

YOTKOM NEWSLETTER

September 2022 Update from Andrew & Anne in Kitgum, Uganda

Dear Yotkom Supporters and Partners,

There is a stark difference between working in a health facility here in Uganda and being a doctor in Australia. For one thing, people delay coming to the hospital so they often arrive with advanced, neglected disease, are unconscious or even in severe shock. This makes it so much harder for our doctors to turn things around and have a good outcome.

Our health team are familiar with dealing with very pale unconscious or fitting children in urgent need of blood transfusion from severe Malaria. We see people who have been to multiple other outlying clinics or had traditional “healers” working on them sometimes with dire consequences.

In Australia these people would be admitted immediately to intensive care units. That level of care is not available here.

This week we had two men brought to us from about 100km away after being trampled by an elephant. One man had a crushed pelvis and damage to his bladder, the other man sustained a shattered thigh bone and spinal injury.

Once stabilised at our hospital we have to find ways to get them many miles across country to specialist care. Unfortunately, many people cannot afford the cost of transport and certainly not hospital admission costs elsewhere so we are many times called on to do our best with limited resources.



Hospitals in low income countries struggle to provide high quality services.

Up to 60 % of the deaths in hospitals here occur because of poor quality health services. There are a lot of barriers to excellent health care. These include poor training, low morale, overwhelming work demands, delays in detecting and attending to patient deterioration, inability to get essential drugs or IV fluids, power failures, running out of tank water and many other struggles and challenges.

In Africa, purchased or donated medical equipment and machines can easily get spoiled and broken and maintenance and repairs are not always attended to in a timely fashion

At Yotkom, improving the quality of our health care delivery is a top priority and something we are very much focused on. We are constantly seeking to raise our standards and provide good teaching and mentoring for our health professionals.



Our Yotkom doctors and nurses are encouraged to use evidence-based guidelines in managing patients and we utilise computerised medical records.

Laboratory, Radiology and Medical machines are checked regularly by local biomedical engineers.



Our medical team all feel a lot of joy when a patient gets the right treatment and returns home well to his or her family.

We love seeing new babies born in our safe maternal and health facility. Recently a baby had the umbilical cord wrapped around the neck several times and needed our midwives to resuscitate. It is highly likely that if the birth had been unattended in the village this child would have died.



We have around 30 deliveries per month and can provide Caesarean section at any time.

Thank you for supporting our work of delivering better quality health care to this region of Northern Uganda. Your regular donations provide 30% of the daily running costs of our hospital.

God bless you,
From Andrew and Anne Wright
Australian Directors
Yotkom Uganda

To support the project, visit www.yotkom.com

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