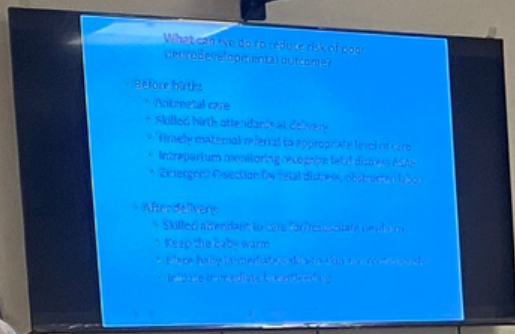




THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH



PROF. YVONNE VAUCHER'S NEONATAL CARE LECTURES ON HIGH-RISK INFANT NEURODEVELOPMENT FOLLOW-UP PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION IN THE WEST NILE REGION

25th - 29th March 2024



Health Volunteers Overseas
Transforming Lives Through Education

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2024

MARCH
25th-29th



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EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

Accompanying Prof. Yvonne Vaucher and Dr. Margaret Nakakeeto on their visit to the West Nile region has been a profoundly enlightening experience.

From Nebbi to Adjumani, we've witnessed dedicated healthcare professionals striving to enhance neonatal care. Prof. Yvonne's expertise has sparked inspiration, equipping local teams with valuable insights. Despite challenges, the commitment to improving healthcare shines bright.

Let's continue supporting these efforts for healthier futures.

Best regards,



Waliggo Henry

Editor

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Executive Summary:

Prof. Vaucher Yvonne's visit to the West Nile region from March 25th to 29th, 2024, was dedicated to enhancing the knowledge and skills of healthcare workers regarding follow-up clinic procedures and the neural development of neonates. Throughout her fieldwork, she visited a total of 6 hospitals, with 7 hospitals participating in her lectures.

Starting on Monday, March 25th, Prof. Yvonne conducted lectures at Nebbi General Hospital, with attendees from Nebbi GH and St. Luke Angal Hospital. Subsequent lectures were held on Tuesday at Arua Regional Referral Hospital and Koboko Hospital, followed by Yumbe RRH on Wednesday, Moyo General Hospital on Thursday, and Adjumani General Hospital on Friday.

During her visit, She meticulously inspected NICU units and KMC rooms in each hospital, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the facilities' capabilities and challenges. A total of 100 healthcare providers were trained during the sessions, consisting of 83 females and 17 males.

The training sessions were met with enthusiasm and positive feedback from the participants, indicating a significant impact on their skills and knowledge in neonatal care.

Furthermore, it is worth noting that the West Nile region in Uganda had been experiencing a prolonged dry spell, with little to no rainfall for several months. However, coinciding with Dr. Yvonne's visit, each district she visited experienced unexpected rainfall. Some participants even humorously remarked, "Wow, Professor Yvonne has brought us rain."

Overall, Prof. Yvonne's visit to the West Nile region proved to be a transformative experience, empowering healthcare workers and fostering improvements in neonatal care services throughout the region.

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Background

In Uganda, the issue of inadequate follow-up care for newborns post-hospital discharge is a significant concern. Many infants are discharged from healthcare facilities without adequate monitoring and support, leaving them vulnerable to undetected health complications.

Early follow-up after discharge is crucial, particularly for high-risk infants, as it allows for the timely identification of potential congenital malformations or signs of illness that may not be apparent during the immediate newborn period. This early intervention can significantly improve outcomes and reduce the risk of adverse health events.

Recognizing the critical need to address these gaps in newborn care, Dr. Margaret Nakakeeto through her foundation "Nakakeeto Foundation", in collaboration with the Newborn Steering Committee-Ministry of Health, took proactive steps to enhance follow-up practices. This initiative included inviting Prof. Vaucher Yvonne, a distinguished expert in the High-Risk Infant Neurodevelopment Follow-Up program, to visit healthcare facilities in the West Nile region.



ABOUT WEST NILE



The West Nile sub-region is an area in the northwestern part of Uganda, named after its location on the western side of the Albert Nile. It shares borders with the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the south and west, South Sudan to the north, and the Albert Nile to the east. The largest town in the sub-region is Arua, which recently became a city. Arua is about 420 kilometers (260 miles) northwest of Kampala, the capital of Uganda. West Nile is becoming a rapidly growing economic center in Uganda, with 11 districts, including Adjumani, Arua, Koboko, Maracha, Moyo, Nebbi, Yumbe, Zombo, Obongi, Madi Okollo, and Pakwach.

The population of West Nile is around 2,988,300 people, living in approximately 500,000 households as estimated in 2018. The region's social life revolves around households, and local governance is centered in villages. The ethnic composition includes Sudanic groups like Lugbara, Kakwa, Madi, and Nilotic Alur. Other ethnicities present are Ukebu, Kuku, Nubians, along with various Ugandan tribes, Indians, other Asians, Congolese, and South Sudanese. The region has 10 hospitals, 10 HC IVs, 18 HC IIIs and 12 HC IIs. West Nile hosts the largest refugee settlement in Africa, including the second-largest in the world, the Bidi bidi settlement. The refugee health system operates separately from the host system.



Prof. Yvonne and Dr. Nakakeeto warmly introduce themselves to the Hospital Director of Nebbi General Hospital, ready to embark on their mission of enhancing neonatal care.



THE GOAL

Improve healthcare efficiency and decision-making through the High-Risk Infant Neurodevelopment Follow-Up program, thereby improving the long-term developmental outcomes of high-risk infants in the region



Objectives



01 Build Expertise:

Provide intensive training sessions to healthcare providers on the principles and practices of the High-Risk Infant Neurodevelopment Follow-Up program, ensuring they possess the necessary expertise to effectively implement the program.

03 Strengthen Clinic Procedures:

Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of follow-up clinic procedures, including standardized assessment protocols, documentation practices, and communication strategies, to optimize the delivery of care to high-risk infants and their families.

