

global strategies



2021

ANNUAL REPORT

Global Strategies
empowers
communities
in the most
neglected areas
of the world to
improve the lives
of women and
children through
healthcare.

2021

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Founder, In Memoriam

Dr. Arthur Ammann

Letter from the Chair

This year marked the passing of our beloved founder, Dr. Arthur Ammann, who died on August 15, 2021 in San Rafael, California. He was a giant in the field of HIV/AIDS, and made a critical, and in his own words 'terrible discovery' that children could acquire the disease. He dedicated the next five decades of his life to increasing our understanding of HIV/AIDS, driving efforts to study the disease in women and children, and creating Global Strategies to reach the most marginalized communities affected by the HIV epidemic. Art's work took him to the halls of Congress and to the forefront of scientific discovery. His own heroes were always the frontline healthcare workers—doctors and nurses in Nigeria, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda, doing everything they can to ease pain and suffering in their communities.

Today we are carrying forward that cherished legacy. In this year's annual report you will find a reflection by our president, Dr. Joshua Bress, about his mentor Dr. Ammann. Then you will read about frontline healthcare workers in the Democratic Republic of Congo responding to the Nyiragongo Volcano and our work to empower healthcare workers through cutting-edge innovations. In all of this work, we hold close to Art's values and memory.

Thank you for being part of Global Strategies,

Nicole Rubin

Global Strategies Chair



Remembering Art

In the last decade of his life, Global Strategies' founder Dr. Arthur Ammann concluded every speech with the same two quotations. The first is from Rainer Maria Rilke, whose poem hung in his office:

I live my life in widening circles
that reach out across the world.
I may not complete this last one
but I give myself to it.

The second was from American author William Faulkner's *Intruder in the Dust*:

Some things you must always be unable to bear.
Some things you must never stop refusing to bear.
Injustice and outrage and dishonor and shame.
No matter how young you are or how old you have got.
Not for kudos and not for cash:
your picture in the paper nor money in the bank either.
Just refuse to bear them.



He loved these quotations. Rilke's imagery resonated with his life at Global Strategies—a narrow circle in his lab in the 1980s learning how children acquired HIV to wider circles extending beyond HIV and beyond California to violence against women, treatment of the poor and injustice around the world. But he always included the second quotation in the same breath, juxtaposing Rilke's soaring poetry with Faulkner's earthbound prose—shame, dishonor, kudos and the cash—and its call to action no matter 'how old you have got.'

Dr. Ammann was a dear friend and mentor. Since his passing, I have reflected on his life and work. In 1999, when he founded Global Strategies, he was a world renowned scientist and advocate. Why did he embark on a new circle, in his retirement years, leaving behind prestige and comfort to form a small non-profit organization to work with the world's poorest communities? I think the answer is in these quotations he returned to again and again. He gave himself to this last circle because he could not bear not to. The HIV epidemic, like our current pandemic, revealed our capacity for great acts of technological wonder, but also the heavy burden born by the world's poor.

Thank you to everyone who reached out after Dr. Ammann's passing. We miss him and honor his memory by continuing his work.

Joshua Bress, M.D.

Global Strategies President

To read more about Dr. Ammann and his life work fighting HIV/AIDS please visit:

globalstrategies.org/news/global-strategies-founder-dr-arthur-ammann-1936-2021

Cover Image Sister Beatrice Musungu, Tororo District Hospital, Uganda, evaluating a newborn using NoviGuide

Opposite Page Nicole Rubin and Dr. Arthur Ammann in San Francisco

Above Dr. Arthur Ammann



Goma Volcano Response

On May 22, 2021 the Mount Nyiragongo Volcano erupted north of the city of Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Residents of the provincial capital fled during a chaotic overnight evacuation. Many children were separated from their families and essential services were interrupted. Our partners were not spared, fleeing by foot, car and boat across the border to Rwanda, west to the town of Sake and south across Lake Kivu to Bukavu. Newborns in the neonatal unit were hastily evacuated. Lava destroyed homes of families whose children receive care in our Children's AIDS Program.

While large international groups were able to mobilize efforts to provide safe water, shelter and supplies, few groups were able to provide emergency obstetric and newborn care. International medical teams could not easily enter the country. The emergency responders who did arrive often lacked training in delivering and caring for babies.

When our Congolese partners returned to Goma, many of them displaced from their homes, the emergency response efforts began in earnest. Highly-skilled Congolese medical teams at HEAL Africa Hospital, with support from Global Strategies, formed an emergency maternal-child outreach response.

"For years we have worked shoulder-to-shoulder to develop the most advanced maternal-newborn care teams in the North Kivu Province," says Global Strategies Program Manager Jean Armas. "These hospital-based teams turned outwards after the volcano to serve their communities. In natural disasters members of the affected community can become powerful first-responders."

