IDJWI RISING 2019

HONORING A DECADE OF THE IDJWI SPIRIT

www.amaniglobalworks.org
LETTER FROM THE FOUNDERS

Dear Friends,

Jambo (hello in Swahili)!

When we founded Amani Global Works (AGW) over 10 years ago, people asked us, “Why Idjwi?”

From the very beginning, we wanted to respond to our home island’s needs for primary healthcare, especially for mothers and infants. Our work grew because of the community’s whole-hearted involvement and deep solidarity. Serving with the Ban’Idjwi (the people of Idjwi) continues to be the most rewarding part of the work because they demonstrate how people can rise above adverse circumstances full of hope, strength, and peace.

Throughout a decade of work, the community members have been our primary partners. They readily embraced AGW’s mission: building the AGW hospital and serving as community health workers (CHWs), and advocating for shared goals among local organizations and governments. We have also partnered with the excluded community of First Citizens, wrongly referred to as “Pygmies,” who are now an integral part of everything we do. Together, we transform the resources from our donors and partners into locally-led solutions that challenge the status quo and deeply impact their way of life. Today, AGW reaches 300,000 people – the total population of Idjwi island – as a bridge to modern medicine and integrated healthcare.

From 2010 to 2019, we saw how the Idjwi spirit is hopeful, resilient, and rising. We honor them, their deep sense of community, and the larger global community of donors and partners who make our work possible. Through your commitment, we are improving the quality of life of the most vulnerable in Africa’s remotest regions, and making Idjwi a model for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and beyond. Thank you for being part of AGW’s ongoing mission to care, cure, and make whole.

From our Idjwi family to yours, Aksanti, Koko (thank you in Swahili and Havu)!

Yours,

Jacques Sebisaho, M.D, M.P.A
CO-FOUNDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Busime Mimy Mudekereza, FNP BC, CEN, R.N.
CO-FOUNDER, DIRECTOR OF NURSING
A Brief History of Idjwi Island

Idjwi island is a special place at the heart of Lake Kivu that piques curiosity and interest. It straddles the borders of Rwanda and Eastern DRC, separate from the mainland. Known as “Africa’s Forgotten Island”, Idjwi’s isolation made it a refuge for thousands escaping the violence in the region in the 1990s and 2000s. Untouched by war, Idjwi is shrouded in serenity, with its calm waters, mountainous landscapes, and lush terrain. While spared from political unrest, its isolation, however, severed access to key government support and services. Paved roads, potable tap water, infrastructure, and other basic needs are still not widely available to the island’s 300,000 population.

Health and economic conditions in Idjwi are worse than in the rest of the DRC, which despite its mineral wealth, is one of the world’s poorest countries. 82% of Idjwi’s population live on less than US$1 per day, compared to 59% of the Congolese.

Today, hunger and infectious diseases are rampant, particularly among children, and women severely lack reproductive health services.

“When we first began building the medical center, a woman who cannot read and write, a mother of 9, came to me and said, ‘This project is so important to us, and we want to be part of it.’ Our success today is thanks to our community in Idjwi island who harnessed their full creativity to make a difference.”

Jacques Sebisaho, Co-Founder and Executive Director

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Jacques Sebisaho, Co-Founder and Executive Director
The Idjwi Spirit

The residents of Idjwi are a welcoming, peace-loving, and hardworking people. The majority survive on subsistence farming, with women farmers selling their crops and men venturing through Lake Kivu to sell in mainland markets. Their determination has brought about microfinance initiatives and cooperatives that have been stimulating local enterprises—which led to Idjwi gaining a reputation for ‘the best coffee in the world.’

Health in Idjwi

Despite the growth in livelihood, health conditions in Idjwi are critical. Fertility, maternal, and child mortality rates are alarming. During childbirth, 18 in 1,000 women die, one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world; only 25% of women on Idjwi receive four antenatal care check-ups, compared to 47% in the DRC1; 90% of school-age children have intestinal worms; 89% of households go hungry; and the average life expectancy is 25 years. Life is especially hard for women, children, and the elderly due to chronic malnutrition and malaria. Most deaths in Idjwi are due to curable and preventable diseases, but residents have to endure traveling through harsh conditions to reach health centers. The island has less capacity to address these problems than the rural DRC, with only 2.7 physicians per 100,000 people on Idjwi, compared to 10 per 100,000 in the DRC.