02 Implement Best Practices:

Equip healthcare providers with evidence-based strategies and tools for assessing and monitoring the neurodevelopmental progress of high-risk infants, enabling early intervention and personalized care plans.

04 Foster Collaboration:

Foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing among healthcare providers, multidisciplinary teams, and community stakeholders involved in the care of high-risk infants, promoting a holistic and integrated approach to neurodevelopmental follow-up.





TARGET PERSONS:

NURSES:

Nurses working in various capacities, especially those directly involved in caring for newborns.

MIDWIVES:

Midwives responsible for supporting maternal and newborn health.

DOCTORS:

Medical professionals including doctors, who are actively engaged in newborn care and medical decision-making.





Site Information:

The training program effectively involved participants from various backgrounds across seven hospitals in the West Nile region.



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NEBBI GH AND ST. LUKE ANGAL HOSPITAL

Nebbi General Hospital:

Established in 1969 during the first government of Prime Minister Milton Obote, Nebbi General Hospital has been a cornerstone of healthcare in Nebbi District. Initially, the hospital faced infrastructure challenges common to many government healthcare facilities of its era, including outdated equipment and dilapidated infrastructure. However, despite these obstacles, Nebbi GH has persisted in providing essential healthcare services to the community.

Located in the heart of Nebbi town's central business district, the hospital serves as the district's primary healthcare facility, catering to the medical needs of residents in Nebbi and surrounding areas. It boasts a bed capacity of 108, ensuring that patients receive adequate care and attention during their stay. Nebbi General Hospital is situated approximately 78 kilometers southeast of Arua Regional Referral Hospital, positioning it strategically within the West Nile sub-region of Northern Uganda.

St. Luke Angal Hospital:

St. Luke Angal Hospital is a privately-owned, non-profit community hospital under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Nebbi. Accredited to the Uganda Catholic Medical Bureau and administered by the Comboni Missionaries, St. Luke Angal Hospital plays a vital role in providing healthcare services to the community. Its affiliation with religious institutions underscores its commitment to delivering holistic care that addresses both the physical and spiritual needs of patients.

The hospital serves a diverse patient population, drawing individuals not only from Nebbi District but also from neighboring districts such as Arua and Zombo. Additionally, patients from neighboring countries, including South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, seek medical attention at St. Luke Angal Hospital, highlighting its regional significance. With a robust infrastructure and a bed capacity of 260, the hospital employs 153 full-time medical and support staff, ensuring the delivery of quality healthcare services.

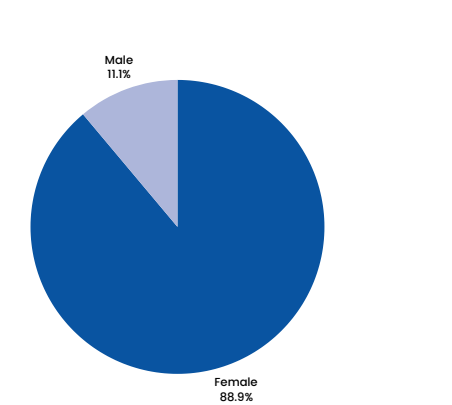
Training Session at Nebbi GH and St. Luke Angal Hospital:

During the training session at Nebbi General Hospital and St. Luke Angal Hospital, healthcare providers from both institutions actively participated in knowledge exchange and skill-building activities. The presentations delivered by the teams provided valuable insights into their respective healthcare practices and challenges, setting the stage for meaningful discussions and learning opportunities.

Following the presentations and lecture, Prof. Yvonne graciously visited the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Nebbi General Hospital, further enriching the learning experience and fostering collaboration between healthcare providers and expert trainers. For access to the presentations delivered during the training session, please follow this link: [Link to Presentations https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1fK5J0UgqNM2vSKtbZTKHWOELq1lzqC8v/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=101157959723947825127&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1fK5J0UgqNM2vSKtbZTKHWOELq1lzqC8v/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=101157959723947825127&rtpof=true&sd=true)

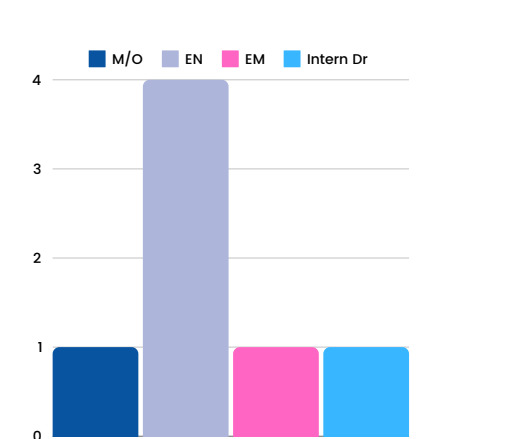
Overall, the training session at Nebbi GH and St. Luke Angal Hospital was characterized by active participation, knowledge sharing, and a shared commitment to improving neonatal healthcare practices in the region.

Figure 1. Showing distribution of participants by Gender.



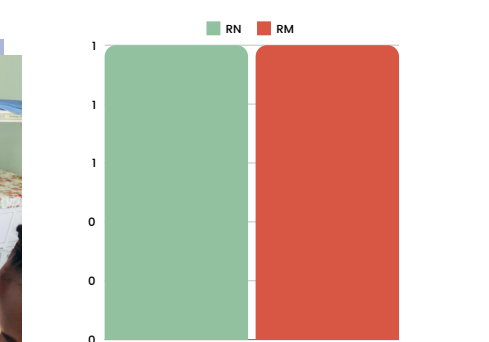
Team Breakdown: 1 male and 8 females.

