

# Annual Report 2024



World Health  
Organization  
Uganda





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The Honorable Minister of Health, Dr Jane Ruth Aceng, presents a farewell award to Dr Yonas Tegegn Woldemariam, the outgoing WHO Country Representative.



# List of Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome	SOPs	StandardOperating Procedures
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance	TB	Tuberculosis
CHEWS	Community Health Extension Workers	ToTs	Trainers ofTrainers
DHM	District Health Management Cluster	UGANAS	Uganda National Accreditation Services
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization	UN	United Nations
EPR	Emergency Preparedness and Re- sponse	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
GEF	Global Environment Facility	UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
GLASS	Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water	WCO	World Health Organization Country Office
HDC	Health Data Collaborative		
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus		
HLMA	Health Labour Market Analysis		
IOM	International Organization for Migration		
MOH	Ministry of Health		
NAPHS	National Action Plan for Health Security		
NCDs	Non Communicable Diseases		
nOPV2	novel Oral Polio Vaccine type 2		
NTDs	Negelected Tropical Diseases		
PDM	Parish Development Model		
PIAP	Program Implementation Action Plan		
PrEP	Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis		



Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health, Dr Diana Atwine, shares a light moment with WHO Uganda Country Representative, Dr Yonas Tegegn Woldemariam, as Dr Antonio Querido, FAO Uganda Representative, looks on.



## Foreword by WHO Representative

In 2024, the World Health Organization (WHO) in Uganda intensified its efforts to safeguard the health of Ugandans amidst global challenges. Following the recovery from the 2023 Sudan virus outbreak, our focus shifted to enhancing health system resilience and reintegrating survivors.

Throughout the year, Uganda faced multiple health crises, including cholera, measles, anthrax, mpox, and emergencies related to climate and refugees. With WHO's support, the country made significant strides in improving surveillance, laboratory testing, response teams, frontline worker training, case management, infection control, and ensuring the continuity of essential health services.

### Key achievements included:

- Containing outbreaks of cholera, measles, and mpox.
- Launching the National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) II and the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Strategic Plan.
- Rolling out the novel Oral Polio Vaccine (nOPV2) and Rotasil vaccines.
- Enhancing the performance of the district health system.
- Expanding maternal, child, and adolescent health services.

Notably, 3.4 million children were protected from polio, over 22,000 frontline workers received Ebola vaccines, and Uganda achieved a 90% treatment success rate for TB and a 50% reduction in malaria deaths. These milestones underscore WHO's commitment to Universal Health Coverage, emergency preparedness, and equitable healthcare in Uganda.

In 2024, WHO mobilized USD 21.7 million, 53% of our USD 40.8 million biennium requirement, to strengthen Uganda's health capacities. Despite this progress, the resource gap highlights the need for efficient allocation and renewed fundraising efforts.

WHO's achievements were made possible through the collaboration with the Ministry of Health, development partners, civil society, and local communities. We appreciate your partnership and look forward to continued support for a healthier Uganda.

Special thanks to Dr Yonas Tegegn Woldemariam, the former WHO Country Representative; Dr. Christine Chiedza Musanhu, the Office-in-Charge; and Dr Charles Njuguna, the Acting WHO Country Representative, who led the office at different periods in 2024.



Dr. Kasonde Mwinga,  
WHO Representative, Uganda



Dr Kasonde Mwinga  
(WHO Representative, January 2025)



Dr Yonas Tegegn Woldemariam  
(Representative, January 2018 -August 2024)



Dr Christine Chiedza Musanhu  
(WHO Officer-in-charge, September 2024)



Dr Charles Njuguna  
WHO Acting Representative  
(September 2024 to January 2025)





# Emergency Preparedness and Disease Outbreak Response

WHO bolsters Uganda’s preparedness for public health threats by coordinating the detection, prevention, and response to outbreaks, disasters, and emergencies. In 2024, WHO significantly enhanced Uganda’s emergency management capabilities and mitigated socio-economic disruptions.

## Key Achievements in 2024



### i) Preparedness for Health Emergencies

- Strengthened genomics in public health, addressing capacity gaps and operationalizing the National Genomics Plan.
- Enhanced emergency responders’ capacity through the Respiratory Pathogens Pandemic Preparedness plan, leveraging COVID-19 lessons.
- Supported the Ministry of Health in training **55 laboratory** auditors using the WHO SLIPTA Checklist, aiding the establishment of the Uganda National Accreditation Service (UGANAS).



