2021

# HEALING FAITH UGANDA



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#### INTRODUCTION

As the World continues to face ongoing challenges due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, malaria continues to be the top health burden in Uganda, especially in children under the age of five years. Malaria is a life-threatening disease caused by parasites that are transmitted to people through the bites of infected female *Anopheles* mosquitoes. It is preventable and curable., especially with early access to testing and treatment. In 2020, nearly half of the world's population was at risk of malaria. Malaria is widespread throughout tropical and subtropical regions of the world, and Africa carries a disproportionately high share of the global malaria burden, both in terms of total malaria cases and malaria deaths.

In 2020, an estimated 241 million cases of malaria occurred worldwide according to the World Health Organization (WHO). This is an increase from 2019 in which 227 million cases were reported. The estimated number of deaths from malaria also saw an increase in 2020. The number of deaths was reported at 627,000 in 2020 which was an increase of 69,000 from the previous year. The WHO African Region carries a disproportionately high share of the global malaria burden. In 2020, the region was home to 95% of malaria cases and 96% of malaria deaths. Children under 5 accounted for an estimated 80% of all malaria deaths in the African Region. In the experience of Healing Faith Uganda, these numbers are under reported in many rural and hard to reach villages.

The Mayuge District where Malaria Center I is located, continues to face a high malaria burden due to the proximity to Lake Victoria. Education continues to be the focal point of the Healing Faith Uganda model. Facing continued government restrictions and a continued school shutdown, the educational model was restricted to those patients and family members who attended the Malaria Center. The goal is to ensure that each patient and household that comes to the Malaria Center receives education regarding the signs, symptoms, prevention strategies and medication regimen regarding malaria.

The hope is that in 2022 schools will be back in attendance and government-imposed restrictions will be lifted. This will allow the Healing Faith outreach team to resume School Education programs, community seminars and home to home education and follow up visits.

#### THE MALARIA CENTER



Once again 2021 was a record setting year regarding overall attendance and patients seen at the Malaria Center. Over twenty-two thousand patients (22,000) were tested for malaria at the Healing Faith Malaria Center in 2021, despite continued governmental restrictions due to the COVID 19 Pandemic. This is an increase from eighteen thousand

(18,000) patients in 2020. Several factors contributed to this increase. Once again, the rainy season in Uganda has been extended and unpredictable. This has led to a prolonged and fertile breeding season for the mosquitoes. This has led to ideal conditions for the mosquito population to thrive which in turn led to more cases of malaria. Another contributing factor has been the struggle faced in Uganda due to the COVID 19 Pandemic. This has led to many private clinics shutting down, government facilities being understaffed and under supplied. Medical supply shortages have led to many facilities not having testing or treatment supplies. Healing Faith has established a good repour with local suppliers of both testing supplies and medication. Thankfully the organization has not seen in interruption in the supply of these vital testing and treatment supplies.

2020 saw in increase in the sphere of influence of the Malaria Center. This is true again for 2021 as patients continued to travel to the Center from further and further distances. The Malaria Center has received patients from the village of Masaka which is 30 km (18.6 miles) across Lake Victoria. The furthest distance traveled by a patient to reach the Malaria Center was 38 km (23.6 miles) from the Village of Lukinda. This patient was one of the most severe patients received in 2020, and if not for the quick recognition and stabilization by the medical team would have succumb to malaria.

When the Malaria Center opened its doors in Summer of 2017, it was estimated, based on census data, that 80,000 patients would have access to the services offered. This has increased drastically as information regarding the Malaria Center is spreading due to word of mouth. Patients are traveling from further and further distances to reach the Malaria Center due to the fact it is always staffed with medical personnel, always has treatment supplies and always has medication even during times of shortages seen across the country.