Figure 2. Showing distribution of participants by CADRE. (Nebbi GH)

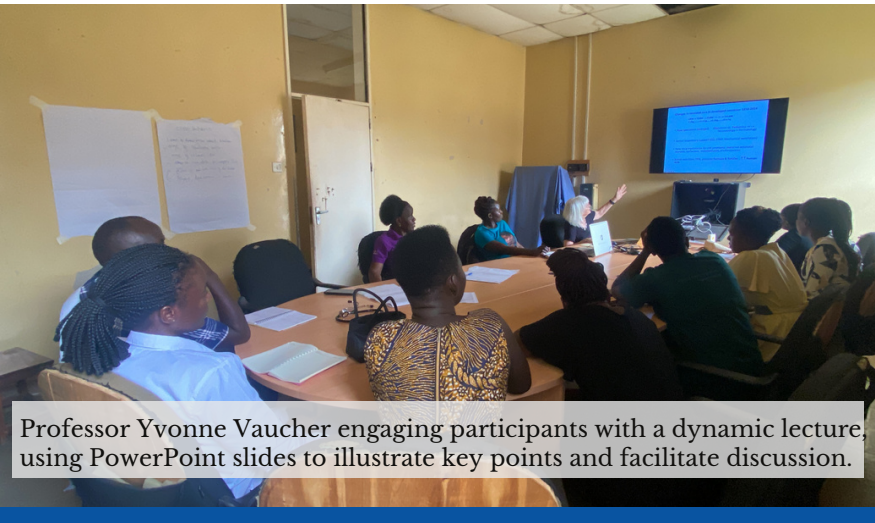


7 healthcare workers underwent training, comprising 4 Enrolled Nurses, 1 Enrolled Midwife, 1 Medical Officer, and 1 Intern Doctor.

Figure 3. Showing distribution of participants by CADRE. (St. Luke Angal Hospital)



2 healthcare workers underwent training, comprising 1 Registered Nurses and 1 Registered Midwife.



Professor Yvonne Vaucher engaging participants with a dynamic lecture, using PowerPoint slides to illustrate key points and facilitate discussion.



NICU nurses proudly give Prof. Yvonne a tour of the Nebbi General Hospital NICU.



Prof. Yvonne demonstrates the ideal phototherapy distance to nurses, ensuring safe and effective neonatal treatment, emphasizing the importance of maintaining a low height not high



ARUA REGIONAL REFERRAL HOSPITAL



Dr. Bishop, Arua's DHO, warmly welcomes Prof. Yvonne and Dr. Nakakeeto to Arua District.

The visit to Arua Regional Referral Hospital provided an insightful glimpse into the healthcare landscape of the West Nile region. Situated in the bustling city of Arua, this public hospital plays a vital role in providing essential healthcare services to the community. Despite facing challenges such as overcrowding and limited resources, Arua RRH remains dedicated to its mission of delivering quality care to all patients, regardless of their background or financial status.

The day began with a warm welcome from the District Health Officer, Dr. Bishop, setting a positive tone for the collaborative efforts to come.

Prof. Yvonne and her team were graciously received, highlighting the spirit of cooperation between local healthcare authorities and visiting experts.

A tour of the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) revealed a well-organized and dedicated team of healthcare professionals committed to the well-being of their neonatal patients. This firsthand experience underscored the importance of effective neonatal care practices in improving health outcomes for vulnerable newborns.

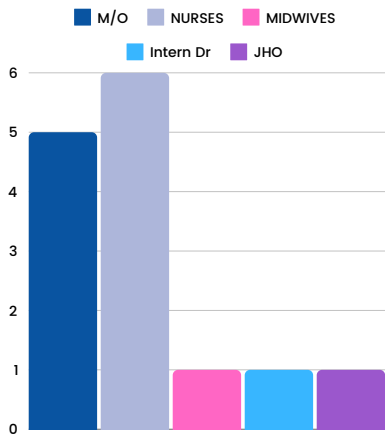
The lecture session, held in the hospital's boardroom, drew enthusiastic participation from 12 healthcare professionals, representing a diverse range of backgrounds and expertise. Their engaging presentation shed light on the unique challenges and innovative approaches within their healthcare setting, sparking valuable discussions and knowledge exchange.

For access to the presentations delivered by the participants, please follow this link: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1AuCkdER_TB-VnGbEBpRhaxK-nOdL8lEI/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=101157959723947825127&rtpof=true&sd=true

Prof. Yvonne's insightful lecture engaged the audience, offering practical strategies for enhancing neonatal care practices and improving high-risk infant neurodevelopmental follow-up. The interactive nature of the session encouraged active engagement and fostered a dynamic learning environment.

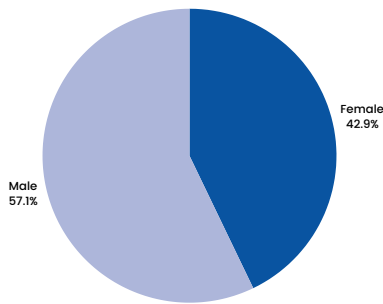
Overall, the visit to Arua RRH exemplified the spirit of collaboration and shared commitment to advancing neonatal healthcare in the region. Through mutual respect and cooperation, healthcare professionals from both local and international contexts can work together to overcome challenges and improve health outcomes for newborns in the West Nile region.

Figure 1. Showing distribution of participants by CADRE.

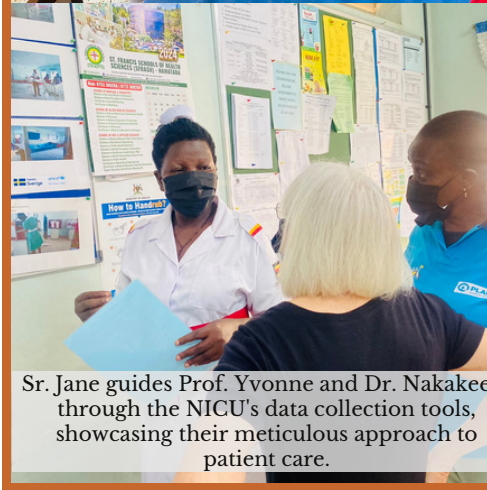


14 healthcare workers underwent training, comprising 5 Doctors, 6 Nurses, 1 Intern Doctor, 1 Midwife and 1 Health officer

Figure 2. Showing distribution of participants by Gender.



