

NMS donates to children with Nodding Syndrome

By Prisca Baike

As it celebrates 25 years of procuring, storing and distributing essential drugs and supplies for the people of Uganda, National Medical Stores (NMS) is proud to join the fight to curb the effects of Nodding Syndrome amongst those afflicted and affected by the ailment.

Nodding Syndrome is a neurodegenerative condition whose exact cause is yet to be established.

Malnutrition plays a significant role in making a child susceptible to the illness, and also goes on to make their care difficult once they are affected. This debilitating ailment affects only children, and has manifested in seven districts in Northern Uganda.

And thus NMS, in partnership with the Ugandan firm Doctor's Choice, has acquired and donated three-months stock worth of a new drug supplement called 'Replenish'. Replenish is a powerful immune-booster, and is specially designed to counter the deficiencies of selenium and Vitamin B6 that are seen in the sufferers of Nodding



Oulanyah hands over a mattress and blanket to one of the victims

Syndrome. The drug has been certified by the National Drug Authority.

The global launch of Replenish occurred at Hope for Humans Care Center in Odek sub-county, Omoro district, on November 8.

The Chief Guest was the Deputy Speaker and

member of parliament for Omoro district, Jacob Oulanyah.

He thanked NMS for going a step above their usual mandate and directing energy towards providing care and generating awareness about the ailment.

NMS also donated 200

mattresses and 200 blankets, cups, plates and food stuff to the children suffering from nodding disease through the Hope for Humans nodding disease treatment centre.

While handing over the items, Oulanyah said the items would ease the living

conditions of the victims.

"We thank NMS for these items and the drugs they have been sending constantly to help people with the condition," said Oulanyah.

Dr. Moses Kamabare, the NMS general manager said that apart from medication,

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the victims need better living conditions.

That is why we chose to offer more support beyond treatment," Kamabare said.

The NMS Board Chairperson, Dr Jotham Musinguzi, promised that the corporation would do more to better the lives of the communities that they serve.

NMS treats people with jiggers in Rubanda

By Vision Reporter

Jiggers continue to be reported as a major public health problem in Uganda, particularly in Rubanda district. They have become a community horror increasing poverty and social exclusion of the affected people and sometimes leading to death.

"Jiggers are a leading cause of disability, morbidity and, sometimes, mortality particularly among the elderly and school-going children in the Batwa community. There is an urgent need to step up efforts by all stakeholders and fight this scourge," Rubanda district medical officer Dr Abdon Birungi, says.

National Medical Stores (NMS) and the Rubanda district local government have stepped in, with the aim of eradicating of jiggers in the area.

The NMS team conducted community parades and inspection last week to identify people who have been affected by jiggers and applied benzyl benzoate emulsion (BBE) and petroleum jelly, the most effective treatment for jiggers.

"When administered the jiggers disappear in three to five days," Dan Kimosho, the principal public relations



NMS staff applying BBE and petroleum jelly on some of the children with jiggers in Rubanda district.

officer of NMS, said.

During the campaign, members of the Batwa community were also taught the importance of embracing good hygiene practices as a way of preventing jiggers which often affect their wellbeing.

One of the victims, Edward Katama, spoke of the acute pain he suffered because of jiggers.

"Walking was unbearable. My feet had to be pierced to remove the jiggers," he said.

According to the sub-county chief of Bufundi, Ali Kirarira, there is need for collective responsibility by all major

players, in educating the Batwa communities.

"There is need to educate our people to put aside the traditional beliefs and superstitions and work towards health. This campaign will definitely go a long way in achieving that objective," he said.

In Uganda jiggers are said to have killed at least 20 people in 2010 and made over 20,000 sick. Nine out of 12 of the most affected districts are found in Busoga sub-region. The team from NMS and the district medical staff camped in Bufundi parish for the three days.

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