



A Double Victory: JMS and Holy Innocent Hospital Mbarara Shine at the HIHA Awards



Miriam Ahumuza

Note

from Editorial team

2024: A Journey Through Our Supply Chain Triumphs and Challenges

Dear Valued Reader,

Thank you for your continued support and always engaging with the JMS Quarterly Newsletter. Your readership inspires us to share the stories and milestones that define our journey.

In this issue, we take you behind the scenes to explore the **highs and lows of our supply chain in 2024** – the backbone of our operations. From overcoming logistical challenges to celebrating key successes, this edition highlights how we continue to grow and serve you better together.

My personal highlight this quarter was JMS being recognized as the **Health Logistics Provider of 2024** at the **Heroes in Health**

Awards. This achievement is a testament to the dedication, innovation, and hard work of the entire JMS team.

As we look ahead to 2025, let us carry this momentum forward with purpose and resilience. I leave you with this thought: *“The future depends on what you do today.”* – Mahatma Gandhi. As we close 2024, don't despair if you haven't achieved your strategic goals but look ahead to ensure that your 2025 is better than 2024.

Enjoy the read!

Warm regards,
Miriam Ahumuza
Editor, JMS Quarterly Newsletter

Gratitude, Growth, and a Call to Co-Create JMS' Journey to 50



DR. Bildard Baguma
Executive Director

In behalf of the Joint Medical Store (JMS), I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our partners and customers for choosing JMS as your trusted provider for quality health solutions. Your unwavering support fuels our drive to deliver excellence and innovation in every corner of our work.

This quarter has been a blend of triumph and reflection. A high moment for us was the **completion of our Gulu Branch**, the Ministry of Health with support from the Global Fund secured funding worth \$1,720,772 for the Joint Medical Store to procure warehousing and racking system as a means of improving storage conditions for medicines and health supplies.

However, we also faced one of our most difficult moments with the loss of our **Board Chairman**, a quiet giant whose unwavering commitment and vision elevated JMS from good to great. His wisdom and guidance are deeply

missed, but his legacy will continue to inspire us as we forge ahead.

In light of this, it is my honor to introduce our new Board Chairman, **Mr. Rhobert Korutaro**, a seasoned leader whose experience and passion for excellence will guide JMS into its next chapter.

As we look to the future, JMS is in the process of developing a new **Strategic Plan** that will usher us into our 50th year of service. This plan is a bold step toward building a JMS that will serve generations with **quality, affordable health supplies**. I call upon all our stakeholders and partners to share your invaluable input as we chart this path together. Let us co-create a JMS that will stand as a beacon of hope and health for decades to come.

Completion of our Gulu Branch

Global Fund Commitment

Loss of our **Board Chairman**

New Board Chairman, Mr. Rhobert Korutaro

Strategic Plan, to usher 50th year of service

Quality, affordable health supplies

HIHA AWARDS

New Board Chairman



Gulu Branch Completed



Holy Innocent Children's Hospital Recognized by MOH as Private Health Facility of the Year



Ambulance

Baby Daniel was born prematurely at just 28 weeks, weighing less than a kilogram. His parents feared the worst, but under the expert care of the dedicated staff at Holy Innocents Children's Hospital, Daniel not only survived but thrived. His story is one of many at Holy Innocents, a hospital that has become a beacon of hope for children and families in Mbarara City, South-Western Uganda.

Recently honoured as the Private Health Facility of the Year by the Heroes in Health Awards, this Private, Not-For-Profit paediatric hospital has earned recognition for its compassionate care, innovation, and transformative impact on paediatric health.

Established by the Catholic Archdiocese of Mbarara in 2009, the hospital serves children from birth to 17 years of age. The hospital's 120-bed capacity offers a range of advanced services, including neonatal intensive care, paediatric cardiology, and surgical interventions. Its state-of-the-art Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) stands as a testament to the hospital's commitment to saving the lives of premature babies, like Daniel, who may otherwise not survive.

In 2013, Holy Innocents took proactive steps to address the high rates of newborn mortality, particularly among preterm infants, by introducing advanced equipment and staff training programs. This initiative has significantly reduced neonatal mortality and

provided hope for families during their most vulnerable moments.