The team was composed of 8 males and 6 females



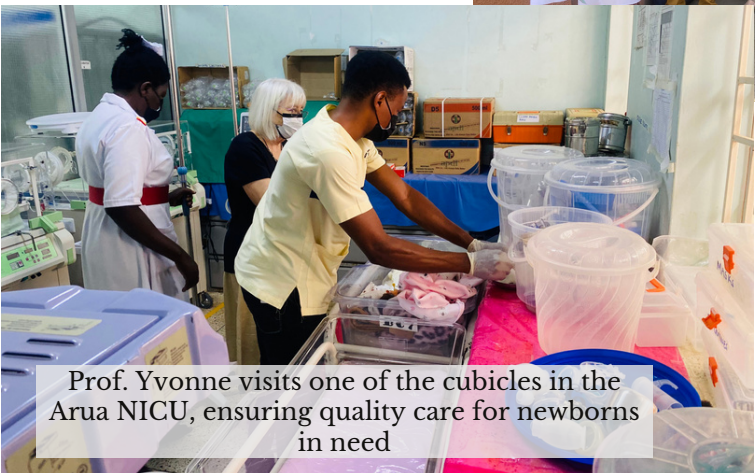
Sr. Jane guides Prof. Yvonne and Dr. Nakakee through the NICU's data collection tools, showcasing their meticulous approach to patient care.



Prof. Yvonne delivers an engaging lecture, sharing her expertise to enhance neonatal care practices.



Prof. Yvonne observes a baby in an incubator, ensuring optimal care for the little one's health and development.



Prof. Yvonne visits one of the cubicles in the Arua NICU, ensuring quality care for newborns in need



KOBOKO HOSPITAL



The visit to Koboko Hospital took place in the afternoon following the morning session in Arua, with the hospital located approximately 56 kilometers away from Arua.

Prior to the hospital visit, the team made a courteous stop at the office of the District Health Officer (DHO), Dr. Denis, where they were warmly welcomed. This initial interaction with local health authorities underscored the collaborative approach to healthcare improvement efforts in the region.

Upon arrival at Koboko Hospital, 26 eager participants welcomed the team, including both hospital staff and healthcare workers from Health Center IIIs in Koboko district. This diverse group, comprising 10 male and several

female attendees, demonstrated a collective commitment to improving neonatal care practices.

NICU Incharge Amos Yole led a comprehensive presentation, offering valuable insights into the hospital's neonatal care protocols and challenges. This presentation provided Prof. Yvonne and the team with a deeper understanding of the hospital's operational landscape.

To explore the insightful presentation from Koboko Hospital, kindly click on the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ZHoNtTIDfXpiT0pRDHq95D357BUGgcN3/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=101157959723947825127&rt=pof=true&sd=true>

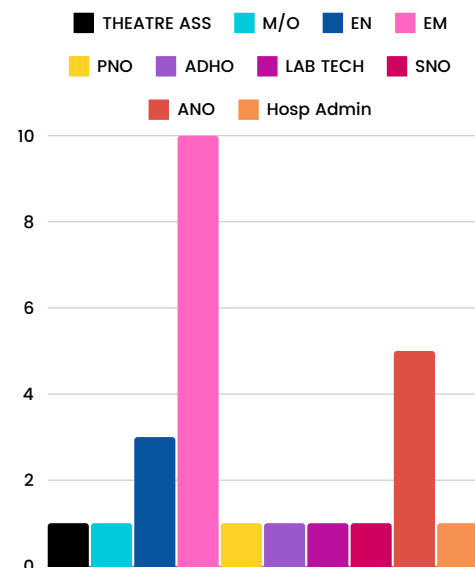
Following the informative session, Prof. Yvonne conducted a thorough tour of the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), gaining invaluable insights into the facility's infrastructure and patient care practices.



Amos a NICU nurse presenting the site presentation

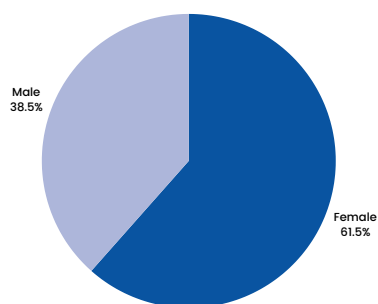
The visit to Koboko Hospital exemplified a collaborative effort between healthcare providers and expert trainers, united in their shared goal of advancing neonatal healthcare practices. Through knowledge exchange and capacity-building initiatives, the visit aimed to strengthen the quality of care provided to high-risk infants and improve long-term developmental outcomes."

Figure 1. Showing distribution of participants by CADRE.

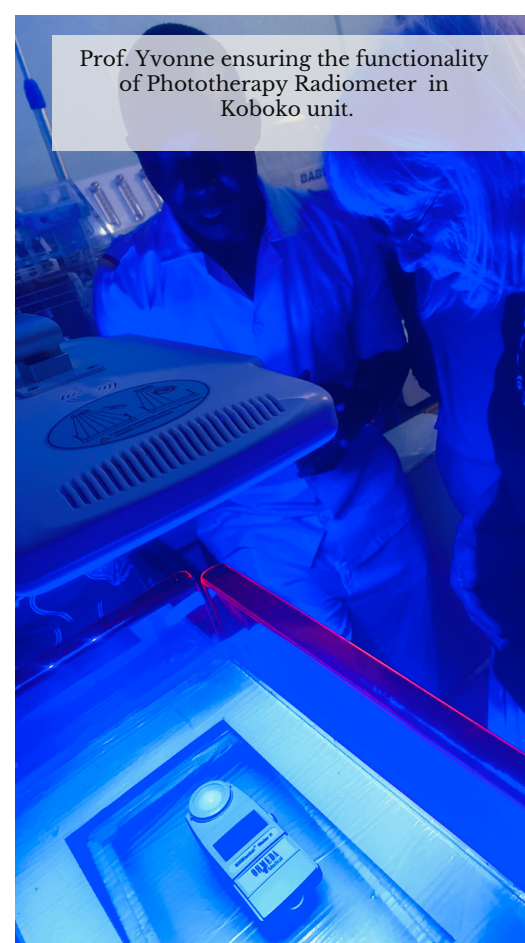


16 healthworkers under went through the training were 1 was theatre assiatant, 1 medical officer, e Enrolled Nurses, 10 Enrolled midwives, 1 PNO, the ADHO atteneded, 1 Lab Tech, 1 SNO, 5 ANOs and 1 Hospital administartor

