



# THE IDI BULLETIN

A quarterly news letter of activities and achievements



Dr Lisa Nelson, the CDC Country Director at the pre-launch of the much-anticipated Medically Assisted Therapy Treatment Centre for People Who Inject with Drugs at Butabika National Referral Mental Hospital. Story on Page 4.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Esteemed Reader,

I am pleased to invite you to the July to September edition of the IDI Newsletter. As you peruse through, I hope you will appreciate that despite the immense challenge Uganda and the region face in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have continued to play a substantial role in the national response.

With the country squarely in the community transmission phase, IDI through the different programmes, has played critical roles in enhancing the response capacity, including efforts to launch a regional emergence operations centre in Mbale (Eastern Uganda), the bolstering of the risk communications pillar of the response, the enhancement of infection prevention and control (IPC) in the Buvuma islands, as well as the consolidation of One Health approaches to stemming the tide of antimicrobial resistance through specific capacity support to the ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries.

This edition also highlights our contributions to maintaining the momentum to achieving HIV epidemic control, through catalytic roles. I want to draw your attention to the ongoing work to establish medically assisted therapy (MAT) services for persons injecting with drugs - one of the Key Populations that IDI is supporting in partnership and funding from the US Government, through the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-at Butabika National Referral Hospital for Mental Health.

Finally, IDI has maintained a focus on TB services, and with funding from USAID is contributing to TB control efforts in the under-served region of Karamoja. We had the opportunity to highlight this contribution of the USAID-convened Global Accelerator to End TB event in September. I urge you to read on!

Dr Andrew Kambugu, Executive Director

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# COVID-19 RESPONSE: GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY



The Global Health Security (GHS) program is supporting the Ministry of Health at the forefront of supporting national health systems in emergency preparedness and response to COVID-19. The program has also collaborated with Ministry of Health through capacity development and logistics.

## Launch of the Emergency Operation Centre at Mbale Hospital

The Uganda Minister of Health, Rt. Hon. Dr Jane Ruth Aceng, accompanied by the World Health Organisation (WHO) Country Representative, Dr Yonas Tegegn Woldemariam and Dr Andrew Kambugu, the executive director of the Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) commissioned the Emergency Operation Centre at the Mbale Regional Referral Hospital. This advancement has been made possible with funding from Resolve To Save Lives (RTSL) an initiative of the

American global public health organization, Vital Strategies. IDI created a "Surge Team" which comprises of; the technical people, politicians and the security. This team's role is to carry out a situation analysis of the response to COVID19 in the region. This centre is expected to strengthen effective coordination and response to outbreaks including COVID-19 and other public health emergencies within the 16 districts of the Eastern region.



Hon Minister of Health - Jane Aceng (centre) with the IDI team after commissioning of the EOC at Mbale Regional Referral Hospital

## Infection Prevention and Control Training in Buvuma district

With funding from Resolve to Save Lives, the IDI Global Health Security program in collaboration with the World Health Organization and Makerere University Water Reed Project (MUWRP) supported the training of mentors in Buvuma District. This is in effort to support the Ministry of Health mandate of building capacity of healthcare workers in collaboration with implementing partners.

This led to development of the National Action Plan for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) for COVID-19 which prescribes entry into all regions through the regional referral hospitals where team trainers are oriented to support trainings at the district level. District team capacity is then built to cascade skills and knowledge to health workers in the health facilities within the districts

## Risk Communication and social mobilisation in central region



IDI is supporting and collaborating with the Ministry of Health- Uganda to carry out the orientation of district sub-committees for risk communication and social mobilization of COVID-19 in Hoima and Kagadi to address and prevent the spread of the community-acquired infections. This activity has been made possible by a grant won from Resolve to Save Lives in the last quarter.

In the baseline, the team has carried out home-based care interviews for the vulnerable old, visited bodaboda stages, taxi parks and cases in home isolation based on the scope of work. The purpose of the activities is to spread awareness on the realities of COVID-19 in the communities.



Healthcare workers attending the IPC training in Buvuma District





## IDI trains over 100 international experts on bio-safety and biosecurity

**Lennox Kesington Ebbarnesh**  
Project Officer, Biosafety and Biosecurity  
IDI Global Health Security Program  
24<sup>th</sup> June, 2020

**Infectious Diseases Institute**  
College of Health Sciences, Makerere University, Uganda  
Investing In The Future – Impacting Real Lives

Infectious Diseases Institute facilitators were engaged in a series of trainings for nearly 100 experts from 14 countries in the Eastern African region with the goal of reducing accidental and deliberate biological risks, including those associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The trainings were sponsored by the NTI Global Biological Policy and Programs team (NTI | bio) which partnered with the Africa CDC.

## IPC Training for Security and Sanitation Staff

The GHS team held an IPC training for Security and Sanitation personnel at IDI MKC and Mulago. This training included an overview on COVID-19, basic IPC measures and a practical session on hand hygiene and proper use of masks.



