

SUCCESS STORY: MAYANJA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION COLLECTS AND USES DATA FOR PROGRAM DECISION MAKING

CHRISTINE'S EXPERIENCE IN HANDLING DATA

Kazigaba Christine is a data Assistant at Mayanja Memorial Hospital Foundation(MMHF) a CSO supported by Civil Society Fund in Mbarara district, like any other fresh university graduate Christine was so excited when she got her first placement as a volunteer data support officer at MMHF two years ago *'my expectations were so high as I walked into the data office'* narrates Christine however her excitement was short lived when she was oriented, *'i started collectiong raw data from the field and entering it in the database alone on a computer i shared with other staff'* The organization had only one computer for the data department where raw data was entred,analyzed and disseminated, internet was very slow and most of the time not there at all.Data was turned in late and reporting was never on time,*'i remember those days when we used to go to a café in town(Mbarara) to send peroidal reports(quarterly or annual) and some times even fail'* this situation continued at Mayanja Memorial Hospital Foundation until Civil Society Fund started funding projects there.



Christine Kazigaba, data assistant (left) consulting the data officer Bienenogisha(right) at MMHF data office, some of furniture bought by CSF in the photo(Photo by Muzoora)

In 2009 Civil Society Fund (CSF) through the Paediatric Linkages Project (PLP) and HIV prevention project (BCC) facilitated trainings in data management and handling, Christine along with other staff benefited from the training and this henceforth improved on human capacity at Mayanja Memorial Hospital Foundation (MMHF). Data flow chats were created and different staff assigned to do different duties, Christine was able to concetrate on data entry as a sole resposiblilty, this did not only increase on her speed but also improved on her level of focus.

'At one time i had a severe backpain only to be told by a medical personel to change my sitting posture' narrates Christine *'we had small tables that were not at all condusive for data entry* however with the intervention and support from Civil Society Fund, MMHF acquired new computers and tables today Mayanja Memorial Hospital Foundation has 3 functional computers in the data department and a web based data entry system.

The constant mentoring and support from Civil Society Fund staff through their routine support supervision to MMHF data staff has bridged the gap that existed before, Christine and other staff are able to get new information and feed back whenever need arises, *'I thank CSF staff for mentoring us now we are able to get feed back and work better as a team'* Chistine dictums.

Mayanja Memorial Hospital Foundation (MMHF) has improved its speed in data management and handling acquired computers and increased its work force to better its services as a saying goes '**information is like water, too much and you drown in it, too little and you die of thirst**' now Mayanja Memorial Hospital Foundation is able to collect enough and required information to better inform its stakeholders and make decisions based on it.



Ms Kazigaba Chistine on her office desk at MMHF(Photo Muzoora)