



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

**UGANDA NATIONAL HEALTH  
LABORATORY SERVICES/CPHL**

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# UNHLS eNOTICE BOARD

*The Health Lab Monthly News Series*

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**UMLTA president hands over a bouquet to the incoming UNHLS Executive Director**



**Picture Narrative**

Laboratory professionals of Uganda Medical Laboratory Technology Association (UMLTA) welcoming Dr. Susan Nabadda Ndidde, as their new sector leader on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at Butabika

“Having a medical pathologist who completes medical school, postgraduate training, board certifications and moreover having headed laboratories in Mulago for past several years; was a well thought out choice among similar options, to lead our laboratory sector that is experiencing strategic transitions meant to position it in the health landscape of Uganda.” Says Brenda Annet Mushabe, UMLTA President

**Our vision**

Quality health laboratory services available and accessible to all people in Uganda

**Our Mission**

Provide quality, cost-effective and sustainable health laboratory services to support the delivery of the Uganda National Minimum Health Care Package at all levels.

**Our Mandate**

- To undertake and coordinate clinical and public health laboratory services needed to support the implementation of the Uganda National Minimum Health Care Package
- To provide for the purpose and functions of modern and high-technology reference laboratory services with international standards that will address the challenge of testing specimens for complex diagnostic and forensic purposes.

**FEATURED STORIES**

- UNHLS participates in the 1<sup>st</sup> National Presidential Dialogue on Quality of Health Services in Uganda
- UNHLS Builds capacity in Karamoja through EID/VL trainings
- Working towards a web-based UNHLS inventory management system



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Center for Global Health



## Editorial Opinion

Dear readers, this September issue ushers in Dr. Susan Nabadda Ndidde, the new Executive Director of UNHLS, after Mr. Aisu Steven.

UNHLS is emerging as a semi-autonomous institution by an Act of Parliament and requires strong leadership. UNHLS is increasing its scope to involve pathology services including cancer diagnosis among others and this requires clear and proper linkages between laboratory science and clinical medicine.

Dr. Nabadda is a Medical Doctor and a Medical pathologist specializing in Hematology. Hematologists-oncologists after medical school attain special training in diagnosing and treating blood disease and blood cancers such as iron-deficiency anemia, hemophilia, sickle-cell disease, and cancer of blood (leukemia and lymphoma). On further interest, these specialists can become stem cell transplantation experts. Such specialists spend most of their time in the laboratories and may not desire much patient contact. Pathologists are considered the 'doctor's doctor' because after examining laboratory specimen, they offer specialist aid to doctors in making advanced diagnosis, treatment and management decisions in hospitals and clinics.

Dr. Susan being a person with a clinical background and now she is in the laboratory sector, she is one of the options to make proper linkages between laboratory science and clinical medicine. Following her skills mix and having international recognition for good practice, The UNHLS family welcomes her wealth of knowledge to the National scene as she offers her guidance to the laboratory sector.

**Kasuse Michael**  
MakSPH – CDC Fellow

## UNHLS PARTICIPATES IN THE 1<sup>ST</sup> NATIONAL PRESIDENTIAL DIALOGUE ON QUALITY OF HEALTH SERVICE IN UGANDA

The first ever National Presidential Dialogue on quality of health services took place on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017 with the theme: "Improving health service delivery to ensure quality care for all" was organized by Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Quality Health Care Services with civil society organizations. The organizers want such dialogues to appear at the highest level of government and have live public coverage. The dialogue provides a platform for discussing system challenges that hinder service delivery, solicit support in government policy implementation and develop clear means of follow up of government commitment on health to ensure their fulfillment.

UNHLS position centred around the MAPUTO Declaration, 2008 where Uganda signed a commitment "to support the creation of one unified, integrated quality-assured health laboratory services delivery system with strong leadership while fostering national ownership as part of the greater health system from a public health perspective."

Among several critical issues discussed, the dialogue asked Government to expedite enactment of the following bills into laws; Uganda National Health Laboratory Services Bill, 2016; The National Food and Drug Authority (NFDA) Bill; The Indigenous and Complementary Medicines Bill, 2015 and National Health Insurance Bill.



*Mr. Patrick Ogwok representing UNHLS at the Presidential Dialogue*

## UNHLS BUILDS CAPACITY IN KARAMOJA THROUGH EID/VL TRAINING

The point of care (POC) of Early Infant Diagnosis (EID) program has a strategy to cover hard to reach areas and attain 100% of HIV diagnosis for exposed children. In addition, the suppression and sample rejection rates for health facilities in Karamoja as per EID dashboard required a training on crucial issues supporting EID/VL program including; sample transportation, sample quality, sample eligibility and proper completing of appropriate forms.



*Participants from 7 Hubs in Karamoja attending a EID/VL training at Akello Hotel in Soroti that was held from 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017*

## WORKING TOWARDS A WEB-BASED UNHLS INVENTORY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Laboratories are required to have a manual or computerized Inventory Management System. This system records/processes logistics data/stock information and interprets/presents it for decision making. Decisions manage the supply chain and ensure uninterrupted supply of commodities and timely identification of any problems in the supply pipeline.

An inventory system accessed through the internet is a web-based system. An officer engaging this system should be able to; know the type of data and its source, reporting forms/tools involved, reporting frequency, reporting deadline, reporting officer/office, level in the logistics system, mode of transmitting the report, feedback content and flow.

On 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017, teams from CDC, MAUL, CHAI, JMS, and NMS gathered to analyze requirements presented by UNHLS developers and the logistics team in a 5-day workshop as part of the design phase of the inventory system.



*Developers explaining system requirements to stakeholders*

## Other activities

- On 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017, the Fleming Fund team from the UK visited UNHLS to harness plans for Uganda to curb AMR because the Microbiology laboratory at UNHLS is the National AMR secretariat and coordination office. The Fleming Fund was established in the UK in 2015 to assist low and middle income countries (LMIC) in developing surveillance systems and laboratory capacity to respond to the global threat of AMR.
- On 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017, UNHLS participated in the URA's Taxpayers Appreciation week at Kololo Airstrip. Public Institutions were to provide free services to tax payers as a gesture of explaining what their taxes support. UNHLS tested over 400 people for Hepatitis B among other things.
- Action points to address gaps in the WHO Joint External Evaluation (WHO-JEE) Report were identified and drawn by National Task Force (NTF) on AMR organized by Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017 in Jinja. The action points were used to develop a work plan on how to strengthen laboratory systems under the one health concept.

## PICTORIAL SECTION



*Tax payers waiting to receive free hepatitis B testing from UNHLS tent*



*Dr. Susan Nabadda Ndidde receiving the Arch of Europe Quality Award in Frankfurt, Germany, July 2017*

## On-going activities

- The pre-advance National Health Services – TDY team from the US (CDC) visited UNHLS on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017 to begin preparations for the upcoming visit of the US Secretary for Health to one of the facilities supported by CDC.

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