Congolese doctors, nurses and midwives fanned out across the affected areas to conduct rapid needs assessments, reinforce health facilities and provide medical supplies for clean births.

“Our teams made a big difference,” says DRC Program Manager Dr. Givano Kashemwa, “With the ambulance we transferred high-risk pregnant women and babies from the zone directly impacted by lava to HEAL Africa Hospital, saving hundreds of lives.”

A critical element of the HEAL Africa volcano response was the team's ability to provide a full-spectrum of medical services. Health centers visited by the Congolese outreach response team received supplies and refresher training.

Photos, Left to Right

- Dr. Esther and Dr. Vindu, Heal Africa coordination team
- Joseph Kikuni, charge nurse, and Dr. Raphael, HEAL Africa, at Munigi Health Center
- Local devastation near Goma after Mt Nyiragongo eruption in May 2021
- HEAL Africa Team at the Goma Maternal Newborn Child Outreach Project Launch Ceremony



The team assisted with patient consultations on-site and then helped transfer any women or newborns requiring emergency care. Mothers who needed emergency caesarian sections and newborns requiring neonatal intensive care received the care free of charge.

In addition to labor and delivery care, the HEAL Africa team also included experts in the treatment of severe childhood malnutrition. Malnutrition is a leading cause of mortality after a natural disaster as young children, many already undernourished, are pushed into a crisis by a sudden lack of food. Early action is essential. When children are sick, but not so critically ill that they cannot eat, simple interventions can save lives. Working side-by-side with staff at the health centers, nurses measured and weighed children and provided life-saving high-calorie nutritional supplements.

The work is far from over. The outreach activities uncovered gaps in care that predated the volcano. Today, the teams are striving to use the work started immediately after the eruption as a foundation for sustained improvements in maternal and child care.

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Designing for the Frontline

Nurses at Mukuju Health Center sit outside enjoying the cool air after a rain and listen to Sister Atim Grace and Sister Beatrice Musungu give a lecture. Atim and Beatrice, midwives from nearby Tororo District Hospital, have delivered babies their entire careers and are the first faces for thousands of Ugandan newborns. Sister Atim is a good teacher and gets the nurses to pay attention with her knowledge and sense of humor. Sister Beatrice has taught midwives for many years and is relaxed in front of the group. They have done this before, but this time something is different. Instead of teaching midwifery, the midwives are teaching their colleagues about Global Strategies' NoviGuide software. The software helps nurses and midwives follow complex neonatal guidelines.



Above New mother, Justine Awori, with Nurse Ritta Nankwanga and NoviGuide trainer, Beatrice Musungu

“For software to scale-up cost-effectively in Uganda, it must be implemented locally by clinicians and not by technology specialists,” says Ugandan Principal Investigator Dr. Mary Muhindo, “Midwives are available, well-versed in the contextual factors affecting newborn care and their colleagues prefer to learn from one of their own. Using midwives as technology trainers sends a message to trainees—‘I can do it and so can you.’”

Below Kiana Etsate-Gashytewa, Zuni NoviGuide project

Almost exactly 9,000 miles away in Zuni Pueblo, New Mexico, Kiana Etsate-Gashytewa is helping the Global Strategies team understand a piece of art created by Zuni artist Mallery Quetawki. In the center of the mural is the sun, connected by two Zuni sash belts to anatomic images of the human heart complete with the major blood vessels.

Speaking about the mural, Mallery Quetawki said she hoped to create, “that continual balance that we all recognize in our culture and amongst one another...one of our core values, one of our most high ideals that we have as people, is that balance that harmony.”

While the original mural will be framed and stay in the Zuni community, a digital version will bring beauty to a most unlikely place—a hospital computer. The mural will be the backdrop to the NoviGuide login page, our software designed to help doctors and nurses deliver care in remote and rural settings. The work, still in its design and testing phases, aims to help clinicians far from subspecialty care, address complex medical problems.



“Global Strategies worked closely with healthcare professionals long before we started developing digital innovations,” says Dr. Joshua Bress, “That experience helped us design for the individual. We know that good software does not merely do something, it has to do something for someone.”

2021

Contributions

\$375,313 26%

Grants

\$997,598 70%

In-Kind

\$61,833 4%

Other

\$4,282 <1%

Total Income

\$1,439,026

Prevention & Care

\$570,209 42%

Education & Training

\$87,101 6%

Advocacy & Outreach

\$54,490 4%

Health & Technology

\$320,273 23%

Monitoring & Evaluation

\$85,912 7%

General & Administrative

\$197,131 14%

Fundraising & Development

\$57,889 4%

Total Expenses

\$1,373,005

Complete audited
financial statements
can be found at
globalstrategies.org



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