

Moyo Wa Mtoto

One little bear's journey from
Cancer to cure in Tanzania



Tumaini la Maisha



Muhimbili National Hospital &
Tumaini la Maisha's
story of
Moyo Wa Mtoto



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Special thanks to Dr Jane, the radiology department at MNH & all who took part.



This book is dedicated with love to all the children of Upendo Ward at Muhimbili Hospital. This story is Moyo Wamtoto's cancer journey from diagnosis & treatment to his successful recovery.







Hello! My name is Moyo Wamtoto.



I am a little bear and I live in a village
with my mummy and daddy.



I help with the cows and everyday I go



to school!





I love going to school. 

At school I play with all my friends. I

also read and play with colorful

crayons.



But today I am not feeling well. I tell
my teacher I want to go home.



Mummy takes me to
the hospital to see the
doctor.



I sit in the waiting room
until the doctor is ready
to see me.



A lovely nurse comes and chats
to my mum while she takes my
temperature.





Then the really nice doctor
comes and asks a lot of
questions.

The doctor looks in my mouth, listens to my heart and feels my tummy.

I am a little bit scared but everyone at the hospital is so nice and my mummy stays with me the whole time.





I'm really not feeling very well. I'm sore all over and I feel so tired and weak. I think the doctor can tell. She puts something on my finger which doesn't hurt at all but makes a loud beeping noise.

The doctor says I'll feel better if I wear a mask that blows cold air. I don't want the mask and I ask my mummy to take it away. But you know what? - After a few minutes I do feel better! Maybe the mask is helping me?





Next the nurse finds me a big bed in a room called the ward where I see other children and their Mummies and Daddies. Mummy lies with me and cuddles me.



Then the doctor tells my mummy I need to have some tests. The first is a blood test.

Oh No!! ☹️



OUCH! It hurts for a minute and I cry but only just a little.



I am very brave - both mummy and the doctor tell me so. When it's over I get a Band-Aid for my finger.



Then I go to another place where there are big machines. They have big names that I don't remember.

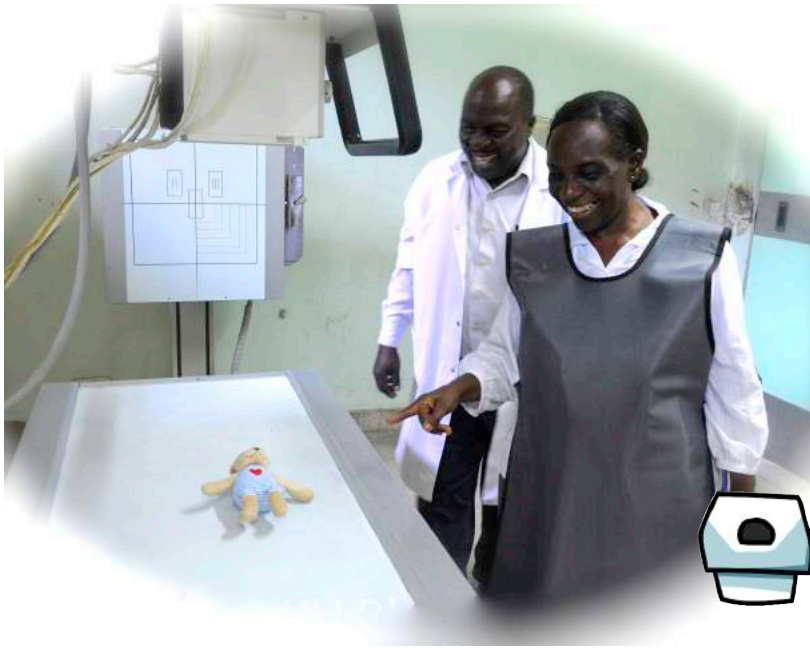


They look scary but it turns out they are just big cameras to take pictures of my insides.