Staff taking part in the practical sessions during the IPC Training

## Vehicle for laboratory support handed over to the National Animal Disease Diagnostics Centre



Hon. State Minister for Animal Husbandry, Bright Rwamirana (centre) with team from IDI at the MAAIF headquarters in Entebbe

The Executive Director, Dr Andrew Kambugu and Dr Mohammed Lamorde, head of the Global Health Security programme at IDI met with the Hon. State Minister for Animal Husbandry, Bright Rwamirana and the Permanent Secretary Mr Pius Wakabi Kasaija at the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries offices in Entebbe. A tour was held at the National Animal Disease Diagnostics

and Epidemiology Centre (NADDEC) National Veterinary Microbiology Reference Laboratory which is currently supported by the Fleming Fund Country Grant through Mott MacDonald as the management agent.

The National Veterinary Microbiology Reference Laboratory is undergoing renovation to enforce international biosafety standards.



A project motor vehicle was handed over to NADDEC to offer full-time support to the sample transportation at the microbiology laboratory and Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) National Coordinating Centre.

State of the art equipment has also been installed i.e. MALDI Tof and BD Phoenix M50 to support real-time bacterial identification and antimicrobial susceptibility testing.

It has supported the equipping of 10 laboratories in the human and animal health sectors which have consequently contributed to the data generation, analysis and reporting at the national and international level.

## PROGRAMME UPDATES: THE IDI THURSDAY RESEARCH FORUM

Our Research Forum strategy has ably reached policy and programming collaborators, spread over several countries via its virtual platform. On average, the weekly IDI Research Forum held every Thursday at 13:00-14:00 (GMT+3) hosts over 50 scientists, policy makers and program implementers to listen in to a subject matter expert addressing specific scientific findings, innovations and emerging healthcare services areas. Over the last quarter, there have been 13 presentations with attendees from countries including the US, Nigeria, UK and Kenya.

Some of the topics discussed and disseminated include-

- COVID-19 Pandemic: An Implementation Science perspective" Dr Aggrey S. Semeere, Research Scientist
- The role of South-South migration in the HIV epidemic by Dr. Barbara Castelnovo, Head of Research



## PROGRAMME UPDATES: HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING WITH SUPPORT FROM CDC



### Set up of Medically Assisted Therapy Centre at Butabika Regional Referral Mental Hospital

With funding from PEPFAR through Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC), IDI supported the setup of a Medically Assisted Therapy (MAT) centre at Butabika National Mental Referral Hospital for People Who Inject with Drugs (PWIDs).

In order to support set up of the MAT centre, a course was organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Butabika National Referral Mental Hospital. It combined both theory and practical approaches to build skills and knowledge in MAT service delivery for PWIDs. Forty-two people successfully attended this course including health workers, CSO staff, and programme staff. Items worth **USD50,000** including furniture, computers, audio-visual equipment, automated dispensers among other clinical supplies were also handed over to the centre.



Individuals attending the 10-Day course virtually at IDI Makerere



Delegates from the CDC touring the MAT centre at Butabika Referral Hospital

### Handover of Gazebo and waiting shade at Kitebi Health Centre III

The IDI Senior management Team represented by Andrew Kambugu and Susan Lamunu Shereni, the executive director and head of finance and administration respectively, handed over a gazebo and waiting shade to the Obumu Study at Kitebi HC III. IDI renovated the waiting area to create space for research study programmes, increase a spacious environment for counselling, and create harmony for service delivery. This was born from a long-standing partnership between IDI, KCCA and the University of Washington.



Dr Andrew Kambugu handing over the waiting shade and gazebo at Kitebi HC III

### Handover of ART Facilities in West Nile

The Health System Strengthening programme handed over two antiretroviral therapy (ART) facilities to the leadership of Pakwach and Madi Okollo districts. Dr Twaha Mahaba, the project manager for the West Nile Regional Project represented IDI at the hand over of Alwi Health Centre III in Pakwach district and Okollo Health Centre III in Madi Okollo district to the respective district leaders.

The facilities will be able to provide services such as counselling, laboratory services, exclusive patient record management and pharmacy. The facilities now have well-spaced and aerated waiting areas and this will reduce the risk of patients contracting respiratory diseases such as TB.



Handover of ART facility at Alwi HCIII



## Global Accelerator to end TB - Facebook live hosted by the US Embassy



## ACCELERATING UGANDA'S TB RESPONSE

THUR SEPT 24  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
facebook LIVE  
@U.S.EMBASSYKAMPALA

Panelists



**Dr. Stevia Turyahabwe**  
Assistant Commissioner,  
National TB and  
Leprosy Programme



**Dr. Andrew Kambugu**  
Executive Director,  
Infectious Diseases  
Institute



**Dr. Able Nkole**  
Chief of Party,  
USAID Defeat  
TB Project

The Global Accelerator to end TB focuses on 23 countries with high burdens of TB where USAID can align with local communities and partners to deliver performance-based results toward the global target. IDI, through the USAID Programme for Accelerated Control of TB in Karamoja is a partner in this cause.

Dr Andrew Kambugu participated in the USAID-hosted Facebook Live Panel that talked about Uganda's efforts and successes in fighting TB and continuing TB services during COVID-19.

