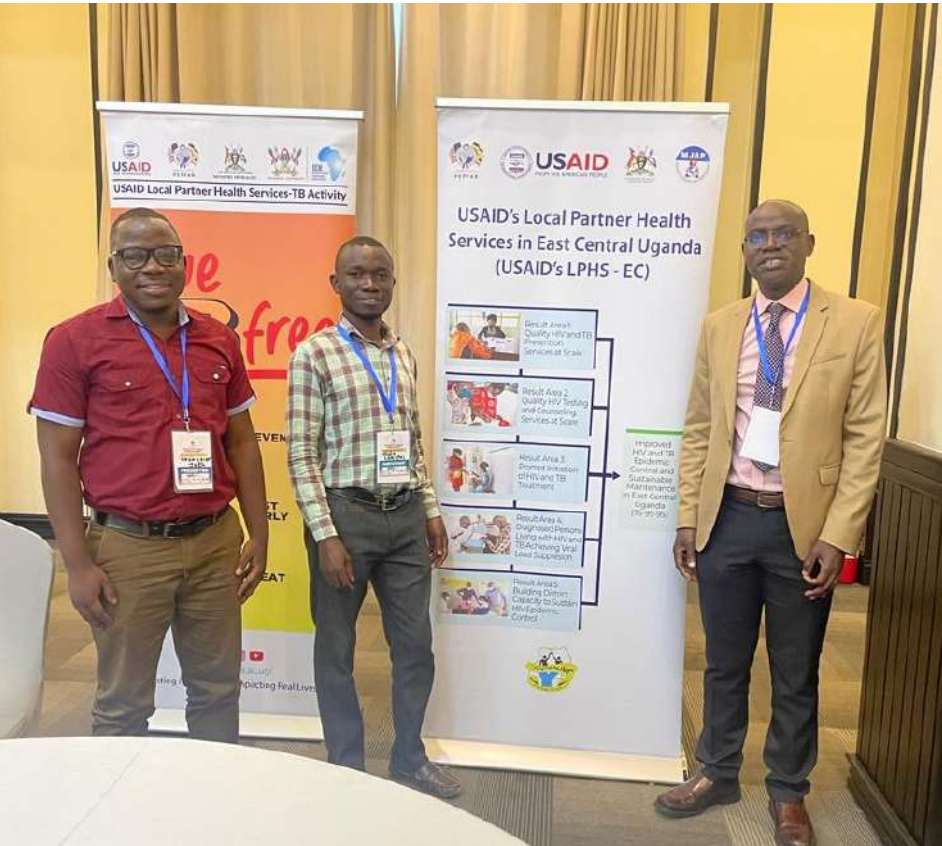


Events Around MJAP

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MJAP joined forces with healthcare leaders and advocates to share knowledge, innovations, and best practices in the fight against TB and leprosy. Together, we can make a difference! #MJAPatNTLS2024 #TBFree #LeprosyElimination"

The Ministry of Health National TB and Leprosy Science Summit, convened on March 18th to 19th, 2024, with the theme "Harnessing Local Research and Innovation on TB and Leprosy to Shape National Policy and Practice to End TB and Leprosy in Uganda," served as a vital catalyst for advancing efforts against these diseases. By emphasizing the utilization of local research and innovation, the summit aimed to inform national policies and practices toward the ultimate goal of eradicating TB and leprosy in Uganda. Through collaborative endeavors and insightful dialogues, stakeholders collaborated to devise strategies prioritizing evidence-based interventions and fostering partnerships, with the collective aim of eliminating TB and leprosy as public health threats in the country.