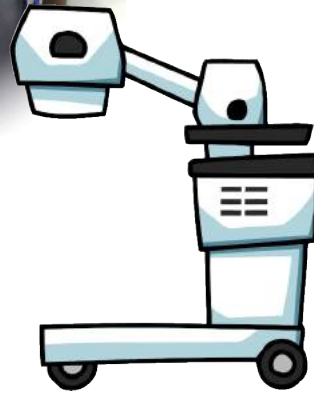




For one test they put cold jelly on my tummy first. I'm so hot it feels nice - like ice on my tummy. 



The next test is called an x-ray. I lie very still and see a light. Before I know it, it's over.



Wow - that didn't hurt even a tiny bit!





This is what my x-ray
looks like!



They even put me in a funny loud machine
that looks like a big white doughnut from outer
space!



I'm a little bit scared again but mummy is there the whole time and all that happens is the table moves and the machine makes a noise. I don't feel a thing. I even fall asleep for a minute.



I also have to have tests called a lumbar puncture and a bone marrow to help the doctors figure out how to make me better..... But guess what? I don't remember these at all as the doctor gives me some medicine that makes me go to sleep. When I wake up the test is done. All I have is a plaster on my back. PHEW!

The nurse gives my mummy a machine called a thermometer and explains how important it is for mummy to check my temperature.



She must tell the nurse if it is high - if the thermometer reads 38, that's when the nurses need to call the doctor. Apparently this is VERY important!!

The doctors and nurses look after me every day.

A few days after all the tests are done the doctors sit with Mummy and tell her that I have something called cancer. They tell her that with all the treatments here I will get better.



The doctor tells mummy I have to start a treatment called chemotherapy which is medicine in drips and tablets.



After chemotherapy, for a day or two sometimes I feel fine, sometimes I feel sick; sometimes I feel like playing, sometimes I just want to sleep.

Mummy minds me all the time.

One day I notice all my hair has fallen out. But
mummy tells me this is just the medicine
having a big fight with all the bad cells inside
my body and soon I will feel better.



Very soon I'm feeling better again and I want
to go out and play.



I have fun coloring
with my friends!



There are lots of children
on the ward and I am so
happy to make some
friends.



One day I feel a bit tired. The nurse brings me a big red bag of blood which I watch going in my arm! – WOW! As soon as it's all in I'm full of energy. It's like I had a lovely big sleep.





After a few weeks the doctor tells mummy I need to have an operation to take away the lump that's making me sick. I don't like the sound of that!!

Mummy sits with me to explain what is wrong with me & how the doctors will make me even better if I have the operation.



Mummy and the nurse give me a funny green top to wear and we all go on an adventure to the other side of the hospital. The nurse wheels me on a bed... wheeeeeee All the way to the operating room or 'theatre'.

After the operation,

I'm back in
my bed on
Upendo
ward with a
bandage on
my tummy.



I get some
medicine to
help me feel
better.



The nurses keep
minding me
checking I'm
okay.

One of my favourite parts of the treatment are
the yummy smoothies and porridge I get



to make me into a big strong cancer warrior!

After the surgery I have to take more 'chemo' – the word we use for medicine on Upendo ward! But every day I go to school I love the teachers and the clowns – they are so funny and nice.



We get to play lots of fun games in the playground while the older children have lessons. 



Suddenly late one night I feel very hot & then very cold. I start to shiver. Mummy takes my temperature & sees the number 38. **RED ALERT! TOO HIGH** for me! She calls the nurse even though it's really late. The doctor comes fast! I need a blood test and some medicine in my drip every few hours.



