

African Mission Healthcare

Strengthening the capacity of Mission teaching hospitals in Africa

In brief

Mission hospitals provide the only—or only quality—health care in many parts of Africa. African Mission Healthcare seeks to strengthen Mission hospitals as the foundation for high-quality and compassionate healthcare that helps to lead the transformation of health systems in Africa.

On a mission

About 11 percent of the world lives in sub-Saharan Africa. Many people in this region face sanitation and nutrition deprivation, which makes them vulnerable—they carry 24 percent of the world's disease burden. At the same time, the region has just 3 percent of the world's health-care workers. The World Health Organization estimates Africa's workforce deficit is 1.8 million health professionals.

Mission hospitals are well positioned to improve clinical health systems on the continent. The faith-based sector provides approximately one-third of the medical care in sub-Saharan Africa and often a higher percentage of quality medical care. African mission hospitals are also training centers, producing qualified nurses, physician assistants and, increasingly, doctors and specialists. They have long, deep roots in the local communities they serve, having survived wars, famine, epidemics, and poverty—earning the trust of the people in those communities.

The partner

African Mission Healthcare supports mission hospitals to maximize their impact on their local communities and the broader health system. AMH focuses on closing healthcare gaps in a meaningful and sustainable manner by training, supporting critically needed infrastructure and equipment, and supporting direct clinical care. Instead of offering a standard, easily repeatable solution, AMH spends time and resources to identify what is truly needed. AMH carefully selects the hospitals with which they work, takes time to understand and build relationships, and truly partner—not prescribing answers but together developing solutions.

The philanthropic solution

AMH is focused on executing against four key strategic priorities:

- **Develop:** Strengthen and equip the next generation of mission teaching hospitals and clinical Centers of Excellence;
- **Treat:** Enable life-saving and life-changing interventions with the greatest impact;
- **Strengthen:** Build the capacity of partner hospitals by advancing governance, improving day-to-day operations and sharing knowledge; and
- **Partner:** Cultivate an effective network of healthcare institutions and supporting partners.

The evidence

AMH has not been independently evaluated to date; however, the value and impact of filling the identified healthcare gaps in the regions in which they work (e.g., lack of qualified physicians, surgeons, anesthetists and other healthcare workers) is supported by available research. AMH has shown positive outcomes in a few small scale studies; for example, following the renovation of an old and decrepit operating theater at a hospital in western Uganda into a clean and modern unit, despite a rise in surgical volume of 31%, the surgical complication rate fell by 62%.

The impact

This investment will support AMH to:

- Strengthen its monitoring and evaluation capacity
- Develop and execute investment cases for selected hospitals to fill key capacity gaps and help elevate them to the status of a Center of Excellence
- Create a network of Mission teaching hospitals

All programmatic data provided by African Mission Healthcare. The UBS Optimus Foundation is a grant-making foundation that offers UBS clients a platform to use their wealth to drive positive social and environmental change. The Foundation selects programs that improve children's health, education and protection, ones that have the potential to be transformative, scalable and sustainable as well as programs tackling environmental and climate issues.

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