



Impact of Medical Missions in Underserved Communities of Uganda

-Reflections from Gombe General
Hospital medical mission
July 8th to July 12 2024

*-Enhancing healthcare through medical
missions*

-Bringing Hope and Sustainable change



Objectives

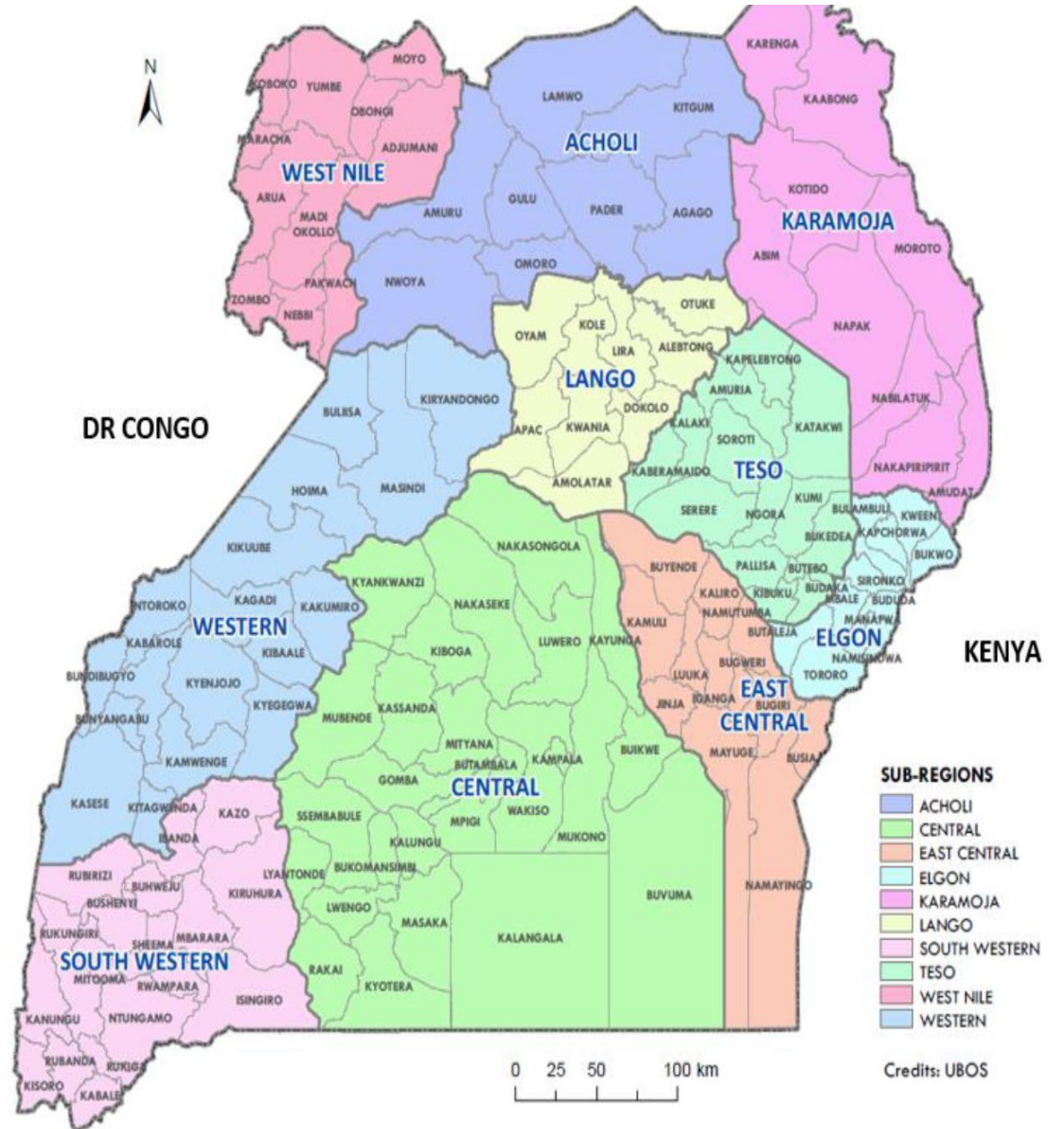
- Overview of Gombe Hospital
- Medical Missions and Their Objectives
- Impact on Healthcare Delivery
- Community Benefits and Challenges
- Case Studies and Success Stories

Overview of Gombe Hospital



Gombe General Hospital

- Located in Butambala district, Uganda
- Approximately 70 km Southwest of Kampala
- A 100-bed rural hospital
- Established in 1969
- Also serves Gomba, Mpigi, Mityana and Kalungu districts
- Catchment area population of about 300,000 residents





Current Facilities and Services

Maternal and Child Healthcare

Gombe Hospital provides essential maternal and child healthcare services to support mothers and children in the community.

