

The Uganda UK Health Alliance Quarterly

REPORT

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

“Having one of the longest global health partnership with the UK, Uganda has benefited from systems put in place through joint support from the UK to be able to respond well to the current pandemic.”



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With the outbreak of the COVID 19 pandemic, the importance of countries maintaining relationships beyond borders to address common global health challenges has become more vital. Countries in the different regions of the world are therefore waking up to the importance of establishing shared capacity to mitigate current and emerging health threats.

The UK government and its institutions have maintained the ethos of working in partnerships across the globe in healthcare delivery, research partnerships and system strengthening. As a result several UK derived programs and partnerships continue to transform health sector in many countries ensuring capacity to respond to local challenges whilst mitigating global health threats.

Having one of the longest global health partnership with the UK, Uganda has benefited from systems put in place through joint support from the UK to be able to respond well to the current pandemic.

During this critical period where institutional partnerships are greatly affected by travel restrictions, the Uganda UK Health Alliance (UUKHA) role as a coordinating entity has become more pronounced in enabling continuity of programs for member organisations.

Over this reporting quarter, the Alliance continued to facilitate linkage between departments of health, support ongoing activities in institutional collaborations as well as enable private sector partnerships between Uganda and the UK.

This document highlights the strategic activities by the Alliance over the 2nd quarter of 2020 in supporting UK derived programs in Uganda, developing its internal structure as well as coordinating government to government relationships in health sector development during this critical period.

We appreciate the efforts of member organisations, strategic partners as well as the Joint Advisory Board who have worked closely with the Alliance during the reporting period to ensure success in the different areas.

As we look forward to the normalisation of events, UUKHA will continue to perform and expand its function of oversight in the coming quarter to ensure that supported partnerships continue to thrive even during the current circumstances ■



INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

UUKHA is an umbrella organisation for UK institutions undertaking healthcare capacity building in Uganda. The Alliance provides a system-platform to support and better coordinate UK derived programs in the health sector and ensure that they map to the priorities of Ministry of Health. UUKHA supports member institutions to maximise their impact by fostering mutual collaboration, shared learning and alignment to local needs.

The Alliance operates a consortium model where UK institutions and organisations working in the same area of focus are coordinated

Vision

Strong and robust health systems built through well-coordinated mutual collaboration between Uganda and UK.

Mission

To provide system leadership that better coordinates and supports UK derived programs in Uganda's health sector.

Goal

To enable successful delivery of UK derived health programs in Uganda's health sector while fostering mutual collaboration, shared learning and sustainability.

Objectives

1. Support the Ugandan Government to implement its plans to increase and develop its health objectives and systems, and to contribute towards achieving the health-related development goals.

2. Provide opportunities for learning and development for health workers and institutions in both Uganda and the UK
3. Provide a means of better coordinating UK organizations' contribution to joint working in health, within internationally recognized standards of good practice.
4. Encourage professional volunteering in both directions, in particular the development of standard models for different categories of volunteers.

Purpose of the Report.

This report highlights the activities and outputs for the 2nd quarter in the three (3) strategic areas of linkage of systems, support to member organisations as well as development of the Alliance.

The report is intended to inform UUKHA members and partners about progress in the reporting Quarter ■



DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

LINKAGE OF HEALTH SYSTEMS

Public Health England (PHE).

Over the reporting quarter UUKHA continued coordinating collaborative linkages between PHE and Ministry of Health Uganda (MoH) in mental health and NCDs. We shared and jointly reviewed MoH strategic plans in mental health and NCDs to map them into PHE's global strategy.

UUKHA facilitated sharing of expertise between PHE directorate of global health and MoH in responding to the COVID 19 pandemic through the 'synergies against COVID 19 webinar series'.

Uganda High commission.

The secretariat held a virtual meeting with the Uganda High Commissioner to the UK to update the mission on specific partnerships and obtain insights on supporting UK FDI in the health sector.

Global Health partnerships in Nursing

UUKHA continued to support the Nursing Now Campaign. Follow up was made to the actions from the Nursing Now regional meeting in the previous quarter.

In June, a global health nurses' webinar was organised where nurses from both the UK and Uganda shared learning, expertise and experiences on the novel corona virus pandemic

NHS-Health Education England.

