



World Child Cancer

No child should suffer



Improving the Multidisciplinary team capacity in
Childhood cancer management in Africa: the role INGOs

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Outline of presentation

- Vision and mission of World Child Cancer
- building the capacity of doctors
- Building the capacity of pharmacists
- Building the capacity of nurses in Ghana
- Capacity building of HCW in SSA
- Capacity building of other HCWs
- Sub-Saharan Regional Collaborations

Our vision is a world where every child with cancer has equal access to the best treatment and care

Our mission is to improve diagnosis, treatment and support for children with cancer, and their families, in the developing world



Relevance of a highly motivated and competent HRH for childhood cancer

- A well composed MDT for the mgt of childhood cancer is paramount, esp in LMICs.
- MDTs provide comprehensive, patient-centered care that significantly improves clinical outcomes, reduces treatment gaps, and enhances the overall quality of life for both patients and their families.
- In LMICs, MDTs optimize the use of available infrastructure and ensure coordinated, effective care across all phases of treatment.
- MDTs also serve as catalysts for capacity building, and advocacy efforts, helping to strengthen healthcare systems and advance policy reforms.
- The presence of an MDT is a crucial factor in improving survival rates and fostering a holistic approach to childhood cancer mgt in resource-limited settings.

Building the capacities of doctors through subspecializing with the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons

This project is focused on:

❑ **Supporting the “Paediatric Oncology Fellowship Programme” delivered by KBTH in collaboration with the GCPS:**

- Started in 2019
- Nine (22) out of thirteen (13) are supported by WCC.

The nine (20) comprises 14 Ghanaians and 1 Liberian, 2 Sierra Leonean, 1 Cameroonian, 4 Nigerian

Building capacities of Pharmacists

- This project is focused on:
- **Ghana College of Pharmacists**
 - - Started in January 2021
 - - Three (3) Pharmacists graduated this year, (25/6/2024)
 - - **2-month** internship for 26 beneficiaries: Ghanaians, 2 Sierra Leonean, 1 Liberian
- This year, 2 residents were admitted into the programme with funding from THET



Beneficiaries of two-month Pharmacy Internship

| Year | Female | Male | Grand Total |
|-------------|--------|------|-------------|
| 2021 | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| 2022 | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 2023 | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 2024 | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| Grand Total | 8 | 18 | 26 |

Building the capacity of nurses in Ghana

This project is focused on:

- **Ghana College of Nurses and Midwives**
 - ✓ Started in October 2020 with 18 residents, 17 graduate (all Ghanaian).
 - ✓ Sponsored 12 intake in 2021 and all graduated (all Ghanaian)
 - ✓ Currently sponsoring 18; 14 from Ghana, 2-Nigerian, 2 Sierra Leonean
- Started fellowship in Paediatric Oncology Nursing in 2024 January, with 4 residents

Capacity building of nurses in SSA

❑ Foundation course in Paediatric Oncology Nursing

- Took place in Ghana with 12 Ghana and 2 Sierra Leone PON trained as facilitators
- Psychosocial Support training also took place with 12 Ghana and 2 Sierra Leone PON trained as facilitators

❑ Red Cross Hospital, Cape Town

- Nurses across Africa have been sent to Red Cross hospital in pairs to undergo clinical attachment on childhood cancer management.
- Every year, 4 nurses are sent on clinical internship sponsored by UBS-OF

Capacity building of other HCWs

- ❑ **Training primary health care workers to detect the “Early Warning Signs and Symptoms (EWSS) of Childhood Cancers”.**
 - The training enables appropriate referral and timely diagnosis and treatment.
- ❑ **Webinars and online CPD lectures**
 - World Child Cancer and other organisations periodically organizes webinars and online lectures palliative care, early warning signs and symptoms, childhood cancer research and childhood cancers.

Sub-Saharan Regional Collaborations

❑ Sub – Saharan Regional Collaborations include:

- The “International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP)” - Developing a suite of standardised training packages for nurses working in paediatric oncology
- A nurse training initiative at Red Cross Hospital in South Africa
- The “Collaborative Wilms Tumour Africa Project
- Supportive Care for Children with Cancer in Africa (SUCCOUR) Project

Thank you

