

## MaterCare Maternity Hospital Renamed

The newly operating MaterCare Maternity hospital maternity hospital in Isiolo, Kenya may be the first hospital in the world to be named after the Pope John Paul II after Pope Francis proclaimed him a saint on Sunday, April 27th, 2014. The hospital, which serves rural women and children, has been operating for the past year.

In 2005, Dr. Robert Walley proposed to the then Bishop of the Apostolic Vicariate of Isiolo, Luigi Locati, to name the hospital as a memorial to the late Holy Father John Paul II. The present Bishop Anthony Ileri Mukobo had readily agreed that the hospital be dedicated to the new St. John Paul II.

### 1st year Numbers

The current Kenyan government under President Uhuru Kenyatta, promised, in 2013, free maternity services for mothers. This was to be done through NHIF (National Health Insurance Fund).

MaterCare applied for NHIF accreditation for the hospital in 2013, was inspected and was given an overwhelming endorsement but to date still have not received approval.

### St. John Paul II Maternity Hospital

#### Out Patient Department

Over 5: 3578  
Under 5: 1657

#### Maternal Health Clinic

Ante Natal Clinic: 665  
Post Natal Clinic: 119  
Child Welfare Clinic: 485

#### Maternity Department

Spontaneous Vertex Delivery: 134  
Caesarean Section: 58  
General Ward: 56

### Merti Maternity Clinic



**MaterCare International** is an organization of Catholic health professionals dedicated to the care of mothers and babies, both born and unborn, through new initiatives of service, training, research, and advocacy, which are designed to reduce the tragically high rates of maternal mortality, morbidity, and abortion.

**MaterCare's** mission is to serve the Culture of Life where it is most at risk- in those crisis areas and 'hotspots' where mothers and their children are neglected or abandoned outright.

*MCI is registered in Canada, Poland, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia. MCI is the Obstetrical Arm of the World Federation of Catholic Medical Associations (FIAMC). MCI is an NGO with ECOSOC consultative status of the Department of Public Information of the United Nations (UN).*

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*"The sun should not rise or set twice on a labouring woman" —African proverb*

## Project Isiolo

*MCI's Model of Rural Essential Obstetrics for Isiolo, Kenya*



## St. John Paul II Maternity Hospital

Updated July 2014

## A PROJECT FOR ESSENTIAL MATERNITY CARE SERVICES IN ISIOLO, KENYA

### Background

The Isiolo Administrative District is located in the centre of Kenya extending north and eastward towards the Ethiopian and Somali borders. The climate is hot and dry for most of the year, with a short rainy season. However, the rainfall is unreliable and crop growing is limited; thus, there are frequent famines



and pronounced food insecurity. The roads are poor and are sparsely populated between major towns. Merti and outlying villages have approximately 150,000 people with only 1 midwife serving the whole area. From the town of Isiolo, Merti is 178 kms but takes 5 hours in a reliable 4X4 truck.

Isiolo family home



Most mothers deliver at home on a rug.

The Church provides 40% of healthcare in Kenya. The Vicariate of Isiolo covers the same area as the Isiolo Town District, sub-divided into 12 parishes.

Each parish has a dispensary but they need renovations to bring them up to minimal standards. Neither the Church nor the



Kenyan Ministry of Health have the funds for the equipment, supplies, and much needed staff.

In 2005, MCI was approached by late Bishop Luigi Locati to assess the state of maternal health in Isiolo and see what it could do to help save mother's lives. MCI developed a Rural Essential Maternity Care project to work in partnership with the Apostolic Vicariate of Isiolo.

*Monsignor Luigi Locati summarized the Isiolo district as being "unique" because of its nomadic population, the severity of the climate, the poverty, poor roads, poor communication, and isolation. These have resulted in neglect on the part of the authorities and most non-governmental organizations. (NGOs)*

**Purpose:** to provide level 1 obstetrical services, which will include normal care during pregnancy and delivery, and treatment of most obstetric and medical complications.

**Situation:** Maternal and infant mortality rates are extremely high. AIDS, severe anemia, malaria, haemorrhage and obstructed labour are the main causes of death. Most births take place in villages with untrained Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs).

### Project Isiolo- Phase 2 (ongoing)

1. Construction of a laundry and kitchen



2. Constructing four maternity waiting homes in Isiolo for high risk mothers as they near their due date and their family;



3. Construction of a small mortuary.
4. Complete security wall around St.. John Paul II Maternity Hospital compound, which covers approximately 660 meters. 220 meters have been completed.



5. Continue to train midwives and TBAs in basic maternal care and be able to identify high-risk pregnancies for early referral to the hospital where they can be closely monitored.



Since 2006, MCI has raised over \$1.6 million from the Italian Episcopal Conference, the States of Guernsey, (Channel Islands, UK), the Papal Foundation and several other generous foundations, but mostly from the general public (Canada, USA, UK, and Australia). No funds have come from government aid agencies.

### **Project Isiolo Total Budget Summarized\*\*\* (5 years) \$US**

1. Operating	\$1,753,293
2. Construction	\$534,153
3. Equipment	\$54,480
4. Training/conference	\$77,405
(*** Estimated)	<b>Total \$2,419,340</b>

**Phase I(A) included equipment, construction of main Isiolo maternity building and Merti maternity ward, training TBAs, providing emergency equipment and transport.**