



# Q2

## IMPACT REPORT

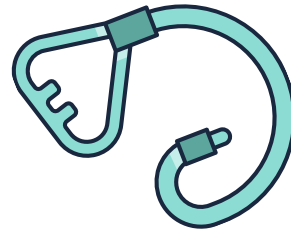
FY 23 / 24

October - December





# EVERY BREATH IS A CHANCE AT LIFE



**Respiratory failure claims the lives of more than 1.6 million children under the age of five every year.** This includes fatalities from pneumonia, birth asphyxia and preterm births. Despite the preventable nature of these deaths, children residing in low-resource settings face significant barriers to accessing life-saving treatment.

At FREO2, we offer **Oxygen as a Service (O2aaS)** — a **reliable, affordable, and accessible solution.** O2aaS comprises innovative products ensuring an uninterrupted oxygen supply, clinical training for timely diagnosis and treatment, and technical training for sustainable maintenance and support.

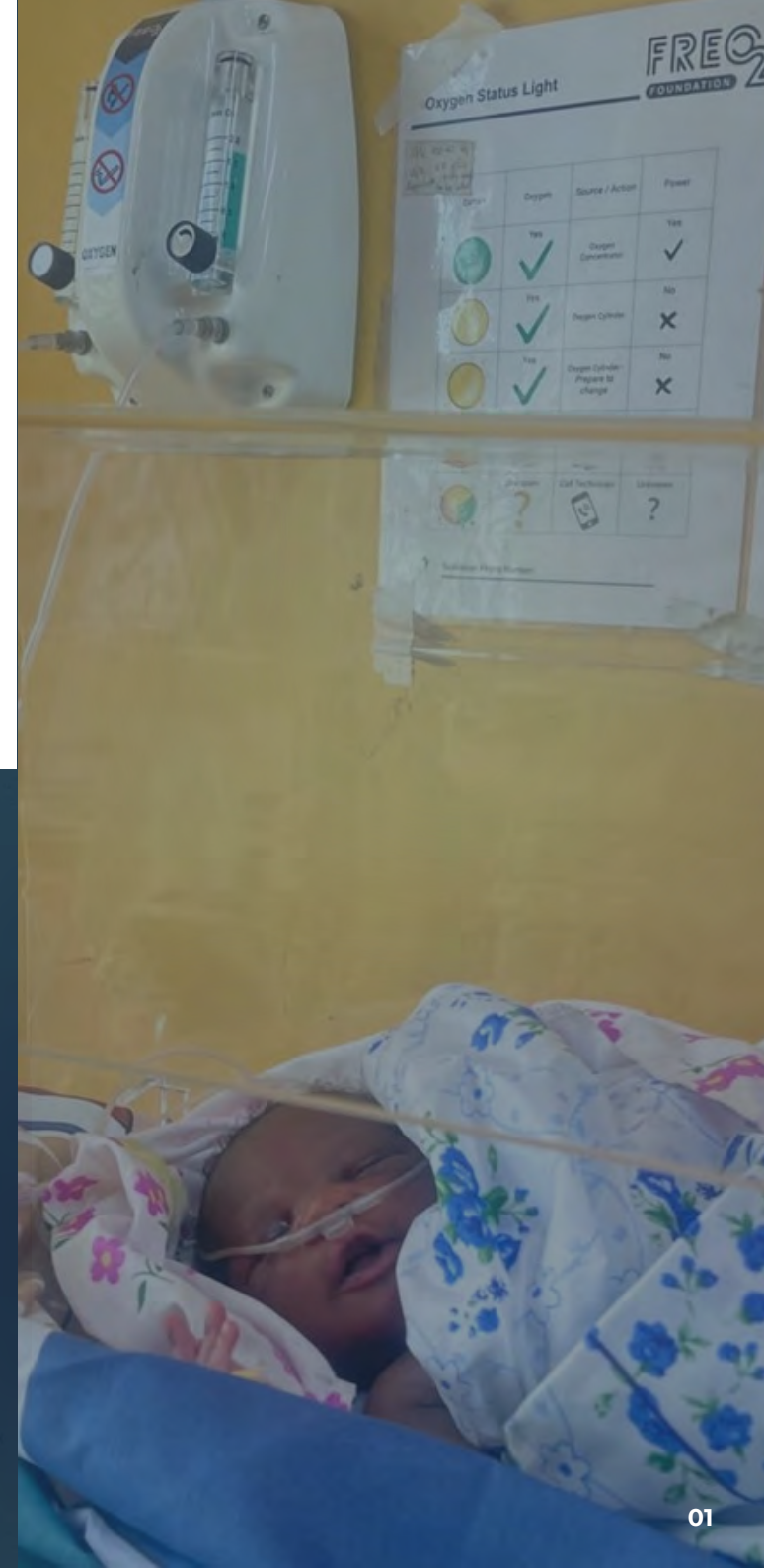
Partnering with remote healthcare facilities in under-resourced communities, we ensure that oxygen reaches areas where its impact is most valued — a concept we term **maximising oxygen miles.**