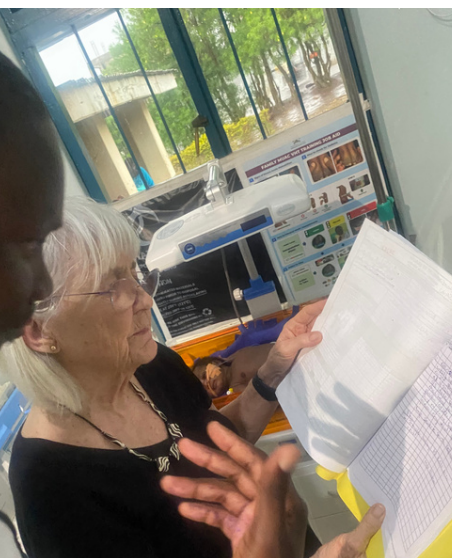
Figure 2. Showing distribution of participants by Gender.



Koboko had a number of 26 particioants where 10 were males and 16 females



Prof. Yvonne ensuring the functionality of Phototherapy Radiometer in Koboko unit.



A nurse carefully attending to a neonate inside the incubator using the NoviGuide tablet





YUMBE REGIONAL REFERRAL HOSPITAL

Yumbe Regional Referral Hospital, a pivotal 300-bed public institution, serves as a vital healthcare hub for several districts including Koboko, Obongi, Moyo, Adjumani, and its own. Situated in Yumbe District, Kuru Town Council, Omba Parish Gbalala, the hospital plays a crucial role in providing healthcare services to the surrounding communities.

On Wednesday, March 27th, in the morning session, the team led by Prof. Yvonne embarked on a visit to Yumbe RRH. They were graciously welcomed by Dr. Mubarak Nukur, the hospital's pediatrician, who facilitated introductions and escorted the team to meet with the hospital director, fostering a collaborative atmosphere from the outset.



Prof. Yvonne meets with the Hospital paediatrician Dr. Mubarak

The training session kicked off in the hospital's boardroom, with 15 eager participants in attendance. Notably, the majority of participants were female, with one male attendee present. Dr. Mubarak commenced the session with a detailed presentation, offering valuable insights into the hospital's neonatal care practices and shedding light on the challenges faced in the region. This presentation set the stage for engaging discussions and knowledge exchange throughout the training.

please follow this link to access the site presentation:
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1nfI9dGwQJAYGhLT07poJXDoKVuX-w4oa/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=101157959723947825127&rtpof=true&sd=true>



Prof. Yvonne and Dr. Marageret meets with the Hospital Director

Prof. Yvonne delivered an enlightening presentation on the High-Risk Infant Neurodevelopment Follow-Up program, sharing her expertise and practical strategies for enhancing neonatal care practices. Her interactive session captivated participants and provided evidence-based approaches to neurodevelopmental follow-up, empowering healthcare providers with valuable insights.

After the training session, Prof. Yvonne was given a comprehensive tour of the hospital, including a visit to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). This firsthand experience offered valuable insights into the hospital's infrastructure and patient care practices, further enriching the learning experience and fostering collaboration between the visiting experts and local healthcare providers.



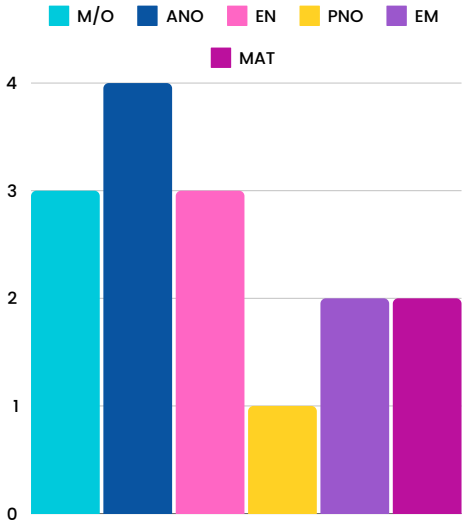
Prof. Yvonne delivering her lecture to the HealthCare service providers

The visit to Yumbe RRH underscored a shared commitment to improving neonatal healthcare practices in the region, with collaborative efforts aimed at enhancing the quality of care provided to high-risk infants. Through knowledge exchange, practical training, and engagement with hospital leadership, the session marked a significant step towards advancing neonatal healthcare in the Yumbe District and beyond.



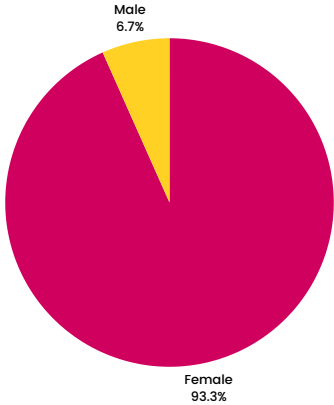
Dr. Mubarak presenting the site presentation

Figure 1. Showing distribution of participants by CADRE.



The lecture had 3 Medical Officer, 4 Assistant Nurse Officers, 8 Enrolled Nurses, 1 Principle Nursing Officer, 2 Enrolled Midwife and 2 MAT

Figure 2. Showing distribution of participants by Gender.



