

NEO FOR NAMIBIA HELPING BABIES SURVIVE



TEAM

- Thomas M. Berger, MD
- Sabine Berger, RN
- Sarah Knoll, MD
- Salome Waldvogel, MD
- Katharina Mäder, RN

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

MISSION REPORT 2021-2

SHORT VERSION

July 9 to August 8, 2021

Mission goals

- To introduce the next neonatology fellow (Salome Waldvogel, MD) and a neonatology nurse (Katharina Mäder, RN) to neonatal care in a resource-limited setting
- To better understand the challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic
- To define the final obstacles that needed to be overcome before opening the new Maternity Ward and Prem Unit at Rundu State Hospital

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Hospitals visited

- Rundu State Hospital
- Katima Hospital
- Katutura State Hospital

Outborn twins, wrapped tightly into several layers of blankets and cotton to prevent heat loss, arrive in the Prem Unit at Rundu State Hospital.



Stabilization of a near term infant (IV access, blow-by oxygen) shortly after arriving in the Prem Unit at Rundu State Hospital (Sabine Berger).



INSURE (INtubate SURfactant Extubate) to treat hyaline membrane disease is teamwork (Dr. Isha Kamara, Prof. Thomas M. Berger).



Teaching

The new team members Salome Waldvogel and Katharina Mäder rapidly adapted to local circumstances and got involved in teaching activities.

Katharina Mäder, RN, and Martha Martin, RN, discuss proper positioning of sick babies.

Prof. Berger explains the X-ray findings to the mother of a baby with bowel obstruction; Dr. Salome Waldvogel follows closely.



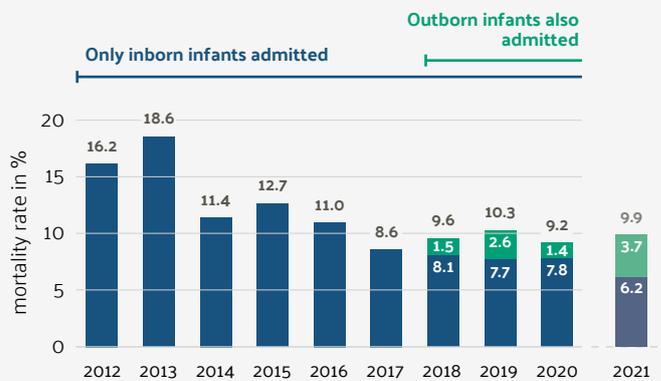
Statistics – Rundu

The Prem Unit at Rundu State Hospital is extremely busy (on average there are 89 admissions per month).

Every day, babies with respiratory problems benefit from CPAP support (continuous positive airway pressure).



Encouraging results: reduced mortality rates have been sustained over the past 3 years: in 2021, improved care will likely result in one additional surviving baby every week.



50% reduction in mortality rate

(compared to 2012–2015)

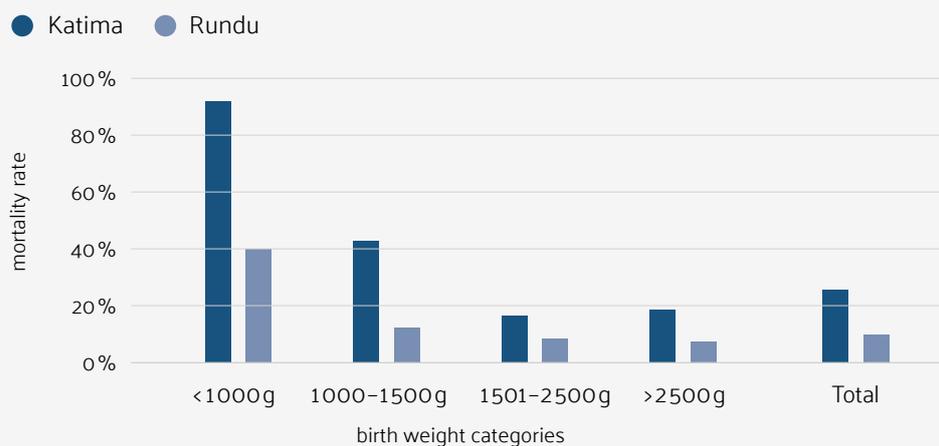
at least 50 additional survivors among inborn babies

(compared to 2012–2015)

Statistics – Katima

Between January 1, and July 31, 2021, there were 201 admissions to the neonatology unit at Katima Hospital.

Comparison of birth weight-specific mortality rates between Rundu State Hospital and Katima Hospital (January 1 to July 31, 2021): the existing gaps are obvious.





Corona pandemic and O₂ supply crisis

The Corona pandemic has had an enormous impact on the country's fragile health care system. This is perhaps best illustrated by the oxygen supply crisis we witnessed at Rundu State Hospital.

Rundu State Hospital: central oxygen supply room with back-up oxygen cylinders.



The wall oxygen supply could no longer cover the high requirements because of many adult Covid-19 patients admitted to the hospital; therefore, oxygen cylinders had to be placed next to each bed space in the Prem Unit.



Visiting our African friends

It is always a pleasure to meet our African friends in their homes. We usually bring some basic foods and some treats for the kids. It never ceases to amaze us to see how they cope with their living circumstances: despite harsh conditions, they never lose their smiles.

Kassian gladly accepts some warm clothes from Switzerland; a little girl at Kaisosi Village cherishes an apple.

Donate and help babies survive

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