

Presentation during visit of Sister/Dr. Priscilla to Ann Arbor, Michigan May 18, 2014

### Maternal and Child Health in Western Uganda

Sister/Dr. Priscilla Busingye Obstetrician-Gynecologist Virika Hospital Fort Portal, Uganda



### **Presentation Overview**

- 1. Brief biographical overview my journey
- 2. The environment and place where I work
- 3. My faith and work

### **My Journey**

- Born and raised in a local village in Western Uganda
- Joined the convent at age 15
- Became a Sister in Daughters of St Theresa of the Child Jesus (BANYATEREZA) at age 18
- Graduated from Makerere University Medical School in Kampala, Uganda
- Residency specializing in Obstetrics/Gynecology
- Returned to my home region in Uganda, assumed role as Medical Director of a Holy Family Virika Hospital 2008



Uganda Basic Statistics	Data
Total Uganda population	36,350,000
Percent of Uganda land that is developed or farmed	0.5 %
Gross domestic product in 2010 (in Ugandan Shillings UGX)	\$34,580,000,000,000
Gross domestic product equivalence in US dollars	\$14 Billion
Annual value of goods exported to the US	\$6.4 Million
Per capita GDP in US dollars	\$490
Uganda Health Statistics	X
Life expectancy at birth	54
Percent of children born with low birthweight	14 %
Under 5 mortality rate	12.5 %
Percent of population ages 15-49 with HIV	6.5 %
Current number of children who were orphaned by AIDS	1,200,000
Uganda Education Statistics	
Adult literacy rate	73 %
Youth literacy rate	87 %
Drop-out rate of primary school students	68.2 %
Percent of population with a mobile phone	38 %
Percent of population who use the internet	13 %
Uganda Marriage Statistics	
Percent of marriages before the age of 15	12 %
Percent of marriages before the age of 18	46 %

#### Unicef, UNESCO, World Development Indicators 2014



#### Fort Portal population ~ 45,000







#### Kabarole District Profile: A Shortage of Trained Health Care Professionals

- Doctor to patient ratio
- Nurse to patient ratio
- Midwife to patient ratio
- Supervised deliveries in 2011
- Supervised deliveries in 2012
- HIV/AIDS prevalence rate

- 1:19,178
- 1: 2,609
- 1: 5,047
  - 43%
  - **91%** 
    - 11.3%











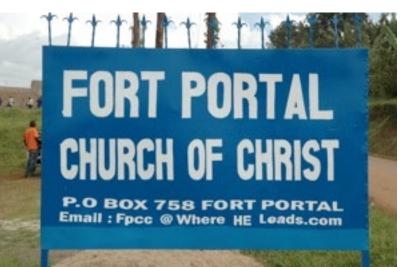






OUR LADY OF SNOWS, VIRIKA CATHEDRAL







#### Holy Family Virika Hospital

#### Diocesan

Founded 1911

#### 155 beds





Currently serves ~ 17,000 outpatients/year and more than 2000 deliveries/year



## We have many patients, including mothers and babies









## What is the problem for mothers & babies?

- Pregnant women can't get to a health care facility in time, leading to prolonged labor.
- As I talk to you:
  - a woman is dying
  - a child has become an orphan
  - a new baby is dying
  - a woman's health is deteriorating
  - a woman is drying her sleeping mat because of urine flowing all time

## Fistulas: One of many complications of prolonged labour

### Affects 1-2 million women in Africa

Wet for life

Highly skilled, low tech surgery can repair this

Dramatic results!



## A patient returning home after fistula surgery, she has her life back



#### A family reunion



### VIRIKA HOSIPITAL Save Mothers Giving Life Program

A one pilot year project (Uganda and Zambia) designed to:

- To increase access to skilled birth
- To increase access to safe caesarean section
- To support and strengthen human resources for emergency obstetric care
- To support service delivery through provision of medical supplies

Voucher System!



### What did this pilot study do?

- We used to deliver less than 100 babies each month; our new census is much higher.
- We experience fewer maternal and infant deaths.
- We deliver healthier babies.
- We have fewer women at risk for fistulas and other complications due to prolonged labour.
- Our new rate for supervised deliveries was 91%!



#### Many success stories







#### The lessons from voucher system

- Women feel safe knowing there is someone to pay for medical care and delivery.
- They understand the value of professional health care.
- They have transport to the health facility when in labour.
- They feel cared for by their nation.
- The voucher has effectively reduced obstetric delays.