Emergency Services

Emergency services at Gombe Hospital are available to handle critical situations and provide urgent medical care when needed.

Outpatient and inpatient Care

The outpatient care services cater to patients who require treatment without being admitted to the hospital, ensuring continued healthcare access.

Palliative care service

Services provided within the facility and nearby areas

Challenges Faced by the Hospital/Community

Lack of Resources

Gombe Hospital struggles with a lack of essential medical supplies and equipment, affecting patient care quality.

Inadequate Staffing

The hospital is facing staffing shortages, which impacts the ability of healthcare professionals to provide timely care.

Healthcare Infrastructure Limitations

Infrastructure limitations at Gombe Hospital hinder its capacity to serve patients effectively and efficiently.



LONG DISTANCES TO
HEALTH CARE
FACILITIES



POOR
INFRASTRUCTURE



POVERTY AND
AFFORDABILITY OF
HEALTHCARE



SOCIAL AND
CULTURAL BARRIERS



LACK OF EFFECTIVE
COMMUNICATION
PLATFORM BETWEEN
FACILITIES AND
PATIENTS

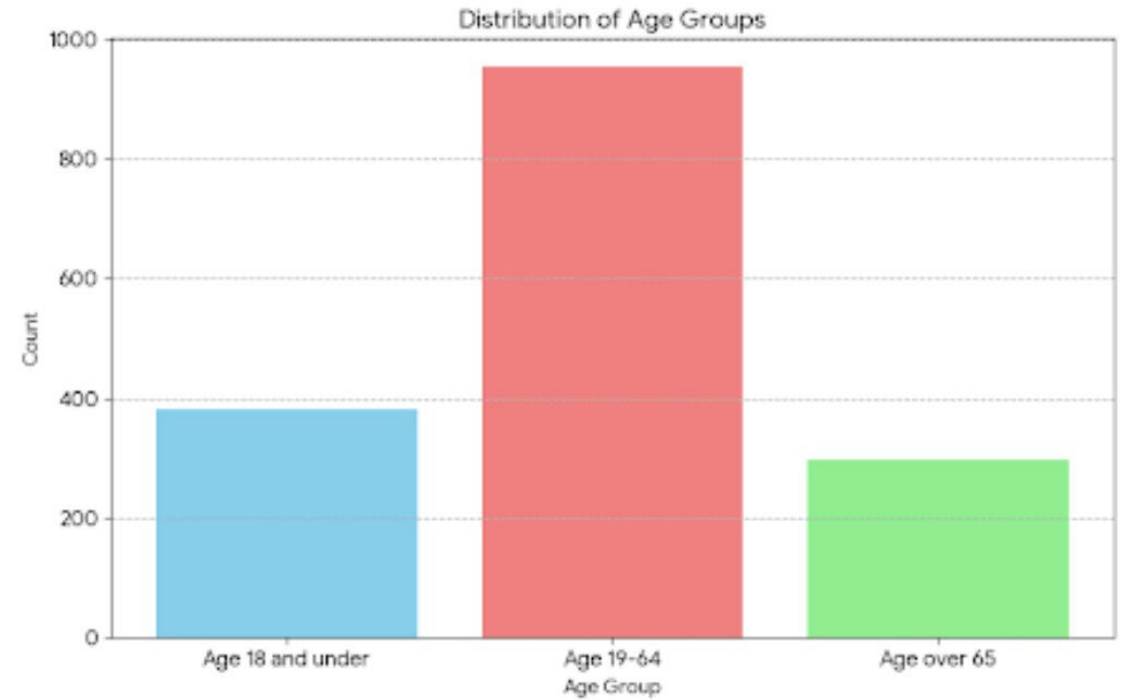
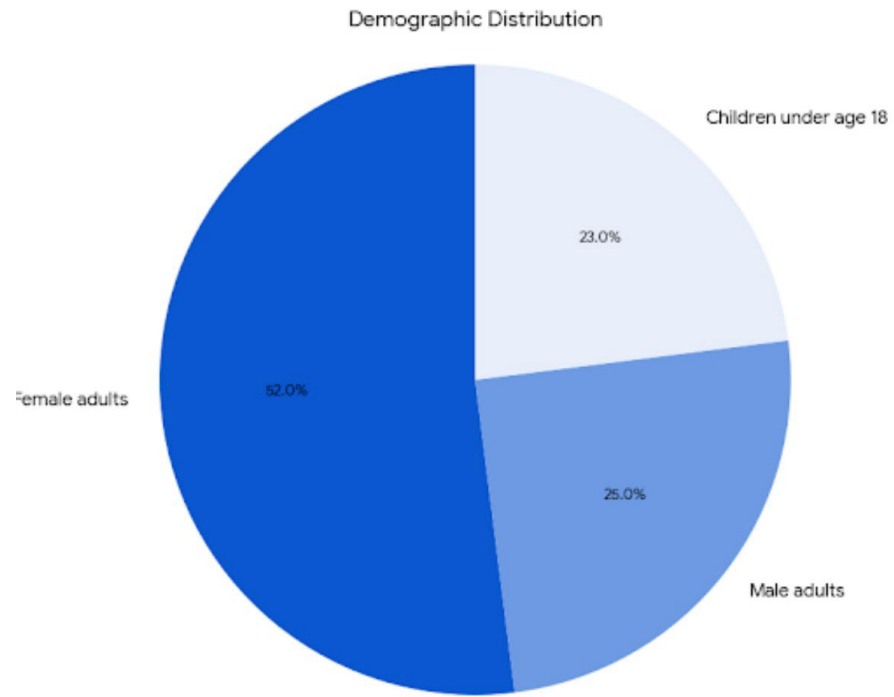
Gombe Medical Mission 2024

