



**NEO FOR
NAMIBIA**
HELPING BABIES
SURVIVE

TEAM

- Prof. Thomas M. Berger, MD

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

MISSION REPORT 2024-1

SHORT VERSION

March 15, 2024, to April 5, 2024

Mission goals

- To introduce a POCT bilirubin measuring device (Pfaff® Medical, Germany) in three additional neonatology units (Swakopmund, Walvis Bay, Oshakati)
- To introduce video laryngoscopy in Swakopmund/Walvis Bay and Katima
- To finalize statistical data for 2023 in all hospitals visited
- To discuss strategies for a large-scale introduction of the Vayu® bCPAP device

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Hospitals visited

- Swakopmund and Walvis Bay State Hospitals
- Rundu Intermediate Hospital
- Katima State Hospital

Namibia is elephant country: Kids at David's (wood carver) roadside shop (left); on the road to Katima (right).



Swakopmund State Hospital

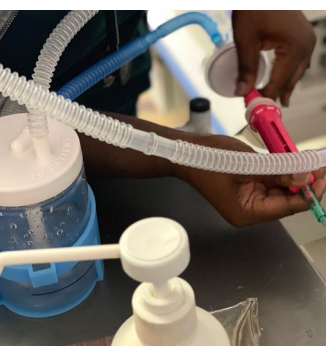
Dr. David Tjyokola, the Chief Medical Officer, described current challenges and the frustration with the enormous delay in getting their new intensive and intermediate care units completed because of legal difficulties with various contractors.



New neonatal unit in Swakopmund: the roof is still not covered, and unprotected structures already show signs of damage.



The new video laryngoscope was demonstrated in Swakopmund (left), and later in Katima and Rundu (right).



Walvis Bay State Hospital

In Walvis Bay, accompanied by Dr. Beatrice Maringo, a meeting was arranged with Dr. Augustu Gawab, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), as well as Dr. Dina Iishi (Medical Officer) and Rejoice Chawes (Medical Officer). Prof. Thomas M. Berger was asked to describe how NEO FOR NAMIBIA – Helping Babies Survive could potentially support further development of neonatal care in Walvis Bay and other parts of the Erongo region.

The Vayu® bCPAP device has been successfully used both at Swakopmund and Walvis Bay Hospitals.

Rundu Intermediate Hospital

Prof. Thomas M. Berger arrived in the Prem Unit on Saturday, March 23, 2024. He was warmly welcomed by Dr. Isha Kamara and Cecilia Ndepavali, RN.

Experience with the new CPAP device has still been limited because nurses put most patients on one of the seven MTTs Dolphin® bubbleCPAP machines, their preferred choice.

Prof. Thomas M. Berger took the opportunity to explain the potential benefits of the Vayu® bCPAP and retrain nurses and doctors in its use.

Rundu Intermediate Hospital: setting up the Vayu® bCPAP device for a baby that was just admitted (top); very low birth weight (VLBW) infant supported with the Vayu® bCPAP (bottom).



This preterm baby survived late-onset sepsis but showed obvious signs of a rapidly progressing hydrocephalus; this was confirmed by cerebral ultrasound examination (performed with a very old, only partially functioning ultrasound machine).



Cerebral ultrasound examination in a preterm baby following a period of invasive mechanical ventilation for recurrent apnea spells; Dr. Isha Kamara (middle) and Cecilia Ndepavali (right) watch closely.





Katima State Hospital

This time, on the 12th visit of Katima State Hospital, only very limited time was available. In addition, Easter holidays coincided with that visit. Nevertheless, the team was welcomed by Dr. Cristy Victor, Dr. Yurisleydi Valdes and Dr. Sharon Mungofa.

In Katima, the MTTs Dolphin® CPAP device (left) has become the preferred machine to support small preterm babies. CPAP bottles (right bottom), patient tubing (right top) are cleaned and kept in old incubators for later reuse.

Mothers of hospitalized babies wait outside the Neonatal Unit at Katima State Hospital; they take care of their babies around the clock (2- to 3-hourly feedings, changing diapers, Kangaroo Mother Care).

Vayu® bCPAP

(10 devices introduced in 12 2023)

Hospital Site	Patients treated	Patients survived	Survival rate
Swakopmund	14	11	78.6%
Walvis Bay	11	8	72.7%
Rundu	13	10	76.9%
Katima	11	9	81.8%
Total	49	37	75.5%



Initial experience with the Vayu® bubbleCPAP device

Since the donation of the first 10 Vayu® bCPAP units, a total of 49 patients have been treated with the new device.

Initial experience with the Vayu® bCPAP device in Namibia: the reported survival rate of 75.5% is encouraging, and user feedback was unanimously positive.

Donate and help babies survive

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