

Health Equity & Holistic, Faith -based Healing for Clubfoot Disability

Erin Williams, MAS, MS, OTR/L



Every 3 minutes a child is born with clubfoot



- 200,000 children each year
- 80% in low and middle income countries



When untreated...

Pain, Mobility, Education, Work, Stigma ...

Treatment Exists!

The Ponseti Method

- Gold Standard Worldwide
- **95% Success Rate**
 - Accessed early (<6 months of age)
 - Idiopathic Clubfoot
- Low Cost \$500 USD
- Sustainable for low resourced settings



What is the Ponseti method?

The earlier it's treated, the better!

Stage 1: Correction

- The feet are gently manipulated and casted
- Takes 6-8 weeks
- Average of 4-6 plaster casts, changed weekly
- Includes a minimally invasive outpatient procedure to lengthen the Achilles tendon

Stage 2: Maintenance

- Foot abduction brace is worn 23 hours a day for 3 months
- Then the brace is worn during naps and night sleeps up until age 5



Untreated



Casting stage



Foot abduction brace



Treated

Partnership Model

Local Implementing Partner

National Health System

1. Clinic Space
2. Clinical Staff

Hope Walks

1. Volunteer Parent Advisor
2. Training
3. Supplies & Clinic Fees

Local Brace Maker

Local Church

1. Clinic / Church Partnerships
2. Church connections



Parent Advisors

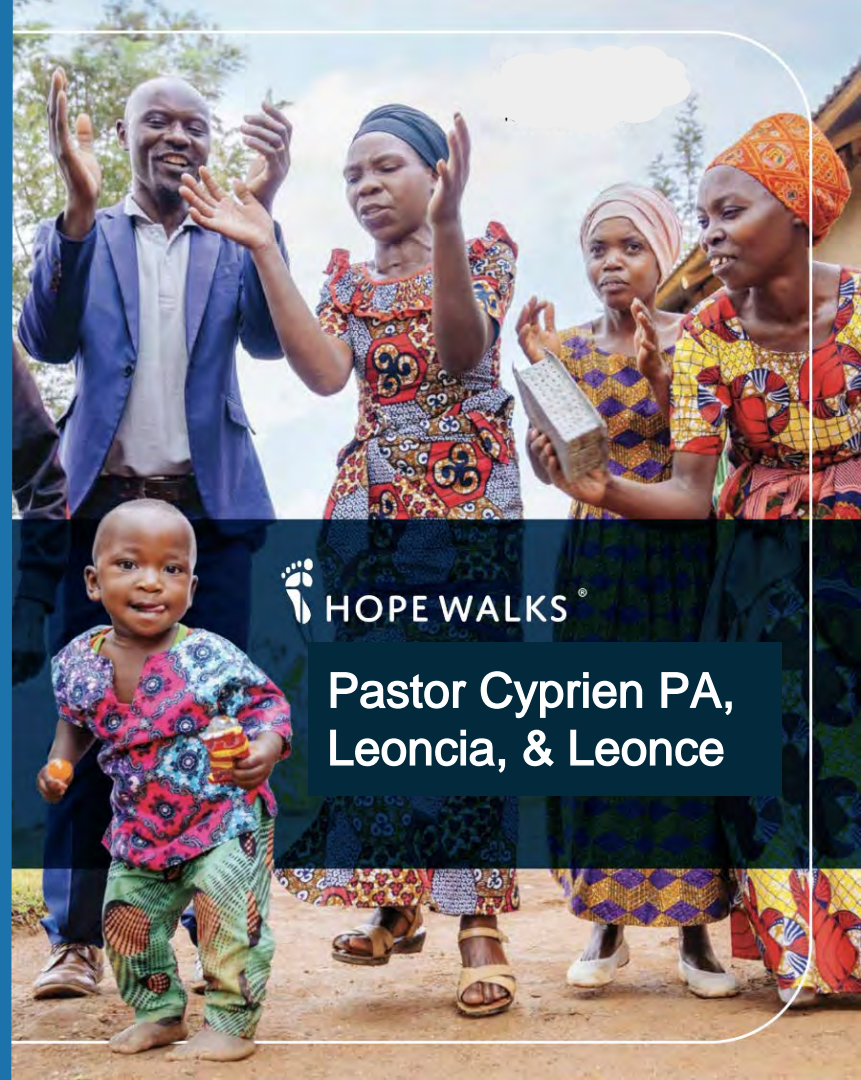
Volunteer from local community

- Family education
- Share the gospel
- Home visits
- Transport support
- Data entry: DHIS2 phone app
- Appointment reminders
- Community sensitization
- Parent support groups ...