## PROGRAMME UPDATES: PREVENTION CARE AND TREATMENT

### Patient Safety Awareness week

The PCT team joined the world to celebrate #WorldPatientSafetyDay under the theme Health Worker Safety: A Priority for Patient Safety. The safety of health workers has a significant impact on the safety of patients and the team at Mulago participated in the creation of several videos to illustrate the importance various elements of patient safety, including antimicrobial resistance, vigilance of non-clinical and non-clinical staff.

During this week, WHO encouraged doctors, nurses and community health workers, to call for a safe work environment. In this light, some of the videos created can be used in infection prevention trainings and may be accessed through the [Infectious Diseases Institute - Makerere University](#) YouTube channel.



Search



World Patient Safety Day

## PROGRAMME UPDATES: TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

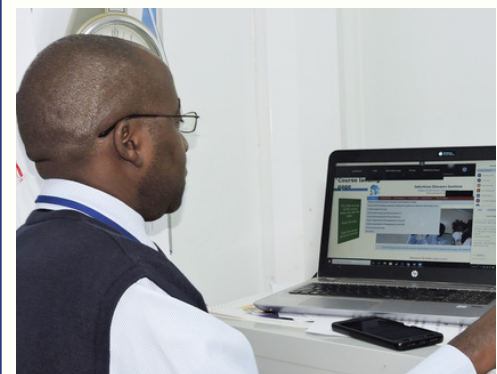
The Training and Capacity Development program is leveraging the Advanced Treatment Information Centre (ATIC) for public engagement during COVID-19 through Toll-free Call centre an audio recording studio with a team of experts in infectious diseases.

The team is also providing real time telephonic support to health workers across the country on COVID-19, dermatological and other health conditions.



Training Department has enabled automated case surveillance of high-risk contacts in the community using a web-based Call for Life™ Uganda (CFL) platform. The CFL contains an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) solution. Initially adapted for HIV clients then TB, CLF is now being used for Covid-19 – Call For Life – COVID-19 (CFL-C)

Following the restrictions on classroom capacity building due to COVID-19 pandemic, the IDI-training department organised online trainings to ensure continuity of capacity development.



Dr Umar Ssekabira, (Head of Training department) preparing an online ISO 15189:2012 training which was aimed at equipping laboratory health workers with knowledge and skills on how to establish, maintain and monitor their quality management systems for reliable and effective service delivery.

# IDI - INTERNAL & EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS



## Social Media Engagement (July -September)

FACEBOOK	Posts	New Followers	Page Views	Video Views	Post Reach
	75	937	2486	1085	136,606

TWITTER	Tweets	Retweets	Mentions	New Followers	Impressions	Likes
	88	437	425	352	144,600	1306

INSTAGRAM	No. Of Posts	New Followers	Engagement
	19	134	79

LINKEDIN	No. Of Posts	New Followers	Impressions	Page Clicks
	57	1,715	57,619	3,343

## SAVE THE DATES

**ANTIBIOTICS AWARENESS  
WEEK: 11TH - 17TH NOVEMBER  
2020**

**ANTIMICROBIAL AWARENESS  
WEEK: 18TH - 23RD NOV 2020**

**WORLD AIDS DAY: 1ST  
DECEMBER 2020**

**ONE IDI WEEK - 8-12TH FEB 2021**



The Executive Director's office is committed to achieving the utmost scientific impact by communicating new knowledge on health services delivery. Disseminating 'the why of success' and how these successes are contributing to public health policy and systems strengthening is the secret of this Centre of Excellence. Several platforms for scientific research dissemination and discussion including the Research Forum and the Grey Literature hub.

We welcome you to take a look at our [Grey Literature hub](#) which is a collection of reader-friendly blog posts, policy briefs, key historical outputs, case reports and summaries distilled from complex and lengthy technical reports. Our intention is foster interest and demand for IDI's program learnings including core research outputs, stakeholder engagement plans and outcomes to share lessons learnt during implementation.

## Achievements and Awards



Dr Aggrey S. Semeere a physician and researcher with IDI was appointed as a **Principle Investigator** at the East African International Databases to Evaluate AIDS (IeDEA-EA).



Dr Miriam Laker-Oketta was selected by the **International Women's Forum (IWF)** to be part of the 2020-2021 Fellows Program. She is the first fellow from East and Central Africa to be awarded.



In an annually published magazine by the widespread Italian newspaper **La Repubblica**, Dr Barbara Castelnovo was profiled as one of "100 women who are changing the world".



Dr Meya David was recognized as a world expert in Cryptococcosis by **Expertscape**, which highlights the World's top experts in Clinical and Research Medicine during the Fungal Disease Awareness week.

## Institutional guidelines for mitigating COVID-19 transmission at work

Following an increase in community transmission, the Executive Director, with guidance from the Heads of Departments and Units and given the potential exposure staff were facing using public-sector means took measures to ensure staff safety.

Since 28th August, IDI staff based in the Kampala and Wakiso have had home-working as the default method of maintaining productivity across all programmes to allow for compliance to the 30% workforce rule. During this period staff have been engaged in trainings to enhance productivity while at home as well as occupational health and safety refreshers on the services available to promote their wellbeing.