

## Goodwill Medical Centre Report: February-August 2024



### Introduction

After its commissioning on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2023 by TY Danjuma Foundation, the Goodwill Medical Centre (GMC), Enugu opened its doors to the public on February 1, 2024. Consistent with its core vision of serving the poor, low-income families and marginalised communities, the centre has undertaken a series of high-impact initiatives designed to improve access to healthcare services to needy communities from far and near, especially the underserved populations in the surrounding urban slums and shanty settlements. Our target population of residents in Enugu Northeast Local Government is 475,130 (MoH, 2024 projected figure). A high percentage live below the poverty line of **XXX naira/dollar** per day.

This report highlights some of the key milestones and ongoing projects between February and August 2024.

**In July and August alone, GMC subsidized surgery and hospital bills of 35 patients who could not afford to pay for care. We are experiencing a drastic increase of patients asking for financial assistance else they will return home without treatment. This increase is directly linked to severe economic crisis.**

# 1. Community Access to quality healthcare and Infrastructure Development

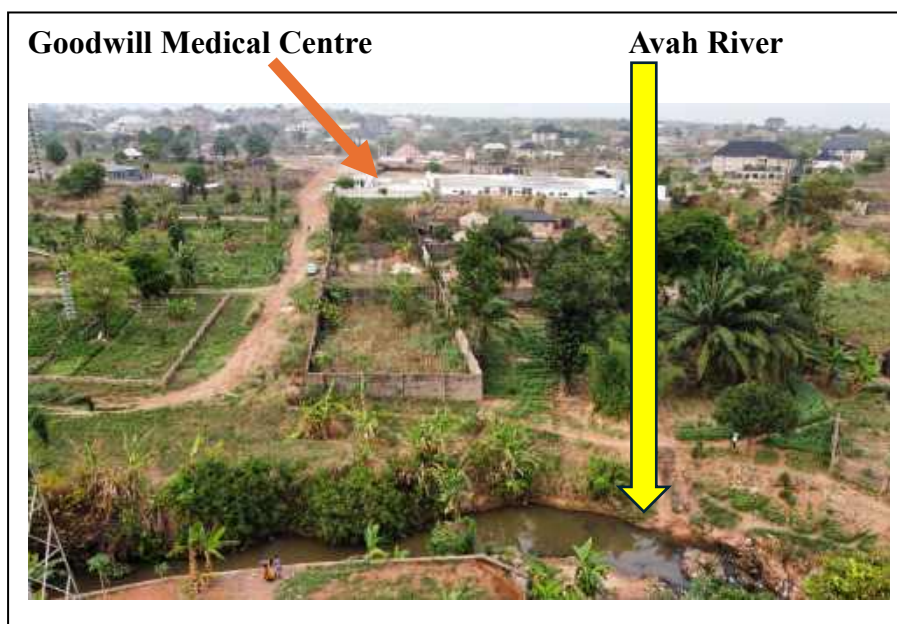
## *A Pedestrian and Tricycle bridge*

The deliberate move to site the Goodwill Medical Centre within the urban slums for easy access by the poor communities comes with several challenges particularly transportation. The Avah River (Picture # 1) separates four settlements (population of > 200,000) from the facility. Some families currently travel for up to 8km on tricycle, a huge financial burden, to access healthcare at the centre.

To address inaccessibility to the nearby quality healthcare at the Goodwill Medical Centre, the communities strongly advocated for the construction of a pedestrian and tricycle- - accessible bridge. An anonymous donor and friends have contributed towards this cause, with a financial donation that can cover part of the estimated cost, while residents in the settlements have the responsibility of clearing the bushes and constructing a pathway road to further ease access through the bridge to GMC. Approximately, one-third of the estimated funds for the bridge is required for the completion of this priority project, which will improve access and reduce maternal and neonatal fatalities or case complications due to avoidable delays.



Crossing the Avah River



## 2. Water Supply Project

In collaboration with the TY Danjuma Foundation (TYDF), the Centre completed a water harnessing and purification project by utilising water from the Avah River. Through reverse osmosis technology, the Centre now has a steady water supply, which is essential for its operations. Plans are also in place to expand the water project by 2025, to enable the Centre to provide drinking water to the surrounding communities through external water pumps.

## 3. Maternal and Child Health Initiatives

Access barriers have driven some women in the community to rely on traditional birth attendants (TBAs), leading to avoidable maternal and infant deaths. In response, Goodwill Medical Centre, in collaboration with the Enugu State Primary Healthcare Agency, has an on-going geospatial mapping project of all TBAs resident in all nearby communities.

Data collection has been completed and a meeting with all TBAs is planned for 12<sup>th</sup> September. The project is co-funded by GMC and MITOSATH.

Through this project, TBAs will be trained and retrained three times a year to enhance their skills and knowledge, ensuring early referral of cases to the Centre. This initiative has already started with data collection and training, marking a pivotal step toward reducing maternal mortality and improving delivery outcomes.

