

**WIZEAR EAR**

**MOULD LAB**

**ZIMBABWE**

**PRESENTED BY**

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# Background Information: Challenges

- WHO estimates the burden of **hearing loss to double by 2030**
- Interventions for EHC in Zimbabwe started actively in 2006 amidst a plethora of problems as there was **no infrastructure or qualified personnel available**
- **Ear impressions were shipped to South Africa** for ear moulding. A process which took close to **4 weeks waiting time** for an individual.
- Ear moulds were **not being replaced on a regular interval** as recommended by the WHO Guidelines for hearing aids and services for developing countries
- The hearing impaired in Zimbabwe were being fitted **with universal or stock size ear moulds** which were **not custom made and presented ear discomfort** problems
- Ear moulds **lacked standard vent sizes critical for reduction of occlusion effect and sound clarity to hearing aid users**

# CBM support to EHC

- CBM in 2015, supported the establishment of an ear mould lab;

EQUIPMENT	QUANTITY
Electrical wax heater	1
Electrical sticking wax melter	1
Investment tray	2
Vacuum mixer	1
Digital plaster scale	1
Panasonic microwave oven	1
Compressor unit	1
Deep fryer	1
Drilling machine	1
Polishing motor	1
Ventilette passat white	1
Gel curing UV lamp	1
Mixing cup for Wamix very large, 1000 ccm with top	1
Liquid dispenser w. piston 10 l	1
MMHELSEBACHER Germany Oven	1
Transparent cover plate	1
Vibrator large 230 V	1

# Advantages of an ear mould lab

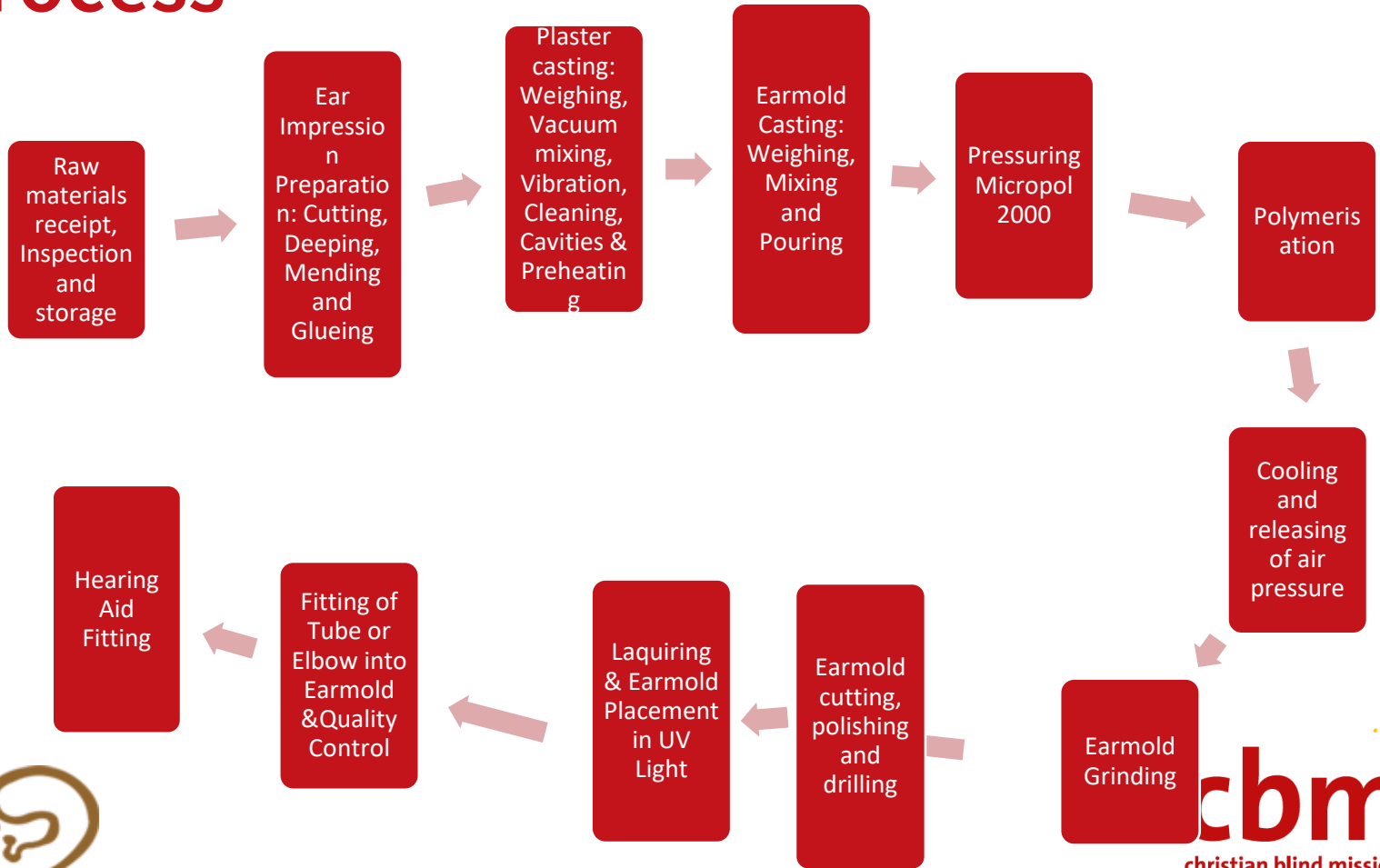
- Since the establishment of the ear mould lab over 3000 bilateral ear moulds have been done.

## Advantages of having an ear mould lab in Zimbabwe :

- It cuts costs for clients e.g. freight costs
- It provides face to face **interaction between the client and the lab technician** and ear moulds are made to specific needs of the client. **Reduces probability of errors or mistakes.**
- It has also cut the **turn around time by almost 90% as clients** get their ear moulds after three days.
- **Supports case management** as we get to provide a **holistic ear and hearing intervention** and we can also **collect our own data for analysis.**
- Provides a platform for data collection, analysis and possible interventions.



# Process



# Process



# Process



# Current Challenges

- The ear mould lab needs to be **upgraded** as some of the equipment needs replacing (no outright equipment for hearing aid servicing i.e., **hearing aid analyser, microscope**, soldering station, **digital multimeter**, hearing aid repair tools and hearing aid spares).
- Ear mould consumables which are obtained from outside Zimbabwe are usually **very expensive**.



# Sustainability

- Ear mould lab technicians need to be trained and they get technical support from **HASS whenever needed**.
- Income from the lab is used to procure more consumables and replacing broken down equipment – **subsidised services, affordable fee structure**
- The lab has a running system which is supported by job cards and work recording – **systems strengthening**
- There is a client feedback form which is used for **quality assurance and client feedback**.
- **Training of nurses and rehab technicians** at Sally Mugabe Hospital and Howard Mission on ear impression taking and hearing aid trouble shooting.

Thank  
you