Community Impact

Rwanda Case Example:

- Parent Advisor Pastor Cyprien
- Leoncia & her son, Leonce
 - Church education
 - Gathered funds
 - Carried Leonce to clinic



 HOPE WALKS®

Pastor Cyprien PA,
Leoncia, & Leonce



Thank you!

Erin Williams

erin.williams@hopewalks.org

Thank you!



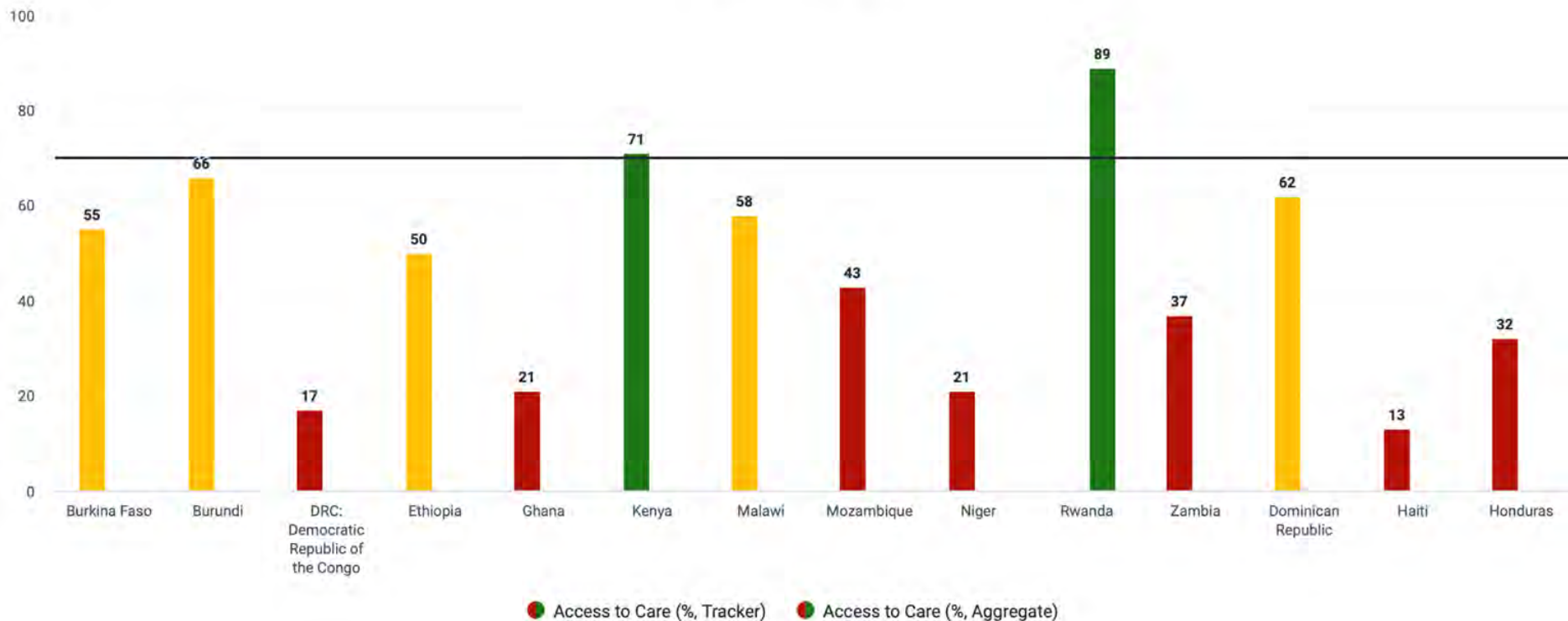
Erin Williams, MAS, MS, OTR/L
erin.williams@hopewalks.org



www.hopewalks.org

% Access to Care

Last 12 months



Ethiopia

- ~56 Ponseti clinics
 - ~4,650 infants born with clubfoot in 2023
 - **Average of 83** infants with clubfoot per clinic
-

Sudan

- ~2 Ponseti clinics
- ~1,793 infants born with clubfoot in 2023
- **Average of 897** infants with clubfoot per clinic

