



29<sup>th</sup> August 2017

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***Partnering with Mengo Hospital to Reduce Neo-Natal Mortality Using Modern Technology***

Every Pregnant mother hopes to experience the bundle of joy after carrying a healthy new born after the gestation period of 9 months, however for some this comes pre term or prematurely.

Complications of preterm birth are directly responsible for 31% of Uganda's neonatal deaths and many of the preterm babies who survive face a lifetime of disability. Each year, over 200,000 or 14% of Ugandan babies are born prematurely, or before 37 weeks gestation.

Mengo Hospital the oldest in East Africa having celebrated 120 years receives over 30 babies a month born prematurely in the Nassolo Ward. Many mothers then become reliant on the tradition Kangaroo care to keep their babies warm, decrease water losses and prevent skin break down. While this is handy, it is not 100% guaranteed since it fatigues the mother.

We are cognizant that at this stage, quality drugs alone cannot provide the assurance of keeping the baby alive. JMS with its partner Fazzini (Italy) are glad to today to aid these mothers through the provision of the Baby Incubator and Baby warmer that are microprocessor controlled, display skin and air temperature and have low and high temperature alarm for the safety of the baby.

Also Neo-natals are delicate and susceptible to infections from the environment, the machines comes with air filter to eliminate the dust from affecting the baby.

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***Joint Medical Store (JMS) is the largest private pharmaceutical store that was started in 1979 by the Uganda Catholic Medical Bureau and the Uganda Protestant Medical Bureau. Its supplies quality and affordable health supplies to the vast Private Not for Profit facilities that are mission based in addition to health related Non-Governmental Organizations.***

As we commission this neonatal equipment today, at Joint Medical Store, we are ecstatic that we are continuing Christ's healing mission and contributing to Sustainable Development Goal 3 that pledges to end neo natal and children under the age of five mortality rates.

We acknowledge that we could not have done this alone, we thank our Suppliers Fazzini International (Italy) for their generous contribution. We also thank Mengo Hospital for consistently opening their doors to the patients and offering them quality health services through supplies purchased at Joint Medical Store.

I implore other hospitals and health facilities to think beyond the box because donations may not be possible for all. However, collaborations are the answer to acquiring the expensive equipment necessary to equip and aid health facilities to respond effectively.

To support this programme, JMS has a medical equipment acquisition programme where health facilities can acquire the equipment at hire purchase and JMS takes care of the life time maintenance and servicing of the equipment.

As Jesus said, *"Let the children come to me"*, we thank all partners, including the media and health facilities that are joining hands to ensure children live to glorify the name of the Almighty.

Thank you!!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bildard Baguma', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

**Dr. Bildard Baguma**  
**Executive Director**

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