Yumbe had a number of 15 particioants where 14 were Females and 1 male



The Neonatal Unit at the Pediatric ward



In the Clinical laboratory



In the Hospital NICU





MOYO GENERAL HOSPITAL

Moyo General Hospital, a cornerstone of healthcare in Moyo District, West Nile sub-region, Northern Uganda, stands as a testament to the region's commitment to healthcare provision. Established during the late 1960s and commissioned by Idi Amin in 1972, the hospital continues to serve as a vital healthcare hub for the community.

On Thursday, March 28th, the team embarked on a visit to Moyo GH, commencing with a courtesy call to the District Health Officer (DHO) to foster collaborative ties and extend greetings. Upon arrival at the hospital, the team was warmly greeted by Wasswa Christopher, who graciously escorted them to the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Prof. Yvonne had the opportunity to observe firsthand the commendable practices and facilities in the NICU, setting a positive tone for the visit.

Subsequently, the training session unfolded in the hospital's boardroom, with 8 dedicated participants in attendance, among whom only one was male. Wasswa presented the hospital's unique practices and challenges, providing valuable insights into the local healthcare landscape. His presentation served as a catalyst for discussions and learning during the training session.

To view the presentation shared by Moyo General Hospital, kindly click on the following link: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/178Vzpc2Y26MeW_YviWXSJ-_jHvd8VEg5/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=101157959723947825127&rtpof=true&sd=true

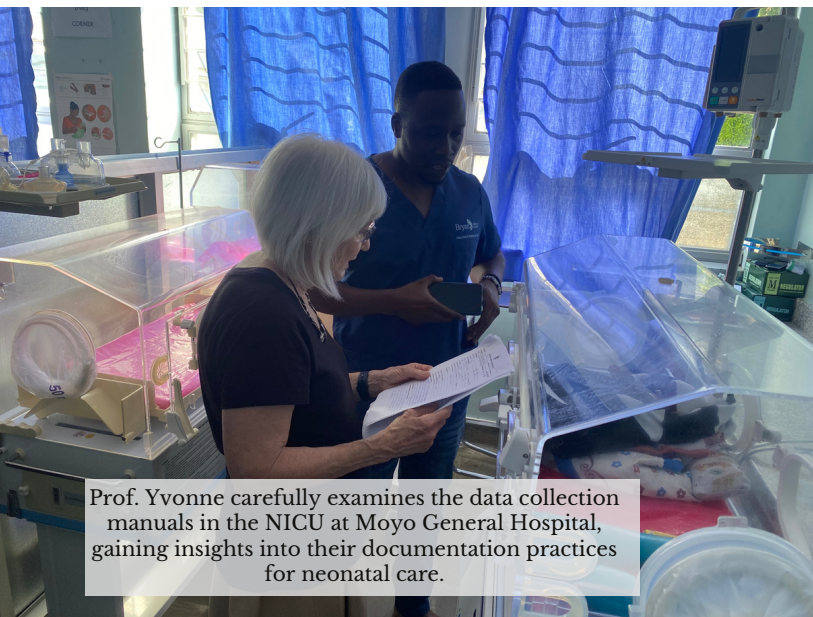
Prof. Yvonne delivered a comprehensive lecture on the High-Risk Infant Neurodevelopment Follow-Up program, sharing her expertise and practical strategies for improving neonatal care practices. Her engaging presentation impressed the audience and stimulated meaningful discussions.



Following the lecture, the team received valuable insights about an innovative tool called vENC (Virtual Essential Newborn Care), a mobile phone-based virtual reality simulation designed to enhance neonatal resuscitation and early newborn care skills. This introduction highlighted the ongoing efforts to enhance healthcare practices in the region. The visit to Moyo GH exemplified the commitment to advancing neonatal healthcare practices, fostering collaboration, and introducing innovative solutions to improve the quality of care provided to high-risk infants in the region.



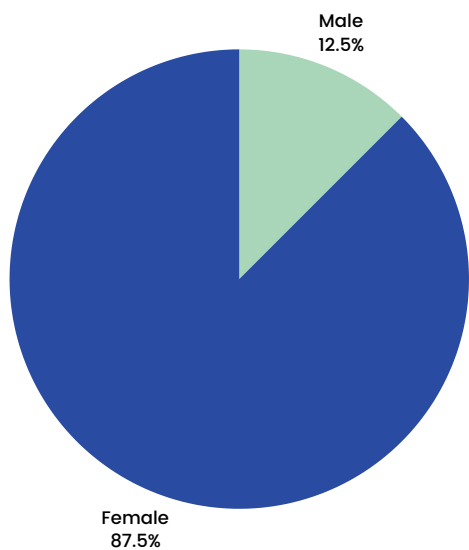
A nurse at Moyo experiencing the vENC (Virtual Essential Newborn Care) tool firsthand, wearing virtual recorder gadgets to simulate neonatal care scenarios.



Prof. Yvonne carefully examines the data collection manuals in the NICU at Moyo General Hospital, gaining insights into their documentation practices for neonatal care.



Figure 2. Showing distribution of participants by Gender.



A total of 8 health workers were trained. Majority (7) of the participants were female and only (1) was male.



Prof. Yvonne is taking a peaceful ferry ride across the R. Nile River with Dr. Margaret, going from Moyo to Adjumani district. It's the evening after a training



ADJUMANI GENERAL HOSPITAL

Adjumani General Hospital, located in Adjumani Town, Uganda, serves as a critical healthcare facility in the Northern Region, addressing various medical needs, including malaria and respiratory infections. With a bed capacity of 100 and an average of 200 outpatient visits daily, the hospital is a lifeline for the community, handling approximately 10 deliveries each day.

Adjumani GH, a public hospital owned by the Ugandan Government and administered by the Ministry of Health, caters to patients not only from Adjumani District but also from neighboring districts such as Amuru and Moyo, and even from South Sudan. Despite resource constraints, the hospital staff demonstrates dedication and resilience in providing essential healthcare services to the community.

