

Comment for the opening ceremony:

After two years of planning, training of staff and thanks to the generous funding by VSO the neonatal intensive care unit at St Walburg's Hospital, Nyangao has opened.



Premature infants as young as 28 weeks gestational age, babies with low birth weight and with severe conditions such as lack of oxygen during birth and meningitis are treated here. They are looked after by dedicated neonatal nurses, around the clock and in three separate rooms according to the severity of their illness and their body weight. All babies less than 2.5kg are kept warm via skin to skin care with their mothers (Kangaroo mother care), unless they require care in an open incubator.



Phototherapy for jaundice, oxygen therapy and blood transfusions are just some of the therapy measures.

After discharge all babies have weekly follow up, where their weight gain is monitored and parents can ask questions and will be counselled on health issues.

Due to our neonatal outreach activity (NO BABY LEFT OUT project), the surrounding dispensaries and health centers have started referring many babies into our unit, mainly those with low birth weight, asphyxia and infection, and are taking part in the follow up if parents live too far away from hospital.

The official opening ceremony for the unit took place on 26th of June and was covered by TBC TV and radio. More information on the history of our NICU can be found in the PDF document on our website.



Asanteni sana to everyone who helped to ensure that our babies have a good start into life!

Dr Sandra Subtil (VSO Paediatrician)