

Cochlear implants & other assistive technologies: Kenya's emerging experiences

Presented by

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Introduction: The Kenyan Context

- About 1.3 million births per year, ~ 98.6 % occur in health facilities (2024)
- 10-14 in every 1,000 children -moderate or severe hearing loss (15,000-21,000 children)
- Aprox. 10% on CI and HA (**No public national registry!!**)
- Uneven access to support (urban vs rural)
- Rising demand for hearing solutions

CI in Kenya

- **First CI patient:** Fitted in 2012 at The Nairobi Hospital
- **Capacity gaps:** Isolated facilities, few trained professionals, relies on visiting surgeons
- **Cost & funding:** Very high cost, limited/no insurance cover, mostly self-funded or donor-supported
- **Fragmented care:** Weak links between screening, diagnosis, surgery, rehabilitation, education, and device maintenance

Family Experiences & Stories

- **Blending science and stories:** Combining data with real family journeys
- **Powerful transformations:** Stories of hope and renewed possibilities
- **Parent perspective:** From despair to hope — from screening thru rehab
- **Emotional impact:** Profound effects on family life and children's education
- **EHDI timelines:** 1-3-6 — measured in **years** for LMICs, but in **months** for MDCs

Beyond Cochlear Implants

- **Limited audiology infrastructure:**
- **Assistive technology gap:** FM systems and classrm mics unavailable
- **Digital innovation:** Growing use of smartphones, apps, teleaudiology etc
- **Inclusive education challenge:** Teachers, curriculum, and infrastructure unprepared (ToDs)
- **Rehabilitation & lifelong support:**

Challenges & Barriers

- **Limited workforce:** Audiologists and AVT therapists
- **Cost & inequity:** High expenses; urban–rural service gap
- **No national CI strategy:** Fragmented efforts across sectors
- **Stigma & low awareness:** Hearing loss still misunderstood in communities
- **Integrated care needed:** Coordination across screening, surgery, rehab, and education

Opportunities & Emerging Innovations (The good news!)

- **Parent support networks:** Gathering momentum (e.g., *CHISHLO Parents Circle*)
- **Telepractice & mobile health:** Provides access to families in remote areas.
- **Policy progress:** Govt and NGO commitment to Ear and Hearing Care (**EHC**).
- **Global partnerships:** Bringing new resources and expertise (e.g. GFCHL, CIICA, WHO)
- **Recent:** Around **100 CI donations** underway

The CIICA Impact: Growing Together

- **Donations:** CIs, hearing aids, FM systems
- **Partnerships:** MoUs with partners (e.g., *GFCHL*)
- **Capacity building:** Trainings for parents and professionals
- **Professional development:** AVT training sessions
- **Government collaboration:** MoUs with several County Governments
- **Community & learning:** Stronger peer networks through **CIICA** and beyond

Conclusion & Call to Action

- It's a new dawn for Kenya's CI journey-Families and professionals coming/working together

Call to Action:

- Strong partnerships
- Professional collaboration & training
- Exchange programs & mentorship
- Lifelong family support

Thank You!







EARLY CHILDHOOD HEARING SCREENING PILOT PROJECT



- « Newborn Hearing Screening
- « Early childhood Hearing Screening
- « Early intervention
- « Family support and partnership
- « School/ECD centers Hearing Screening outreach

THIS PROJECT IS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH
**CHILDREN'S SPEECH AND
HEARING LOSS ORGANIZATION AND
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR HEARING HEALTH**



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