### Documents Developed and Launched

- Second National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS II) 2024–2029 and the Annual Operational Plan for 2025.



Emergency Medical Team Uganda members conduct a hands-on simulation exercise during a preparedness training supported by WHO and the European Union.





- Second National Action Plan for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).
- Standard Operating Procedures for Regional Emergency Operation Centres and Ebola/Marburg Virus diseases.
- Handbook on Viral Hemorrhagic Fever Clinical Care.
- National Risk Communication and Community Engagement readiness plan.
- National Guidelines on high-consequence agents.



ii) Response to Health Emergencies

- Reduced cross-border disease transmission risks through enhanced surveillance at entry points.

**16** regional hospitals and emergency services using the STAR-Hospital toolkit.

- Conducted preparedness assessments for Marburg, cholera, Mpox, and high-risk events, identifying operational gaps.

Documents Developed and Launched

- Uganda’s National Emergency Medical Team roadmap.
- Uganda’s National Mass Gathering Management Framework.



A WHO official oversees a healthcare worker collecting samples during a disease surveillance activity.



**84** national facilitators on STAR and WHO Ground Crossing Risk Assessment tools trained.

**46** Trainers (ToTs) on Early Action Review for timely detection and response evaluation trained.





### iii) Detection and Response to Public Health Emergencies

- Enhanced risk monitoring and surveillance at four points of entry in three districts, leading to targeted interventions included in the National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS II).
- Responded to multiple outbreaks (mpox, measles, cholera, rabies, Blackwater fever, yellow fever, and anthrax) in 79 districts, ensuring early identification, timely response, and quick containment to prevent escalation and high fatalities.
- Provided supplies for sample collection and testing, improving biosafety and biosecurity.
- Enrolled key laboratories in the WHO External Quality Assessment scheme for mpox.
- Deployed Emergency Medical Teams for measles in Karamoja and Mpox in Entebbe, reducing mortality and morbidity.
- Developed clinical care guidelines for Ebola survivors, reintegrating 90% of Sudan Virus Disease survivors.
- Controlled cholera in eight districts and measles in twenty, reducing case fatality rates by 40% for cholera and 54% for measles.

A doctor in Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) attends to a patient receiving care for Mpox at an isolation facility in Uganda.





# Advancing Health Equity and Universal Coverage

WHO collaborates with the Government and the Ministry of Health (MOH) to build resilient health systems through a life course approach. This involves focusing on health policies, strategies, governance, financing, essential drugs, human resources, maternal and reproductive health, child and adolescent health, nutrition, and quality of care.

## Key Achievements in 2024

### i) Health Strategies and Governance

- Strengthened health sector governance as the Secretariat and Permanent Co-chair of the Health Development Partners group.
- Assisted MOH to conduct a national strategic plan mid-term review, which produced an aide-memoire with strategic recommendations.
- Contributed to drafting the health chapter of Uganda's National Development Plan IV and its Program Implementation Action Plan (PIAP).

### ii) Health Financing

- WHO-led advocacy secured UGX 233.01 billion for the health sector, allocated to the Uganda Cancer Institute, essential medicines, new blood banks, and local government staff recruitment and facility upgrades.



## Child and Adolescent Health



500

health workers trained in reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child, and adolescent health.

291

health workers trained on adolescent health in the Bu-soga sub-region trained

Developed national guidelines on Emergency Triage Assessment and Treatment, Paediatric Treatment Protocol, and Adolescent Health Services Standards.



### iii) Human Resources for Health

- Adapted the WHO Self-Care Competency Framework for health workers.
- Conducted a Health Labour Market Analysis (HLMA) to align workforce needs.

### iv) Health Service Delivery and Quality of Care

- Validated Uganda's patient safety assessment report to improve outcomes and reduce harm.
- Implemented a client satisfaction feedback tool for service quality improvements.
- Developed a compendium of quality-of-care tracer indicators.







