



NEWSLETTER

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THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH



World Health
Organization
Uganda

World Health Day 2025

Healthy beginnings, hopeful futures

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Message from the WHO Uganda Representative



Dear partners,

The second quarter of 2025 has been a season of resilience, innovation, and renewed commitment to health for all. Uganda's declaration of the end of the Ebola outbreak in April stands as a powerful symbol of what is possible when preparedness, rapid response, and community trust converge. The courageous journeys of survivors like Dr Ezra Mupakasa and Aisha Nangobi remind us that healing extends beyond the clinical—it requires compassion, reintegration, and long-term support.

This quarter also saw the commemoration of World Health Day, a moment to reflect on the progress made and the work ahead in achieving health equity. It was a timely reminder that health is a human right, and that our collective efforts must continue to prioritize the most vulnerable. Among the most tangible examples of impact is the transformation of Mayuge Health Center III, supported by the KOICA-funded Health System Strengthening Project. The story of Ajambo Juliet, who now walks 8 kilometers to a facility that offers dignified, quality care, reflects the life-changing power of strategic investment and partnership in healthcare infrastructure.

In the fight against malaria, the launch of the “24.2 Hours Initiative” marks a transformative step toward reducing mortality by ensuring timely treatment. This bold strategy, backed by WHO and partners, is already reshaping how communities access care and how health systems respond to one of the country's most persistent health threats.

Equally significant is Uganda's leadership in phasing out mercury-containing medical devices. Through a collaborative project supported by WHO, United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), and national agencies, the country is transitioning to safer, mercury-free healthcare—protecting both people and the environment, and setting a regional example in sustainable innovation.

None of these achievements would be possible without the enduring partnerships that continue to drive Uganda's health agenda forward. From global institutions to local communities, the collective effort behind every campaign, review, and reform is a testament to what we can accomplish together.

Finally, we celebrate the individuals who embody the spirit of service. Patrick Wokorach's 20-year journey with WHO, beginning in the midst of conflict, and Joan Kaitesi's trailblazing path as a female driver in a male-dominated field, are powerful reminders that behind every success are people whose dedication, courage, and quiet leadership make all the difference.

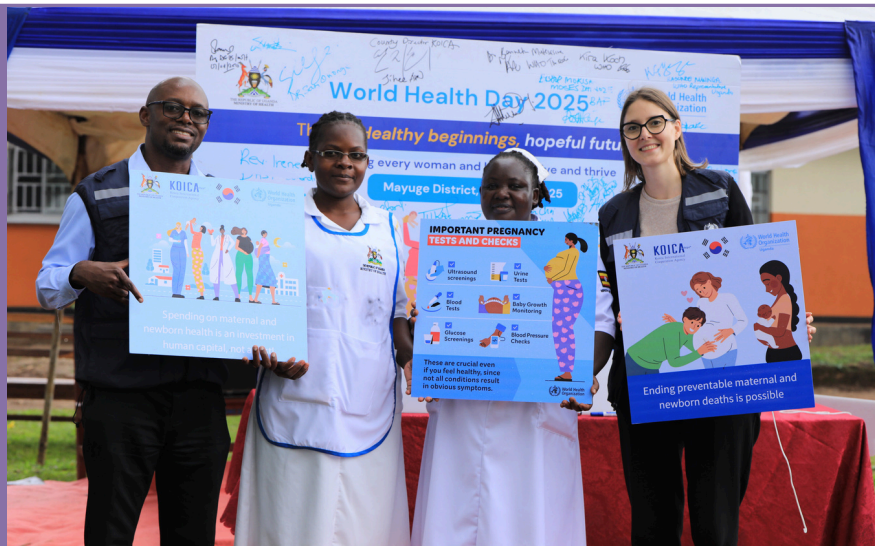
Dr Kasonde Mwinga

World Health Day 2025: Healthy beginnings, hopeful futures

On World Health Day 2025, Uganda's Ministry of Health and WHO launched a year-long campaign to end preventable maternal and newborn deaths.

Backed by KOICA, the initiative builds on a five-year project that upgraded 28 health centers, trained over 2,000 health workers, and improved care quality in Busoga region—contributing to a 49% drop in maternal mortality and a 19% reduction in newborn deaths.

