

Hope, Care, & Community All in One Day

Celebrating World Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Day 2025



**Creating Hope,
Healing, and
Awareness for
Every Child**

From 24th to 28th October 2025, the Mo Dewji Foundation (MDF), in partnership with the Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI), marked the World Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Day with a week-long medical outreach and awareness campaign at MOI premises. The main event took place on 25th October 2025, bringing together healthcare professionals, families,

and community members united by a shared goal

**to bring hope and healing
to children living with
Spina Bifida and
Hydrocephalus (SBH).**

Event Overview

The five-day program combined free consultations, diagnostic services, and awareness sessions for families. MDF supported the initiative by covering patient investigation costs, providing meals and logistics support, and ensuring comfort for both patients and caregivers.

A total of 139 patients were screened, 70 from Dar es Salaam and 69 from other regions, with Hydrocephalus (112 cases) being the leading condition. Twenty children were admitted into the MDF clinical management plan for further surgical care, while seven in-patient cases of Hydrocephalus secondary to brain tumors accessed free laboratory and radiology investigations, easing the financial burden for families who often struggle to access specialized care.

Beyond the medical services, the day was filled with celebration and community spirit. Families enjoyed dance and music performances, shared healthy meals, and took part in educational sessions highlighting the importance of folic acid supplementation before and after conception, early detection, care, and ongoing support. It was a heartfelt tribute to the resilience of children living with SBH and to the caregivers and clinicians who stand beside them.

“Every patient seen is a step closer to giving a child a fair chance at life.”

Key Highlights

- 139 total patients screened over five days
- Investigations were supported by MDF
- MDF received an Appreciation Trophy and Certificate from MOI for its continued dedication
- Positive feedback from families

Beyond the Event: A Broader Mission

Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus are serious congenital neural tube defects affecting more than 4,000 to 7,500 newborns annually in Tanzania. Recognizing this urgent public health issue, MDF continues to integrate SBH prevention and awareness into its Digital Health Eye Camp initiative, expanding outreach to remote communities and promoting folic acid education for pregnant women.

Through this initiative, MDF aims to:

- Strengthen healthcare providers' knowledge in early diagnosis and referral
- Promote folic acid supplementation and folate-rich diets for prevention
- Build a stronger network of referral and clinical support systems for affected families

The Mo Dewji Foundation remains committed to strengthening health services, raising awareness, and building partnerships that uplift vulnerable children across Tanzania reflecting Mo Dewji's vision to ensure every Tanzanian child has access to opportunity. Together, we move forward with purpose, determined to leave no child behind.

“A life is equal to a life — and every child deserves a chance to thrive.”



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