## OUR MISSION

**Improving oxygen access for children in low-resource settings to save lives and reduce inequalities in health.**

## OUR VISION

**A world where every child can breathe, live and thrive.**



## IMPACT TO DATE

277,550

Children treatment capacity with FREO2 Oxylink Systems.

June 2026 Strategic Target: 1,820,000

1,083

Health workers trained in pulse oximetry and oxygen therapy delivery.

June 2026 Strategic Target: 8,152

61

FREO2 Oxylink Systems delivering an uninterrupted oxygen supply across three countries.

June 2026 Strategic Target: 400







# CEO'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends and Supporters of FREO2,

As we come to the close of another quarter, it's a moment to reflect on the achievements and activities that have shaped the last three months.

I am sincerely proud of the team's commitment to our new FY24-26 Strategy, Maximising Oxygen Miles (MOM), detailed in the upcoming pages. I encourage each of you to take a moment to watch the linked video (Page 4) introducing the MOM Strategy from the voices of our leaders. It serves as a powerful reminder of the impact we're making and the collective potential for even greater change.

In December we held the first Annual General Meeting (AGM) under my leadership, it was wonderful to gather with our members and extend a warm welcome to our new board members – Marcus Fazio, Dr. Isiye Ndombi and Prof Rob Moodie. Their expertise and perspectives will undoubtedly enrich our learning as a team

Looking forward, our focus turns to the next iteration of our Remote Monitoring Unit and enhancing our innovations. We are intensifying our efforts in The Pacific, with plans for in-person visits to fortify our partnership with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services.

One story that resonates deeply is Wilfred's (Page 8). His journey is a poignant illustration of the transformative effect of accessible oxygen in remote communities – reinforcing our new strategic vision to maximise oxygen miles.

As we conclude this quarter, my heartfelt gratitude goes out to our supporters and everyone contributing to making our mission possible. Your dedication, hard work, and passion are the driving forces behind our success.

Warm regards,

**MÁIRE RUANE**

CEO  
FREO2 Foundation



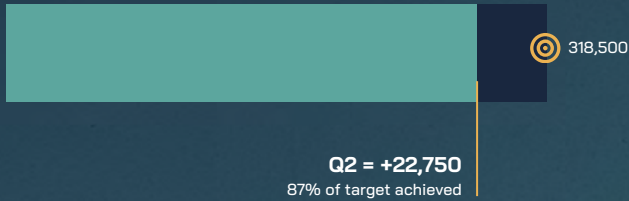
# IMPACT NUMBERS

🎯 FY 23 / 24 Target

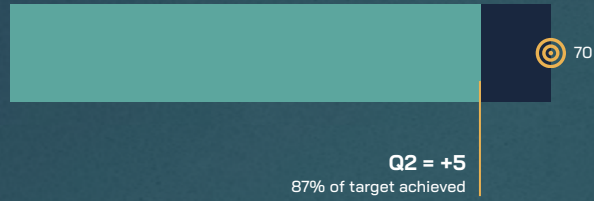
Since the first FREO2 Oxylink installation in 2018 we have achieved the following:

