



NEWSLETTER

January - March 2023

OVERVIEW

- ✓ **Uganda declares end of Ebola disease outbreak**
- ✓ **Government of Uganda reiterates commitment to end TB by 2030**
- ✓ **WHO delivers medical supplies to support drought and food insecurity interventions**
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Partners in the Sudan Ebola virus disease (SVD) outbreak response in Uganda have endorsed a six month (January - July, 2023) USD 32 million national post-Ebola recovery plan at a meeting in Kampala. The plan was developed by Ministry of Health (MOH), with support from World Health Organization (WHO) and partners through consultation across pillars to address the post-outbreak recovery period.

Uganda declares end of Ebola disease outbreak



Ebola response health workers collaborate to ensure proper donning of clinical Ebola garments.

Uganda declared the end of the Ebola disease outbreak caused by Sudan ebolavirus on 11 January 2023, less than four months after the first case was confirmed in the country's central Mubende district on 20 September 2022.

It was the country's first Sudan ebolavirus outbreak in a decade and its fifth overall for this kind of Ebola. In total there were 164 cases (142 confirmed and 22 probable), 55 confirmed deaths and 87 recovered patients. More than 4000 people who came in contact with confirmed cases were followed up and their health monitored for 21 days. Overall, the case-fatality ratio was 47%. The last patient was released from care on 30 November when the 42-day countdown to the end of the outbreak began.

“Uganda has shown that Ebola can be defeated when the whole system works together, from having an alert system in place, to finding and caring for people affected and their contacts, to gaining the full participation of affected communities in the response. Lessons learned and the systems put in place for this outbreak will protect Ugandans and others in the years ahead

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General



With no vaccines and therapeutics, this was one of the most challenging Ebola outbreaks in the past five years, but Uganda stayed the course and continuously fine-tuned its response. Two months ago, it looked as if Ebola would cast a dark shadow over the country well into 2023, as the outbreak reached major cities such as Kampala and Jinja, but this win starts off the year on a note of great hope for Africa,

Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa

“Uganda put a swift end to the Ebola outbreak by ramping up key control measures such as surveillance, contact tracing and infection, prevention and control. While we expanded our efforts to put a strong response in place across the all nine affected districts, the magic bullet has been our communities who understood the importance of doing what was needed to end the outbreak, and took action,”

Dr Jane Ruth Aceng Ocerro, Minister for Health

Government of Uganda reiterates commitment to end TB by 2030

Uganda joined the rest of the world to commemorate International Tuberculosis (TB) Day, on March 24, 2023, with a commitment from Government and stakeholders to step up efforts to end the TB epidemic by 2030.

The national commemoration was held at Boma Grounds, Butaleja district in Eastern Uganda under the theme, **“Yes! We Can End TB”** and the slogan, “What are you doing to end TB?”

“This day provides an opportunity for self-reflection and acceleration of our efforts to end the TB epidemic. Ending TB by 2030 is a priority for the government of Uganda. Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) is ready to steer all stakeholders towards the realization of the country’s ambition and international commitments,” said Hon. Lukia Isanga Nakadama, the Third Deputy Prime Minister who was the guest of honor at the function.



Hon. Lukia Nakadama (M) and other guests inspect a stall during the 2023 National TB day event in Butaleja District

WHO delivers medical supplies to support drought and food insecurity interventions in Karamoja



The WHO logistics team hands over medical supplies to Kaabong district health officials. The supplies will ensure consistent availability of medicines to treat illness arising from malnutrition.

World Health Organization (WHO) Uganda, in February, delivered medical supplies to an estimated 518,000 people in the Karamoja sub-region, north-eastern Uganda, facing adverse effects arising from prolonged drought in the region.

The medical supplies include kits for pediatric severe acute malnutrition, non-communicable diseases, interagency emergency health, trauma emergency and surgery. The kits are stocked with drugs and diagnostic reagents for malaria, tuberculosis, cholera, yellow fever, measles, meningitis and sexually transmitted infections, among others.