The Joint Action Plan (JAP). HEE and MoH have agreed to develop a joint action plan on health workforce and health systems strengthening over the next five (5) years. The Alliance is coordinating the development of the JAP.

Through the UUKHA webinar series, different departments of HEE shared expertise with counterparts in MoH on workforce aspects of responding to the COVID 19 pandemic. E.g The Chief Nurse of HEE participated in the first webinar on COVID 19

NHS Scotland

The Alliance continued support for ongoing NHS Scotland Partnerships in Uganda and new initiatives especially towards addressing the COVID 19 Pandemic. In particular the perinatal technology data project is being supported.

Support to Departments of Ministry of Health (MoH)

The Alliance worked with departments of MoH to support virtual Technical Working Groups (TWG) meetings in mental health, MCH in particular the safe motherhood working group, emergency, etc

It continued alignment of programs to priorities of MoH departments whilst fostering strategic linkages with the UK.

Professional Exchange between the UK and Uganda

With the outbreak of the COVID 19 pandemic, restrictions on international travels affected professional placements between the two countries.

During the reporting quarter UUKHA focussed on updating volunteer resources and drafting professional exchange schemes.

The Alliance guided volunteers who were still in Uganda at the time of the outbreak on evacuation arrangements by the British High Commission

We continued to update institutions and interested volunteers on the situation in Uganda.

Worked with various consortium members to develop initiatives of distance learning to foster knowledge sharing between the two countries ■



MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT

EYE HEALTH CONSORTIUM

Vision 2020 Links

Over the reporting quarter, the Alliance continued coordinating and engaging members on the actions from the Vision 2020 LINKS institutional meeting.

UUKHA further participated in the Vision 2020 celebrations where there was sharing of learning on eye care during the pandemic

Reach Bwindi

Reach Bwindi is a UK charity that is setting up an eye clinic at Bwindi Community Hospital in South Western Uganda. Over the reporting period, reviewed and provided technical input on the requirements to support training of ophthalmologists or any other appropriate cadre in cataract surgery by Reach Bwindi.

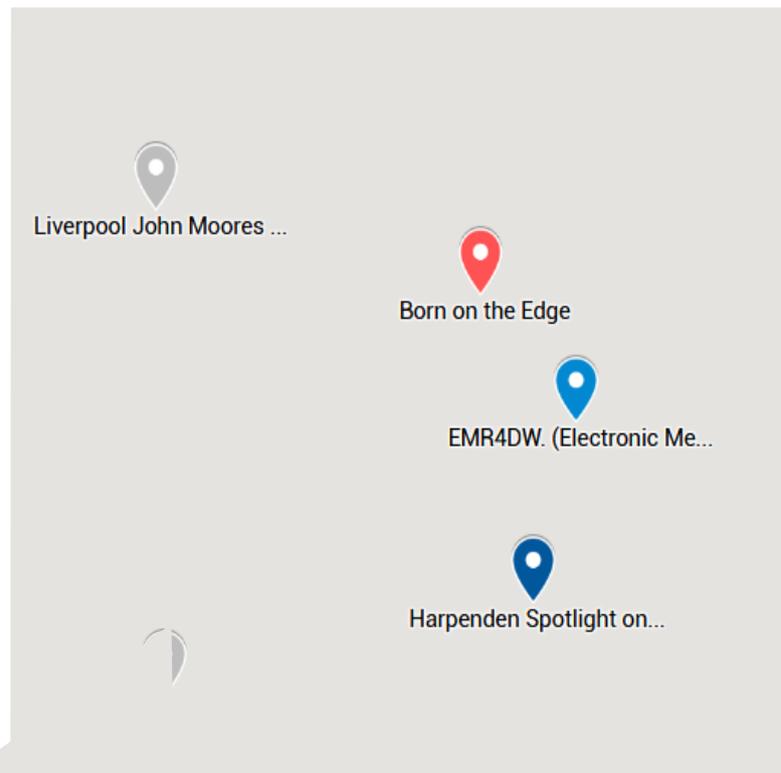
King's College London

The Alliance continued coordinating efforts between King's College London, Moorfields Eye Hospital and Makerere University College of Health Sciences to establish a Joint training program in oculoplastic surgery.