Facilities like Baitambogwe Health Centre III now offer safer, more respectful childbirth experiences, with growing male involvement. Despite progress, rural areas still face challenges, and the campaign calls for sustained investment, stronger health systems, and community engagement to ensure every mother and baby can thrive. [READ MORE](#)



Stakeholders holding commemorative placards during the World Health Day 2025 national commemoration.

Juliet's visit to a transformed health center

Ajambo Juliet's eight-kilometer walk to Mayuge Health Center III reflects a journey of hope. At just 20 and a mother of three, Juliet has witnessed firsthand the transformation brought by the Health System Strengthening Project, supported by KOICA, WHO, and the Ministry of Health.

Once overcrowded and under-resourced, the facility now delivers quality maternal and child health services, thanks to renovations, better equipment, and empowered staff. [READ MORE](#)



Twenty-year-old Juliet Ajambo with her baby.

WHO and partners support Uganda's push for sustainable health financing

As Uganda faces declining donor support for health, the government, with support from WHO and other development partners, convened a three-day high-level national dialogue, to chart a path toward sustainable health financing for universal health coverage.

The event brought together over 300 stakeholders to assess the country's health financing landscape and explore strategies for increasing domestic resource mobilization, improving efficiency, and ensuring equity. Leaders emphasized that investing in health is both a social and economic imperative, with calls to raise the health budget, strengthen primary health care, and adopt innovative financing mechanisms.

The dialogue concluded with the launch of a national position paper and communique outlining bold, country-led reforms to build a resilient, inclusive, and self-reliant health system. [READ MORE](#)



The dignitaries at the dialogue.

Uganda declares end of Ebola outbreak

Uganda declared the end of the Ebola outbreak on 26 April 2025, after 42 days without a confirmed case. The Sudan virus outbreak, confirmed on 30 January 2025, resulted in 14 infections (including two probable cases) and four deaths, primarily in Kampala.

Within 72 hours, the Ministry of Health—supported by WHO and partners—launched a rapid response: deploying emergency teams, tracing over 500 contacts, setting up five emergency isolation and treatment units, and initiating a vaccine trial. Despite the lack of a licensed vaccine, swift action, strong surveillance, and community engagement contained the outbreak.

This success highlights Uganda's growing capacity to manage health emergencies and the critical role of preparedness, rapid response, and global collaboration in safeguarding health. [READ MORE...](#)



Health Minister Dr Jane Ruth Aceng declaring the end of the 2025 Ebola outbreak in Uganda.

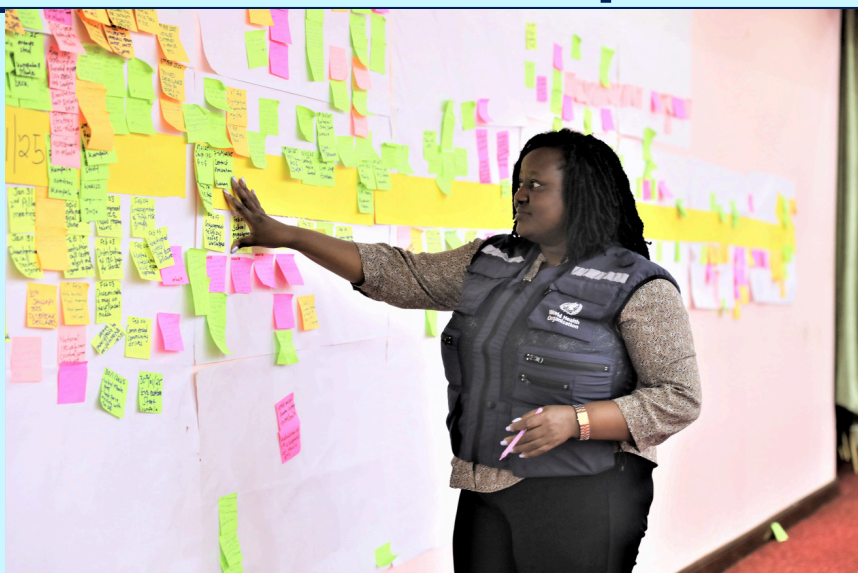
Partners reflect on Ebola outbreak response

Uganda's Ministry of Health, with support from WHO and partners, conducted a three-day after-action review in June 2025 to evaluate the country's response to the January Ebola outbreak.