## UNINTERRUPTED OXYGEN DELIVERY

**277,550** Children treatment capacity with FREO2-enabled oxygen.



**61** FREO2 Oxylink Systems delivering an uninterrupted oxygen supply.

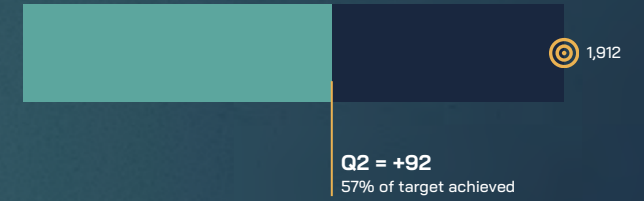


**305** Beds supplied with FREO2 oxygen including 25 new beds in Q2.

**49** Remote health facilities with FREO2 Oxylink Systems installed.

## CAPACITY BUILDING

**1,083** Healthcare workers trained in pulse oximetry and oxygen therapy delivery.

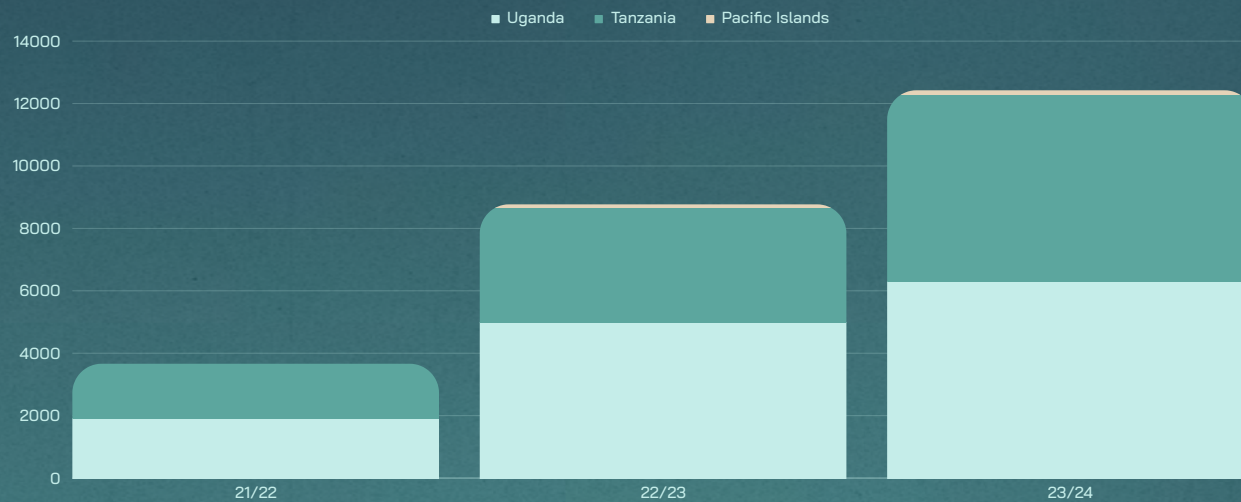


**43.4%** Knowledge uplift from training sessions with healthcare workers.

**22** Technical staff trained in oxygen system maintenance.

**29** Systems serviced this financial year, ensuring uptime and extended lifespan.

Progression on children treated with FREO2-enabled oxygen per country over time (cumulative)



# HIGHLIGHTS

## INTRODUCING MOM...

During our AGM in early December, we officially launched our FY24–26 Strategy, Maximising Oxygen Miles (MOM), to key stakeholders. This strategy leverages our seven-year track record to enhance service quality and steadily deepen our reach.

Partnering with remote healthcare facilities in under-resourced communities, we ensure that oxygen reaches areas where its impact is most valued – a concept we term Maximising Oxygen Miles.

Our plan works through three pillars, each with clearly articulated goals in support of our mission to improve access to oxygen.

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#) 



### EXCEL

**Excel** in product leadership and data harnessing so that we are recognised as the world experts in oxygen technology innovation for under-resourced communities.



### DEEPEEN

**Deepen** in-country presence by cultivating strong enduring partnerships that realise our strengths within the social value chain as we establish a playbook that will enable confidence when growing hubs in other countries.



### STRENGTHEN

**Strengthen** governance, partnerships, financial performance and operations to build financial resilience and the confidence to execute our three-year plan.

#### Excel Objectives (By June 2026)

- FREO2's storage solution is demonstrating a 50% reduction in the cost of delivery for one litre of oxygen.
- All FREO2 systems are equipped with FREO2 Remote Monitoring Units, providing real-time data that is monitored through a global dashboard.
- 60% of FREO2's customers would recommend O2aaS to other facilities.
- FREO2's Oxygen Distribution System (ODS) has the capability to be fully assembled within the country of operation.

#### Deepen Objectives (By June 2026)

- 30% reduction in the cost to treat a child with respiratory illness.
- Installed 400 systems with an annual capacity to treat 1,820,000 children.
- The Hub and Spoke maintenance model maintains 400+ multi-region systems in a scalable fashion.
- Deployed O2aaS across all appropriate facilities in the Solomon Islands.