Held discussions in June with Makerere University to start the draft of the program framework

Moorfields Eye Hospital (MEH)

UUKHA made follow up on the MEH Memorandum of Understanding with MoH, engaged the organising team of the October Eye Camp on planning for the activity amidst the COVID 19 pandemic.



Bristol Eye Hospital

The Alliance facilitated ongoing collaboration between Bristol Eye Hospital and Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital, Mbarara University of Science and Technology and Ruharo Eye Hospital.

Royal Free Hospital.

We continued supporting and following up on ongoing work between Royal Free-Mulago National Referral Hospital. Supported the partnership in their application for the Health Worker Action Fund.

DIGITAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM

Electronic Medical Records for the Developing World (EMR4DW)

EMR4DW completed upgrading their EMR System.

On top of ongoing support, we held follow up discussions and supported the planning process for the pilot of the new version.

Organisation for Regulation of Health Applications (ORCHA)

ORCHA has developed a dedicated APP Library for COVID 19.

The Alliance facilitated sharing and access of the library by health workers and professional bodies in Uganda.

Support to the process of developing of a national health application formulary continued over the reporting period.

British Medical Journal.

With the Outbreak of COVID 19, UUKHA continued working with the BMJ to tailor the CDS initiative towards workforce response to COVID 19.

BMJ is applying for funding from DFID to implement the final version in Uganda.

World Medical Education (WME)

Facilitated follow up discussions with Makerere University College of Health Sciences on implementation of the multimedia learning project with WME, University College London and Ministry of Health.

Over the reporting quarter, UUKHA continued coordination between the institutions to fast track implementation.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONSORTIUM

University of London.

St George's Medical School is working with Makerere University and pharmaceutical companies (Pfizer & Minervax) to develop and conduct two phase II studies of two multivalent vaccines against Group B Streptococcus Disease-a leading cause of neonatal sepsis.

The Alliance continued supporting key engagements for the research team between Ministry of Health and relevant agencies by organising virtual meetings and making necessary follow up.

London School of Economics and Political Science.

UUKHA continued support to the Localised Evidence and Decision Making (L.E.AD) project in schistosomiasis and soil transmitted helminthes.

Over the reporting quarter, the Alliance supported the final pilot of LSE-Centre for Africa project on supporting information needs for local public health practitioners to respond to the COVID19 pandemic.

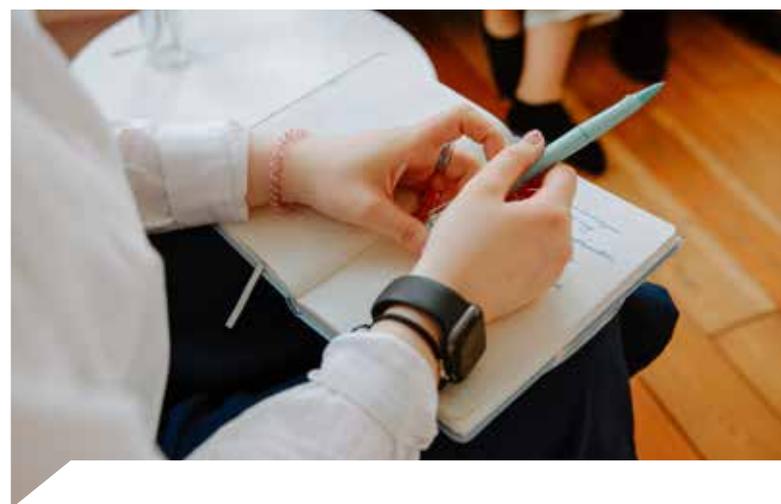
The Alliance worked with the LSE Global Health Initiative, WHO AFRO and their African Health Observatory to organise a public webinar on COVID 19 and the shifting of national health concerns

University of Manchester

UUKHA continued to provide grant management and coordination support to the THET funded Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) project with Gulu University, Makerere College of Health Sciences and Ministry of Health pharmacy department.

Queen Margret University

During the quarter, the Alliance facilitated a joint grant application between Queen Margret University, University of Edinburgh and Makerere University on Balancing safety and quality care in the context of Covid-19.



MENTAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM

Cardiff University

Over the reporting period, the Alliance supported ongoing collaborative research between Cardiff University and institutions in Northern Uganda.

