

SUPPORT SUPERVISION KEY IN STRENGTHENING LABORATORY SYSTEMS



The program manager, Gordon Mpamize (near the door) in a discussion with the team at Mubende Regional Referral Hosp. Laboratory in July 2022.



Integrated Lab staff meeting at Lira Regional Referral Hospital, the Laboratory is preparing for SANAS assessment scheduled for August, 2022.

Joint Clinical Research Centre (JCRC) and partners are implementing a five-year nation-wide CDC/PEPFAR funded project that works in conjunction with National Health Laboratory & Diagnostic Department (NHLDS) to support Laboratories towards accreditation and sustainability it. In line with providing effective Laboratory services, JCRC is providing high-

level support supervision for the laboratories country-wide. Strengthening Public Health Laboratory Systems in Uganda (SPHLS) has been implementing activities over the past nine months, and conducted these support supervision visits for purposes of taking stock of the achievements, challenges and identify areas for improvement during the second year of project implementation.

Support supervision is critical in the functionalization of laboratory services that are essential for the delivery of the minimum health care package.

This activity provided a framework for ensuring that the health laboratory services in Uganda are strengthened and that workers receive constructive supervision and feedback aimed at improving performances. The areas of improvement are shared with the National Health Laboratory Diagnostic services to provide solutions or mitigations for example areas of poor infrastructure and low staffing levels.



The Programme Manager (in Blue Mask) discusses ways to improve documentation in the laboratory with the Laboratory Manager of Mbarara Municipal HCIV.

In July 2022 JCRC conducted support supervision to districts of Mbarara, Fort Portal, Mubende, Hoima, Luwero, Nwoya, Gulu, Kitgum, Lira & Pallisa.

Extensive discussions with teams at the laboratories, indicated a gap in training needs for Corrective Action / Preventive Action (CAPA), Bio risk/Biosecurity (BRM)-ISO 35001 and ISO 15189. They also noted inadequate or inconsistent in supply of reagents and equipment as well as breakdown and delay in maintenance. There were also unstandardized laboratory

Compiled by Christine Matama, Coordinator, JCRC

structures; resulting into limited workspace and the current staffing norm does not meet the demand at hand. The teams appreciated that support supervision is needed to perform to their full potential as it strengthens engagement and collaboration with regional/ District stakeholders and in the end quality laboratory services are realised.



Support supervision at Fort portal Regional Referral Hop.

Equipment maintenance, servicing and calibrations have reportedly improved tremendously across the laboratories visited during this exercise. This improvement has been attributed to PEPFAR support.

There are challenges that call for mitigations in preventive and corrective actions, but inadequate funding for comprehensive improvements calls for concerted efforts from partners and GoU working in tandem.