

Recommendation for SANAS accreditation of Uganda Martyrs Lubaga Hospital laboratory.



Lubaga Hospital Laboratory Team after being recommended for accreditation

Story told by SPHLS Project Team and edited by Christine Matama.

JCRC through a consortium of three partners; Biolabs Red services (BLS), Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) is implementing a project, 'strengthening Public Health laboratory systems and establishing sustainable diagnostic optimized networks & partnerships for integrated HIV-related testing, disease surveillance and outbreak investigation in Uganda.'

The five-year nation-wide CDC funded project supports accreditation of Public Health Laboratories, which is key towards strengthening a country's diagnostic network.

The Uganda Martyrs Lubaga Hospital laboratory was recommended for international recognition with 32 tests, the highest in the country so far, and this was accomplished within the shortest record time of 6 months, less than the standard established at 8 months. This outstanding achievement can be attributed to a well-planned management structure that allows laboratory staff to perform their duties with minimal supervision. The laboratory also has a dedicated quality manager who oversees the laboratory's quality management system activities. Furthermore, the laboratory is decentralized into departments such as Immunology, Haematology, Microbiology, and Clinical Chemistry each with competent team leads with delegated authority to oversee the implementation of both technical and quality management system activities.

The hospital's management demonstrated commitment towards Laboratory quality management system (LQMS) implementation by appointing two laboratory directors, providing resources such as EQA platforms for all 31 scope tests and employing 33 full-time lab staff. Approximately 90% of the tests on the menu have Internal Quality Control (IQC) and are

enrolled in the External Quality Assessment (EQA), and have the resources to run the laboratory's contingency plan and provide uninterrupted services to patients.

The laboratory also implements an electronic decentralized duplicate document and records control system with the original copies at the quality manager's server, which is accessible by the department head through different departments' servers. The laboratory was able to achieve this tremendous feat as a result of such great attributes, paired with technical support from a qualified and experienced project (SPHLS) team.