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MINISTRY OF HEALTH

**UGANDA NATIONAL HEALTH
LABORATORY SERVICES/CPHL**

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UNHLS eNOTICE BOARD

The Health Lab Monthly News Series

Featuring Month of: **APRIL 2017**

Issue date: Monday 15th May 2017; Vol .1, Issue 3



There was instant provision of test result by UNHLS to participants who were voluntarily tested for sickle cell disorder when they turned up for the sickle cell run to mark the Kabaka's Birthday on 9th April 2017. The campaign against Sickle Cell disease requires focused counseling, advocacy for laboratory testing and awareness. The presence of the Kabaka of Buganda strengthened this message; flanked by The Minister of Health, Dr. Jane R. Acheng; The Minister of State for Health in charge of General Duties, Hon. Sarah Opendi and the Katikiro of Buganda, Owek Peter Mayiga.

Our vision

Quality health laboratory services available 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

- Kabaka of Buganda urges for premarital sickle cell screening
- UNHCO Members understood the importance of validating test kits before use
- Preparing Labs for Accreditation basing ISO 15189 standard
- Rolling out Lab SPARS in 9 Districts
- UNHLS Data Centre staff acquired on-job skills in DHIS2



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Center for Global Health



Editorial Opinion

Dear readers, you will notice that in three series, this inclusive, we have featured messages about the sickle cell disorder in line with the campaign against Sickle Cell diseases that requires focused counseling, necessary laboratory testing, advocacy and awareness.

With this campaign, UNHLS is implementing the community awareness and feedback plan to ensure understanding of testing services available.

This should be reiterated by all laboratories on the network as a way of improving their quality of testing to meet community level needs such that by 2021, UNHLS will be able to determine the number of communities sensitized, aggregated by the number of laboratories on the network.

Kasuse Michael
MakSPH – CDC Fellow

Kabaka of Buganda urges for Sickle cell premarital testing and screening

Involving leaders of societies to convey messages that impact positively on people's health behavior, is part of UNHLS plan to ensure understanding of testing services available and use the feedback to improve the quality of testing to meet community level needs.



Voluntary screening by UNHLS staff for sickle cell disorder during the Kabaka's birthday run



UNHLS Lab Testing services extended to Butabika zone C

Involving community leaders such as LC 5 councilor Moses Okwera Mugisha and LC III Woman councilor, Butabika Parish Mrs. Ofwono Christine, is part of implementing the UNHLS community awareness and feedback plan to ensure understanding of testing services available and improve quality testing services that meet community level needs. These leaders' role prompted over 200 people to turn up for Hepatitis B, HIV and cancer screening and counseling services at UNHLS on 1st April 2017 as a way of meeting UNHLS objective of providing quality laboratory testing services at specific health system level to support clinical and public health services and research.



Butabika Zone C members attending a counseling session

UNHCO Members understand the importance of validating test kits before use

A group of civil society organization members collectively known as Uganda National Health Consumers Organization (UNHCO) turned up at UNHLS on 5th April 2017 to acquaint themselves with the importance of validating rapid test kits before using them. Counterfeits and substandard rapid diagnostic test (RDTs) kits on the market lead to wrong test results and hence wrong treatment of patients. There is need for UNHCO to support this validation by notifying UNHLS of the unsuitable RDT kits whenever they come across them. This activity is part of implementing UNHLS community awareness and feedback plan to ensure understanding of testing services available and improve quality testing services to meet community level needs



Preparing Labs for Accreditation basing ISO 15189 Standard

UNHLS intends to have 25 public labs accredited under ISO 15189 Standard by 2021. On 3rd April 2017, the capacity of 16 labs represented by; IP lab advisors, lab managers, and quality officers was strengthened with support from AGPHF to prepare them for accreditation. This activity aims at having a national laboratory quality management system in place to ensure quality service delivery that leads to international laboratory accreditation.



Prof. Kilian Songwe imparting techniques of accreditation readiness



Lab administrators comprehending techniques of accreditation readiness

Building Capacity of DLFPs to assess and mentor labs for National Accreditation

UNHLS intends to have 200 public labs certified according to National standards by 2021. This involves building the capacity of SLIPTA auditors to help in assessment and mentorship of laboratories for accreditation readiness. Auditors are selected from District Lab Focal Persons (DLFPs). Therefore, on 6th and 20th April 2017 at UNHLS, DLFPs were oriented on the SLIPTA checklist and introduced to ISO 15189 standard as a way to build their capacity to assess and mentor labs in their districts for national accreditation.



DLFPs understanding SLIPTA Checklist and ISO 15189 Standard



Orienting DLFPs to SLIPTA Checklist

Rolling out Lab SPARS in 9 Districts

MSH/UHSC supported a two weeks SPARS classroom training of 22 supervisors from districts including; Kayunga, Kamuli, Dokolo, Apac, Arua, Mbale, Masaka, Lwengo and Kyenjojo at Hotel Paradise, Jinja on 19th April 2017. The supervisors will impart skills to DLFPs who will be supported by IPs to conduct bi-monthly visits to facilities within their districts. UNHLS intends to have 90% of facilities with capacity in lab SPARS by 2021 to ensure that laboratories have appropriate functional equipment and adequate, continuous and timely supplies to support routine and emergency laboratory services.



Mr. Nyegenye Wilson professionally approaching Lab SPARS



Supervisors acquiring skills for Lab SPARS in Jinja

UNHLS Data Centre staff acquired on-job skills in DHIS2

UNHLS intends to have all its units and the laboratory network having skills for utilizing HLIMS especially in form of data capture and reporting so as to support patient data management and operational research data management. Utilizing HLIMS requires expertise in DHIS2 that is maintained by MoH Resource Centre. On 24th April 2017, UNHLS data centre staff acquired on-job skills in DHIS2 especially about data capture, reporting and archiving.



MoH Resource Centre facilitators preparing training materials



Other activities

- On 3rd April 2017, the Logistics unit in UNHLS developed working guidelines for managing laboratory supplies during storage. Currently, Ministry of Health manages laboratory commodities in a similar way; and together with other Essential Medicines and Health supplies; applying the same storage and stock management guidelines despite their bio-risk uniqueness.
- On 4th April 2017 at UNHLS, UMLTA NEC discussed country wide Continuous Professional Development activities for laboratory staff.

PICTORIAL



Butabika Zone C members attending a counseling session

On-going activities

- Ongoing country wide bio-safety audits in all public laboratories
- Reviewing the HIV Drug Resistance testing Protocol for submission to ethics bodies.

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