## vi) Reproductive, Maternal Health, and Healthy Ageing



**28** health facilities in the Busoga sub-region refurbished.

**488**

health workers trained in post-abortion care, emergency obstetric care, and sexual and reproductive health rights trained



Launched the National Strategy on the Health of Older Persons (2024–2030) and National Guidelines for Self-Care.



## vii) Essential Drugs and Medicines

- Strengthened post-market surveillance for medical products.
- Assessed Microhaem Scientific's manufacturing site and promoted local production of rapid diagnostic tests.
- Developed the National Drug Authority's Institutional Development Plan and new Legal Framework.
- Created a national priority list for Assistive Products.

## viii) Nutrition

- Developed District-specific Nutrition Services Quality Improvement Plans.
- Published Nutrition Bulletins for advocacy and resource mobilization.
- Released the Annual Nutrition Performance Report. Created a national priority list for Assistive Products.
- Established the Nutrient Profile Model and Food-Based Dietary Guidelines to combat non-communicable diseases.





# Combating Communi- cable and Non-Commu- nicable Diseases

WHO supportsthe Ministry of Health intackling HIV/AIDS,Hepa- titis, Tuberculosis, Leprosy, Malaria, Neglected Tropical Diseases, Non-Communicable Diseases, and Vaccine-Preventable Disea- es. This involves addressing the causes, drivers, and enablers of the double burden of disease.

## Key Achievements in 2024

### i) HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, and STIs

- Developed the National Viral Hepatitis Strategic Plan.
- Created Human Immunodeficiency Virus pre-exposure prophylaxis Implementation Guidelines for new technologies.
- Strengthened health worker capacity with a Comprehensive Supervision and Mentorship Tool.
- Developed HIV PrEP eligibility screening and prevention data collection tools.

### ii) Tuberculosis

- Mobilized **USD 9 million** for TB program enhancements.
- Developed the National TB Manual and Guidelines.
- Published the 2023 Global TB Report.
- Created protocols for TB prevalence surveys and Paediatric TB treatment.

WHO’s Director of the Global TB Programme, Dr Tereza Kasaeva, presents a #EndTB campaign jacket to Uganda’s Minister of Health, Dr Jane Ruth Aceng, ahead of the National TB and Leprosy Conference.






iii) Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases

- Designed the Uganda Malaria International Partners Coordinating Mechanism.
- Supported the introduction of the R21 malaria vaccine.
- Conducted advocacy activities and commemorative events.
- Produced materials like the Malaria Indicator Survey protocol and Malaria Death Reduction Strategy.
- Initiated integration of NTDs Supply Chain Management into the National System.
- Interrupted Onchocerciasis transmission.