Idjwi on the Rise

Against the backdrop of these social issues, AGW established the island’s first integrated primary healthcare system, creating a bridge to quality healthcare. Since its humble beginnings, AGW gained the respect and trust of the Idjwi community as the island’s dedicated healthcare provider, inspiring residents to volunteer for community health projects, and creating a culture of local collaboration. Idjwi is striving to become a model of integrated primary healthcare that can scale beyond its shores.

A Model for Community Health

While geographically separated, Idjwi’s isolation has given it a political strength. This strength helped raise a number of educated leaders in Congolese society. Amani Global Works has been focusing on identifying Idjwi’s strengths and building upon them as a strategy towards healing. The determination of the Ban’Idjwi to make their community a healthcare and economic model in a troubled region is a crucial intervention, positively affecting the surrounding region.

Our model is composed of trained CHWs, health clinics, and a referral hospital that work in harmony to positively impact maternal and child health.

The health program and related services are valued and shared by the Idjwi community. As a result, we are training more CHWs and furnishing public health clinics with better equipment to help them address Idjwi’s health concerns. Working with the Regional and National Ministries of Health, AGW is leading the conversation towards systemic change.

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Our Mission: Care, Cure, Make Whole

Amani Global Works’ mission is to Care, Cure, and Make Whole by providing healthcare to the most impoverished and forgotten areas of Africa. We aim to improve health in the island of Idjwi by providing preventive and emergency care for all communities in need, and then creating a template of care—focused on improving maternal and child health—that can be replicated throughout the continent.

Our Vision

A primary healthcare system that provides quick response and delivers the right level of care at no cost to patients:

- Trained and paid health workers proactively visit households, seeking individuals in need of care and delivering treatment at their doorstep.
- Cases that cannot be treated at residents’ homes are referred to a well-equipped health center with nurses and midwives.
- Complicated cases are referred to the AGW hospital for comprehensive care.

Our Team

Dr. Jacques Sebisaho and Mimy Mudekereza founded AGW in 2010 to provide healthcare for the people on their home island of Idjwi. Since then, we have established an integrated primary healthcare system with fully equipped hospitals and health clinics, fueled by a network of dedicated community health workers, doctors, and nurses. Our team is led by:

**Dr. Jacques Sebisaho, Co-founder and Executive Director**
Born and raised in the DRC, Jacques was one of the millions who suffered the terrible violence that afflicted the African Great Lakes region in the mid-1990s. Because of his experiences, he has dedicated himself to healing his homeland, spending years treating the neediest patients.

**Mimy Mudekereza, R.N., Co-founder and Nursing and Community Health Worker Training Director**
Family nurse practitioner, and certified emergency and registered nurse, Mimy works at the New York Presbyterian Hospital and Columbia University Medical Center. She also co-founded the Community of Sant’ Egidio in Eastern DRC, which works with the poor and promotes dialogue between nations and religions.

**Clarise Agbor, Country Director, Democratic Republic of Congo**
Clarise leads AGW’s operations in DRC. A graduate of Buea University with a specialization in agriculture economy and agribusiness, she also founded Mandah Organics to train farmers in sustainable agriculture and agro-processing.

**Mandy Suarez, Director of Development**
Mandy has spent her entire career in non-profit fundraising. On a due diligence trip with the END Fund in 2015, she visited Idjwi and was captivated by the spirit and hope of its people. As AGW’s director of development, she focuses on growing its capacity to ensure maximum impact and reach.

Our Most Important Team Members

Our work would not be possible without the 206 trained, supervised, and paid Community Health Workers (CHWs), mainly women, who take this role with honor and a great sense of accountability. They work hand-in-hand with 115 nurses, 2 full-time and 2 part-time doctors, and 71 support staff in our hospital and community clinics. Idjwi village chiefs lead in selecting some of the most respected people in their communities to be trained as CHWs. The collaboration between CHWs, nurses, and doctors is at the heart of our impact, ultimately bringing healthcare closer to the people. Through this model of collaboration, the Idjwi community has created a health system that provides care for everyone in a dignified setting.

From Our Partner

“...Amani Global Works never shies away from a challenge. They have taken root in a remote and under-resourced setting to deliver stellar healthcare through a truly community-driven approach.”