Royal College of Psychiatry

UUKHA continued to engage the Royal College of Psychiatry on mental health partnerships, sharing expertise and placements of Global Health Fellows in Uganda.

Jamie's Fund

Jamie's Fund supports development of mental health care in South Western Uganda. The Alliance made follow up on ongoing work in South Western Uganda.

Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust

UUKHA continued engagement of the Trust on the ongoing work in Northern Uganda including Common Wealth sponsored placements of Ugandan professionals in the UK, etc

East London NHS Foundation Trust

The Alliance engaged and worked with clinicians at East London NHS Foundation Trust to organise a Webinar on the effects of COVID 19 on mental health between Uganda and the UK.

NON COMMUNICABLE DISEASES CONSORTIUM

Manchester University Foundation Trust (MFT)

The Alliance facilitated follow up on collaborative work between MFT and Uganda Cancer Institute on haematology.

Salisbury NHS Trust

UUKHA continued virtual follow up on the agreed actions between Salisbury and Lira Regional Referral Hospital to strengthen geriatric care.

Christie NHS Foundation Trust

The Alliance is currently coordinating agreed next steps and joint working papers on agreed areas of support between Christie and partner institutions in Uganda including Uganda Cancer Institute, Nsambya Hospital Training School, MRC/UVRI, etc.

Mbale-York Partnership

UUKHA is following up on the agreed next steps from last quarter's visit. These include development of a joint framework in research and professional exchange.

University Hospitals of Leicester.

Towards the end of 2019, MoH held discussions with University Hospitals of Leicester to establish partnerships in cardiology, acute care and Diabetes Care with Heart Institute, Mbarara RRH & Mbale RRH.

During the quarter, the Alliance followed up on the actions set and a network of cardiothoracic surgeons has been identified to start working closely with Uganda Heart Institute on capacity building programs.



EMERGENCY HEALTH CONSORTIUM

Leeds NHS Teaching Hospitals

The Alliance facilitated the completion of the research tools and continues to provide grant support to the joint research project between Leeds, RCEM and Regional Referral Hospitals in Uganda.

Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM)

The Alliance coordinated ongoing discussions between Emergency Care Society of Uganda and RCEM on faculty exchange and capacity building in Emergency Medicine.

University of Bristol

UUKHA made follow up and continued coordinating ongoing Emergency Medicine partnership with Gulu University and St Mary's Hospital Lacor.

University of Edinburgh.

The Alliance has continued to offer support towards joint research and exchange of skills between University of Edinburgh and select Ugandan institutions.

WEST NILE UK CONSORTIUM

British Association of Social Workers (BASW).

The Alliance programs team continued periodic follow up on BASW work with the Uganda Red Cross Society to develop safe guarding policies in the West Nile refugee settlements.

University of London

University of London has an ongoing collaborative research project with Muni University on health seeking behaviours of communities.

Over the reporting period UUKHA facilitated obtaining of ethical approvals as well as continued communication between the research teams.

University of Bolton

UUKHA facilitated strategic linkages in faculty development & research in the West Nile region between University of Bolton and Muni University in the previous quarter.

During the reporting period, UUKHA continued follow up with the institutions on the areas of envisaged partnership.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH (MCH) CONSORTIUM

University of Edinburgh

Over the reporting period, we provided oversight to the ongoing Joint Perinatal Health Technology Research Network .

Supported University of Edinburgh to apply for funding from UKRI to implement a project on leveraging technology to improve the flow of actionable perinatal health data information in Uganda.

Cambridge Global Health Partnerships.

UUKHA continued to follow up on the existing partnerships between Cambridge University and Teaching Hospitals with Mulago Hospital Complex in obstetric care training, research and clinical care.

University College London (UCL)

UCL is working with Makerere University to establish a fellowship in Maternal Foetal Medicine. The Alliance provided coordination between the institutions and a draft curriculum has been completed.

Birth Aid

Follow up was made on the ongoing programs in obstetric fistulae and obtained updates on the surgical camps conducted in South Western Uganda.



DIAGNOSTICS AND IMAGING CONSORTIUM

Oxford University Hospitals.

Over the reporting quarter, continued to support ongoing work on establishing interventional radiology project between Makerere University/ Mulago Hospital and Oxford University Hospitals.