#### Strengthen Objectives (By June 2026)

- 20% of our funding will be direct or indirect contributions from in-country governments.
- 50% of our funding will be attributed to partner contributions.
- We will have raised \$10 million AUD in partner and donor funding over the strategy period.
- We will increase our unrestricted funding from 15% to at least 40% of multi-year and untied funding.
- We will attract 10% of our funding from new donors each year.



# HIGHLIGHTS

## WORLD PNEUMONIA DAY

In championing World Pneumonia Day on November 12th, FREO2's Tanzania team embarked on advocacy initiatives to raise awareness within communities. Over two weekends, the team achieved the following milestones:

- Partnering with Radio Maria, we attained nationwide coverage as Dr. Josephat shared valuable insights.
- During Sunday services, we conducted awareness campaigns in five churches, educating communities on pneumonia signs, prevention, and access to care and oxygen services provided by the FREO2 Foundation at healthcare facilities in their catchment areas.
- We facilitated health sessions at all 25 FREO2-supported health facilities, engaging mothers and caregivers, providing crucial information on pneumonia during Antenatal Clinic (ANC) and Postnatal Clinic (PNC) visits. The team also distributed our pneumonia awareness posters, promoting the recognition of signs, early diagnosis, and prompt treatment.

Pneumonia claims the lives of over 700,000 children under five annually, or one child every 43 seconds, including over 200,000 newborns. It thrives where healthcare access is limited, tied to factors like undernutrition, lack of clean water, and air pollution. Prevention is achievable with proper protection, treatment and education.

FREO2's outreach and advocacy play a pivotal role in fostering behavioral change and garnering acceptance of medical oxygen within communities. These sessions not only raise awareness but also inform community members about the availability of FREO2 oxygen when needed. Employing a gender lens, we empower mothers and women in decision-making and education, promoting a proactive approach to seeking care for children experiencing respiratory distress.

### Need a copy of our Pneumonia Awareness Posters?

- [Download English Version](#)
- [Download Kiswahili Version](#)



# HIGHLIGHTS

## FREO2'S IMPACT AT KISIIZI HOSPITAL, UGANDA, AND A VISIT FROM THE OXYGEN COLAB

### Kisiizi Hospital

Established in 1958 as a missionary hospital in rural southwestern Uganda, Kisiizi Hospital has long served as a crucial healthcare resource for a large and economically disadvantaged community. The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic brought forth obstacles in oxygen access, a common struggle for health facilities across the country. The logistics of cylinder refilling, coupled with significant transport costs from Mbarara (115km away), presented a substantial challenge.

In 2021, FREO2 intervened, installing an oxygen system in the children's ward to ensure a reliable supply for young patients. To date, this system has treated nearly 300 patients. Building on this success, FREO2 recently installed a second Oxylink System in the Special Baby Care Unit (NICU), promising a continued impact and more lives saved.



### A Visit from The Oxygen CoLab

In the last quarter, Kisiizi Hospital hosted the Oxygen CoLab, exploring FREO2's impactful work in Uganda. Oxygen CoLab, a generous funder for FREO2's Tanzania program, employs a comprehensive approach in product development, service model innovation, and advocacy for oxygen in low- and middle-income countries.

The visit facilitated networking, allowing FREO2 to share insights into oxygen access in Uganda. The CoLab team expressed commitment to future plans, including funding support for FREO2's innovative oxygen devices. The team also enjoyed hiking and visiting Kisiizi Falls, reflecting on the transformative impact of FREO2's programs in remote communities.

Collaborating with dedicated partners like Oxygen CoLab is a pleasure for FREO2, providing an opportunity to showcase our work and express gratitude for invaluable support in saving the lives of children in need of oxygen.

“

In 2021, FREO2 installed an oxygen system in the children's ward, ensuring a continuous and reliable oxygen supply for our young patients. The impact has been remarkable, ensuring children receive the oxygen they need precisely when it is required. We are enthusiastic about the upcoming installation of another FREO2 oxygen system for the Special Baby Care Unit, further enhancing our capacity to provide exceptional care.

”

- Dr. Henry Lukabwe,  
Medical Superintendent,  
Church of Uganda (COU),  
Kisiizi Hospital



# LEADING VOICES



**Aminah Nanyondo**  
Country Manager – Uganda



**George Massay**  
Country Manager – Tanzania



**Dr Divi Ogaoga**  
Country Manager – Solomon Islands

“ A warm welcome from Uganda! Our Q2 achievements reflect significant strides in advancing healthcare with FREO2.