The visit to Adjumani GH coincided with Good Friday, a public holiday, yet the commitment of participants ensured the success of our training session. The visit commenced with an inspection of the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) room, where Prof. Yvonne expressed satisfaction with the quality of care provided. Despite the holiday closure of hospital offices, participants ensured the availability of the boardroom for our training session. Although lacking visual aids, the participants provided valuable insights into their follow-up practices during the session.



Prof. Yvonne observes with satisfaction as mothers practice Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) in the dedicated room at Adjumani General Hospital



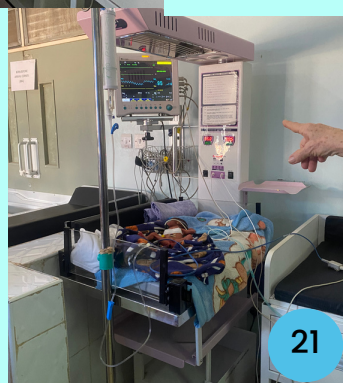
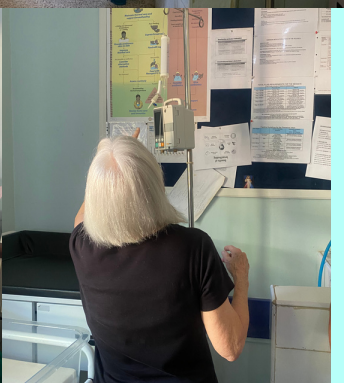
Prof. Yvonne observes with satisfaction as mothers practice Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) in the dedicated room at Adjumani General Hospital



Mothers feeding babies in hospital's special baby room.



Prof. Yvonne discussing with mothers of preterm babies in the unit.



Prof. Yvonne delivered a comprehensive lecture on the High-Risk Infant Neurodevelopment Follow-Up program, sharing her expertise and best practices with the participants. Despite the absence of visual aids, her engaging delivery captivated the audience and stimulated meaningful discussions. The session highlighted the importance of collaboration and knowledge exchange in enhancing neonatal care practices.

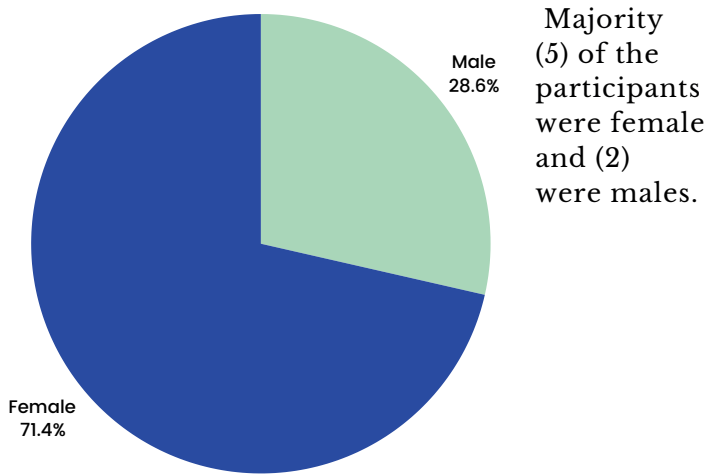


Conclusion:
The visit to Adjumani GH exemplifies the dedication of healthcare providers to improving neonatal care practices, even amidst holiday constraints. Through collaborative efforts and knowledge exchange, we remain committed to enhancing the quality of care provided to high-risk infants in the region. The visit underscored the critical role of training and capacity-building initiatives in strengthening healthcare systems and improving health outcomes for vulnerable populations.

Figure 1. Showing distribution of participants by CADRE.



Figure 2. Showing distribution of participants by Gender.





PROF. YVONNE'S EXPERTISE: EMPOWERING NEONATAL HEALTHCARE ACROSS WEST NILE

Prof. Yvonne E. Vaucher, MD, MPH from the University of California, San Diego, Division of Neonatology, conducted a comprehensive series of lectures across several hospitals in the West Nile region of Uganda from March 25th to 29th, 2024. Her presentations focused on "Improving Newborn Outcomes in Uganda" and covered a wide range of topics aimed at enhancing neonatal care practices and neurodevelopmental follow-up procedures.

The lectures began with an overview of the evolution of neonatal care practices, highlighting advancements in respiratory support, drug treatments, and nutrition, which have significantly improved outcomes for high-risk infants. Prof. Yvonne emphasized the importance of addressing long-term neurodevelopmental risks, such as cerebral palsy, cognitive impairment, and sensory impairments, which are prevalent among very low birth weight infants.

She underscored the critical interventions needed before and after birth to reduce the risk of poor neurodevelopmental outcomes, including antenatal care, skilled birth attendance, immediate breastfeeding initiation, and postnatal monitoring for complications. Additionally, she outlined the essential components of neurodevelopmental follow-up programs, emphasizing the importance of early assessment, standardized screening exams, and adjusted age considerations for preterm infants.

Throughout her visit, Prof. Yvonne interacted with healthcare providers, sharing valuable insights and practical strategies for improving neonatal care practices and promoting optimal neurodevelopmental outcomes. Her lectures were well-received by participants, who appreciated the opportunity to enhance their skills and knowledge in this critical area of healthcare.

Furthermore, Her visit provided a platform for collaborative learning and knowledge exchange among healthcare professionals in the West Nile region. Attendees benefited from engaging discussions, hands-on demonstrations, and access to cutting-edge research and best practices in neonatal care.