Andy Bryant, Executive Director, Segal Family Foundation
HONORING A DECADE OF THE IDJWI SPIRIT

Thriving communities are rooted in the character of the people. In Idjwi, their resilience, perseverance, grit, and warmth contribute to community-led development, as seen in the growth of healthcare services. Honoring a decade of the Idjwi spirit, AGW proudly remembers these community milestones.

2010

April
AGW started as a tiny clinic made of raw materials such as mud, sticks, and stones.

May
The Idjwi community welcomed 10 Harvard graduates who conducted the first-ever demographic and health survey in the island.

September
After months of hard work by Bill Gottlieb and Jacques, AGW received its 501(c)3 status, which paved the way for public awareness about Idjwi.

October
AGW moved into a two-bedroom building donated by Jacques’ parents to serve as a health clinic, and focused on building a strong board to help sustain and grow its impact.

November
AGW received DRC government recognition for its community health clinic.

2011

February
Jacques and Mimy received the first donation from Jeannie Tseng and Colin Rust, AGW’s long-standing advocates and board members emeriti.

March
500 Idjwi residents, including women and First Citizens, became the first Community Health Workers (CHWs) for AGW, volunteering to reach out and identify at-risk persons within the service areas, with no mandate to treat yet.

October
AGW partnered with Segal Family Foundation, receiving their first donation from a foundation and launching AGW on the road to growth and impact.

2012

March
Matt Dillon visited Idjwi to see AGW’s work and decided to be involved.

April
Matt Dillon and Olga Palladino hosted a benefit chamber music concert at Matt’s home in New York City.

May
Jacques received the Segal Family Foundation “Rising Star Award”.

From Our Partner

“Amani does more with less than just about anyone we know. We’ve watched in awe as Jacques and team have gone from a single hospital to providing quality health care for a much bigger population—and all while developing a model for district-level health care that could scale far beyond Idjwi island.”

Kevin Starr, Managing Director, Mulago Foundation
2013

May
Jacques received the Richard Holbrook Leadership Award by Refugee International.

October
Idjwi’s First Citizens volunteered and completed AGW’s hospital construction, which began in 2012. The hospital provided no-cost care and priority to all First Citizens, especially for maternal and child care, and continues to do so.

November
Jacques spoke at TEDxSoweto in South Africa, sharing how the community built AGW’s medical center and how First Citizens receive dignified care.

2014

January
AGW received its first office space donation from Arielle Tepper and Ian Madover.

August
The Greek Orthodox Church of the Hamptons’ Blue Dream Summer Gala recognized AGW for its efforts to “feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and heal the sick.”

October
With the support of the DRC government, AGW inaugurated its main clinic as a referral hospital.

2015

December
Jacques spoke at TEDxDaltonSchool in New York City, discussing his life and mission in Idjwi island.

2016

September
AGW partnered with the Mulago Foundation to develop a new model of district-level healthcare and milestones for impact in Idjwi and beyond, cementing AGW’s vision, impact, and scale.

December (until 2018)
500 medical distributors administer 1,500,000 treatments against intestinal worms, schistosomiasis, and lymphatic filariasis to more than 230,000 people in Idjwi in partnership with the END Fund and the DRC government.

2019

December
Responding to the needs of the island’s South Kingdom, AGW expanded its services in cooperation with Mwami (king) Ntambuka. Because of this, Idjwi’s 300,000 population can now access primary healthcare through CHWs, health clinics, and the AGW hospital.

From Our Partner

“I’ve met quite a few doctors trying to serve the most neglected people on the planet. But I have never met anyone like Jacques. He’s obsessed with showing good care is possible in the poorest of places, and the fact that he’s actually from Idjwi gives him such a huge advantage. More importantly, Jacques leads with his heart. He radiates a wide-eyed kind of joy that, taken together with the extraordinary results of Amani Global Works, will make you believe that anything is possible.”

Jascha Hoffman
2019 IMPACT

Through partnerships with local leaders, community health workers, and local health professionals, we ended the first decade strong. In 2019, we brought accessible healthcare across Idjwi’s whole population and exceeded our targets for the year—a testament to what the power of collaboration can achieve.

