LifeNet International
Capabilities Statement

LifeNet: Building Clinical Capacity in Africa

LifeNet International (LN) implements innovative solutions to everyday health challenges in Africa. Through our conversion franchise model, we improve the quality of health systems from the ground up, partnering with church-based health centers and hospitals to provide them with medical training, management training, pharmaceutical supply, and growth financing. Two years after establishing our program, we have expanded our partner network from 10 to 60 health centers and hospitals in 14 provinces in Burundi together seeing over 850,000 patient visits a year. LifeNet's partner health centers improve their quality of care by 94% on average in the first year of partnership. By year-end 2015, we will have added pilot programs of 10 health centers each in Uganda and the DRC. By 2025, we plan to double the quality of care received in 20,000,000 patient visits to 1,000 health centers operating in 10 African countries.

Our Capabilities: Medical & Technical Expertise in the Field

Medical Training
In Burundi, a country with fewer than 300 doctors for a population of 8.5 million, nurses deliver 80% of all healthcare. LifeNet operates at the frontlines of Burundi's healthcare system by delivering medical training directly to nurses. Our approach stresses knowledge transference and local ownership: our medical education experts work closely with local nurse trainers, who then train partner health center staff on-site once a month. We designed our curriculum for the local context and to align with the health priorities set by the Burundian government, covering best practices for addressing HIV/AIDS, malaria, reproductive health, maternal, neonatal and child health, and more.

Management Training
In order to provide the highest-quality medical care for years to come, health centers need not only medical knowledge but also business competence. We train managerial staff at each of our partner centers in financial management and record-keeping, pharmacy and human resource management, key data analysis, and planning and budgeting. With these skills, health centers avoid stock-outs, manage debt, and break even or operate at a profit, ensuring their sustainability. The success of our medical and business training is based on the trust relationships we build with partner center staff, which lead to lasting behavior change and heightened capacity.

Pharmaceutical Access Program & Equipment Loans
LifeNet aims to increase the services that health centers offer and the revenue they generate. Through our pharmaceutical access program we link rural partner clinics with regional wholesalers and deliver medicines directly to health centers. Our equipment financing loan program fills a gap in the local capital market and enables clinics to purchase medical equipment that they otherwise could not.

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LifeNet International is a registered 501(c)(3) in the USA

Measuring Our Accomplishments: Improving Quality of Care

One of LifeNet's strengths is monitoring and evaluation for measured impact, using tools developed in-house and proven successful in the local context. We apply our Quality Score Card (QSC) semi-annually to measure partners' performance across key areas including pharmacy operations, management, and clinical practices. To create the QSC, our nursing and public health specialists drew on standards established by Burundi's Ministry of Health, as well as the USAID/Smiling Sun Health Services "Quality and Monitoring Supervision Clinic Preparedness Guide, January 2010," and the IFC Self-Assessment Guide for Health Care Organizations from the Joint Commission International. The QSC covers all indicators that the Ministry of Health includes in its own health center evaluations and then goes beyond to quantify staff adherence to LifeNet-taught best practices in management and heatlhcare. With it, we calculate a robust composite score for each health center that indicates the impact of our interventions on quality of care over time. In addition to the Quality Score Card, LifeNet also administers pre- and post-training tests to partner health center staff and regularly sees scores double after trainings.

LifeNet has dramatically decreased the occurrence of stock-outs of essential medicines in our partner health centers through our pharmaceutical access program. We are tracking sales volumes of medicines and monitoring health centers' stocks of the medicines included in the government's National List of Essential Medicines. LifeNet is also developing a system for measuring the financial sustainability of our partner centers. Our goal is to build their solvency and management capacity so that they are thriving enterprises that re-invest and make improvements with their own earnings.

Our Partners

LifeNet prioritizes partnership with church-based health centers because we have found that they provide more patients higher-quality care at lower cost than their counterparts. Churches often operate networks of health centers as well as educational and religious facilities, making them powerful vehicles for community-wide change. Within the private health sector, church-based health centers tend to prioritize social good over profits while also recognizing the need for financial sustainability, balancing compassion with accountability. LifeNet multiplies the impact of this "by the community, for the community" system by making strategic investments in the people behind it.

