

Note from Editor-in-Chief



Miriam Ahumuza

Nothing annoys a patient more than being sent elsewhere for tests — especially when they are already unwell. Imagine if your health facility could offer comprehensive diagnostic services, right where your patients need them most.

Many of us associate *medical tourism* with traveling abroad. But what if people in our districts and villages didn't have to take a bus or ambulance to a major city just to get a CT scan or MRI? What if quality diagnostics were within reach, everywhere?

At JMS, we believe this is not just a dream — it's a vision we are actively working to realize. We are committed to enhancing biomedical capacity in

PNFP health facilities, so they can offer a full range of services, closer to the communities they serve.

One example is Dabani Hospital, which recently acquired a state-of-the-art digital X-ray machine under JMS' affordable two-year payment plan. Even better, they no longer have to worry about the availability of a radiologist — thanks to the JMS-supported tele-radiography program, a pool of global experts interprets scans within just two hours.

In this edition, we share how this transformation is happening — and how your facility can be part of it. Read on.



Contribute by sharing articles to
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Foreword

from the JMS Executive Director



Dr. Bildard Baguma

Precision in Care: Upscaling Biomedical Equipment for Better Out comes

Gone are the days when the doctor simply touched your forehead to check your temperature, asked a few questions, and prescribed medicine based on guesswork. Today, quality healthcare demands precision and that precision begins with accurate diagnosis.

At Joint Medical Store (JMS), we recognize that access to appropriate biomedical equipment is no longer a luxury but a necessity for all health facilities, including those under the Private Not-for-Profit (PNFP) sector. Investing in diagnostic technologies is not only transforming patient care but also reducing the overall cost of treatment. When health workers are equipped to make timely and accurate diagnoses, patients receive the right treatment the first time eliminating unnecessary procedures, avoiding trial-and-error prescriptions, and shortening recovery time.

Our commitment at JMS is to accelerate the availability and use of biomedical technologies across PNFP facilities in Uganda. We are scaling up the supply of quality equipment, offering technical support and training, and ensuring ongoing maintenance to enhance equipment lifespan and reliability.

As we continue to build strong partnerships and tailor solutions that address the real needs of our health sector, we remain focused on one goal: enabling every health facility we serve to deliver efficient, evidence-based care that puts the patient first.

Dabani Hospital Elevates Rural Imaging with JMS Partnership

In the heart of Busia district, St. Francis Xavier-Dabani Hospital is quietly transforming lives. Founded in 1939 by the Little Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, the facility has long served as a sanctuary for the underserved. Now, with a state-of-the-art digital X-ray machine acquired through JMS's innovative two-year payment plan, Dabani is rewriting the narrative for rural diagnostics.



Archbishop of Tororo His Grace Emmanuel Obbo at the launch of the X-ray machine.

For years, the hospital struggled to provide essential imaging services. Its previous X-ray machine served faithfully from 2008 until it broke down in 2013, after which patients had to travel to Busia-Kenya or Mbale—an expensive and often dangerous inconvenience, especially in emergencies.

The turning point came when Dabani Hospital learned about JMS's flexible medical equipment financing model during a UCMB technical workshop. "We had financial constraints but the need was dire," Ms. Angella the hospital Administrator shared. "The decision to partner with JMS was straightforward" she added.

"Since the installation of the new digital tele-radiography X-ray machine, the impact has been immediate. Patient numbers have increased and care outcomes have improved significantly. It has enhanced timely diagnosis of fractures, respiratory diseases, and intestinal obstruction," says the hospital team. "This has enabled prompt and appropriate care, including referrals, improving patient outcomes."

Perhaps most transformative has been the introduction of **tele-radiography services**. In a region where radiologists are scarce, access to remote expert opinions has dramatically improved diagnostic accuracy and reduced turnaround times from over an hour to just 30–45 minutes. "Our clinicians and patients are thrilled," the team shares. "They appreciate the quality of the films and the knowledge that expert insights, even from outside the country, are shaping their care."

Beyond diagnostics, the new technology has elevated Dabani 's reputation. Staff confidence is growing, and the hospital is increasingly viewed as a dependable imaging center in the region.

"This is a beacon of hope for other rural facilities," says the leadership. "Through partnerships like this, even the most underserved communities can access expert care without the need for big-city referrals."

Looking ahead, Dabani Hospital is optimistic about continuing its collaboration with JMS to expand maternity services, modernize its operating theatre, and acquire a well-equipped ambulance.

"To any facility considering a similar investment, we say: Don't deny your community what they deserve. If the need exists, this is a life-changing opportunity."

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JMS Biomedical Engineer Mr John Willy Tumwine shares a light moment with the Dabani team after carrying out installation and user training of the X-ray Machine

HEALTHCARE DELIVERY AT BWINDI COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

JMS Training Leaves Lasting Impact

In December 2024, JMS brought its transformative training to the heart of Bwindi Community Hospital, sparking a fresh wave of motivation and service excellence. Through dynamic sessions on customer service and supply chain management, hospital staff gained valuable tools to enhance both patient experience and internal efficiencies.

"An immediate shift in staff perception and approach was evident," said Dr. Charlotte Aguti Ongom, Executive Director of the hospital, applauding the JMS facilitators for their hands-on, insightful approach.

The customer service training attended by all staff fostered a patient-first mindset, while the supply chain workshop unearthed key bottlenecks and offered simple but powerful strategies. Among the standout recommendations was incorporating lead time during quantification—a tactic staff welcomed for its potential to reduce stock-outs and improve forecasting.

And the momentum didn't stop there. In January 2025, JMS extended its support with a corporate governance training for the hospital's Board of Directors. The session helped clarify board roles and responsibilities, earning praise from Board Chair Dr. Ben Mbonye for being *"insightful and empowering."*



Dr Emmanuel Higenyi conducting a training on Board Oversight in Health Facility Management for the Bwindi Community Hospital Board of Directors on 1st February 2025



Celestine Bamwesigye facilitating a session on Health Facility Inventory Management for the key personnel involved in procurement and management of Medicines and Health Supplies at Bwindi Community Hospital on 17th December 2024

STRATEGIC COLLABORATION WITH THE UPDF

Building Capacity Through Logistics & Technical Training

In March 2025, JMS proudly hosted students from the UPDF College of Logistics and Engineering, reinforcing its commitment to capacity building in Uganda's health sector.

The visit featured a comprehensive technical training session covering the procurement, storage, and management of medical commodities, along with best practices in handling bio and non-

bio medical waste. The highlight? A guided tour of the JMS warehouse, where students explored real-world systems for managing cold chain items, corrosives, and controlled substances.

As a mark of appreciation, the UPDF Principal presented JMS with an award recognizing the organization as their "Partner of choice."



JMS hosts the Bishop symposium on 4th June 2025





