

# UHF NEWSLETTER

**JULY 2023**



## **Uganda Healthcare Federation hosts the 2023 Private Health Sector Convention.**

The Uganda Healthcare Federation in partnership with the Ministry of Health hosted a Private Health Sector Convention on 21st June 2023 at Golf Course Hotel, Kampala under the theme “Sustainable Investment in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC); Practical Solutions for Private Health Providers.”

The Convention brought together over 200 stakeholders from both the public and private sectors including Ministry of Health leadership, heads of the regulatory councils, and health professionals from hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, laboratories, and drug shops, as well as health advocates, and development partners to share solutions for private health facilities to improve the level of infection prevention and control in their facilities. Visit the UHF website at [www.uhfug.com](http://www.uhfug.com) for more information.



## **Quarterly Private Sector Supply Chain Platform Meeting.**



With Support from the USAID/ Strengthening Supply Chain Systems Activity, UHF hosted the 2nd Supply Chain Platform meeting on 20th July 2023. This platform brings together supply chain stakeholders to discuss how manufacturers, importers, distributors, pharmaceutical wholesalers, and retailers can work together to create synergies that promote best practices and ensure sustainable growth of the health supply chain.

The July event brought together 60 players in the supply chain space who received a presentation from the former CEO of Cipla Quality Chemicals, Mr. Nevin Bradford on the healthcare manufacturing environment in Uganda with a focus on the pathway to security supply, self-reliance, and economic development.

He highlighted the several strategies and calls to action that have been issued to support the pharmaceutical manufacturing sector, including: the East African Community Regional Pharmaceutical Plan of Action, the National Pharmaceutical Services Strategic Plan 2021-2025, and the Ten Year Road Map for GOU’s Health Supply Chain Self Reliance 2021-2032, amongst others. He also noted that while most of the plans mentioned above are coherent and well-thought-through road map strategies, most of the documents remain on the drawing board with the exception of Buy Uganda Build Uganda (BUBU) and limited tariff protection.

He recommended that to promote the pharmaceutical sector, there is a need to significantly enhance local manufacturing, improve regional cooperation, and coordination have a regional approach to procurement, and encourage donors’ intent to purchase from African manufacturers as well as government support in the form of funding.

# UHF Empowers Health Workers in the Five Divisions of KCCA on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC).

With support from USAID/ Maternal Child Health and Nutrition Activity, UHF used a mix of virtual and physical engagement strategies to engage lower-level private health facilities and drug shops in Kampala to improve infection prevention and control at the facility level. These included the creation of WhatsApp groups, hosting virtual CMEs, engaging proprietors of drug shops and clinics as well as organizing communities of practice.

By the end of July 2,404 health workers had been trained in infection prevention and control, timely EVD detection, and data reporting.

The WhatsApp groups created for each of the 5 divisions of KCCA were used as a center of focus for information exchange, raising awareness, and coordination of post-EVD outbreak IPC interventions in general communities of practice. The WhatsApp groups have over 890 health practitioners that regularly interact, discuss, and receive information from each other and the Federation as well as government officials in the form of flyers, videos, write-ups with infographics, and posters.

The Federation also engaged over 1,000 proprietors of private health facilities to find out what equipment and supplies they would need to effectively implement IPC interventions at the facility level.

The information received informed a new UHF member service that allows private health providers to access high-quality medical equipment at an affordable price with the option of paying for the equipment in installments.

UHF also collaborated with the Ministry of Health Clinical Services Department and the KCCA IPC Pillar teams to develop five IPC training modules including an overview of IPC, eHnvironment cleaning and waste management, screening, isolation, notification, and case identification with enhanced surveillance. A digitized video recording of the CME sessions and an e-learning platform with additional resources have proven to be valuable tools for enhancing participants’ understanding of IPC guidelines and best practices.



Private Health facilities receiving certificates for their Consistent improvement in Infection prevention and control

For sustainability of IPC practices among communities, UHF and FHI360 have encouraged KCCA to continue with WhatsApp group discussions and information sharing after the project ends. The KCCA Division IPC Focal persons have been assigned administrator rights for the WhatsApp group accounts to enable them to share information, guide discussions and add people or delete them from the platform.

The e-learning platform provides access to self-assessment materials and benchmarking documents and educational video clips on IPC to support self-learning and refresher orientation of health workers. Completion of the e-learning modules earns health workers two continuous professional development points, encouraging ongoing professional growth.



Dr. Richard the DMO of Nakawa Division making remarks during communities of practice training

**1,870 health service providers mentored; 16 CMEs conducted: 59 Communities of practice events held for focus facilities to ensure effective notification and referral processes for suspected EVD clients in case of EVD flare-ups, development and digitization of IPC modules, and institutionalization of IPC practices and behaviors as part of their routine service delivery systems**

TWG meetings are held each month by the Ministry of Health to discuss and formulate health policy.

The PPPH Technical Working Group meetings are organized and hosted by both the Ministry of Health and the Uganda Healthcare Federation to bring stakeholders from both the public and private sectors in Uganda together to discuss policy issues and critical topics pertaining to healthcare in Uganda.

## Highlights of the Public-Private Partnerships in Health Technical Working Group Meetings.



The online meeting held in May brought together 40 participants and featured two insightful presentations on the Health Information and Digital Health Strategic Plan and the Public-Private Mix (PPM) for Tuberculosis (TB) in the country. A representative from the DHI department of KCCA outlined the vision of the Health Information and Digital Strategic Plan, aiming to have a health sector in Uganda driven by evidence and leveraging digital health to enhance service delivery efficiency.

The mission of the strategic plan is to promote data usage for decision-making and policy formulation, optimizing health service delivery through digital technologies. The presentation highlighted the core principles of the plan, its key priority areas as well as the strategic objective. The Strategic Plan was disseminated to all the digital health companies are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the plan to ensure that they are operating in tandem with the core principles and priority areas of the Health Information and Digital Health strategic plan.

### Public-Private Mix (PPM) for TB in Uganda:

A representative from the National Leprosy & TB program presented the results of a patient pathways analysis carried out during NSP202 -25, revealing that at least 57% of patients in Uganda seek initial care from the private sector. The involvement of all healthcare providers, public and private, formal and informal, is crucial for the provision of TB care in line with International Standards for TB care. However, the private sector's engagement in PPM for TB remains

He informed the meeting that efforts were being made to implement the draft guidelines and improve the accessibility of TB medicines and supplies in the private sector. Technical support was extended through various entities, but further scaling up of engagement is required. The WHO recommended Roadmap for scaling up PPM highlights key issues, including building patient preferences understanding, advocating for commitment, adequate funding allocation, partnership building, regulatory framework establishment, and harnessing the power of digital technologies.

Overall, the PPPH Technical Working Group meeting provided valuable insights into improving healthcare service delivery and fostering collaboration between the public and private sectors to address critical healthcare challenges in Uganda.

