Case 2: Kijabe Hospital

Case overview

This teaching case explores the surgical services and surgical training opportunities at the African Inland Church (AIC) Kijabe Hospital in Kijabe Station, Kenya. A nearly 100-year-old Christian mission hospital located in a resource-limited setting, Kijabe had long been internationally renowned for its sophisticated surgery and anesthesia services. In 2010, Kijabe opened three additional operating theaters (OTs), thanks to advocacy from a steady stream of long-term missionary physicians and surgeons. That same year, Mary Muchendu, an advanced practice nurse, became the executive director of Kijabe. Three years after taking leadership, it was clear the challenges of surgical care delivery went far beyond ensuring adequate operating space; surgical caseload had gone down annually since the expansion. While the hospital remained committed to serving the poor and providing “health care to God’s glory,” the case puts readers in Muchendu’s shoes and asks them to consider what the next steps should be.