We facilitated the grant application process of the Report and Image Quality Control tool (RAIQC) an eLearning platform for interpretation of medical images by Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust to be implemented in Uganda.

Royal College of Radiologists

Followup was made towards supporting professional exchange in radiology between Uganda and UK.



GLOBAL SURGERY CONSORTIUM

Manchester University Foundation Trust (MFT)

During the reporting quarter, the secretariat made follow up on the planned plastic surgery partnership between MFT, Mulago Hospital and St Mary's Hospital Lacor.

NHS Blood and Transplant

NHSBT has an existing MoU to support MoH in establishing organ donation and transplant services at Mulago National Referral Hospital. The Alliance followed up on plans to support a team from Mulago on an observership visit to the UK as part of the planned road map.

Cambridge Global Health Partnerships

Made followup on the planned neuro-trauma partnership between Mulago and Cambridge University Hospitals ■

INVESTMENT CONSORTIUM

Department for International Trade (DIT) /Manufacturing Africa

The Alliance supported and coordinated efforts to strengthen pharmaceutical manufacturing in Uganda by working with DIT, DFID Manufacture Africa programme, MoH and other government agencies.

Healthcare UK

The Alliance held discussions with Healthcare UK on promoting UK derived healthcare investments in Uganda including developing a country brief on health sector investments.

HIGOE Digital Health Solutions

Provided outlook on commercial opportunities for digital health solutions in Uganda

OSKA Emergency Hospital Beds.

OSKA is a UK manufacturer of hospital beds and pressure relief mattresses. Through DIT we provided insights and guidance to the company on the process of supplying public facilities with hospital beds.

PANAF Investments

The secretariat made follow up on the progress of to construct a turnkey hospital in the Albertine Region



ALLIANCE DEVELOPMENT

Progress update to Advisory Board members.

The Alliance shared progress in the 1st quarter with the Joint Advisory Board and the plan for the 2nd quarter for input. As a result, several board members increased their involvement including directly facilitating UUKHA activities

Engagement with strategic partners

Department for International Development (DFID)

The Alliance Secretariat shared the 1st Quarter report with DFID Uganda and continued follow up on ongoing discussions to jointly support workforce development between Uganda and the UK through the SCALE Project.

Alliance Webinars.

To maximise the utility of the Alliance structure and membership during the COVID 19 pandemic, the Alliance established a series of webinars where UK institutions share expertise with counterparts in Uganda. This has facilitated shared learning and new collaborations in responding to the pandemic.

All webinar reports have been developed and shared on the UUKHA website

Development of the Secretariat.

The Alliance continued to update and develop the secretariat blocks to better support and guide member organisations. Key areas of focus included;

Communication platforms: During the COVID 19 pandemic, the secretariat heavily relied on its online communication platforms to engage

members and share resources. In reporting period, UUKHA completed the new version of its website, updated social media platforms, developed and shared resources to guide partnerships during the COVID 19 outbreak.

The new communication platforms enabled organisation of webinars, conducting of surveys and sharing of activity reports.

UUKHA further shared support and funding resources through the UUKHA email and website to enable members take advantage of the ongoing opportunities.

Publications: Several publications were produced and shared with the sphere of stakeholders, these include the 1st quarter report, Webinar reports, blogs, MoH strategic plans, consortium meeting reports and the UUKHA newsletter.

Membership Registration; The secretariat continued to update and streamline registration of member organisations in aligned consortia.

Surveys. The Alliance conducted several surveys to inform its progress on membership support, secretariat activities as well as the organisation of key events. These were the ongoing membership survey, 2 webinar surveys, 4 Consortium surveys.

Office Set up; The Alliance has set up the new office space ready for use and will be sub renting THET.

Strengthening of the Financial management systems; UUKHA has secured a consultancy firm to support the set up of the system and is also in the process of procuring an accounting system

Development of internal organisational policies; The consultancy firm is also working closely with the secretariat to develop the policies and will be involved in training of the staff in their application ■

Challenges

As highlighted during the previous quarter, the Outbreak of the COVID 19 pandemic continues to affect member and secretariat activities in all programs

With many UK institutions unable to travel to Uganda, UUKHA's ombudsman role as a system leadership platform is being stretched to provide oversight in several member activities ■

Some UUKHA Members



UUKHA

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