

# Bo Children's Hospital



## CELEBRATING 10 YEARS!

*A centre of excellence providing much needed quality healthcare to the children of Sierra Leone.*

Bo Children's Hospital officially opened in June 2012 and was the vision of the late Dr Nuli Lemoh, Paediatrician. The hospital has successfully treated over 31,000 children since opening. We are extremely grateful to our dedicated and caring staff and to our many wonderful donors who enable the hospital to continue its wonderful work!



**Top row:** Bo Children's Hospital today (BCH);

**Middle row:** Vandie Sombie at BCH; BCH ward;

**Bottom row:** Mothers waiting in the BCH waiting room; Dr Nuli Lemoh and Vandie Sombie at the BCH opening.



# MEET OUR HOSPITAL SUPERINTENDENT: FRANCIS BANGALIE

*"I started my primary school in 1989 and entered secondary school in 1996. Upon completion of my secondary school education in 2003 I sat the West African senior Secondary Examination with good grades that allowed me to enter university in October 2006.*

*There I studied community health and clinical sciences. I graduated as Community Health Officer {CHO}/ Physician Assistance in June 2010. During my training I was posted to various District hospitals. Upon completion of my four year course, I first worked with the Agape Way Christian Fellowship Clinic as a Head in Charge, then I worked with Medical Research Council {MRC} in Bo as field supervisor.*

*I gained employment with Bo Children's Hospital in 2012 as Community Health Officer (CHO) and worked from the first day of opening BCH with the late Vandi Sombie. Since then I have worked in the BCH pharmacy, and have conducted patient consultations, including administration of iv, im and oral medications. I was accepted into the Surgical Training Program for CHOs and Medical Officers in Masanga, Sierra Leone, and now have surgical skills which are proving useful at BCH. I am married with four children. My mother is still alive (though old). She gave birth to 9 children, 5 boys and 4 girls; 4 of us have survived.*

*My responsibilities at BCH include:*

- *Supervise the day-to-day operations of Bo Children's hospital.*
- *Doing daily ward rounds, seeing patients and do admission for very sick children. Operate on those with surgical conditions like hernias, appendicitis, acute abdomen.*
- *Make requisitions for medical equipment and drugs for the hospital, monitor equipment, machinery, medicine and surgical items.*
- *Ensure the hospital is well staffed.*
- *Represent the hospital as the need may arise or appoint someone to make a representation for the development of the hospital to other institutions.*
- *Conduct internal training for the staff.*
- *Organise monthly meetings and emergency meetings when necessary.*
- *Other duties given to me by the consultant Paediatrician and the hospital board.*



**Francis is well known to the local community and to many of the patients that have visited BCH since it opened in 2012.**

**“We continue to take the sickest children to Bo Children's Hospital for care, and we are very glad that Francis is there.”**

Testimony for Francis from  
Dr Carol Nelson, MD. MPH.  
USA  
Program Director  
Rural Healthcare Initiative in  
Sierra Leone



# LIFE SAVING STORIES FROM BO...



**Aminata Samura** was the one year- old daughter of Adama (a retailer). According to Adama, the father was an unemployed graduate who was relying on the wages from his artisanship to complement the effort of his wife in taking care of their two children.

Her encounter with BCH happened as a result of a sad incident that occurred on the 10th December, 2021. She was playing with her elder sister while her mother was attending to customers at the community market. Then Aminata's sister called to say Aminata was feverish, and had had two convulsions and was vomiting. The mother asked neighbours to take Aminata to hospital, When she arrived at BCH. Aminata was convulsing and had an oxygen saturation of 97% and blood sugar level of 2.1 mmol/l. Medications were administered immediately and Aminata was admitted to hospital. After three days she had regained her health and was discharged on day 4.



**John Steven**, an 8 year-old boy from the Bo district, came from a very poor family. His father earned his living riding a motorbike, as an okada rider. Since one year of age John had been suffering from anaemia and severe intermittent pain in the bones. He had been treated at several hospitals and given blood transfusions at different times but the parents never received a satisfactory explanation for his recurring health problems. Then, on the 1st December, 2021 he became very ill with a high fever and his skin looked yellow. His parents rushed him to Bo Government Hospital where he was given two blood transfusions, but no tests apart from the usual haemoglobin and malaria smear were done.



Someone who had used the Bo Children's Hospital recommended it to John's parents. They immediately took their son there. At BCH more extensive tests were carried out in the lab. They showed that John had multiple problems: typhoid fever, malaria , and jaundice. He was also found to have sickle cell disease, an inherited red blood cell disorder. He was admitted to the hospital and treatment commenced.



**Azike Sesay's** story can be traced back to the days of the late Dr Sombie. Azike was born to an HIV positive mother, Umu Sesay, in Bumpé Chiefdom, Bo Kakua, and is the last of two children. Not much information has been obtained as to the source of the mother's HIV infection but, according to a trusted family member, the father died from a mysterious and unexplained illness (possibly HIV).

After the death of Azike's father, her mother moved to Bo City where the mother observed a generalized skin rash on young Azike and was prompted to seek medical advice at the BCH. The late Dr Sombie diagnosed young Azike as HIV positive and placed her on anti viral medication . On the 3rd May 2021, Umu Sesay lost her son in a car accident which distressed her so much that she stopped giving the anti viral drug to Azike.

After seven months, Azike was in such poor health that her mother became worried and took her again to BCH. Azike was admitted and confirmed as HIV positive. The necessary anti-viral treatments and medications were given and the importance of ongoing care was stressed. Azike will now visit BCH every month.





**Ibrahim Sheriff** was an eight- months old boy from a small village called Baoma, 20 miles from Bo. The family lived on one meal a day and relied on the produce of their market garden. He seems to have suffered from neglect and poor nutrition and had frequent health problems. His mother sought help from traditional healers which was ineffective. Eventually she took him to a nearby health clinic . After three days of care in the clinic his health improved for a few months.

However, after returning home to his old living conditions his health gradually became worse again. He developed a high fever, and severe respiratory symptoms, A friend suggested BCH. There he was assessed and found to be suffering from severe malaria, anaemia and pneumonia, He was admitted to hospital. After receiving treatment with oxygen, a blood transfusion and antibiotics he improved dramatically and went home in good health.

# NEW EQUIPMENT FOR THE LABORATORY

**Bo Children's Hospital is now one of the leading diagnostic hospitals in Bo.** Thanks to a generous donation from Scotch College, Melbourne new equipment was purchased for the hospital laboratory.



**Top row (left to right):** Lab director Mariama with assistant Edmond; Blood sample roller and Haematology analyser. **Middle row (left to right):** Blood sample roll; Haematology analyser. **Bottom row:** Biochemistry analyser.

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