



**NEO FOR
NAMIBIA**
HELPING BABIES
SURVIVE

TEAM

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**A more detailed report
can be downloaded from
www.neo-for-namibia.org**

MISSION REPORT 2022-1

SHORT VERSION

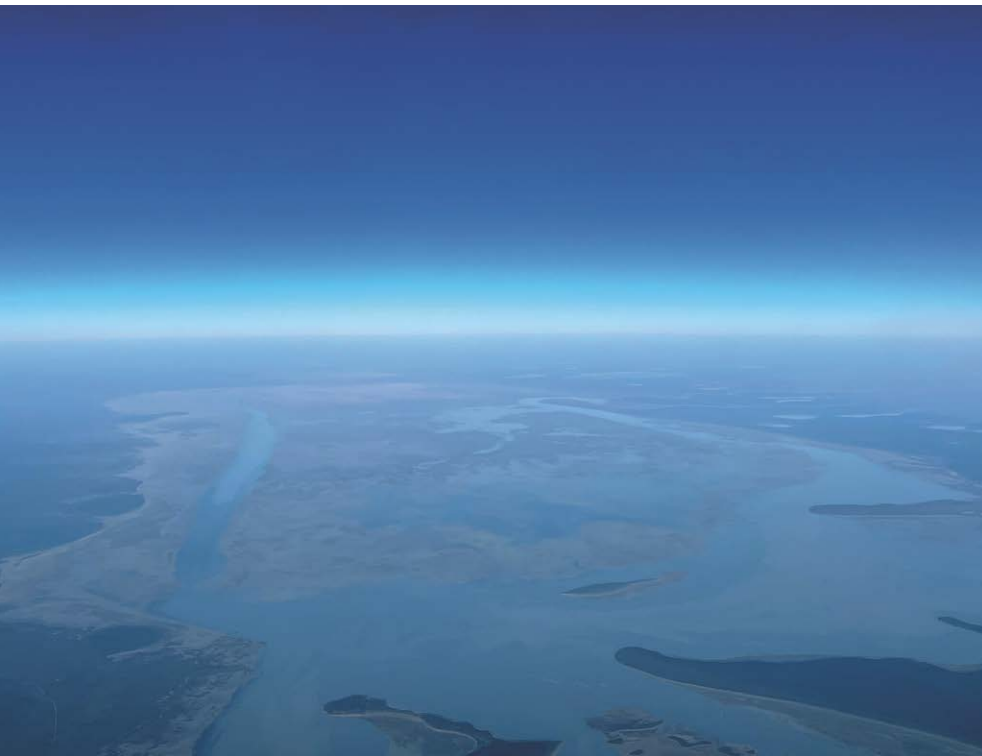
March 27 to April 30, 2022

Mission goals

- To update the inventory of all equipment and consumables provided by NEO FOR NAMIBIA – Helping Babies Survive since 2016 and to improve stock management at Rundu State Hospital and Katima Hospital
- To test the two new incubators from Phoenix Medical Systems that had finally arrived in Rundu after a more than 6-month-delay
- To review annual statistics for 2021 at both Rundu State Hospital and Katima Hospital

NEO FOR NAMIBIA
HELPING BABIES SURVIVE

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Hospitals visited

- Rundu State Hospital
- Katima Hospital

Flying over the Etosha pan at the end of the rainy season.

WORLD COUNTRIES
NAMIBIA

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OVERVIEW

All Time Past Day Past Week Past Month

Confirmed Cases
171,156

Deaths
4,090



VACCINE TRACKER

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Doses Administered
981,773

People receiving at least 1 dose
609,695

% of Population receiving at least 1 dose
24.00%

WORLD COUNTRIES

SWITZERLAND

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OVERVIEW

All Time Past Day Past Week Past Month

Confirmed Cases
4,413,911

Deaths
14,210



VACCINE TRACKER

[Learn more about vaccines.](#)

Doses Administered
16,930,555

People receiving at least 1 dose
6,096,277

% of Population receiving at least 1 dose
70.44%

The Corona pandemic

In Namibia, all Corona-related travel restrictions had been lifted for fully vaccinated people by the end of March 2022. Yet, many traces of the pandemic were still visible. While Namibia had less cases per 100'000 population than Switzerland, the case fatality rate was much higher (2.4% versus 0.3%).

Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center: comparison of confirmed cases and deaths between Switzerland and Namibia (accessed: April 4, 2023).



Signs of the past pandemic were still prevalent.

Challenging cases

We encountered several cases of traditional medicine intoxication (TMI). Babies receive unknown mixtures of plants or roots, either orally or as enemas, often for minor ailments (e.g., constipation). Undefined toxins contained in these preparations then lead to severe and even life-threatening multiorgan system failure (MOSF). The mortality rate of severely affected patients is very high (approximately 50%).

