NOVEMBER 2026

ZION COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER



Thank you!

Heartfelt thanks to Tropical Thunder Vienna for funding our immunisation services, and to Dr Ronke Adefisayo, Dr Traci Downs Bouchard and Dr Jennifer Camp (USA) for their dedication to our clinic. Thanks also to Dulas (UK) for our vaccine freezer, to our volunteers Spencer Daly (USA) and Sabrina Maurus (Germany), to the Lehigh University students (USA), to Freundeskreis Uganda (Germany), Associació Lukoosi (Catalonia) and All One Rescue (Denmark), to Elise Seera (France), to the Manafwa District Health Office, and to every Zion staff member, past volunteer and friend.

Routine immunisation

Protecting children and communities every day.

A vaccination campaign may last just one week, but routine immunisation is a year-round commitment.
From **January to September**, our team administered **6,025 doses over 71 days** of immunisation activities. This included 35 days of services at the clinic and 36 outreach days, bringing essential health services closer to communities in Butooto, Buwesonga, Bumukhwana and Bubukanza.

4.274 **Childhood vaccines** to protect children against preventable vaccines.

1.342 **Vitamin A and deworming doses** for children under 5 years.

409 **Tetanus doses** for adults.

Whether at the clinic or through community outreach, our commitment remains the same: ensuring that children and adults have regular access to essential preventive health services.

Measles-Rubella Campaign: 730 children reached in just five days

From 1 to 5 October, Uganda conducted a **nationwide measles-rubella vaccination campaign** targeting every child aged 9 months to 4 years, regardless of previous vaccination status.
The campaign came at a critical time. Measles cases had risen sharply in 2025, with most affected children having received no measles vaccine.

Zion set out to vaccinate 627 children but reached 730 in just five days – **116% of our target!** This was also above the national average of 109%, reported by the Ministry of Health.
Behind that achievement were **730 children** given an opportunity for protection:

- **63** children aged 9–11 months.
- **154** children in their second year of life.
- **513** children aged 2–4 years.
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To make vaccination accessible, teams set up temporary vaccination points at Bubukanza, Butooto and Glory primary schools, alongside outreach points in Bumukhwana, Buwesonga and Butooto. On school vaccination days, the team also shared nutrition messages with children and their caregivers, making the campaign an opportunity for health education as well as vaccination.
The vaccines and cold box were supplied through the **Manafwa District Health Office.**

Meet the team: Neumbe Zahara



My name is *Neumbe Zahara*. I am 23 years old, a professional nurse, and have worked at Zion Medical Clinic for the past three years.

What are your responsibilities in the community?
My work involves providing health education, immunisation, family planning services and basic treatment for patients. I also keep health records and prepare reports. Beyond the clinic, I visit vulnerable patients living with long-term illnesses in their homes, where I offer care, counselling and guidance. I also encourage families to maintain good sanitation and personal hygiene to help prevent disease and keep their communities healthy.

What motivates you to work here?
I am motivated by the opportunity to serve vulnerable families in hard-to-reach communities where healthcare is limited. I believe that preventing disease and sharing health knowledge can save lives and make a real difference.

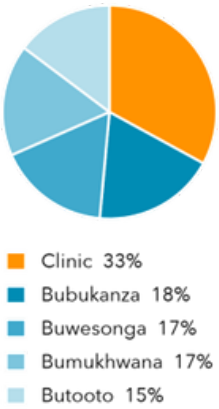
What does a typical day at Zion look like for you?
The day starts with preparing for our activities, such as an immunisation outreach. We pack vaccines and supplies, then hike to the outreach point, where mothers are often waiting with their babies. Firstly, we thank them for coming and continue with providing health education, immunisations and family planning services before recording our work and returning to the clinic.

What is your favourite part of the project?
Immunisation! Knowing that we are protecting children from preventable diseases and helping give them a healthier future makes my work especially rewarding.



Achieved Projects

Two years of records



routine doses by site, January to September 2026

In **November 2024**, the clinic introduced a single immunisation register for every session. Each dose is recorded by date, vaccine, age group and village.
Today, the register holds **21,257 doses across 192 service days.** It gives us reliable figures for reporting and helps us identify where children are being missed. One gap we have identified is the second measles dose, due at 18 months. Improving coverage for this dose is now a priority for our team.
Good records help us see where we are making progress – and where more work is needed.

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Read more on our website

check out our instagram for regular updates



Medical Update

Finding the children no one had reached

A child who has never received a vaccine is known as a *zero-dose child*. These children are often the hardest to reach: families may live far from a health centre, have moved, or struggle to find childcare for other children when attending a clinic.

During the October measles-rubella campaign, our team identified 11 zero-dose children among the 63 babies aged 9–11 months who came for vaccination.
Finding them is just the beginning. All eleven children now have vaccination cards and follow-up appointments to help them catch up on the vaccines they have missed.
We are also paying closer attention to the second measles dose, due at 18 months, when many children miss their next vaccination. This year, Zion administered 192 first doses and 147 second doses.

Protecting children against malaria

Malaria vaccination is another important part of our routine work. Uganda introduced the malaria vaccine into its national programme in 2025. Children receive four doses, starting at six months.
This year, 153 babies started their malaria vaccinations at Zion, and 134 children have already completed all four doses.
Keeping families on track over several months takes commitment, and our outreach visits help make it easier for them to return.

Next step: A maternity unit

Work on our maternity unit is already under way, thanks to earlier donations. The next phase includes plastering, flooring, painting, bathrooms, water and sanitation facilities, electricity, furniture and medical equipment.
A completed maternity unit will give women a safer place to deliver closer to home. It will also help Zion move towards Health Centre III status, opening the way to government funding and additional health workers.

Would you like to help make this possible?

Please support our community outreach work and the maternity unit.
Find us on Instagram at @zion_community or visit bcdp.info.
Every contribution helps bring essential healthcare closer to the families who need it.

Updates

School Health Day in Bushiwi

On 24 September, Zion joined sister organisation **Bushiwi Community Development Partners (BCDP)** for a school health day in Bududa. Peter Wanzala, Dr Rose Mutuwa and two international volunteers spoke to 339 students aged 14–20 about sexual health, preventing infections and pregnancy, and menstrual hygiene.

Around one in four girls in Bududa becomes a mother before turning 20. Yet these subjects are rarely discussed at school or at home, leaving many young people without reliable information.
The students learned about the menstrual cycle, what is normal and when to seek medical help. Menstruation is still surrounded by stigma, and some girls miss school and church every month because of it. Giving them knowledge and confidence is an important step towards changing this.

Child Health Days, April 2026

From 21 to 25 April 2026, our team administered 2,902 doses of vitamin A, deworming treatment, tetanus and HPV vaccines across four villages and at Butooto and Bubukanza primary schools.

Back to routine

After the campaign, the team returned to regular services, giving 347 routine doses over seven sessions at the clinic and in all four villages. Because protecting children takes more than a campaign week!