#### MALARIA CENTER PATIENT DATA 2021

Month	Patients Tested	Positive Cases	% Positive Cases	Households Educated	Total People Educated
January	1,760	1,338	61.57%	973	1,064
February	1,764	1,414	61.57%	1,066	1,217
March	1,708	1,438	84.19%	1,009	1,029
April	1,477	1,275	86.32%	775	841
May	2,019	1,644	81.43%	1,106	1,244
June	2,095	1,694	80.86%	1,138	1,274
July	1,702	1,448	85.08%	1,060	1,147
August	1,705	1,453	85.22%	973	1,078
September	1,904	1,632	85.71%	1,100	1,187
October	1,834	1,525	83.15%	1,069	1,170
November	1,949	1,591	81.63%	1,114	1,234
December	2,239	1,777	79.37%	1,196	1,291
<b>2021 TOTAL</b>	22,156	18,229	82.28%	12,579	13,776

The number of patients stayed consistent throughout the year with an influx seen in May and June and then again at the end of the year in September through December. An overall increase in the percentage of patients testing positive in 2021 was seen. This can be attributed to the effectiveness of the Education Program. Patients know when do come to the Malaria Center based on their signs and symptoms that are indicative to malaria.

#### PREGNANT PATIENTS

A major at-risk population for malaria is pregnant mothers. 2022 saw not only an increase in the number of expectant mothers in attendance, but an increase in the percentage of those mother's testing positive for malaria.

Mothers experiencing malaria during pregnancy are at risk for preterm labor, low birth weight or in worst case scenarios death of the fetus. Due to the high number of expecting mothers attending the Malaria Center, Healing Faith has an Enrolled Midwife/Nurse on staff. One of the factors in the increase of mothers in attendance can be attributed to Nurse/Midwife Annette, who has worked who has worked hard to establish a repour with the women within the community. This has led to an increased awareness and education level within the community regarding the dangers of malaria during pregnancy.

Month	Pregnant Patients Tested	Positive Cases	% Positive Cases	
January	24	16	66.66%	
February	25 18		72.00%	
March	18	14	77.78%	
April	22	18	81.8%	
May	29	29 21		
June	36	26	74.29%	
July	17 11		64.71%	
August	36	33	91.67%	
September	28	23	82.14%	
October	53	40	75.47%	
November	38	31	81.58%	
December	38	29	76.32%	
<b>2020 TOTAL</b>	363	280	77.13%	

#### **SEVERE PATIENTS**

The Malaria Center lab, staffed by a Licensed Laboratory Technician, is able to test the patients' blood under the microscope. By utilizing microscopy in addition to the rapid testing process, the severity of the malaria case can be quantified and treated accordingly. If a patient is identified as Positive ++3 or ++4 for malaria, they are deemed severe. Throughout the course of the year four hundred sixty-three severe patients were identified as sever and treated accordingly.

When the patient is deemed too severe to be treated at the Malaria Center or those requiring a blood transfusion they are labeled as a "referral case." These patients have to be taken to Jinja. These patients are stabilized by the medical staff at the Malaria Center, then transported by and attended to by Healing Faith medical team including a Nurse, Outreach Team Member and a Driver. Patients that needed overnight care or were deemed too severe to be treated at the Healing Faith Uganda Malaria Center were taken to either Whisper's Magical Children's Hospital located in Jinja or KAMU Medical Clinic located in Jinja. Patients requiring blood are taken to the nearest facility with blood available, which is often a struggle in Uganda. Patient care is transferred to the receiving facility. In 2021 the Healing Faith Malaria Center saw eight (8) such referral cases. Many of those patients would have succumbed to the malaria had it not been for the early recognition, diagnosis, stabilization and transport by the medical team. This is a sharp decline in the number of patients requiring referral in 2020. This is attributed to earlier recognition by the community. It can also be attributed to ongoing education as to treatment techniques by the medical staff. They are better equipped and more knowledgeable and capable of handling more severe patients. Only those patients requiring blood or overnight treatment and observation were required to be transported as a referral case. This is a big step for the Medical Staff and an improvement in the quality of care provided.

## **Severe Patient Data**

Month	Severe Patients	Referral Patients	
January	66	1	
February	57	1	
March	94	1	
April	83	0	
May	116	0	
June	85	0	
July	52	1	
August	47	0	
September	65	0	
October	85	4	
November	119	0	
December	126	0	
<b>2020 TOTAL</b>	995	8	



Peter 6 years old, suffered from severe life-threatening malaria. He required a blood transfusion and thanks to the efforts of the Healing Faith Team made a complete and full recovery.