A key to the hospital's success is its partnership with Joint Medical Store (JMS), which ensures a steady supply of high-quality medicines and health supplies, supports staff development through training and scholarships. This collaboration has enabled Holy Innocents to provide top-tier care at affordable rates, with flexible payment systems ensuring that no child is turned away due to financial constraints.

Holy Innocents' holistic approach goes beyond clinical care. The hospital's compassionate environment, where children feel loved and safe, makes a lasting impact on families. The smiles of healthy children leaving the hospital, many of whom might not have survived without the hospital's care, are the true measure of its success.

Looking ahead, Holy Innocents plans to expand its services with a new paediatric intensive care unit (PICU) and expanded inpatient facilities by 2025, ensuring more children will receive the care they deserve. Holy Innocents Children's Hospital exemplifies the power of compassionate care and innovation, and its recognition as the Private Health Facility of the Year is a testament to its unwavering dedication to improving the lives of children and their families.



Hospital staff



Neonatal Unit



Neonatal ward



Oxygen plant



Aerial View of HICH

Pictorial of 2024 Highlights

JMS AGM held on 6th December, 2024

The AGM which is the highest decision making body of JMS as per the constitution welcomed the incoming Board of Directors Chairman, Mr. Rhovert Korutaro and recognised retiring members like Mr. Balaam Muheebwa a member of the Audit committee.



Memorial Service in December, 2024 organised for late JMS Board Chairman, Canon Joram Kahenano

Attended by his family, friends and JMS stakeholders, Canon's memory was celebrated with many highlighting his passion for improved service delivery to patients. (In Blue, his wife gives an eulogy; Top and below Right, Current and former Board members signing his Portrait with fond messages of him.)



Harmonization of Health Product Brands: Club 4 Initiative

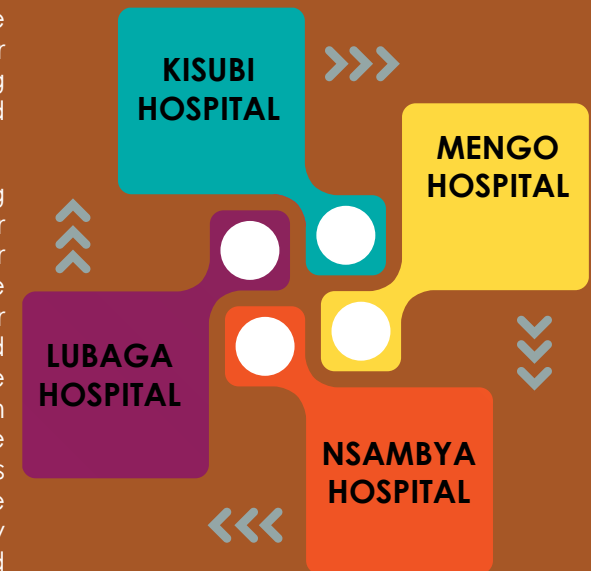


Dr. Mubiru Michael Sempa,
Head of Pharmacy
Department, Uganda
Martyrs Hospital
Lubaga, Chairman
Club 4

In today's fast-paced and competitive business landscape, companies are constantly seeking innovative ways to improve their operations, enhance customer satisfaction, and gain a competitive edge. One strategy that has gained significant attention in recent years is the harmonization of brands by different customers to their suppliers. This is a collaborative approach to improving product availability, Quality, Cost-effectiveness and generally, supply chain efficiency.

The Club 4 Initiative is a strategic collaboration among PNFP hospitals, Joint Medical Store (JMS), and other vendors, to harmonize product brands. Beginning with four PNFP hospitals (Lubaga, Mengo, Nsambya and Kisubi), we have successfully harmonized brands on 120 products over a period of two years. The initiative has been embraced by over ten vendors and several PNFP hospitals have expressed interest to join and are already benefiting from the products onboarded. Through this initiative, we have successfully reduced the product access costs to hospitals by an average of at least 10% per product, stepped up the upstream product quality assurance, attained availability of at least 98% for the onboarded products, and enhanced supply chain efficiency for JMS, the vendors, and hospitals.

This model has proven effective and needs to be scaled up by adding more hospitals, vendors and products.



CLUB 4 INITIATIVE