



ZAKAM ORTHOPEDIC COMPANY

Zakam offers the hip spica table, an orthopaedic solution in hospitals to support children with thigh and hip fractures.



CHALLENGE

For decades, orthopedics in Kenya have been marked by a lack of efficient and effective tools leading to the admission of most patients because of the poor alignment of bones. These circumstances often led to deformities causing disability, especially among children. Also, currently, 4-5 personnel are required during spica cast application, a type of cast that includes one or both legs and the waist, which is not only expensive but also difficult to manage for children with fractures of the lower limb.

INITIATIVE

Zakam Orthopaedics has designed a double extension traction machine, the hip spica table, that helps to align the bone; after that, the hip spica cast is applied. The device aimed to lower the cost of treatment, reduce deformities, reduce the number of surgeries and reduce turnaround time. It reduced the number of personnel required to two. The innovation was presented at the Royal Academy of Engineering during an innovation fellowship program which was two weeks in London, UK London. The coaches and trainers were impressed with the innovation and supported it through online cloud-funding to scale production. This led to the production of five tables which we donated to five Kenyan hospitals. The orthopedic team was trained on how to use the table also

RESULTS

As a result of the innovation, there has been a reduction in admissions. For example, Kenyatta national hospital, the biggest referral hospital in East and Central Africa, has registered a significant decrease in patient referrals from using the innovation, and there is a growing demand by other private and public hospitals. The company's long-term goal is to expand and reach out to other hospitals in and outside Kenya, which will reduce the importation of medical-related items, which is not only time-consuming but also very expensive. Zakam is supported with funding from UK government program and Kenya National Innovation Agency (KENIA)