 **940**  
district leaders trained on the D-Card project.

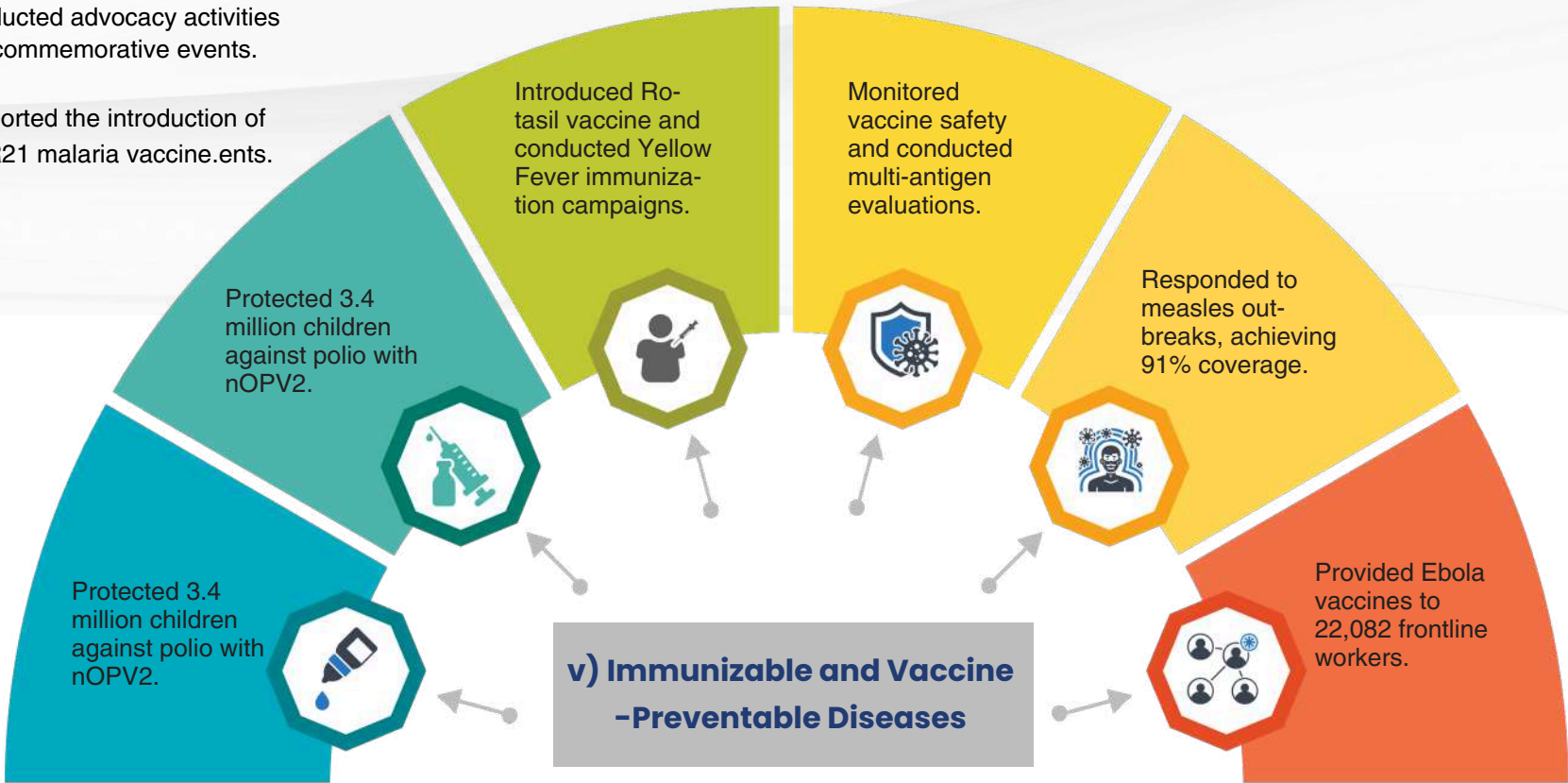
  
**\$1,139,000**  
Mobilized for NCD prevention and control.

vi) Non-Communicable Diseases

- Conducted the second Global Adult Tobacco survey.
- Developed guidelines for severe NCDs, dietary recommendations, physical activity, alcohol use disorders, and integrated TB/Diabetes management.
- Raised awareness about NCDs via social media.

Conducted advocacy activities and commemorative events.

Supported the introduction of the R21 malaria vaccine.ents.



**50**

years of the global Expanded Program on Immunization celebrated





# Strengthening District Health Systems

WHO enhances subnational health systems through nine regional hubs, each staffed with a field coordinator and driver, covering 103 of Uganda's 146 districts. In 2024, WHO prioritized the functionality of district health systems, emergency preparedness, utilization of health data, and the health of refugees and migrants.

## Key Achievements in 2024

- Supported 103 districts in developing action plans out of the post-health functionality assessment.
- Reviewed weekly 033B data for completeness, timeliness, and accuracy, generating epidemiological bulletins for decision-making.
- Enhanced district and Emergency Operational Centres' capacities to respond to outbreaks like Ebola and Mpox.
- Increased vaccination coverage for Rotavirus, measles, and Yellow Fever in multiple regions.
- Co-led polio mass vaccination campaigns in response to vaccine-derived polio virus 2 in Mbale City.
- Developed the National TB Manual and Guidelines.
- Coordinated rapid risk assessments and responses to disasters in Bulambuli, Ntoroko, and Bunyangabo districts.
- Supported health services for refugees and migrants, ensuring integration into existing systems and surveillance at entry points.
- Engaged stakeholders to address social determinants of health, improve health communication, and provide technical support during joint review missions with partners like UNHCR, IOM, and UNICEF.



Dr Christine Chiedza Musanhu, WHO Officer-in-Charge, presents laptops and equipment donated by the Government of Germany to Dr Diana Atwine, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, to strengthen digital health systems.