Our Vision

All of our programs are designed for multiplication and scale-up. LifeNet aims to create a brand of quality and raise all partners to a high level of care and services. Our franchise model allows us to replicate any health center-level intervention in all of our health centers and to efficiently add partners to our expanding network. Future expansion into the public sector is a strong possibility, thanks to LifeNet's positive relationship with the Burundian government and the Ministry of Health in particular. At the end of 2014, LN's network reached 60 partner health centers and hospitals. By year-end 2015, we will have added pilot programs of 10 health centers each in Uganda and the DRC. By 2025, we plan to double the quality of care received in 20,000,000 patient visits to 1,000 franchised clinics operating in 10 East African countries.

Our Team

Michael L. Spraggins, Jr., Founder, President Michael is CEO of Spraggins Inc., a builder services company based in Orlando, Florida. He has held principal roles in a variety of entrepreneurial and investment ventures with an emphasis on distribution, service, and franchising. Michael founded LifeNet in 2008 with the vision of making quality healthcare an enduring reality for the world's poor.

Stefanie Weiland, Executive Director, Burundi Country Director Stefanie is a graduate of the London School of Economics, Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, and the Monterey Institute of International Studies, with degrees in development, management, and security. She has extensive development management experience in Eastern Europe, Asia, and now Africa, managing the Burundi country program and international operations and expansion.

Elin Henrysson, Burundi Country Director Elin holds degrees in international relations, French and anthropology from the London School of Economics and Wheaton College. Of Swedish nationality, she grew up in five different African countries. Before joining LifeNet, she worked in peacebuilding, interfaith relations, and women's land rights advocacy. Elin managed the LifeNet Burundi Business Program for two years, including the pharmaceutical supply program, management training, and equipment loans, and now manages the country program.

Josh Guenther R.N., Uganda Country Director Josh earned degrees in Biochemistry and Nursing at the University of Alberta. With experience in emergency medicine, Josh moved to Burundi in 2013 where he founded and ran a rural health facility in partnership with a local nonprofit. As the Executive Director, he developed valuable experience in international development & cross-cultural communications in the health care context of East Africa.

Dr. Aristide Mbonihankuye, Burundi Medical Program Manager Dr. Aristide is LN International's first Burundian director. After studying medicine in Burundi, he completed his doctoral studies in Morocco before returning to Burundi to live among and care for his fellow Burundians. After years of service in a public hospital in Bujumbura, he has developed a deep understanding of the healthcare needs in his country. He speaks French, English, Swahili, and Kirundi.

Burundi Contact

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LifeNet Burundi Partner Clinics

Bujumbura Mairie
CLIPA Hospital
Hope Africa University
Kinama Centre de Santé
Kigobe Centre de Santé
Musaga Centre de Santé
Van Norman Centre de Santé
Kigobe Centre de Santé

Bujumbura Rural
Mutumba Centre de Santé
Ijenda Centre de Santé

Bururi
Bigomogomo Centre de Santé
Bubera Centre de Santé
Buhinga Centre de Santé
Matana Centre de Santé
Mayengo Centre de Santé
Mugara Centre de Santé
Murinda Centre de Santé
Nyagihotora Centre de Santé
Nyavyamo Centre de Santé

Cibitoke
Rusagara Centre de Santé

Gitega
Gatabo Centre de Santé
Gitega Centre de Santé
Kibimba Centre de Santé
Kibuye Hospital
Magara Centre de Santé
Mariya Mwiza Centre de Santé

