

OUR MISSION

To improve community health, wellness and vitality including chronic kidney disease education, prevention and treatment



In resource-poor countries, dialysis treatment options are extremely limited, expensive or unavailable, and most individuals are unable to afford dialysis or kidney care treatment. This results in the death of over one million people annually across the world as individuals succumb to kidney failure without regular treatment or a transplant (Source: <http://www.worldkidneyday.org/faqs/chronic-kidney-disease/>). Bridge of Life (BOL) is working to change this reality through its **Kidney Care Program**. BOL provides lifesaving dialysis to people with chronic kidney disease (CKD) who have few or no treatment options by expanding access to safe, effective and affordable kidney care. With assistance from its network of volunteer, financial supporters and partners, BOL provides equipment, start-up supplies, extensive training, and other services to help establish or assist dialysis clinics in resource-poor countries.

Dialysis Capacity Missions

BOL works to establish dialysis clinics or upgrade existing ones in underserved areas. BOL provides the initial clinic start-up supplies, equipment and technical, clinical, educational, operational, and service training to ensure that its partnering clinics can continue safe, effective and sustainable dialysis treatment options long after the initial and follow-up missions are complete.

Enhancing Care Missions

BOL also provides support to further the quality of care at its partnering clinics. These missions include:

- **Training Missions:** Trainees attend a four-to-six-week extensive training program, empowering them with the skills to provide improved patient treatment and care.
- **Follow-Up Missions:** BOL evaluates equipment installations and performance to ensure that staff is able to competently and safely operate the dialysis clinic's life-sustaining equipment and operational systems. BOL's follow-up mission teams also ensure that the proper quality standards, procedures, checks, validations, and effective patient monitoring systems that were initially implemented are still being adhered to by partners' clinical staff.
- **AV Fistula Surgical Missions:** BOL works with partnering clinics to improve dialysis treatment by replacing catheter accesses (which are prone to infection and complications) with arteriovenous (AV) fistulas and providing interventional repair or replacement of existing AV fistulas. BOL also provides surgical training for local surgeons to further their knowledge of these procedures and follow-up patient care.

For more information on BOL's Kidney Care Program, please contact bolprogram@bolteam.org.

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