The Centre has also seen a rise in deliveries, including two sets of triplets in August 2024. On average, there is at least one delivery per day, with financial support provided to needy families.



**4. Eye Health and Cataract Surgeries** The Centre runs eye health clinics every Tuesday and Thursday, with ophthalmologists and optometrists (Picture #2) attending to between 30 and 40 patients per session. In addition, consultant ophthalmologists perform cataract surgeries three times a month at the Centre ( see table 1).



The TYDF sponsored the first 20 free cataract surgeries, and the Centre’s cataract surgery unit is now operating successfully, with the Centre’s eye health programme contributing to restoring sight and improving the quality of life for many in the communities.

### School Eye Health Programme

Sightsavers is co-funding our initiative on School Eye Health for Umuchigbo Community Primary and Secondary Schools (pop:1,800 pupils). This programme is in collaboration with Enugu State Education Board.

### 5. Paediatric Care Services

Paediatricians visit the Centre three times a week, to provide essential healthcare services to children. This ongoing service ensures that children in the surrounding communities receive timely and appropriate medical attention, reducing avoidable incidences of child morbidity and mortality.

<b>A glance at GMC</b>		
<b>Summary of activities from March to August 2024</b>		
	Number of Patients	
1	Out-Patients	3,536
2	Laboratory	767
3	Admissions(+ observations)	122
4	Surgical admissions	51
4	Deliveries and 2 Triplets	22 babies
5	Other surgeries	29
6	Eye surgeries (cataract + others)	32
7	Scan	98
8	ANC	50

## 6. Outreach Programmes

Two Medical Outreach Programmes were held in January and May 2024

In the January two-day medical outreach, GMC provided free medical, eye, obstetrics and paediatric consultations through our eight specialist doctors. And free laboratory tests, free glasses, free walking aids and free medications.

839 attendees were seen by doctors; 567 attendees had their medical problems resolved and 532 persons received free medications. 421 patients received free medications patients from the two-day outreach programme in May this year.

### Outreach day at GMC



Outreach day at GMC.

## 7. Health Insurance Initiative.

Goodwill Medical Centre is a National Health Insurance Authority accredited healthcare facility. To advance Universal Health Coverage (UHC), the Centre has registered and covered the costs for 60 community members under the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) between February and August.

GMC continues to sensitise and encourage residents to obtain their National Identification Numbers (NINs,) a mandatory requirement which is a barrier to registration for the National Health Insurance. Many rural persons do not have NIN.

### How it all started

Improving access of low-income families to quality health care has been my passion and vision after the government took over the community-managed school feeding programmes which PACIEH initiated and coordinated for three years.

In 2022, my proposal to bring quality healthcare to the doorstep of poor families in urban slums at the outskirts of Enugu city was approved. I received funding from TY Danjuma Foundation (TYDF) to build a 12-bed medical facility with well-equipped main theatre, a special theatre for Cataract surgery, Laboratory and Pharmacy and other necessary components, in Enugu East Local Government Area. This Local Government has a large concentration of low-income and poor families living in shanty settlements.

The main areas of services provided at the GMC was determined by findings of a research survey involving 2000 families carried out in 2021.

### **Goodwill Medical Centre Team**

Today, GMC has a strong medical team of 11 Medical officers and Consultants, 10 Registered and Auxiliary Nurses; 13 administration and support staff.

### **Free Shuttle for GMC staff**

With the exorbitant increase in price of fuel, food scarcity and increased number of families falling below the extreme poverty line due to devastating economic situation and considering the location of Goodwill Medical Centre (a 30-60 minute travel time from the city), the management of GMC decided to provide free shuttle services from the last tricycle bus stop to GMC. This shuttle runs twice daily - in the early morning and after closure of work. The cost is covered from the revenue of GMC.

Though this free shuttle has significantly improved staff timely attendance to work, the pressure from increasing number of patients whose medical bills are being subsidised risks sustaining free shuttle service.

### **Conclusion**

The impact of the Goodwill Medical Centre first six-month operation reflects its unwavering dedication to providing high-quality healthcare to poor underserved and low-income communities. By working hand-in-hand with residents and addressing their needs, the Centre demonstrates resilience, vision, and a strong commitment to saving lives. This level of collaboration will engender buy-in and collective ownership of the Centre's programmes by the communities.

Through infrastructure improvements, maternal and child health initiatives, eye care services, paediatric care, and health insurance registration drives, the Centre is making significant strides toward achieving its mission. The impact of these efforts is already visible and with continued support and collaboration, more positive health outcomes are guaranteed. The Centre is also poised to expand its services to transform and revolutionise the healthcare landscape for low-income families. A more detailed impact report, accompanied by visual documentation, will follow, to further illustrate the Centre's progress and achievements.