

## ST. DAMIANO MISSION HOSPITAL BUNGOMA – KENYA



SISTER MARY MUTIE

HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR

The hospital is a faith-based organization at level four, serving the poor and the marginalized. Attending to an average of 350 inpatient, 3000 outpatient monthly who are attended to by two Medical Officers, six Registered Clinical Officers and eighteen Registered Nurses.

Currently we are facing a lot of financial challenges due to the political instability in our country Kenya and many of the patients cannot afford to pay monthly contribution for the insurance cover thus coming to the hospital seeking for free medical services, also the hospital has not been paid by the National Health Insurance Funds (NHIF) for almost four months.

Due to this delay of funds our suppliers are unable to supply us with drugs, food and fuel for the ambulance since we have not paid them.

Despite all these challenges we have our success maternity story to tell below.

### **OUR MATERNITY SUCCESS STORY TO TELL**

Our maternity has a bed capacity of twenty-one (antenatal ward 6 beds and postnatal ward 15 beds) we have seven midwives in a normal week, of which two on work day duty, two on night duty and two on night offs and one on day off. Our midwives in a day they can conduct ten deliveries (both caesarian section and spontaneous) making it tedious for the midwives.

**Here comes our successful story;**

Primigravida mother in labor who called from her home in the village requesting for ambulance to be picked for delivery in our facility on 23/7/2023 at 4:30 a.m. Progressed

well in labour had a Spontaneous vaginal delivery (SVD) to alive male infant 3000gms at 9:00a.m. Third stage was well managed with minimal bleeding.

Four hours later the patient developed postpartum hemorrhage (heavy bleeding after giving birth) which we struggled to save the life of the mother. Due to unavailability of blood, we almost lost the patient.

### **CHALLENGES WE FACED SAVING LIFE OF THE MOTHER**

Our county blood bank did not have blood so we had to call other health facilities. The facility which had blood is 100 Kilometers away; the hospital ambulance was not available since it had taken another patient for referral 150 Kilometers away, since the hospital has one ambulance serving both maternity and main hospital.

The patient condition was getting worse but we could not refer the patient to a higher facility with Intensive Care Unit (ICU) because the ambulance was still away; we also tried to reach out to the nearest facilities to get ambulance but they were occupied and they could not receive the patient because they were also facing challenge of blood and they also lacked Intensive Care Unit (ICU). We opted to use a motorcycle of which it was not safe to transport the blood using motorcycle over the long distance. The doctors and midwives had to team up and struggle to save the life of the mother. After 24 hours of struggle the patient stabilized a bit regained some strength. At the moment the patient is to breastfeed her baby and move around without support and she is still under observation hopefully to be discharged after two days.

We appreciate our administration, doctors and midwives for their endless support and care they are giving towards our antenatal mothers to have safe and successful deliveries.

We appreciate Dr. Dorothea (from Germany) who supported us with delivery instruments and theatre gowns and also through her friends enabled us to purchase an autoclave machine for Sterilization of delivery packs and caesarian section instruments. God bless you.



Our senior midwives

Our patient

caretaker



*Story By Sister Mary Mutie and maternity team.*