MJAP's notable achievements at the summit underscored its pivotal role in the fight against TB and leprosy in Uganda. Led by Executive Director Dr. Fred Semitala, MJAP presented groundbreaking research on TB preventive therapy among HIV-positive individuals and led discussions on critical topics such as TB and Co-morbidities during Session 3. With the active involvement of esteemed MJAP members like Dr. Allan Musinguzi, Joel Kasakaire, Mbaha Chrispus, Jennifer Kadondi, and Nabirye Caroline, the summit provided a platform to showcase the organization's commitment to driving positive change through evidence-based interventions and collaborative partnerships. This significant event not only celebrated MJAP's accomplishments but also reaffirmed its steadfast dedication to shaping national policies and practices toward ending TB and leprosy in Uganda, urging all stakeholders to join hands in the collective endeavor toward a future free from these diseases.



We are thrilled to share that Mulago National Referral Hospital's Microbiology laboratories in TB wards 5 and 6 have successfully maintained their international accreditation status, thanks to the robust support of the Makerere University Joint AIDS Program (MJAP). This achievement follows a detailed reassessment by the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) which highlighted the labs' commitment to excellence in healthcare standards.

The SANAS assessors praised the laboratories for their meticulous adherence to best practices and their ongoing quality improvement initiatives which include effective quality management systems, stringent infection control measures and the staff's proficiency in conducting essential microbiological tests. These efforts are crucial for the accurate diagnosis and management of tuberculosis and other infectious diseases.

We congratulate the team at Mulago Hospital's Microbiology laboratories and thank all partners and stakeholders involved with MJAP for their continued support.



SANA assessor interacting with Mulago Hospital staff and MJAP supported Laboratory Technician at one of the HIV testing points.

Compiled by Ivan Muhwezi

Implementation and Impact of Integrated CAST TB+ Initiative in March 2024



The ministry of health has since 2021 implemented bi-annual campaigns “Community awareness, screening, testing and prevention for TB (CAST TB). The aim is increasing TB awareness and finding missing TB cases in the community, provision of preventive therapy and bringing back to care TB patients who had interrupted treatment or lost to follow-up. Riding on these successes, the Ministry of Health (MoH) together with Partners piloted an integrated model (CAST+) targeting TB, HIV, Malaria, WASH, MCH and Nutrition in September 2023. For the East Central region, this pilot was conducted in Buyende district. The pilot demonstrated opportunities to expand community interventions while leveraging resources from each partner’s disease program such as Malaria, HIV, MNCH, WASH, Immunization and Family planning. As a follow on in March 2024, Makerere University Joint AIDS Program (MJAP) through her USAID Local Partner Health Services East Central project (USAID-LPHS-EC) partnered with stakeholders in the region (Implementing partners, district local governments, community health structures) to extend the CAST+ activities to four districts performing sub-optimally on HIV/TB and Family health indicators. These included Jinja, Buyende, Namayingo and Namutumba districts. Through this approach, 47 villages, 18,477 vulnerable households and 39,020 household members were reached through door to door or outreach approach. A total of 1,911 presumptive TB cases were identified, tested and 33 clients diagnosed with TB, of which 3 were rifampicin resistant. All the 33 clients have been initiated on treatment. Upto 2,200 clients were eligible and screened for HIV using HIV ST kits, identifying 14 positives, all initiated on ART. A total of 1,361 children under 5yrs were found with a fever, 1,246 tested through mRDT, identifying 462 malaria positive cases, all initiated on treatment. Other services provided included provision of ANC services, provision of TPT to those eligible, education and screening for malnutrition (51 children with malnutrition identified and linked to treatment), WASH, UpToDate immunization status for children 1 and 2 years, Insecticide Treated Net use among others.

| Outputs from the concluded CAST+ campaign | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| TB | Screened | Diagnosed | RR | Treated |
| | 1,911 | 33 | 3 | 33 |
| HIV | Screened | Positive | confirmed | Initated on AART |
| | 2,200 | 14 | 14 | 14 |
| Malaria | Children under 5 with a fever | Tested using mRDT | Malaria Pos | Treated |
| | 1,361 | 1,246 | 462 | 462 |
| Malnutrition | Children under 5 screened | Diagnosed with SAM | Diagnosed with MAM | Iniated on Treatment |
| | 2264 | 37 | 14 | 51 |