300,000
ENTIRE POPULATION OF IDJWI COVERED
2019 Target: 160,000

2,589
IN-FACILITY DELIVERIES
2019 Target: 1,600

102,000
HOME VISITS BY CHWs
2019 Target: 60,000

21
CLINICS
2019 Target: 12

206
CHWs TRAINED, EQUIPPED, PAID, AND SUPERVISED
2019 Target: 90

27,118
CHILDREN UNDER 5 TREATED AT HOME, IN CLINICS, AND IN THE HOSPITAL
2019 Target: 15,000

9,742
WOMEN ADOPTED FAMILY PLANNING METHODS
2019 Target: 8,000

1
REFERRAL HOSPITAL AS BACKUP FOR CLINICS
2019 Target: 1

From Our Community

“I am a First Citizen of Idjwi. It is a great joy for me to give birth to my kids on the same delivery bed and same hospital as the Ban’Idjwi. Being treated with dignity as I give birth is something that I never thought I could experience due to the way we were marginalized.”

Nyota Mukaba Valentine, 35 years old | Kishenyi Village, North Idjwi

From Our Partner

“IZUMI Foundation continues to be impressed with AGW’s quality, efficient, and compassionate healthcare reaching Idjwi Island’s most vulnerable communities. We appreciate AGW’s model to leverage and strengthen local capacity in order to ensure lasting, quality care on this remote island.”

Gretchen Stoddard, Program Director, IZUMI Foundation
In 2019, AGW had an operating revenue of $716,761, with 73.6% coming from foundation grants. Our direct program costs make up majority (62.7%) of our expenses. Personnel expenses account for 27.6%, while the rest are used for administrative and fundraising needs.

For more information on our 2019 Financial Statement, you may contact Mandy Groff Suarez at mgroff@amaniglobalworks.org.
AGW is motivated to serve Africa’s most isolated areas and provide primary healthcare for all in a dignified, noble, and safe environment. As we enter a new decade, we take on a renewed challenge and opportunity toward achieving our goals. Our impact for the past 10 years in Idjwi provided a framework we can refine, scale, and eventually replicate in other parts of the DRC.

Through our integrated model utilizing hospitals, health clinics, and community health workers, we are confident that the health of the people of Idjwi—and eventually of those in the mainland—can significantly improve. We are training more CHWs and partnering with existing government-funded health clinics. These clinics are refurbished and provided medical supplies and equipment so they can offer family planning, malaria prevention, and other treatments and services. We continue to strengthen our working relationship with the Regional and National Ministries of Health, serving in an advisory role for the potential expansion of our work across the country.

The Idjwi spirit is that of perseverance, resilience, and grit. The progress the community has built over the past 10 years will be the foundation of an even better future and an inspiration for us to continue improving our programs. We invite you to join us as we take this extraordinary journey in our next decade.
DONOR & BOARD ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We thank our donors for their commitment to the Ban’Idjwi and AGW by supporting quality healthcare for the whole island of Idjwi.

DONORS

$1,000–$4,999
Anonymous
Amy Lehman
The Boston Foundation
Network For Good
Jill Wade

$5,000–$9,999
William Gottlieb
Jennifer Wade

$10,000–$24,999
Ben Appen & Leslie Chang
David Evans
Hale Family Charitable Trust

$25,000–$99,999
IZUMI Foundation

$100,000–$150,000
Anonymous
Jascha Hoffman Giving Fund
Mulago Foundation
Colin Rust & Jeannie Tseng
Segal Family Foundation

OUR BOARD

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Board Chair

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Co-founder and Executive Director

Mimy Mudekereza, R.N.,
Co-founder and
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From Our Partner

“From the moment I met Jacques, I was taken with his humility and intelligence as he shared with me his vision of sustainable health care for the people of Idjwi island. Through their focus, determination, and hard work, Jacques and Mimy, along with the dedicated doctors and staff at Amani Global Works, have made that dream a reality.”

Matt Dillon, Award Winning Actor and Board Member, Amani Global Works

From Our Community

I thank Amani Global Works for taking care of my kids, whether at home with CHWs or at the AGW hospital. AGW also gives porridge to our kids every day, which has reduced malnutrition in our community. My job with AGW also helps my family in so many ways. With my salary, I am able to provide for my children and am well-respected by my husband.”

Nabintu Mugaru Muhindo, 34 years old | Washiha, North Idjwi