## Tackling Health Determinants

WHO addresses climate change, health promotion, information management, program management, compliance, partnerships, external relations, and communications to tackle health determinants, nurture relationships with partners, and enhance accountability and visibility.

### Key Achievements in 2024

#### i) Climate Change and WASH Interventions

- Launched Uganda's first Health National Adaptation Plan (2025–2030).
- Initiated a Global Environment Facility (GEF) 5-year project to phase out mercury-containing devices in healthcare.
- Completed the UN-Water GLAAS 2024/2025 country survey.
- Built national capacity on WASH-FIT tools and contributed to WASH strategy development.

#### ii) Health Information and Digital Transformation

- Customized the District Health Information System 2 (DHIS2) to align with new HMIS tools.
- Strengthened partner coordination under the Health Data Collaborative (HDC) secretariat.
- Deployed digital health tools like GoData and Open Data Tool Kit (ODK) for epidemic responses.
- Conducted the second Uganda National Digital Health Conference.
- Trained **629 health workers** on Electronic Medical Records and 207 on Medical Certification of Cause of Death.



Mr Sanusi Tejan Savage (IOM Chief of Mission), Dr Charles Njuguna (Acting WHO Representative), and Mr Benson Ngila (Assistant UNHCR Country Representative) sign a Joint Plan of Action to enhance healthcare access for refugees and host communities in Uganda.







### iii) Health Promotion and Social Determinants of Health

- Enhanced Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) for the Mpox outbreak.
- Supported the Third National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Conference.
- Refined and expanded the Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs) program.
- Developed Community Health Implementation Guidelines and the Community Health Package by Life Stage.
- Finalized and disseminated the Social Services Manual under the Parish Development Model (PDM).
- Initiated cross-sectoral engagements on social determinants of health with the Office of the Prime Minister.

### IV) Risk Mitigation and Compliance

- Maintained risk monitoring through the WCO risk register and internal control reviews.
- Conducted assurance activities for implementing partners and emergency campaigns, ensuring value for money.
- Strengthened internal controls using SOPs on direct program implementation.
- Contributed to the global Risk Appetite Framework for WHO.

### V) External Relations, Partnerships, and Resource Mobilization



**\$21.7 million**

of the planned \$40.8 million budget for 2024–2025 was mobilized, leaving a shortfall of \$19.1 million (47%).



Secured 49% of program implementation funds and 68% of Human resource costs.



### VI) Diversifying Partnerships




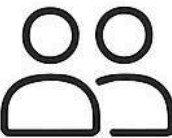
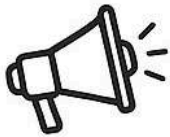




- Signed Letters of Understanding with IOM and UNHCR for Refugees for migrant and refugee support.
- We acknowledge the critical role of partnerships with the Government of Uganda, UN agencies, Health Development Partners, Civil Society, Academia, and the Private Sector
- We are grateful to member states for contributing un-earmarked funding that enables WHO to implement swift and effective responses to health needs.

**\$31.7 million**

will be the target for mobilization in 2025, through increased engagement with funding partners, including non-traditional ones.



## Communication Products Produced

 Stories & press releases 151	 Donor reports 29
 Newsletters published 2	 Partners field visits 20
 Social media posts recognizing partners 522	 Followers: 127,5K
 Followers 127,5 K	 Facebook Followers 79,1K
 Cumulative Reach on Social Media: 352,9K	

## Supporting Operational Excellence

Operational planning, administrative coordination, logistics support, and financial management are critical to our work, ensuring the effective delivery of WHO’s programs in Uganda.

### Key Achievements in 2024

#### Procurement, Logistics, and Supply Chain Management

- Procured and distributed 650 emergency health kits and essential laboratory reagents for outbreak responses.
- Strengthened supply chain systems, reducing procurement lead times by 22% compared to 2023.

#### Impact

- The office administrative efforts have enhanced WHO Uganda’s operational efficiency, accountability, emergency responsiveness, and timely delivery of technical and programmatic interventions.





# We thank you

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Her Royal Highness Sylvia Nagginda, the Nnabagereka (Queen) of Buganda, welcomed Dr Yonas T. Woldemariam the WHO Representative, to Mengo Palace and presented him with a book in appreciation of the strong partnership between the Kingdom and WHO during his tenure.