs and decide if they should be incorporated into our standard operating model."

Dr. Diana Atwine
Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health

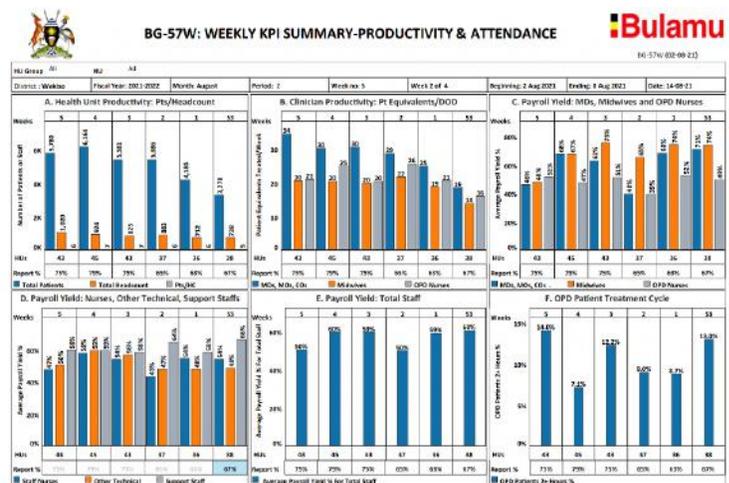
been installed in **8** districts and **128** health facilities, with more added each month. We provide vital signs equipment and training for improved patient diagnosis and treatment. Our patient treatment forms allow each patient to leave with the clinician's written record of their diagnosis, lab results, prescriptions, and follow-up instructions. We also provide each district with computers and printers for their larger facilities and train their staffs in the HCE-IT system, with its suite of weekly and monthly management reports. This system goes beyond anything currently available in Uganda's public health facilities.

Data as the Intervention: Bulamu's HCE Management Reporting System

In Ministry of Health systems across Africa, one of the most important missing links is timely data: What happened at health facilities last week, or over the last month? Too often, this kind of information is only shared with healthcare and political leaders long after the fact. In contrast, the HCE Program tracks **56** Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) at each health center in weekly and monthly management reports that allow district leaders to understand what is happening on a timely basis and take corrective action when necessary. For example, this system monitors absenteeism and doctor productivity in novel ways that are designed to drive continuous improvement. After the HCE data is uploaded to the cloud, the results can be immediately downloaded in management reports that provide leaders with easy to interpret graphs of key performance indicators, comparing current periods to the prior 6 weeks and 6 months. Bulamu trains the local staffs in collecting and uploading the data, maintains the HCE-IT system, and helps district leaders interpret the reports and become better managers using this knowledge.



Helen was treated for antepartum hemorrhage by Bulamu's Clinical Support Team in Mayuge District prior to giving birth, a condition that could have been life-threatening. Seen here in mid-July, she and her healthy baby are on their way home.



One of the weekly management reports produced by the Bulamu HCE program.

Bulamu Launches Partnership with the Association of Surgeons of Uganda

In June, Bulamu and the Association of Surgeons of Uganda (ASOU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing a partnership to support Bulamu's Surgery Intensive (SI) program with ASOU's members, who include the leading surgeons in the country. This MOU combines Bulamu's organizing capacity and funding with ASOU's network of several hundred Ugandan surgeons, one or more of whom will attend each SI. We appreciate ASOU President Dr. Hussein Ssenyonjo and his colleagues' leadership in establishing this partnership and are excited to work together to improve surgical access for the poor!