

Global Strategies

Spring Newsletter 2022

May 2022

BirthLink Visits HEAL Africa's Neonatal Center



Adeline, Elisabeth, Kathy, Nadine, Charley, Muka & trainee Murielle (Photo: Paul Mellor, BirthLink)

Global Strategies long time British partner, BirthLink, visited our joint program in Goma, DRC. The visit marked the first in-person meeting since the Nyiragongo Volcano eruption in May 2021. The Congolese nursing team, led by Elisabeth Samvura, operates the Neonatal Center of Excellence at HEAL Africa Hospital in Goma. The work is life-saving; the Congolese nurses are experts in treating the top causes of newborn illness and are working in an area with some of the highest neonatal mortality rates in the world. The team met with Kathy Mellor of BirthLink to review the neonatal program, tour the new neonatal space and plan for the year ahead.

Nurses who attend the training center are often from isolated or remote clinics. Frequently they are responsible for both delivery of newborns and care after birth. The training program has two goals. The first goal is to improve the skill level of nurses in essential newborn care. The second goal is to create a network of neonatal nurses in North Kivu, beyond the city of Goma. After graduating from the program, trainees remain in touch with Elisabeth and her team through WhatsApp. This informal communication keeps nurses connected to their Congolese mentors and helps expedite the referral of sick babies who need the hospital's advanced neonatal intensive care unit.

A New Partnership: Preeclampsia Foundation

Global Strategies is proud to announce a new partnership with the Preeclampsia Foundation to improve access to health information for pregnant women. Preeclampsia is a condition in pregnancy characterized by high blood pressure and end-organ damage, frequently involving the kidneys. It is one of the leading causes of both maternal and infant morbidity and mortality globally. In the United States, preeclampsia occurs in 4% of pregnancies and is responsible for 6% of preterm births. In Africa, preeclampsia and eclampsia, the progression of the disease to include seizures, are main drivers of high maternal mortality rates.

Low-dose aspirin can reduce the risk of developing preeclampsia when it is taken daily by pregnant women at risk for preeclampsia. There are two challenges to improving uptake of this potentially life-saving, simple and low-cost treatment. First, clinicians need to identify women at risk for preeclampsia. Risk factors are divided into major and minor groups. The major group of risk factors include prior preeclampsia, diabetes, twins or high blood pressure. The minor group includes family history, obesity and numerous social determinants of health. The second challenge is that pregnant women need to take the therapy once it is prescribed. A baby aspirin may seem trivial and yet can be vitally important.



To address these challenges Global Strategies and the Preeclampsia Foundation used Global Strategies' NoviGuide software to create the Aspirin Educator. Available online at www.preeclampsia.org/aspirin, the Aspirin Educator helps pregnant women determine their own risk level for preeclampsia. Women receive the results as a 'conversation starter' to share with their doctors.

Women can use the Aspirin Educator to prepare for discussions about aspirin or to understand why their doctors may have recommended low-dose aspirin during pregnancy. The work with preeclampsia is just the beginning for Global Strategies. The team is currently working on preeclampsia treatment pathways to add to its digital tools in East Africa.



noviguide

Guía de la aspirina de dosis baja ✓

Comencemos con los principales factores de riesgo, partes de su historial médico que pueden aumentar su riesgo de preeclampsia.

1 Tuve preeclampsia en un embarazo anterior.

Sí

No

No estoy segura

NoviGuide's Aspirin Educator is available in English and Spanish (Images: Preeclampsia Foundation, preeclampsia.org)





Tuseme Kweli: Providing Holistic Care to Survivors of Sexual Violence

Global Strategies will be a part of a major 6-year gender-based violence initiative with the University of Montreal and Panzi Foundation called Tuseme Kweli—translated as ‘tell the truth’. The program, sponsored by the Canadian government, will be led by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Dr. Denis Mukwege and his team at Panzi Foundation. The goal of the program is to stop the violence and provide holistic care to survivors in the Democratic Republic of Congo and neighboring Burundi.

Global Strategies' role in Tuseme Kweli will be to use its model and digital tool, the GBV Tracker, to improve access to medical care for sexual violence survivors. A unique aspect of our model is the tracking of medical treatment kits to better understand how many women are seeking care and effectively allocate resources.

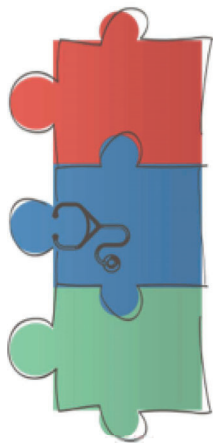
"I'm proud to join Panzi Foundation and the University of Montreal in this effort," says Jean Armas, the Global Strategies Program Manager, "I believe our approach can help reach survivors and gather data to better understand the scope and scale of violence. I also know our model works best when it is embedded into holistic programs that address the root causes of violence."

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Jean Armas

Global Strategies Program Manager

The South Kivu Region Team, L to R - Dr. Philippe Mambo, Mr. Amani King, Mme. Vira Wakusudi, Mr. Darius Kulondwa, Dr. Christine Amisi and Dr. Givano Kashemwa (Photo: Panzi Foundation)



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