Kayanza
Gasenyi Centre de Santé
Maramvya Centre de Santé

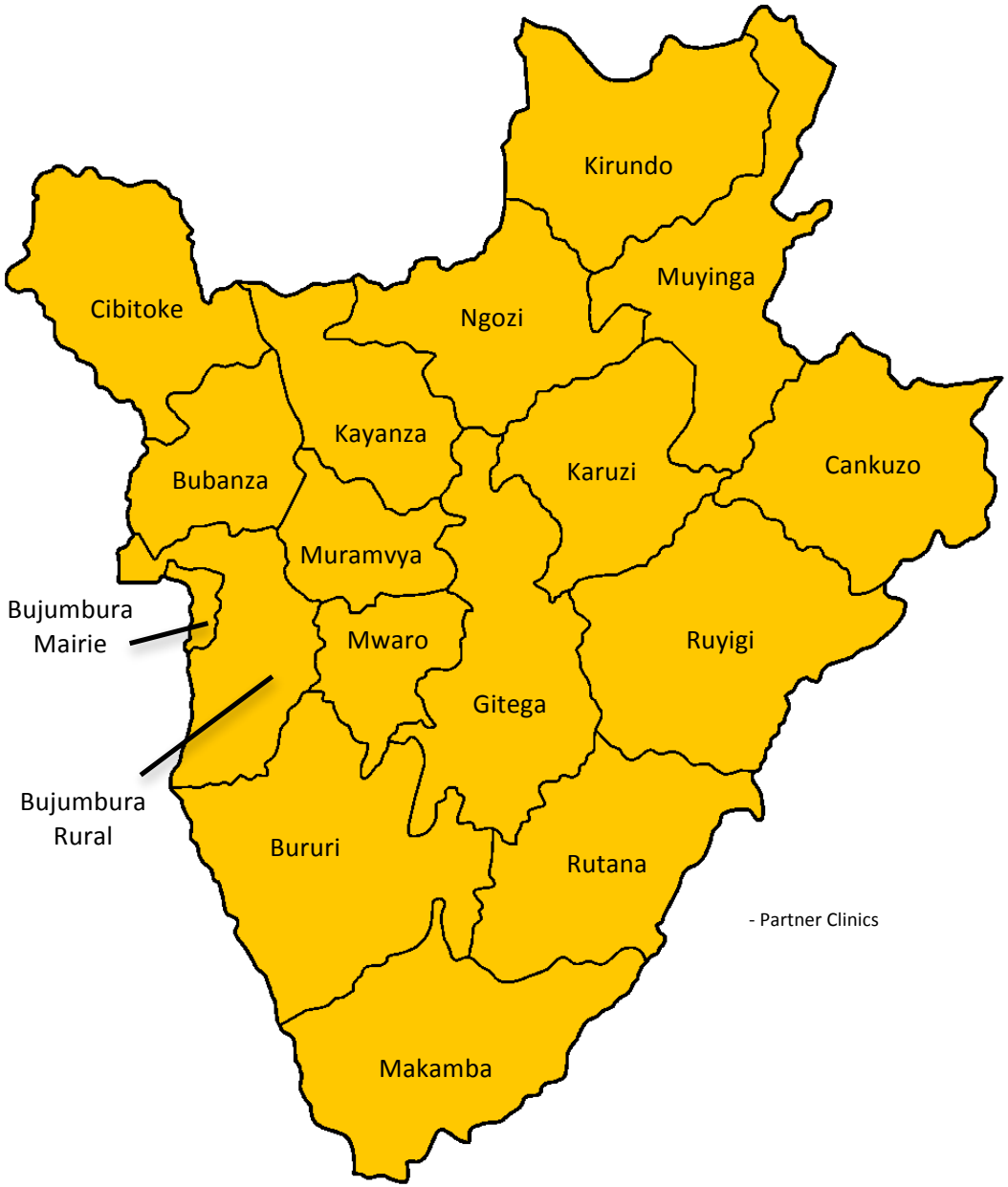
Kirundo
Nyambuye Centre de Santé
Rutare Centre de Santé

Makamba
Bukeye Centre de Santé
Gihisha Centre de Santé
Kayogoro Centre de Santé
Murezi Centre de Santé

Muramvya
Kivoga Centre de Santé
Munanira Centre de Santé

Muyinga
Kagari Centre de Santé
Bwasare Centre de Santé

Mwaro
Muyebe Centre de Santé

Rutana
Gakwende Centre de Santé

Ruyigi
Nyankanda Centre de Santé