In 2022, over 900 people, mainly elders and children aged 3-6 died due to hunger-related causes prompting WHO to mobilize internal financial, technical, and operational resources to address the drought emergency. The medical supplies distribution exercise across the region is part of the support provided to respond to the emergency.

Uganda introduces life-saving yellow fever vaccine into routine immunization programme



A happy mother shows her child's immunization card after getting the yellow fever vaccine.



"We want to ensure that our people are protected against this high-threat disease, and vaccines remain the main tool we have to efficiently prevent and contain yellow fever outbreaks,"

Dr Jane Ruth Aceng Ocerro, Minister for Health

In 2022, Uganda was one of 14 countries in Africa reporting confirmed cases of yellow fever. With the support of the Eliminate Yellow fever Epidemics (EYE) Strategy and Ministry of Health's key partners, including the World Health Organization, UNICEF and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, a multi-country outbreak response was organized in neighbouring countries that faced more serious yellow fever transmission. The EYE Strategy is a multi-stakeholder partnership that provides support to high-risk countries on how to minimize and eventually end the threat of yellow fever epidemics.

During the Integrated Child Health Days activities in October 2022, despite the ongoing Ebola Virus Disease outbreak having been declared the month before, Uganda maintained its plans to introduce the yellow fever vaccine into its routine immunization programme.

It is being administered to children aged 9 months, as part of its commitment to the EYE Strategy, with a vaccine introduction grant from Gavi. All children will be vaccinated with both yellow fever and measles-rubella vaccines.

[Click here to enjoy reading more on WHO work in Uganda](#)



WHO CELEBRATES WOMEN

In honor of Women's Day, the World Health Organization joined the global community on 8th March in recognizing and celebrating the invaluable contribution of women in the health sector. At the WHO office, female staff were celebrated for the remarkable work and their immense impact on promoting global health in their different roles.

A HEALTH WIN FOR UGANDA

Uganda was declared Ebola-free by the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization. The diligent efforts of healthcare professionals and the swift response of the Ugandan government have successfully eliminated the Ebola virus from the country. This remarkable achievement is a testament to Uganda's effective disease control measures.



WITH REGULAR PHYSICAL WORKOUT, WHO UGANDA TEAM "WALK THE TALK"

Exciting news! The dedicated staff members of the World Health Organization have taken a bold step towards better well-being by embracing physical exercise workouts. Recognizing the importance of staying fit, they have incorporated evening workouts, yoga sessions, and team sports activities into their daily routines.

The power of partnerships

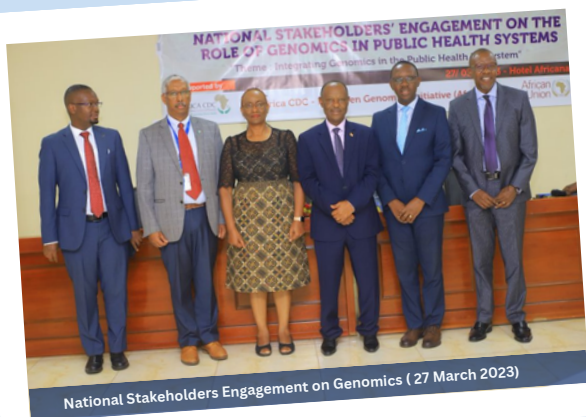
We extend our sincere appreciation to all our partners who have contributed to our work in supporting the Government and the people of Uganda in ensuring continuity of essential health services, improving the health and well-being of people living in Uganda, and responding to the most urgent needs of the health sector. We can only meet our goals through the power of partnership.



Nutrition Symposium (15-17 February 2023)



Policy Labs Workshop (14 February 2023)



National Stakeholders Engagement on Genomics (27 March 2023)



Spotlight Meeting on Diabetes in Uganda (7-8 March 2023)



Annual Health Sector Performance Review (30 - 31 March 2023)



Somatic Human Genome Editing Workshop (13-14 March 2023)

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