We've treated 634 children with FREO2-enabled oxygen, installing 5 Oxylink Systems, including second installations at Kakuuto HCIV, Rakai Hospital, and Kisizi Hospital, along with 92 health workers trained in hypoxemia management.

Engaging with partners, especially the Ministry of Health, remains a priority. Despite challenges such as filter shortages affecting annual maintenance, we're learning to adapt.

Looking ahead to 2024, we're eager to expand FREO2's impact in Uganda's Southwestern region, register FREO2 Foundation locally, conduct baseline assessments in the Western region, and foster new collaborations to further enhance oxygen access.

We anticipate this will be a year filled with growth, partnerships, and a continued dedication to saving lives. ”

“ Jambo from Tanzania! In Q2, our team dedicated efforts to World Pneumonia Day, 12th November, conducting a radio campaign, health education sessions at FREO2-supported facilities, and church campaigns. We reached five churches, providing crucial information on pneumonia symptoms, prevention, and access to care.

Additionally, we installed a second FREO2 Oxylink System at Siha Health Center, enhanced technical capacity, and adopted new tools for documentation.

Challenges included delays in importation permits, impacting our Q2 installations.

Looking forward to 2024, we're enthusiastic about reaching more remote areas, scaling up services with new partners, and collaborating with the government for strategic expansion. Our focus includes the registration of FREO2 within Tanzania to further our mission and reach. ”

“ Greetings from the Pacific Islands! I'm delighted to share more positive feedback on FREO2's impact this quarter.

Our nursing staff across three sites have witnessed faster recoveries compared to other concentrators, and a parent expressed profound gratitude for the life-saving impact of the FREO2 Oxylink System. I believe this success can be attributed to our efficient maintenance practices and the overall quality of the product.

Recent checks revealed that while other concentrators produce 30-80% oxygen as they are mainly pumping out air, FREO2 consistently delivers upwards of 94% thanks to the ODS, showcasing our superior performance and thus improving recovery time for patients.

As we seek support from the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and Provincial Health Directors, we are fortunate to have strong backing from paediatricians.

Looking to 2024, our focus is on securing high-level support, expanding to new sites, and meeting the growing demand for our life-saving technology.

Let's continue our unwavering commitment to making a difference in children's lives – because, as we've learned, persistence pays off. ”



# OBSTACLES AND INSIGHTS

Our in-country teams have been operating with lean staffing structures for an extended period. As we scale, the current individual country-focused structure may not be sustainable.

- **Insight:** We're transitioning toward a more regional team approach, leveraging strengths to address existing gaps in team structures.

Increasing transportation and fuel costs have posed challenges when deploying our services.

- **Insight:** We are actively exploring potential partnerships within the fuel industry to mitigate transportation expenses on the ground.

Escalating freight costs for shipping product and parts from Australia.

- **Insight:** We are working to negotiate discounts with freight organisations and we are looking at opportunities to assemble and purchase most product and parts within Africa. This is inline with our MOM strategy objectives.

Challenges in maintaining 'Swap and Go' model due to shortages of filters and spare parts. This has caused delays in annual maintenance of the oxygen systems, specifically in Uganda.

- **Insight:** To address this, we are actively prioritising inventory management. We are currently reviewing our system's efficacy and suitability for available parts in-country. During Máire's upcoming visit to East Africa, she will continue to explore sourcing local suppliers for some system parts. We are also considering procuring all components at once for the concentrator's lifetime with more understanding needed on lead times for components. We are transitioning to a more responsive strategy, assessing needs and pushing requirements forward accordingly. The recruitment of a Technical Operations Manager is underway to further tackle inventory challenges.

Delays in obtaining importation permits from Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) stalled planned installations in Q2.

- **Insight:** Communication between the Australian and Tanzanian teams needs to be improved prior to sending shipments. The Tanzanian team will also work closely with TMDA to expedite the permit process and minimise delays in future installations.

# THE POWER OF EDUCATION AND ACCESSIBLE OXYGEN

In the heart of Qaloda, a village nestled approximately ten kilometres from Dongobesh Health Centre in Northern Tanzania, lies a close-knit farming community surrounded by lush crops and livestock. Charting through rugged terrains and unmarked paths, the FREO2 team embarks on a follow-up mission for baby Wilfred, recently discharged from Dongobesh Health Centre after receiving crucial FREO2 oxygen treatment for severe pneumonia.

Qaloda is abundant with indigenous vegetation which attracts many wild animals in search of food. Located in the highlands, the village experiences low temperatures most of the year, resulting in high rates of respiratory illnesses among the elderly and children.