Compiled by Joel Kasakaire & Dr. Paul Lwevola

Practical Strategies and Approaches That Leaders Can Use To Foster And Maintain A Cohesive Team Environment



Building and maintaining a cohesive team environment is crucial for leaders to promote collaboration, productivity, and job satisfaction. Here are some practical strategies and approaches that leaders can employ to maintain a cohesive team environment:

- 1. Clearly communicate goals and expectations:** Set clear objectives and ensure that team members understand their roles and responsibilities. Clearly communicate performance expectations, deadlines, and key milestones. Provide regular updates on progress and celebrate achievements to keep the team motivated.
- 2. Foster open and transparent communication:** Encourage open dialogue and create a safe space for team members to share ideas, concerns, and feedback. Actively listen to team members and value their contributions. Promote effective communication channels, such as regular team meetings, project management tools, or collaboration platforms.
- 3. Encourage collaboration and teamwork:** Emphasize the importance of teamwork and create opportunities for collaboration. Foster a culture where individuals support and help each other, sharing knowledge and expertise. Assign team projects or tasks that require cross-functional collaboration to build relationships and promote teamwork.
- 4. Promote trust and psychological safety:** Trust is essential for a cohesive team environment. Be trustworthy and lead by example. Encourage team members to trust one another by promoting accountability and reliability.
- 5. Provide growth and development opportunities:** Support team members' professional growth by offering training, mentorship, and career development opportunities. Provide constructive feedback and recognition for their achievements.
- 6. Foster a positive and inclusive culture:** Encourage a positive and inclusive work environment where diversity is celebrated. Recognize and appreciate individual differences, perspectives, and contributions. Address conflicts or issues promptly and fairly, promoting resolution and maintaining a harmonious team environment.
- 7. Foster work-life balance:** Promote a healthy work-life balance by encouraging time off, setting realistic work expectations, and respecting personal boundaries. Offer flexibility when possible to accommodate personal responsibilities or individual work styles.
- 8. Lead by example:** Be an effective role model by demonstrating the desired behaviors and values. Show respect, integrity, and professionalism in all interactions. Display empathy, empathy, and emotional intelligence when dealing with team members.
- 9. Celebrate team successes:** Recognize and celebrate team achievements and milestones. Show appreciation for individual and collective efforts, both publicly and privately.

Remember that building and maintaining a cohesive team environment is an ongoing process. It requires consistent effort, active leadership, and a genuine commitment to fostering collaboration, trust, and respect among team members. By implementing these strategies and approaches, leaders can create a positive team environment that promotes productivity, engagement, and a sense of belonging .

Compiled by David Mutesasira

GALLERY



Bringing healthcare to your doorstep! Our Integrated TB CAST+ Outreach team at Nakakulwe Parish, courtesy of Budima HC III - Jinja District, is dedicated to providing comprehensive healthcare services to the community, because everyone deserves access to quality care.

Dr. Fred Semitala(ED MJAP), representing MJAP at the National TB and Leprosy Science Summit in Mestil Hotel, Kampala! Captivating the audience as he discusses TB preventive therapy for HIV-positive individuals



CAST + campaign in Buyende district. Team visited Bukungu subcounty which has had 2 outreach sites daily. In the picture is Kibaale village in the trading centre. Team was able to have more numbers of community members come through for the services activity.



Dr. Kiyimba (Senor Prevention Advisor LPHS-EC) Empowering HTS Mentors in Iganga Cluster!
 This orientation equipped HTS Mentors with the knowledge and skills to optimize HIV Testing Services (HTS) and assess facilities of offering index client testing, enhancing the effectiveness of

Stella Namunapa (Audit & Compliance Officer) Empowering our team in Bugiri cluster through a comprehensive risk and compliance awareness training session!
 This informative session equipped our team with essential risk management tools and provided valuable insights into compliance obligations as per USAID, MOH, and MJAP policies and guidelines. #USAID guidelines #MOH guidelines #MJAP policies



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