#### COVID-19 IMPACT

Uganda, like the rest of the World was greatly impacted by the COVID 19 Pandemic, this continued into 2021. Uganda maintained some of the strictest and longest lasting restrictions worldwide. This continued to impact Healing Faith's programs. The Mobile Malaria Team, which went into hard to reach and underserved areas, such as the islands within Lake Victoria, were forced to remain shut down. The School Education Program, in which a team of Nurses and Educators were sent into local Primary schools to deliver education regarding the signs, symptoms, treatment and prevention strategies regarding malaria was also forced to remain idle. Schools nationwide remained closed with an anticipated opening date of January 2022. The hope of the organization is that in 2022 the restrictions will be lifted, that schools will open back up and that we will be allowed by the Government to resume these programs.

#### **2021 IMPACT**

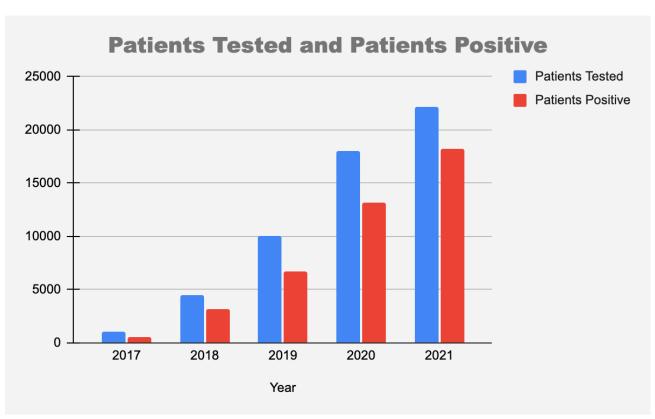
Despite the challenges faced by Healing Faith Uganda and the World as a whole, 2021 was another record setting year in terms of patients. The Malaria Center tested twenty two thousand one hundred fifty six (22,156) patients for malaria with over eighty-two percent (82%) of those patients testing positive and receiving treatment. The team educated twelve thousand five hundred and seventy nice (12,579) households. Thirteen thousand seven hundred and seventy-six (13,776) individuals above five (5) years of age were educated as to the signs, symptoms, treatment and prevention strategies for malaria. All these categories were an increase from 2021 data a trend we expect to continue through 20222.

### HISTORICAL DATA

Since opening the Malaria Center doors in the summer of 2017 Healing Faith Uganda has tested over fifty-five thousand patients for malaria.

Healing Faith Uganda: Historical Malaria Center Data					
Year	Patients Tested	Patients Positive	% Positive	Housholds Educated	Individuals Educated (>5 years)
2017	1,076	520	48.33%	*	*
2018	4,458	3,157	70.44%	4,203	9,049
2019	10,016	6,732	68.04%	6,810	6,370
2020	18,064	13,133	72.70%	10,639	11,592
2021	22,156	18,229	82.27%	12,579	13,776
TOTALS	55,770	41,771	68.37%	34,231	40,787

<sup>\*</sup>Date not collected



#### THE STAFF

The 2021 Healing Faith is comprised of nineteen (20) full time Ugandan Nationals and two (2) part time Ugandan Nationals. In the upcoming year with the opening of Malaria Center II, Healing Faith will double the number of Ugandan Nationals on staff. With the upcoming hiring process, Healing Faith will promote from within its ranks to create new supervisor and training roles.

#### The 2021 Healing Faith Staff Includes:

- Program Manager
- Medical Manager
- Medical Clinical Officer (2)
- Lab Technician
- Enrolled Nurse (3)
- Enrolled Nurse/Midwife
- Outreach Team Members (2)
- Area Coordinator
- Human Resource Coordinator
- Support Staff (8)

The Malaria Center is staffed with eight (8) medical personnel; a Medical Clinical Officer, Laboratory Technician, Medical Manager and five (5) Nurses. In addition to medical needs of the patient there are staff members on hand to meet the educational needs of both the patient and the care giver that brought the patient into the Malaria Center. In addition to the medical needs of the patients, education remains a focal point for each and every patient. A dedicate staff member is available to meet the spiritual needs the patients or family members. Dealing with the high volume of patients each day can lead to mental and physical strain and fatigue on the staff, therefore Healing Faith has a dedicated staff member to attend to their emotional and spiritual needs. This support is also offered to each patient who visits the Malaria Center. Support staff is on duty help to maintain smooth daily operations.