Surgeons	2
IM/Peds/FM	4
Anesthesiologist	1
Interns in waiting	2
Clinical officers	2
APP	1
Dental assistant	1
Triage staff	2
BBNArep/coordinator	1
Buganda Kingdom rep/clinical staff	1
Local volunteers	
Medical staff	1
Theatre staff	4
Dental Assistant	1
Family planning educator	1
TB/HIV screening/counselling	1
Health education	2
Nurses/nurse students	multiple

The Team



Date	Registration Main Book	Surgery	Dental	Cervical Cancer
Monday - July 8, 2024	248	-	-	4
Tuesday - July 9, 2024	289	4	10	5
Wednesday - July 10, 2024	402	4	12	9
Thursday - July 11, 2024	410	5	10	7
Friday - July 12, 2024	283	5	8	5
Total	1,632	18*	40	30



Demographics

Community Benefits and Challenges

Training and Capacity-Building for Local Healthcare Workers



Empowering Local Healthcare

Training local healthcare workers empowers them to improve healthcare services in their communities, enhancing overall health outcomes.

Improving Skills and Knowledge

Capacity building increases the skills and knowledge of local healthcare workers, enabling them to provide better patient care.

Long-term Impact

The training provided through medical missions has a long-term impact on the healthcare system by creating self-sufficient professionals.



Economic and Social Benefits



Enhanced Community Productivity

Healthier communities tend to be more productive, as individuals are better able to work and contribute effectively.

Reduced Healthcare Costs

Medical missions lead to healthier populations, which in turn reduce overall healthcare expenditures for communities.

Improved Social Welfare

With improved health outcomes, communities often see enhanced social welfare, leading to a better quality of life for residents.



- Direct community interaction
 - training future leaders
 - improving communication skills etx
- Mentorship and networking opportunity



- Overall-→community empowerment through skill training for their healthcare professionals

Improved Health Outcomes and Quality of Life



Access to Medical Care

Increased access to medical care has been crucial in improving the health outcomes for local populations.

Quality of Life Improvement

With better medical services, there is a noticeable improvement in the overall quality of life among community members.

Reduced Morbidity and Mortality

Medical missions contribute significantly to reducing morbidity and mortality rates, leading to healthier communities.



Testimonial

Testimonial

Meet Ms Sara N.