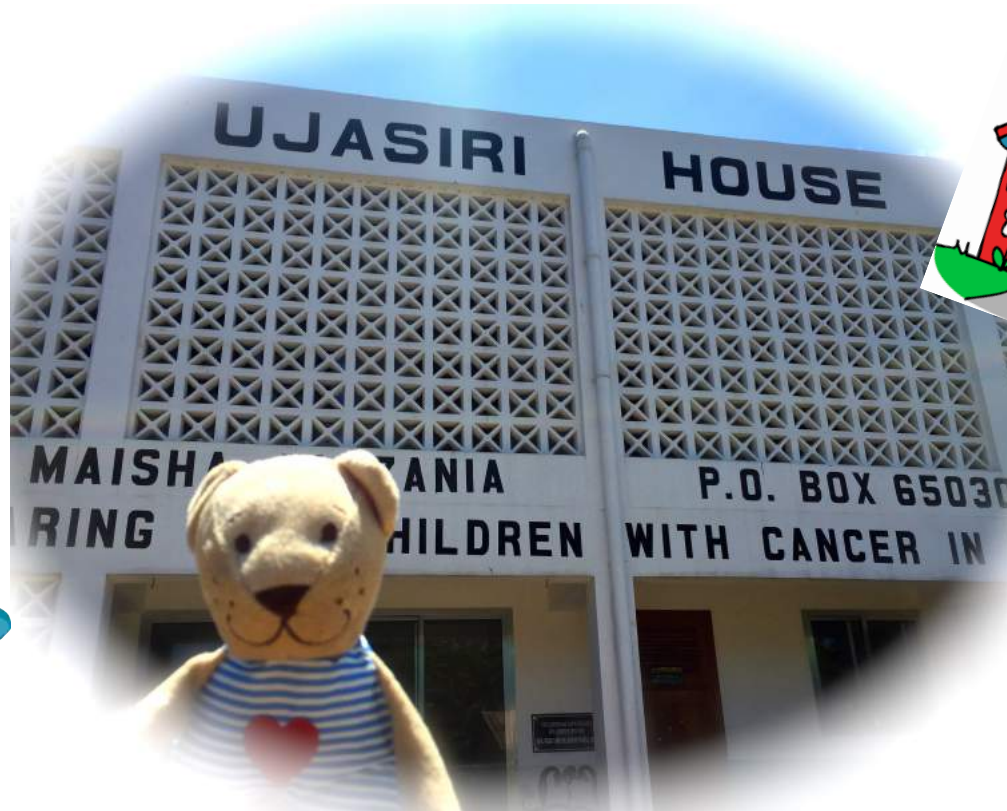
I am also given
some oxygen
because it will
help me heal



I need a little time but soon I start to feel
better again. I'm happy & lucky
Mummy was so clever to call the
nurse and doctor so fast!



My village is far from the hospital. But I am feeling so much better so we can stay at Ujasiri house between treatments. This is the hospital's lovely home away from home.

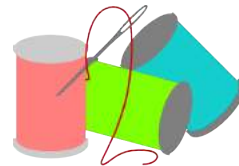


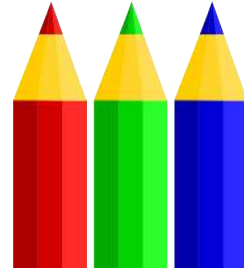


This is Mummy's and my
bed at Ujasiri house.

Here I make lots
more friends.







At Ujasiri house I can play outside, in school, and in the playground. I can also learn how to sew and do more coloring with friends. For a while I have to go back and forth and have more medicine at the ward but I always look forward to coming back to Ujasiri House. Mummy likes it too as there's lots of people to chat to and fun things to do even for grown-ups!



Next up – Radiotherapy! I don't really know what this is but Mummy & I take the bus every day to another place called Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI). I must lie very still on a bed that moves but I don't feel a thing – funny sort of treatment – I wonder how it works!

Back at the ward, at loooooong last I have
some final treatments and checkups before
I get to go home! I am SO EXCITED!



I meet with the
doctor one last
time.



The doctor is very
happy which
makes Mummy
shout for joy! It is
time to go home.



I am so SO happy to be going home, though I
will miss all my new friends. Mummy promises
to come back from time to time to visit ☺
Bye Bye & thank you Everyone! Yippee!!