The team are cheerfully welcomed by Wilfred's father Juliano who is a farmer. The family lives in a humble mud-home which they share with a domestic animal, there is no furniture and only a few utensils to be seen.

Juliano explains that Wilfred was first admitted to hospital in July at two months old after difficulty breathing and was later diagnosed with pneumonia. After two days of FREO2 oxygen treatment, baby Wilfred recovered and was discharged home. However, as is common with many children who suffer pneumonia, Wilfred's immune system was extremely weak, and he relapsed with pneumonia again in November. Wilfred was rushed back to hospital and was placed on oxygen for another seven days, leaving the FREO2 team extremely worried about his condition.

Today, the team is thrilled to see him thriving again after all he had endured. Wilfred's story underscores the crucial role of effective education during patient discharge, especially considering the prevalence of recurrent pneumonia among children in remote communities. Many families delay seeking treatment following a second episode of respiratory illness and hindered by the lack of transportation this can result in life-threatening circumstances.

Juliano expresses the Qaloda community's immense gratitude for FREO2's oxygen at Dongobesh Hospital, a stark contrast to the previous arduous journey of over 50 kilometres to Haydom Hospital for reliable oxygen. He believes that FREO2's presence has significantly reduced child mortality in the area, as previously, many families had lost their children during these long commutes to Haydom Hospital.

Wilfred's journey serves as a powerful testament to the transformative impact of accessible oxygen in remote communities, perfectly aligning with our new strategic vision of maximising oxygen miles.





# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

## UGANDA TEAM BUILDING

In early December, members of the FREO2 Uganda team gathered for their annual team-building day at Lake Bunyonyi in Kabale. The day included engaging sessions and activities focused on trust, creativity, problem-solving, and communication. The team also enjoyed exploring the beautiful Lake Bunyonyi and Kyahugye Island.

Creating a collaborative and motivated work environment is crucial for the FREO2 Uganda team, as they share a common goal of reducing child mortality by improving access to oxygen.

To wrap up the day and celebrate their 2023 achievements, the team enjoyed a celebratory cake and left feeling energised for the upcoming year.



## FREO2'S VISIONARY CHAIR

Meet Dr. Tamara Kwarteng, a remarkable individual whose journey began in Ghana, born at home and delivered by her grandmother during a time when 130 out of every 1000 babies faced the risk of not making it to their first birthday. Luckily, Tamara defied those odds, surviving without complications or the need for oxygen, despite the nearest health facility being an hour's walk away, with no accessible roads or oxygen resources.

Today, we are honoured to have Tamara as the Chair of the FREO2 Foundation Board. A devoted public health researcher, Tamara's 26-year career spans impactful HIV research, program development, and evaluation on both international and local fronts. Inspired by her own experience more than 60 years ago, Tamara passionately works towards ensuring that thousands of children born in low-resource settings have a chance at survival.

Having lived in Fiji and other Pacific Island countries, Tamara's focus extends to human rights, gender equality, and combating discrimination in healthcare. Her invaluable insights into public health program design, monitoring, and evaluation are steering FREO2 in a clear and impactful direction. Tamara's expertise and unwavering dedication continue to make a lasting impact on global health initiatives.

As Q2 concluded, FREO2 underwent a significant recalibration of our leadership team, welcoming new board members Marcus Fazio, Dr. Isiye Ndombi, Máire Ruane, and Prof Rob Moodie, alongside Co-Founders and Directors Dr. Bryn Sobott and Dr. David Peake. Chaired by Tamara, this new leadership team brings a wealth of diverse expertise, reinforcing our commitment to improving oxygen access and addressing health inequalities.

Together, we are poised to make a meaningful difference in the world of global health.

**Tamara Kwarteng**  
Chair, Board of Directors





# LOOKING FORWARD

Looking ahead to the coming months, we have a lineup of exciting initiatives, including:

- Finalising our recruitment process to secure three new key hires in East Africa. We anticipate we will conclude the process early March.
- The Australian team will visit the Solomon Islands in February to advance the next stages of The Pacific Islands Program. A strategic workshop is scheduled with The Ministry of Health and Medical Services.
- Advancing our in-country registrations in Tanzania and Uganda to expand our reach and successfully implement our MOM strategy.
- Progressing the development of three oxygen innovations, transitioning them from prototypes to refined pilots and manufactured products.







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FOUNDATION