On presentation

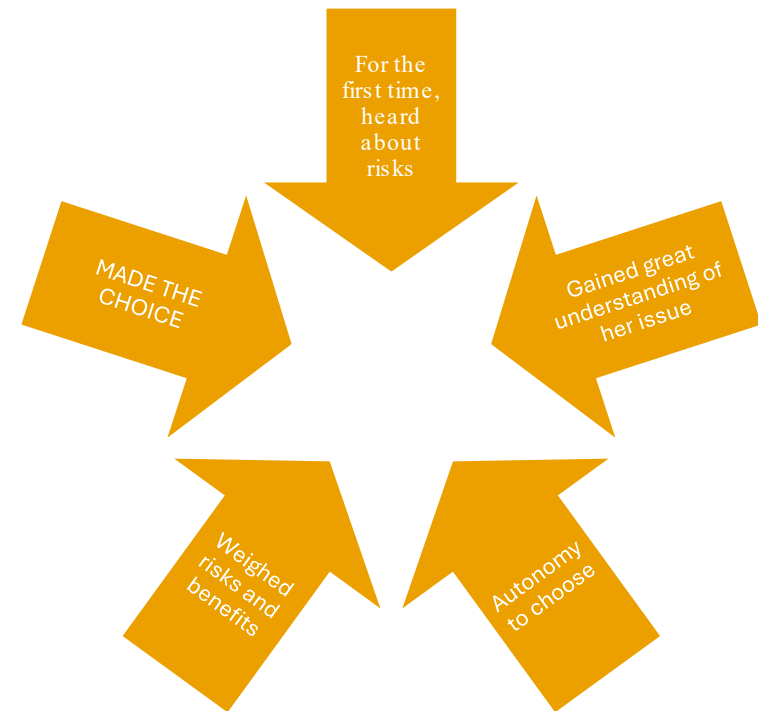


Her story in a “nutshell”

- 2 growths on her face
- Peripheral vision limited
- parotid mass mostly caused disfigurement
- Loss of self esteem – feeling she was not beautiful
- Had been to 3 places and each time surgeons told her they could operate on her for a price
- Quotations btw shs 8M and shs 14M



Risks and benefits





FINAL PRODUCT

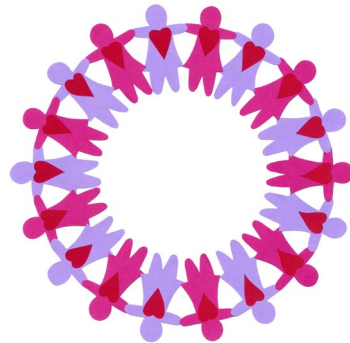
- GREAT sense of satisfaction
- Self confidence restored
- Peripheral vision restored
- Feels good about not persuing the parotid mass surgery
- Wishes she had known about these medical missions sooner

Sustainability and Long- Term Challenges



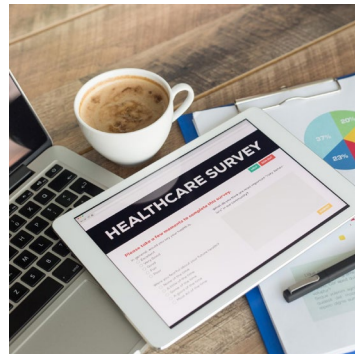
Immediate Relief vs. Sustainability

Medical missions provide quick relief but face challenges in **sustaining improvements in health services over time.**



Ongoing Support Needs

Sustaining health improvements requires **ongoing support from various stakeholders, including local communities and organizations.**



Resource Allocation

Effective resource allocation is critical to ensure that health services remain operational and accessible in the long term.

Resource allocation -Presents several interconnected challenges

- Financial resource constraints (relying on donations –unpredictable)
- High cost of supplies and cost of transporting them especially with poor infrastructure
- Unreliable supply of electricity and clean water
- Human resource shortage- shortages of doctors, nurses and specialized health workers
- High burnout and turnover
- Political interference/influence rather than objective need
- Drug stockouts and storage issues
- Cultural or communication barriers
- Sustainability and follow up

Lessons learned

- Need aggressive and early fundraising technics to ensure continuity of mission programs
- Collaborate with local health systems to foster continuity of care after the missions
- Encourage more community involvement to train and empower more local medical professionals that can directly and continuously interact with the local residents improving compliance and follow up after medical mission
- Always collect data for analysis to help with future resource allocation/mission location scouting