The review, aligned with International Health Regulations, brought together health experts, local leaders, and responders to assess what worked and identify areas for improvement.

WHO played a key role by deploying staff, supporting surveillance, treatment, and community engagement, and mobilizing \$7.35 million in funding.

The review emphasized strategic resource use, community trust, and preparedness for future outbreaks, showcasing Uganda's growing capacity to manage public health emergencies effectively. [READ MORE](#)



WHO's Country emergency readiness officer Immaculate Atuhaire reflecting on the Ebola outbreak response.

WHO, WFP lead regional training on innovative infectious disease treatment

Uganda recently hosted a pivotal regional simulation exercise in Entebbe, aimed at enhancing Eastern Africa's readiness to respond to infectious disease outbreaks.

The three-day event brought together over 50 emergency responders from 14 countries, focusing on threats such as Ebola and Marburg viruses. The exercise was part of the WHO and World Food Program-led INITIATE² project, which develops innovative, rapidly deployable solutions for health emergencies. [READ MORE](#)



A simulation on transporting an infectious disease patient from the community.

Efforts to prevent and respond to sexual misconduct during the Ebola outbreak

During Uganda’s recent Ebola outbreak, WHO led a critical campaign to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment, emphasizing that protecting human dignity is as vital as treating disease. WHO’s commitment ensured survivors received both medical care and social support, reinforcing recovery through compassion, accountability, and justice.

Through targeted trainings, awareness efforts, and collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the United Nations interagency network on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, WHO equipped hundreds of frontline workers with tools to protect vulnerable populations.

With UK government support, 82 implementing partners in Kampala were mentored to spread knowledge on preventing sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment across sectors. These efforts, aligned with the UN’s survivor-centered approach, fostered safer, more respectful workplaces and communities.

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An awareness session on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse during the 2025 Ebola outbreak in Uganda.

Surviving Ebola: loss, isolation, and hope

When Aisha Nangobi lost her husband—the first confirmed case in Uganda’s 2025 Sudan virus outbreak—her world collapsed. Soon after, she too tested positive.

Shunned by loved ones and burdened by grief, Aisha endured both the illness and the stigma. But with compassionate care from the Ministry of Health, WHO, and partners, she survived.

Her recovery marked a new challenge: reintegration into a community still gripped by fear. With ongoing support, Aisha is now rebuilding her life and using her experience to educate others about prevention, early treatment, and empathy—transforming her pain into purpose.

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Aisha Nangobi shares a light moment.

Rebuilding life after surviving Ebola

After contracting Ebola while treating the index case, Dr. Ezra Mupakasa survived—a rare outcome given the virus’s high fatality rate and lack of approved vaccines.

Despite medical clearance, he faced stigma and isolation from his community. While he was welcomed back to work, many survivors—especially in informal roles—lost jobs and faced economic hardship.

This highlights the need for long-term support, including reintegration programs, mental health care, and financial assistance. With support from WHO, the Ministry of Health is working to ensure recovery addresses not just physical health, but also social and psychological well-being. Surviving is just the beginning—true healing requires dignity, acceptance, and sustained support.

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Dr Ezra Mupakasa (first left) after receiving his discharge certificate.

Uganda launches largest malaria vaccine introduction to date

Uganda became the 19th African country to introduce the malaria vaccine into its routine immunization program, launching the continent’s largest rollout in Apac district—one of the world’s most malaria-affected areas.

Supported by WHO, GAVI, UNICEF, PATH, and the Clinton Health Access Initiative, the campaign is targeting 1.1 million children under two years of age across 105 high- and moderate-transmission districts with the R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine, administered in four doses between 6 and 18 months. The vaccine is expected to prevent 800 severe cases daily and ease financial burdens on families.

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A child receives the new new malaria vaccine.

The 24,2 hours initiative: A game changer in malaria mortality reduction

In a bold move to reduce malaria mortality, Uganda launched the “24.2 Hours Initiative” on World Malaria Day 2025, with strong technical, logistical, and advocacy support from WHO.

This strategy—24 hours to treat uncomplicated malaria and two hours for severe cases—aims to reduce by half malaria deaths and prevent 500,000 hospitalizations annually. The initiative reflects WHO’s commitment to timely, equitable, and life-saving care, reinforcing that in the fight against malaria, every second counts.

