

Hundreds get tested for cancer, diabetes, hypertension

MBARARA

By Abdulkarim Ssengendo

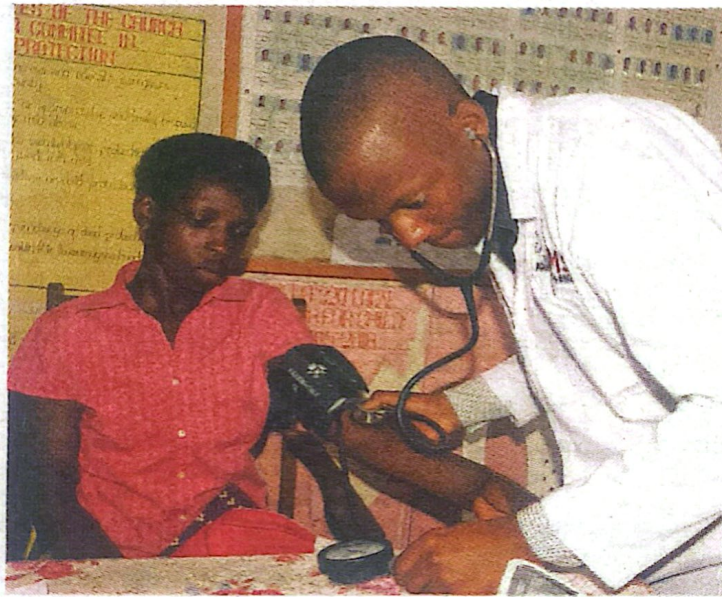
Hundreds of people turned up for the free medical camp at St Luke Kinoni Church of Uganda in Rwampara, Mbarara district on Sunday.

The camp was organised by a team of medical students from Mbarara University of Science and Technology and doctors from Ankole Diocese Mission Hospital.

The camp mainly looked at non-communicable diseases ranging from cancer, diabetes and high blood pressure.

They also addressed reproductive health and family planning related issues.

Speaking to over 1,000 people who turned up for treatment, Edgar Atwine, the president of Mbarara University of Science and



A woman undergoing screening during the medical camp on Sunday. Photo by Abdulkarim Ssengendo

Technology Medical Students desist from relying on Herbal medicines in treating non-communicable diseases. Association, urged residents of Kinoni sub-county to

"These diseases are easily treated if we discover them in their early stages." Atwine

He said the diseases are dangerous and complicated, but treatable if discovered early. He asked them to always approach doctors in government hospitals and health centres.

"These diseases are easily treated. However, if discovered at a late stage, they can hardly be treated. We, therefore, urge you to always go for

screening," Atwine advised.

He said the medical camp was part of their corporate social responsibility. "We chose Kinoni because as medical students, we have it in our hearts to give out to community, considering that when these patients come to Mbarara Hospital we learn from them. If we can have several of these outreaches, we can make an impact," Atwine advised.

He advised them to be mindful of their diet, saying some of the diseases originate from bad eating.

He also urged them to do regular exercise and discouraged them not to wait until they are bedridden to go to hospitals.

Patrick Muhairwe, the health co-ordinator Ankole Diocese, said the camp was carried out following a research done by Mbarara University,

which found out that over 35% of people in Kinoni had non-communicable diseases especially hypertension and diabetes.

"The Rev Dr. Sheldor Mwesigwa of Ankole Diocese was concerned after this research. He immediately called upon the health sector to organise the health camp in Kinoni. The doctors have talked to the people and educated them how to avoid diseases," Muhairwe said.

Geoffrey Tumusiime and Erivayida Katungye, thanked Ankole Diocese and Mbarara University for the health camp. They said if organised regularly, the camp will help to improve the wellbeing of the community and empower them with basic health information.

They called for a combined effort to bring down the disease burden in the country.