Lessons Learned and Best Practices

Importance of Analysis

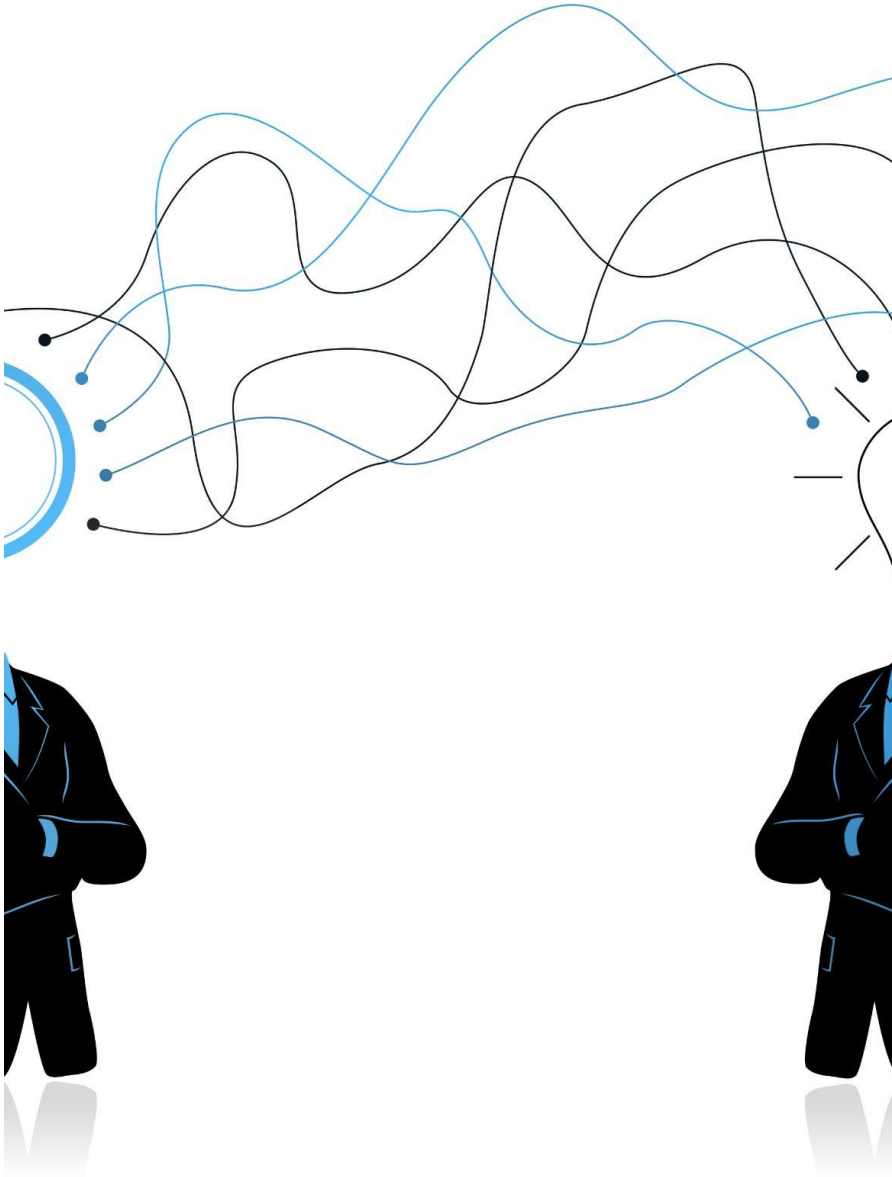
Analyzing past missions helps identify key lessons and best practices that are crucial for future success.

Guiding Future Missions

Understanding successful strategies can guide future medical missions, ensuring they are more effective and sustainable.

Sustainability in Approach

Focusing on sustainability in medical missions ensures long-term positive impacts on the communities served.



See you in
Villa-Maria
2026



References

- Kinney et al. (2021) Community-funded outreach clinics in Uganda
- Frontiers in Health Services: HER usage on medical service trips in Uganda
- Maractho et al. “Enhancing the Value of Short-Term Volunteer Missions in Health” The case of Uganda” (2022)