WHO played a central role in shaping the Uganda Malaria Mortality Reduction Strategy, supporting early diagnosis, community-based care, and health system readiness.

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Children participating in a malaria awareness campaign.

Country achieves 92% coverage in yellow fever vaccination campaign

Under the Global Eliminate Yellow Fever Epidemics (EYE) strategy, Uganda successfully completed Phase 3a of its accelerated yellow fever vaccination campaign in April 2025, achieving 92% coverage across 19 districts and vaccinating over 4.2 million people.

Supported by WHO, GAVI, UNICEF, and the Ministry of Health, the campaigns conducted so far (from Phase 1 through Phase 2), including phase 3a have successfully covered 123 out of Uganda’s 146 districts, protecting over 25.8 million people from yellow fever.

In Phase 3a specifically, the highest-performing districts were Kibuku (the epicentre of the outbreak), Mbale, and Bududa.

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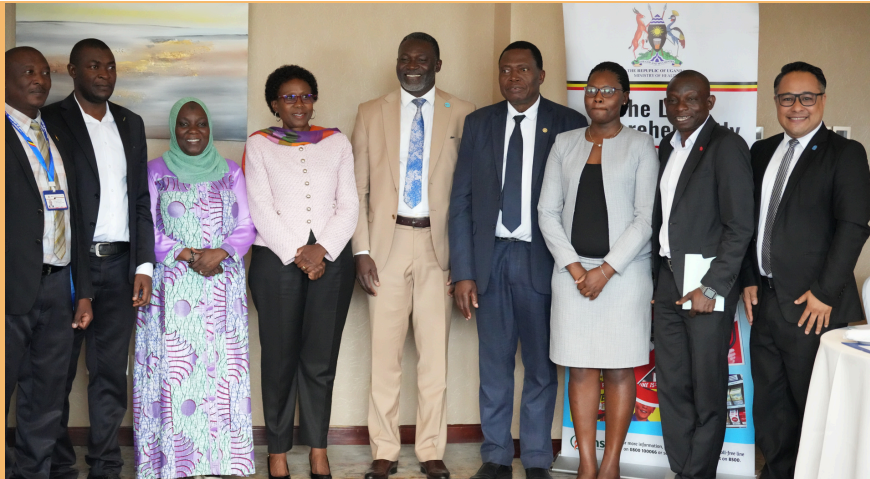
A child receiving a Yellow fever vaccine shot.

National tobacco control committee inaugurated

The Ministry of Health, in partnership with WHO and other stakeholders, inaugurated Uganda's second National Tobacco Control Committee (NTCC) during a high-level event in Kampala. The inauguration reaffirmed the country's commitment to enforcing the Tobacco Control Act and protecting citizens from tobacco-related harm.

The multi-sectoral NTCC, mandated by the 2015 Act, will oversee national tobacco control efforts for the next three years. The NTCC is expected to develop a new roadmap, strengthen surveillance, and drive compliance to safeguard future generations.

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The second Uganda National Tobacco Control Committee.

WHO supports Uganda to develop a strategic plan for Tuberculosis and Leprosy

Uganda's Ministry of Health, with support from WHO and partners, has launched the development of a new five-year Strategic Plan for Tuberculosis and Leprosy (2025/26–2029/30), aiming to strengthen disease control and move toward elimination.

Despite achieving leprosy elimination status two decades ago, Uganda still reports around 300 cases annually, while Tuberculosis remains a major public health challenge with 96,000 new cases each year, 15% of which affect children.

A national workshop in Kampala brought together diverse stakeholders to align strategies, emphasize data-driven decision-making, and promote equitable, resilient, and context-specific interventions. WHO continues to provide technical and financial support, reinforcing Uganda's commitment to ending Tuberculosis and achieving zero leprosy by 2030.

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Some stakeholders attending the Tuberculosis and Leprosy strategic plan development workshop in Kampala.

Uganda heightens efforts to drive mercury out of the healthcare system

Uganda is leading a regional shift toward mercury-free healthcare through a five-year Global Environment Facility project led by WHO and United Nations Environment Program, with support from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Water and Environment, and National Environment Management Authority (NEMA).

Uganda is phasing out mercury-containing medical devices like thermometers and sphygmomanometers due to their toxic effects on health and the environment. A key component of the initiative is the safe handling and disposal of mercury waste.

