



FROM THE KNOCKS AT
HER DOOR: JOYCE
ONYINO ANSWERED HER
VILLAGE'S NEED FOR
HEALTHCARE

On the edge of a busy rural trading centre where three counties meet stands Joint Partners Health Clinic. The facility was born in 1998 from the late-night knocks of women in labour seeking help from Joyce Onyino, one of Musasa Village's few trained nurse-midwives.

"There were so many knocks at the door, 'Sister, sister, help us deliver.' It was risky because I was never prepared. I didn't have gloves or equipment, so I improvised," she recalls. "Sometimes I even used polythene papers so that I would not contaminate the patients."

This experience exposed significant gaps in maternal healthcare access, leading her to establish Joint Partners Nursing Home, a trusted centre for care for mothers and children in the community.

Today, nearly 30 years later, it operates as a busy rural health centre serving communities across Vihiga, Kakamega, and Nandi counties.



Joint Partners Health Clinic

From Home Births to Safer Care

Before the clinic existed, childbirth often happened at home or after a long trip to distant facilities, which contributed to preventable maternal and child deaths. The Joint Partners team responded to this crisis by caring for mothers from pregnancy through delivery and into the postnatal period.

Joyce notes that their services shifted the community's relationship with health facilities.

As a result, Joint Partners has conducted over 3000 deliveries since its founding.



"People started understanding the importance of hospital delivery and antenatal care."

Joyce Onyino



"We had to travel long distances... and we lost many people as a result. But here, any patient who comes is not turned away. Even at night, the hospital is open. Joyce has really been helpful to this community, we are very grateful."

Mshere Hulda, Beneficiary



A mother and her child at the clinic



Joyce with some of the mothers at the clinic



A mother and her child at the clinic

Extending Care Beyond Birth

Mothers also trust the facility to care for their children. Through immunisation programs, children who once faced diseases like measles, polio, diarrhoea, and severe dehydration now have a healthier start in life.

"There are diseases we used to see everywhere years ago that are now very rare." Joyce Onyino

Beatrice Isunza, a 24-year-old mother, describes her experience during pregnancy and delivery in 2025.

She received free antenatal care, ultrasound services, delivery support, and her child also received the necessary immunisations. However, what stayed with her most was not only the medical care.

"They gave me food and took care of me when I was stressed... they let me stay with my baby for a week," she says. "Even after I developed complications with breastfeeding, they still helped me."

After returning home, she continued taking her child to postnatal clinics. Eventually, she began volunteering at the facility.

"If not for them, I would have lost my life or my baby," she says.



Baby receiving injection at the clinic



Baby on a weighing scale at the clinic



Annette, Lab Technologist, Joint Partners Health Clinic

Expanding Diagnostic and Treatment Services

The laboratory's diagnostic capacity has strengthened the facility's ability to test, diagnose, and treat patients within the community, ensuring care is guided by timely and reliable results. Annette, the lab technologist, has witnessed a gradual shift in community health behaviour, particularly around conditions that once carried fear and stigma.

The Tuberculosis (TB) clinic clearly reflects this progress. From just 2 patients in 2021, the facility now supports 25 patients on treatment, with up to 10 samples screened and tested daily.

Another notable case involved a woman with a history of repeated miscarriages at other facilities. At the clinic, a simple blood test revealed a blood compatibility issue affecting her pregnancies. With appropriate treatment and injections, she was supported through her pregnancy and carried it to term successfully.

"Whenever she sees me, she is very grateful," she says. "Because she finally has a child."

"Previously, there were many TB cases, and people were afraid to test. Now people come freely and receive the care they need. The stigma has reduced significantly."

Annette, Lab Technologist



Looking Ahead

Joyce envisions expanding access to quality healthcare in her community. The vision includes an operating theatre, expanded infrastructure, more doctors' offices, and improved emergency services, transforming the clinic into a rural hospital. From a rented room in a market to a multi-service facility serving three counties, Joint Partners Health Clinic shows what community leadership can build and sustain for generations.

HER DREAM:

"To grow Joint Partners Health Clinic into a full hospital — a one-stop facility where patients can access surgery, X-ray, and comprehensive care in the village."

WHAT KEEPS HER GOING:

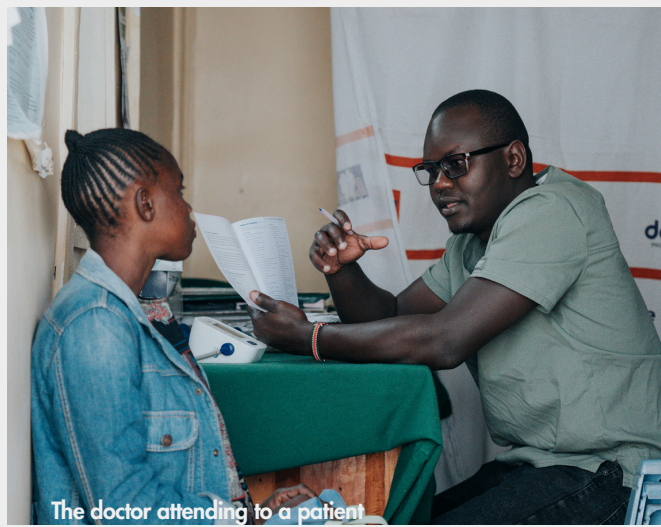
"When a patient comes sick and leaves well... that is what encourages me."



Joyce with the clinic's Director, Adan Ganira



Joyce at the pharmacy



The doctor attending to a patient



The clinician attending to a patient



A baby warmer machine at the clinic



Joyce with some of the staff at the clinic