

Summer Newsletter

SAVING LIVES WHERE IT'S HARDEST

Breath by Breath: Saving Newborn Lives in Eastern Congo



In eastern Congo, where conflict and instability threaten daily life, a quiet transformation is happening inside hospital neonatal wards. Despite the challenges, health workers are saving more newborns—one breath at a time.

This progress is part of an initiative led by HEAL Africa Hospital and Vayu Global Health, now strengthened by the addition of Global Strategies as a partner. Together, the organizations are expanding access to neonatal CPAP, a simple but lifesaving therapy for fragile newborns. For babies born too early, too small, or with underdeveloped lungs, CPAP can mean the difference between life and death.

What is neonatal CPAP?

Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) delivers a gentle, steady flow of air into a baby's nose, helping keep airways open and reducing the work of breathing. It's standard care in well-equipped hospitals—but in places like eastern Congo, it's often unavailable due to unreliable electricity and limited resources.

In early 2025, Global Strategies joined the ongoing rollout of Vayu's innovative CPAP machines across North Kivu. Unlike traditional systems, Vayu's design doesn't require electricity or compressed air, making it ideal for low-resource, crisis-affected settings.

"We used to watch babies die because we had nothing to support their breathing," says Elisabeth Samvura, a nurse at HEAL Africa Hospital in Goma. "Now, with CPAP, we see them get stronger hour by hour. It gives us hope."

Health workers are being trained to use and maintain the new devices, and early outcomes are already promising.

Why this matters:

- Premature birth is a leading cause of newborn death.
- CPAP reduces mortality by supporting breathing non-invasively.
- Vayu's CPAP works without electricity, perfect for unstable settings.
- Local health workers are empowered to save more lives.

"This partnership is a testament to what's possible when we stay focused on newborns—even during a crisis," says Jean Armas, Global Strategies Program Manager. "We didn't wait for things to calm down. We moved forward—because the babies couldn't wait."

Thanks to your support, hospitals in eastern Congo are gaining the tools they need to protect their most vulnerable patients. In the midst of hardship, each saved life is a powerful sign of hope.

Helping Children Thrive: A New Pediatric Study in Uganda

Global Strategies is excited to announce the launch of a groundbreaking pediatric study in Jinja, Uganda, in collaboration with Seattle Children's Hospital and the Makerere Lung Institute. This study has the potential to transform how frontline clinicians care for children facing some of the most common—and most serious—illnesses of early childhood.

The Alrite Study is a joint effort led by Dr. Laura Ellington (Seattle Children's Hospital) and Dr. Rebecca Nantanda (Makerere Lung Institute), in collaboration with our team at Global Strategies. At the heart of the study is a pediatric care application built on Global Strategies' NoviGuide platform*—a digital tool designed to support health providers in real time as they care for sick children in urgent and emergency settings.

The pediatric application covers many urgent conditions, from seizures to severe malaria, but its strength is handling the most common pediatric complaint → cough. When nurses can manage something as frequent as cough with confidence, they're more likely to turn to the app—and keep using it for other less common conditions.

"Cough is one of the most common reasons families bring their children to the clinic," says Dr. Joshua Bress, President of Global Strategies. "It's also one of the trickiest—sometimes it's just a cold, other times it's pneumonia, asthma or even tuberculosis."

By combining global pediatric expertise with on-the-ground insights from local clinicians, the Alrite Study is already showing how clinical decision support tools can make a real difference—especially in places where medical staff are under pressure and every decision matters.



Why it matters:

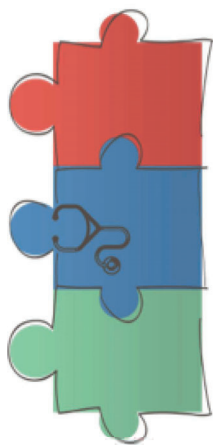
Cough is a common symptom that can signal a wide range of illnesses—from mild to life-threatening.

The NoviGuide platform provides real-time support, helping clinicians make confident, evidence-based decisions.

The study is empowering local providers, equipping them with tools to deliver better, more consistent care.

Thanks to the dedication of teams in Uganda and Seattle, and the support of partners like you, we're one step closer to a future where every child—no matter where they live—has access to the care they need to grow, heal, and thrive.

* NoviGuide is a clinical decision support software designed to provide point-of-care medical information and guidelines to support, but not replace, clinical decision-making by healthcare professionals.



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