# Our healthcare system had been called to be more accountable!

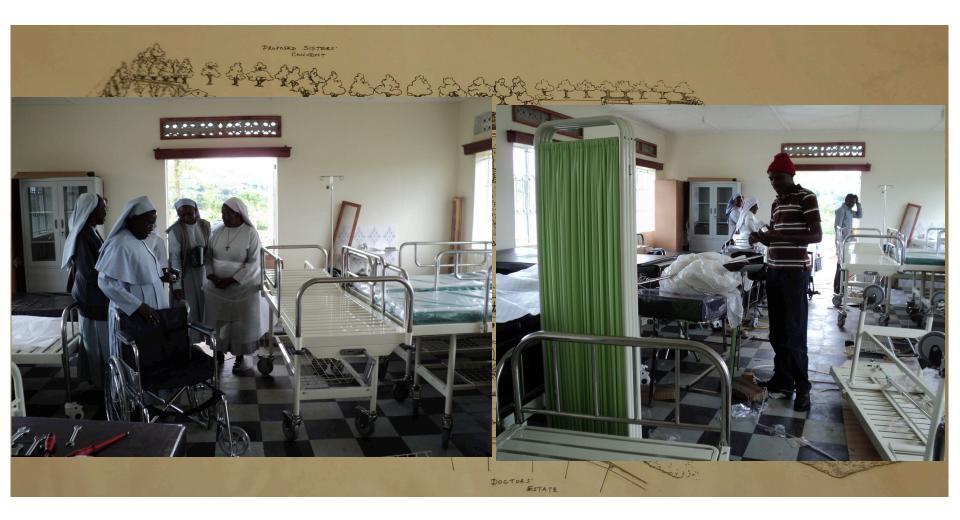
- Every pregnancy counts ...so account for every pregnancy
- Every baby counts so account for every new born.
- Every new born has a weight so weigh them.
- There is always a cause of death so account for all the death.

#### **Our challenge**

- Like so many pilot studies, the funding has ended and we look for ways sustain our progress
- We need a Samaritan fund to continue with access



### moving delivery care closer to mothers



## Water harvest project estimated \$10,000 U.S.

- Thinking of Water Harvest project
- Tapping from the roofs
- Underground tank so that when there is drought the patients will still have water in the hospital.
- Soon we have a physician but no ECG
- Laboratory reagents
- Capital to off set patients who are abandoned



## Maternal and Perinatal Audit meeting



### Obstetrics at Virika Hospital Fort Portal, Uganda

	2009 N (% of deliveries)	2010 N (% of deliveries)	2011 N (% of deliveries)
Total deliveries	1850	2123	2043
- Cesarean section	568 (31%)	625 (29%)	589 (29%)
Number of referrals	406 (22%)	364 (17%)	457 (22%)
Number of stillbirths	175 (10%)	154 (7%)	147 (7%)
Early neonatal deaths	4 (2 per 1000)	3 (1.4 per 1000)	27 (13.2 per 1000)
Maternal deaths	15 (81 per 10000)	4 (18 per 10000)	8 (39 per 10000)
Babies born <2.5 kg	216 (12%)	119 (6%)	91(4%)
Number of HIV+ deliveries	169 (9.1)	206 (9.7)	199 (9.7)

#### In press, International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology 2014

#### **Health Educating Women**



# What our Michigan friendship has done for us

- Funding for fistula repair
- Ultra sound scan
- Doppler fetal scan
- Face lift of Virika Hospital
- Quality improvement tools
- Start-up funds for maternity center
- Opportunity for me to be here to share with you and rest a little



### Retained 2<sup>nd</sup> twin and found a 3<sup>rd</sup> one thanks to Ultrasound Scan





#### Doppler fetal scan





## Staffs in new uniforms, serving with a smile





#### Quality improvement

#### Labour ward uniforms

#### **Cashiers uniforms**



## Nurses happy receiving pulse oximeters and nebulizer





#### What can this community do?

- Keep us in your heart and prayers.
- Know that we are very grateful for the generous time and financial support that has been provided
- Join with us that your gifts of time and financial supported will be appreciated.





### Acknowledgements

• My appreciation to <u>many</u> Ann Arbor friends!

#### It is not how much work we do wherever we are but the LOVE with which we do it as we search and see the Face of God in every one

Sister Priscilla Busingye MD (OBS/GYN)

### Thank you!!!!