

Let's Get Started!

Dr. Polepole Tshomba is President of the Rotary Club of Bukavu Mwangaza, DRC. His Rotary Club will be a collaborating partner in the project to secure a health speedboat for the South Idjwi health project. When approached about being a partner, he shared this story.

In 2006, I was traveling from Idwi Island to Bukavu with my wife (who is a nurse), when suddenly a canoe came close and lifted a pregnant woman with a blocked labor. The boat was a cargo used for sand transportation and people could barely get some place to sit. We were more than a hundred passengers. We quickly set up a delivering perimeter in the boat, thanks to passengers' clothing. I and my wife helped her to deliver in very catastrophic conditions since she couldn't wait long. We gave it our best shot, cleaning everything with beer which was the only "sterile" liquid available on the boat.

I established the certificate of birth and referred her to the hospital for episiotomy suture, antibiotics and anti-tetanus serum. Two weeks later I was happy to hear that the baby and mother were safe and discharged from the hospital, waiting for a good Samaritan to pay a boat ticket for her trip back home with the new baby.

So, no more words. Let's get started.