

BREAKING BARRIERS IN UGANDA

Funding: How do we get it done!



By Eddie Mukaaya

Diagnosis: Family Point Of View



- Preterm at 26 weeks
- We missed checking the ears
- At 12 months I started suspecting the hearing loss
- Diagnosis done at the lions clinic in Nairobi and fitted with hearing aids at 28 months
- I heard about Cochlear Implants when Elaine was about three years.
- But She only got to be implanted after a year later

THE OPTION OF CI FOR FUNDING

- In the absence of government funding, Parents or the family need adequate information to be able to perform a through Cost Benefit analysis for CI journey.
- Discuss how to go about the initial Implant cost:
- In Uganda import goods would attract about 35.5%
 - Value added Tax **18%**, Import Duty tax **15%**, infrastructure tax **1.5%** and NDA of **1%**
- After our visit at the WHO in Geneva in March 2017 we Engaged gov't on how they could make Hearing technology accessible to Ugandans.

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THIS SUBJECT PLEASE QUOTE NO. ADM.45/273/01

Ministry of Health
P. O. Box 7272
Plot 6, Lourdel Road,
Wandegeya
KAMPALA
UGANDA

UGANDA REVENUE AUTHORITY
12th March, 2018
20 APR 2018
RECEIVED

The Commissioner General
Uganda Revenue Authority
KAMPALA.

Dear Sir/Madam,

TAX EXEMPTION FOR MEDICAL DEVICES USED TO SUPPORT PATIENTS/CLIENTS OF HEARING LOSS.


While presiding over the commemorations of the World Hearing Day, held on 3rd March at KCCA City Hall Gardens, Hear His Voice Uganda a charity organization of parents with hearing impaired children expressed the agony they go through in seeking care and management of their children's diagnosis. They made a passionate request for Tax Expansion on Medical devices used for treating of Hearing Loss.

According to world Health Organization, over 466 million people live with disabling hearing loss and 90% of people with hearing loss live in low and middle-income countries which often lack resources and strategies to address Hearing Loss. However, with the advancement in technology, medical devices such as digital Hearing Aids, Cochlear Implants, and Intensive Auditory Verbal Therapy make a speaking and hearing world a reality for people with Hearing Loss.

In Uganda, comprehensive re/habilitation services are just emerging and these devices are too expensive for the majority of patients and clients who would otherwise benefit from them.

I therefore request you to exempt the Hearing Loss Medical technologies (Hearing aids, cochlear implants, hearing aids batteries and other assistive hearing accessories from Taxation. This will help to support children and the senior citizens who are most hit with hearing loss.

I thank you for your consideration.


Dr. Diana Atwine
PERMANENT SECRETARY

CC: Director General, Health Services.
CC: Commissioner, Non-communicable Diseases.
CC: Ministry of Health, Disability Section.
CC: Team Leader, Hear His Voice Uganda.
CC: Ms. Catherine Mugisha, APHICU.

THE WORK OF HEAR HIS VOICE IN UGANDA

Four Main Areas Of Work

- Early Learning and Intervention Programs (ELIP)
- Parents and Family Support Program (PFSP)
- Research and Advocacy program (RAP)
- Instructional Growth and Development



WHERE WE ARE TODAY IN UGANDA

- Pioneered and Early learning and Intervention center for Children using CI & HA
 - Ear Foundation in partnership with Cochlear Foundation
- Family and parents support services
- Taxes waived on all ear and hearing technologies in Uganda 2018; and equipping RRH
- Partnership with the Rotary Club and Makerere University
 - Increase audiology services in
 - Capacity building – Temporal Bone Lab
 - Theatre construction and furnishment for a wide range of Ear surgeries
 - Community awareness
- Partnered with Hear and Say to train the first AVT certified therapist in the country
- Networking to pioneer a LSL initiative on the East African Coast.



THANK YOU



THANK YOU AND WRAPPING IT UP



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Tonight we have heard the efforts in the USA, Mexico, Australia, Ecuador, Spain, Canada and Uganda.

The work we do is all about impacting lives of individuals and families like mine.

Thank you all for the effort and the hard work you do to make this world a better hearing environment for all.

With all hands on the deck, children and adults with hearing loss will have a better place to live and enjoy their lives.

And CIICA is providing that platform for us to share and encourage each other in this work.

We need each other and we need to stand together so that we can make this world a better hearing world for all.



THANK YOU AND WRAPPING IT UP



“We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.”

Mother Tereza