Patients with traditional medicine intoxication (TMI) often present with multiorgan system failure (MOSF): neurological symptoms, respiratory distress, liver and renal failure. Ribbons tied around wrists, ankles and abdomen are a tell-tale sign.



Term infant with a large occipital omphalocele, awaiting transfer to Windhoek.

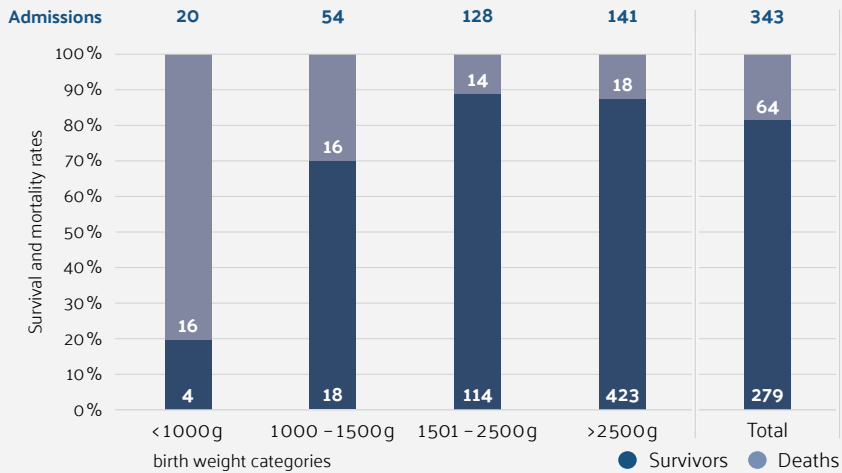
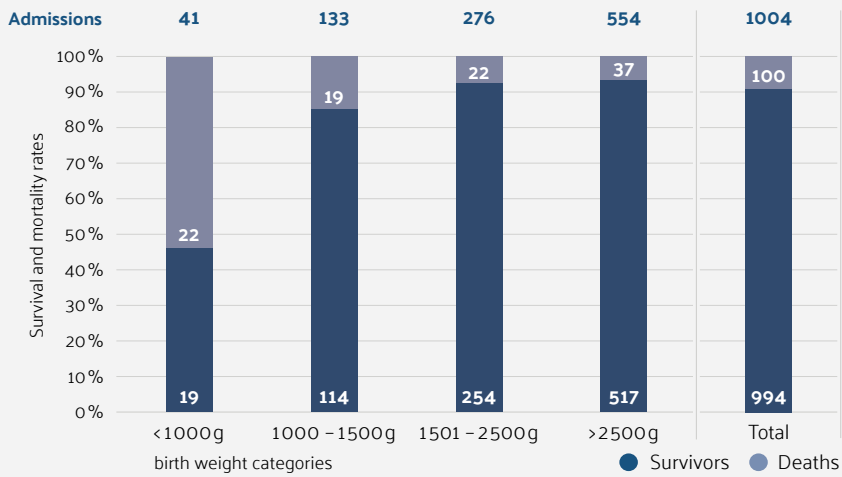


Term infant with distended abdomen and obvious pneumoperitoneum on X-ray also waiting to be transferred to Windhoek; the ultimate diagnosis remained unknown.



Preterm infant (birth weight 1'400 g) born in a village arrived with severe hypothermia (32.2°C) despite having been wrapped in cotton to keep it warm; the baby survived.





Statistics

At Rundu State Hospital, there had been 7'252 deliveries resulting in 7'213 live births and 126 stillbirths in 2021. The Cesarean section rate was 16.0%. A total of 1'004 infants were admitted to the Prem Unit (808 (80%) inborn babies, 196 (20%) outborn babies). 100 babies died (mortality rate 10.0%). The mortality rate for inborn babies stabilized at 8.0%, whereas the mortality rate for outborn babies remained more than twice as high (17.9%).

At Katima Hospital, there had been 4'711 deliveries resulting in 4'810 live births and 97 stillbirths in 2021. The Cesarean section rate was 5.1%. A total of 343 infants were admitted to the neonatal unit, and 64 babies died (mortality rate 18.7%).

Birthweight-specific mortality rates for the year 2021 at Rundu State Hospital (top) and Katima Hospital (bottom).



Images from Africa

To conclude this report, we would like to show some images of the wonderful people and the dramatic sceneries we have encountered.

Women of all ages carry their heavy loads of firewood with amazing grace.



The western end of the Victoria Falls, as seen from the Zimbabwe side.

Donate and help babies survive

neo-for-namibia.org/donate



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