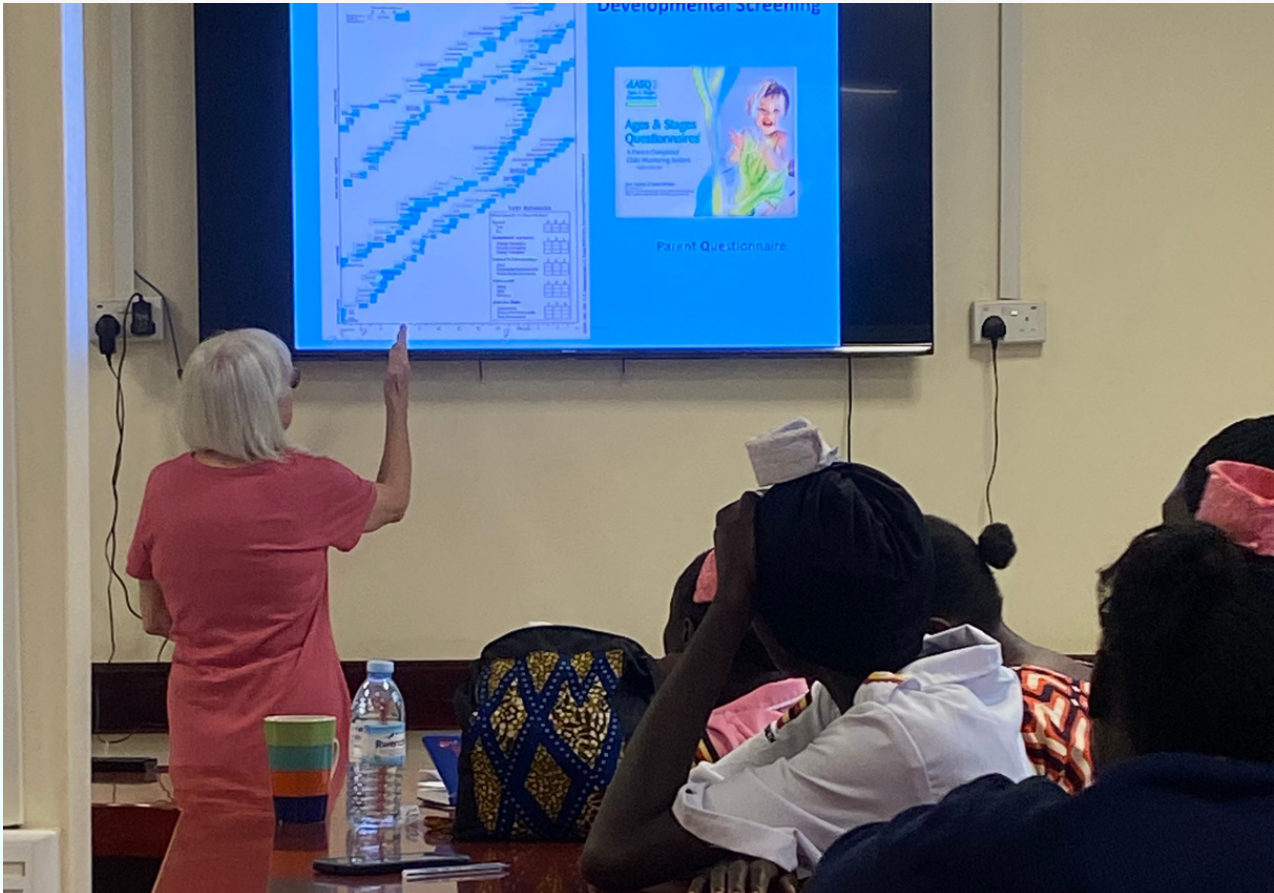
Please follow this link to view her presentation:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xrAkkNGl6CoLX9a-lW_uuD5cbQhsqqQn/view?usp=sharing

Overall, Prof. Yvonne's visit served as a catalyst for strengthening neonatal care services in the West Nile region, providing healthcare providers with the tools and knowledge needed to deliver high-quality care to newborns and reduce the burden of long-term neurodevelopmental disabilities. The impact of her visit is expected to resonate beyond the duration of the lectures, fostering continued improvements in neonatal healthcare delivery and outcomes in the region.



Recommendations



1

Expand HVO training initiatives beyond Kampala to include regional hospitals, ensuring equitable access to specialized neonatal care education across Uganda. Additionally, deploying fellows to facilitate training sessions can enhance capacity-building efforts and sustain knowledge transfer at regional levels.

2

Provide continued support for follow-up programs to ensure the effective implementation and sustainability of high-risk infant neurodevelopmental follow-up initiatives. This support can include resource allocation, technical assistance, and monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess program effectiveness and address any emerging challenges.

Annex 1: Attendance Lists

ATTENDEE ROSTER FOR NEONATAL TRAINING WITH PROF. YVONNE VAUCHER IN THE WEST NILE.



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ATTENDEE ROSTER FOR NEONATAL TRAINING WITH PROF. YVONNE VAUCHER IN THE WEST NILE.



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**ATTENDEE ROSTER FOR NEONATAL
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**ATTENDEE ROSTER FOR NEONATAL
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DISTRICT: Nebbi FACILITY: Nebbi GH DATE: 25/03/2024

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Prepared by the Newborn Steering Committee, Ministry of Health - Uganda

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ATTENDEE ROSTER FOR NEONATAL

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DISTRICT: ARUA		FACILITY: ARUA RRH			DATE: 26 th 03.2024	
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Please refer to the attendance lists available on the following Google Docs link:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jsW9zszZBavpgLeGQtDZm3iVhXnzbEv8/edit>

NEONATAL SURVIVAL

The visit to multiple healthcare facilities across the West Nile region, led by Dr. Margaret Nakakeeto and Prof. Yvonne Vaucher, has significantly contributed to the enhancement of neonatal healthcare practices. Through engaging lectures, insightful discussions, and hands-on observations, healthcare providers have gained valuable knowledge and skills to improve the care of high-risk babies. The collaborative efforts between local healthcare authorities, expert trainers, and hospital staff underscore a shared commitment to advancing neonatal healthcare in the region. Moving forward, the insights gained from this visit will continue to guide efforts towards improving the quality of care provided to neonates, ultimately leading to better health outcomes in the West Nile community.



Enhancing Neonatal Healthcare Practices: A Journey Across West Nile Region with Prof. Yvonne Vaucher



Health Volunteers Overseas
Transforming Lives Through Education



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