

**56,028** Clinical Support Team Patients Treated**4,318** Total Surgery Patients**213** HCE Program Partner Health Centers

As we close out 2021, Bulamu's **10** Clinical Support Teams have treated **56,028** patients at **20** health centers in **5** districts of Uganda, upgrading their clinical processes to today's standard of care. In 2021, our **8** Surgery Intensives treated **2,019** patients free of charge with the help of our partner organization, the Association of Surgeons of Uganda. With all programs combined, Bulamu's teams have treated or supported **4,318** surgery patients YTD, a 66% increase over 2020. Meanwhile, our Health Center Excellence (HCE) Program, with weekly/monthly uploading of key performance indicators (KPIs) and clinician productivity data, is now installed in **213** public hospitals and clinics, up from **39** facilities one year ago.

## Bulamu Launches New Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Program

Bulamu's patient treatment and HCE programs address the full range of medical issues, but as we have expanded our partnerships to 9 districts across Uganda, we have observed four gaps in the public healthcare system that can cause harm particularly for pregnant women and their newborns. While most programs address clinical practices, our new MCH program's focus is correcting four **system failures** that others are ignoring:

- **Emergency Transportation.** Expectant mothers with obstructed labor have an emergency need for transport to the nearest surgery center to avoid a catastrophic outcome. While ambulances are the preferred solution, they are often unavailable. Instead, we have arranged with local transport companies to be on call when needed in partner districts. In 2021, we supported this transportation for more than **500** patients, about half pregnant women, at an average cost of **\$26** per patient.
- **Essential Surgical Supplies.** At rural public Health Center IVs, which should offer C-sections, we found that operating rooms are down about **50%** of the time for lack of inexpensive surgical supplies. We are fixing that at partner districts by supplying the essentials (sutures, needles, gloves, gauze, cotton, etc.) to their HC IVs so that C-sections and other surgeries can always be performed when needed. Combined with emergency transportation, this approach gives our partner health facilities the options they need to support patients while still having a limited total program cost.
- **MCH Equipment.** Certain equipment items are needed if safe surgeries are to be performed, such as suction devices, autoclaves, fetal doppler scopes, incubators, etc. We are now doing needs assessments at our partner facilities to identify missing equipment and the cost of filling those gaps.



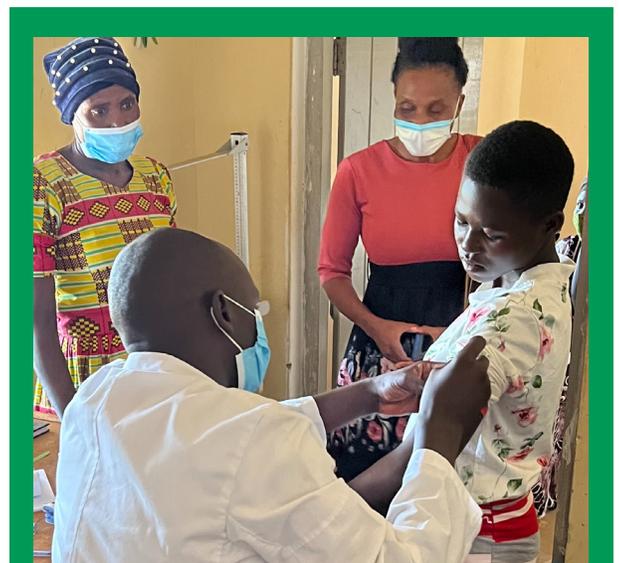
In December, Jane was referred to Bulamu's Surgery Intensive program in Isingiro after experiencing labor pains for nearly 24 hours. Thanks to our presence, she gave birth to a healthy baby girl by C-section, one of more than **500** C-section patients Bulamu has treated so far in 2021.

- **Patient Treatment Forms.** In an environment with no digital patient information, hard-copy forms are necessary for doctors and midwives to know what has happened in prior visits during and after pregnancies. We have developed **5** new maternity forms for clinicians to record key data and observations during each patient visit: **3** of these forms are on folded card stock that the expecting or new mother brings with her for the **8** prescribed antenatal visits, **3** postnatal visits, and multiple family planning visits. The other **2** forms record critical patient information during the delivery or C-section.

We will need additional funding to continue supporting these 4 MCH interventions in all of our partner districts in 2022, including for their equipment needs. This program will aim to help our partners become model MCH districts for cost-effective care in Uganda, with the goals of increasing MCH services provided by trained staff at properly equipped facilities and reducing maternal and neonatal mortality. We are optimistic some donors will respond, seeing how fundamental these needs are to improving MCH outcomes and how reasonable the cost.

## Partnership with Rotary International Will Fund Vital Signs Devices to 125+ Health Facilities

In December we learned that a Rotary Global Grant for **\$91,500** has been approved by the five local sponsoring clubs in the US and Uganda and the Rotary district officials in each country that must also sign off on them. We expect Rotary of Uganda to receive the funds early in 2022. A key element in the HCE program is providing vital signs equipment (stethoscopes, thermometers, BP monitors, glucometers, etc.) to all the health units in a district, along with the requisite training, as these items are not being supplied by the government. This funding will allow approximately **1 million** patients each year to have their vital signs taken and appropriate treatment to begin. Rotary's **1.4 million** members belong to **46,000** clubs globally, with **148** in Uganda. With Rotary members' commitment to service projects, and a special interest in MCH, we think this partnership can strengthen our programs for years to come.



A Ugandan doctor records a patient's vital signs using devices and treatment forms provided by Bulamu's Health Center Excellence program.

## How You Can Help

We are deeply grateful to our dedicated and talented team in Uganda, our Board of Directors and Advisory Council, and each of our supporters for your generosity that has made this work possible. Please consider Bulamu in your year-end giving plans and tell others about us, too. We invite you to visit [Bulamu's Facebook page](#) for more regular patient stories. As we have seen our programs take off during the pandemic era and win stronger support from the Ministry of Health each year, we are confident that we can continue to scale our common-sense solutions that mobilize local resources so cost-effectively to improve healthcare for the poor in Africa.

*Richard W. Siegler*

Richard Siegler  
President and CEO

*Dick Chandler*

Dick Chandler  
Executive Board Chair