

CREATING AWARENESS ON CLEFT LIP & PALATE USING LEAP

In the picturesque hilly Makueni lies a small community unit known as Illatu. Illatu is home to 50 Community Health Volunteers (CHV) who, among other roles, provide health education to their households. This is made possible through equipping them with relevant knowledge and skill on critical health matters. This informed the training on cleft lip and palate in Illatu, between February and April 2018, funded and implemented by Smile Train through Leap.



Smile Train is an international children's charity with a sustainable approach to a single, solvable problem: cleft lip and palate.

Here's how Gianaphina Mwende, a CHV in Illatu, Kibwezi West Sub County, Makueni County, made use of the knowledge earned:

"We learned about cleft lip and palate through Leap, the mHealth platform. It so happened that a grandchild in one of my households named Brighton had been born with cleft lip.

One time, when he was taken for pneumonia treatment, the family was advised to schedule him for a reconstructive surgery in a hospital many kilometres away.



Gianaphina (centre), Brighton's grandmother (left) and Marycaster (fellow CHV)

When I heard about this, I remembered what I had learned; such a surgery could be done at the Referral Hospital in Wote - for free - in our County, Makueni. This would not set the family back financially," says Gianaphina

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Jacinta Mwosa, a Community Health Extension Worker and a nurse at the clinic that Brighton was taken to has this to say. "We took note of Brighton's case and told his parents we would inform them when the surgery could be done at the Referral Hospital in Wote."

"I also made sure they got after surgery support from Gianaphina, who had been trained on this," adds Jacinta.

Brighton's grandmother then quickly cancelled the booking at the far-off hospital and the surgery was successfully done at the Makueni County Referral Hospital by Belarisu Foundation, a partner of Smile Train.

"I am glad that Gianaphina also taught me how to feed the child after the surgery as I was the one who mostly fed him," says the joyous grandmother.

Brighton is healthier and happier than ever before!

Before surgery



After surgery



Brighton & Mum