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A team from WHO, Ministry of Health and NEMA inspecting the proposed sites for storing mercury devices.

WHO, KOICA and Health ministry convene policy dialogue on maternal and child health

The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with WHO and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), convened a high-level national policy dialogue to mark the conclusion of a five-year health system strengthening project focused on reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH) in the Busoga sub-region.

The dialogue highlighted the project's achievements in improving health indicators, such as increased antenatal care attendance and skilled birth deliveries, while addressing systemic gaps in infrastructure, workforce capacity, and adolescent health.

Funded by the Republic of Korea, through KOICA and implemented in five districts (Bugiri, Iganga, Mayuge, Kamuli and Buyende), the project transformed over 28 health facilities. [READ MORE](#)



The main panel at the policy dialogue on the RMNCAH project.

Insights from the 2025 African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

WHO and UNFPA co-hosted a side event on Sustainable Health Financing during the 11th African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD 2025).

Dr. Ogochukwu Chukwujekwu, Health Financing and Investment Team Lead at the WHO Regional Office for Africa, delivered the keynote address, emphasizing the critical role of sustainable health financing in achieving universal health coverage amid shifting and uncertain funding landscapes. Key messages from the event included: increasing domestic public investment in health, reforming aid modalities to align with national priorities, enhancing efficiency and optimizing fund management, and strengthening partnerships with the private sector. [READ MORE](#)



The discussants at the ARFSD 2025 side event.

Uganda tests mass casualty readiness ahead of Martyrs' day pilgrimage

Ahead of the 2025 Martyrs day pilgrimage, the Ministry of Health, with support from WHO and Malteser International, conducted a full-scale simulation at Namugongo Catholic Shrine to test Uganda's readiness for mass casualty incidents during large gatherings.

The exercise assessed national emergency protocols and involved over 100 participants, including health workers, police, military, and volunteers, simulating real-life emergencies like stampedes. The simulation also supported mpox screening plans and the deployment of over 200 medical personnel and 40 ambulances for the pilgrimage, highlighting the importance of partnerships in safeguarding public health during mass events. [READ MORE](#)



An emergency evacuation simulation exercise at Uganda Martyrs shrine Namugongo.

Twenty years of service and still counting: Patrick Wokorach's journey with WHO

In 2005, Patrick Wokorach began his journey with the WHO on a 60-day contract, driven by a deep desire to help his war-affected homeland in northern Uganda. Two decades later, he remains a steadfast presence at WHO, now a seasoned shipping assistant and veteran of numerous public health emergencies.

From responding to Ebola outbreaks just weeks before his wedding to balancing a demanding career with family life, Wokorach's evolution from a young program assistant to a pillar of operational support reflects not only professional growth but also personal transformation, all rooted in a mission to serve.

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Patrick Wokorach at his duty station.

Driving through barriers: Joan Kaitesi's journey on male-dominated roads

Joan Kaitesi, a driver at the WHO Uganda country office, has defied gender norms to thrive in a male-dominated field, driven by a lifelong passion for vehicles and inspired by strong female role models.

Starting her career in 2015 as the only woman among 15 applicants at the Infectious Diseases Institute, she has since worked with Chemonics International, and UN Women before joining WHO in 2024.

With a degree in Transport and Logistics Management and ongoing studies, she aspires to become a fleet officer, encouraging young women to pursue their goals with confidence and continuous learning.

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Joan Kaitesi on duty.

WHO Uganda elects new staff association leaders

The WHO Uganda country office has elected a new staff association executive committee for a two-year term, reaffirming its commitment to staff welfare, inclusive dialogue, and strong collaboration with management.

The new team includes Dr Kaggwa Mugagga (President), Ms Viola Bako (Vice President), Ms. Susan Kavuma (Treasurer), Ms Immaculate Atuhaire (Secretary), and committee members Dr Alemu Kurabachew, Dr Joseph Mwoga, and Mr Benjamin Sensasi.



The new WHO Uganda staff association leadership.

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. We rely on your continued support and collaboration in ensuring the continuity of essential health services, improving the health and well-being of people, and responding to the most urgent needs of the health sector. We can only meet our goals through the power of partnership.



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WHO, UNDP, and FAO after a meeting to explore opportunities for collaboration. ©UNDP Uganda

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