

Burkitt's Lymphoma

CURING A COMMON CHILDHOOD CANCER

FUNDING LEVEL

\$1.2 million • 2001–2015

DONORS

Private

Children in Crossfire/ELMA

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Week of Compassion

American Baptist Churches USA

United Service Foundation

PARTNERS

Ocean Road Cancer Institute



IMA World Health has supported partners to train nearly 3,500 health care professionals and students to diagnose Burkitt's Lymphoma and treat more than 5,000 children.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Provided treatment for over 5,000 children.
- Trained nearly 3,500 health care professionals and students in diagnosis and case management of BL.
- In 2011, received national accreditation from the Tanzanian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare for IMA's five-day Laboratory Technician Burkitt's Lymphoma Diagnostic Training.
- In 2009, facilitated development of the country's first cancer guidelines—the Burkitt's Lymphoma National Treatment Guidelines.

BACKGROUND

Burkitt's Lymphoma, often referred to as BL, is a childhood cancer most commonly found in areas with high incidence of malaria. BL starts with swelling and pain in the jaw, eyes, face and abdomen. Early symptoms may resemble other health problems but disfiguring tumors grow quickly, and within weeks, BL can be fatal. Although it is aggressive and advances quickly, BL is highly treatable when children are diagnosed and treated promptly.

PROJECT APPROACH

BL affects approximately 700 children in Tanzania each year. IMA has been combating BL in Tanzania since 2000, primarily by training health workers to promote early detection and by providing the chemotherapy drugs needed to overcome BL. IMA's approach includes:

- Provision of treatment for children suffering from BL.
- Building health care worker capacity by training practitioners to properly diagnose and manage cases of BL.
- Encouraging timely referrals of detected cases for disease management.
- Provision of appropriate and essential chemotherapy drugs to participating hospitals.
- Improving case management (diagnosis and treatment) of BL at peripheral hospitals.