



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

**UGANDA NATIONAL HEALTH  
LABORATORY SERVICES/CPHL**

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# UNHLS eNOTICE BOARD

## *The Lab Monthly News Series*

**Featuring Month of:**

**MARCH 2017**

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Over 2000 women and adolescent girls registered for free OBS/GYN & Lab services at the Medical Camp conducted at UNHLS on Women’s day, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Camp services included; cancer screening for breast and cervix, testing for (HIV, Hepatitis B, and Syphilis), consultations for OBS & GYN matters, adolescence health education, Pregnancy and related complications. “Prevention is better than cure” was the key message by the Minister of Health, Dr. Jane Aceng.

**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**

- PS – MOH announces EID/VL Lab accreditation in a Press statement
- MOH – Namibia benchmarks UNHLS Hub Sample Transport System



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Center for Global Health





## Editorial Opinion

Dear readers, in our last issue we featured the Katikiro of Buganda, Owek Peter Mayiga calling for a concerted effort in scaling up interventions against sickle cell disorder among Ugandans. UNHLS through its advocacy role went ahead to sensitize Members of Parliament about the burden of sickle cell disorder. We learn through our experiences that messages conveyed by role models of society and its leaders impact positively on people's health behavior. With this approach, The Minister of Health, Dr. Jane R. Acheng joined UNHLS on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at Imperial Hotel in sensitizing Members of Parliament and seeking their support for the sickle cell programme budget. There was commitment to support this budget. Members of Parliament also showed commitment to support the passing of the UNHLS Bill and commitment to run for sickle cell on the Kabaka's birthday.

**Kasuse Michael**  
MakSPH – CDC Fellow

## Permanent Secretary - MOH Announces EID/VL Lab accreditation in a Press statement

During her visit at UNHLS on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017, The PS, Dr. Diana Atwiine chaired a meeting that discussed the fate of NTRL assets in Wandegeya, Pathology Services, Procurement of Hepatitis B reagents and the National Scheme of Service for lab professionals, among others. Most importantly, the PS issued a Press Statement to announce how the international accreditation of the Molecular Virology laboratory at UNHLS by SANAS for a defined scope and the operation of a quality management system in Medical Testing Laboratory under ISO standard 15189. This addresses the challenge of testing specimens for complex diagnostic and forensic purposes from all districts of Uganda. In the aspect of motivation, the PS issued certificates of recognition to UNHLS best performing staff and also announced that MOH was to dedicate one day every month in which to focus on health laboratory service challenges. **By Isaac Sewanyana, Lab Manager, UNHLS.**



## MOH-Namibia benchmarks the UNHLS Hub Sample Transport Network System

A delegation from Ministry of Health, Namibia visited Ministry of Health, Uganda on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017. The team made critical analysis of the UNHLS Hub sample transport Network system and later decided to benchmark the system in efforts of improving the health system of Namibia.



**UNHLS Director, Mr. Aisu Steven with the Namibian Ministry of Health delegation**

## M&E Training for Regional Laboratory Coordinators

Indicators are very key in quantifying the desired progress of laboratory services. This is one of the reasons why a training for regional laboratory coordinators was conducted at UNHLS/NTRL on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017. All 14 regional lab coordinators including; the China/Uganda friendship Hospital and Prison health services with 22 laboratories; reviewed a list of indicators, agreed on targets and adopted a quarterly report template. This will initially enhance the monitoring and evaluation of the progress of laboratory services at regional level and later progress throughout the entire laboratory network.

**By Dr. Simon Kalyesubula, Manager M&E, UNHLS/NTRL**



## Other activities

- On 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017 there was a CDC/WHO grants meeting at UNHLS and site visit by a delegation from CDC headquarters.
- A debrief on the findings of the baseline assessment conducted by AGHPF in February 2017 was made during the accreditation consultative meeting at Ridar hotel on 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017. There was a commitment made by 16 selected labs towards accreditation and presentations from HUQAS, SANAS representatives, LABCAL, and AGHPF were made.

## PICTORIAL



**Clients preparing to receive OBS/GYN & Lab services at the Medical Camp conducted at UNHLS on Women's day, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

## On-going activities

- Training laboratory personnel on ISO 15189
- Development of Laboratory supplies storage guidelines
- UMLTA NEC and Board of Trustees meeting
- DLFPs orientation in the WHO/AFRO SLIPTA Checklist

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