#### A LOOK AHEAD TO 2022

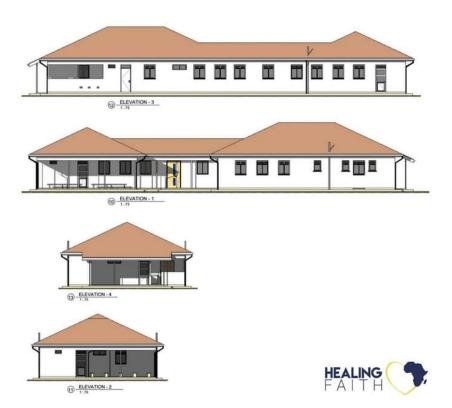
A Partnership and Memorandum of Understanding with the Jinja District, the site of Malaria Center II, was signed and put into place in anticipation of construction beginning. A contract was signed with Innova Construction, the company selected through the bidding and vetting process by Healing Faith, to start construction on January 3, 2022!

The scheduled completion date is slated for late April and an anticipated opening date is set for June. This will allow time for Healing Faith to acquire the necessary medical license and permits as well as hire and train new staff for Malaria Center II





## **Malaria Center II**



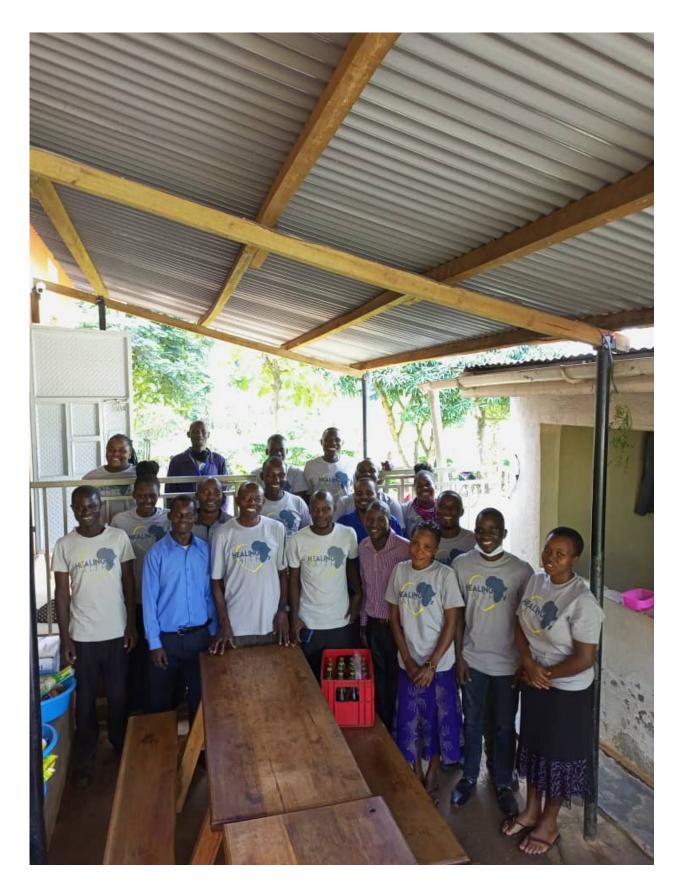
# HEALING FAITH UGANDA IN ACTION











Healing Faith Uganda is dedicated in the fight against malaria one test, one family, one day at a time. With proper education, prevention and feasible access to malaria testing and treatment, we as an organization believe there will be a day where families in Uganda will no longer lose family members to malaria.

2021 Annual Report Prepared by:

Jason Segner

Director

Healing Faith Uganda