

A note from the **Country Director**

Welcome to the 9th e- News letter of Amref Health Africa in Uganda. In this issue we share highlights of key activities implemented in the third quarter within the months of January to March 2016.

Amref Health Africa's focus is on an improved health system, we believe that health is a human right. We therefore identify priorities and allocate resources on a pro-poor basis giving support to people and communities that

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marginalized. One of such priorities is the newly renovated Theater for Serere Health center IV that Amref Health Africa handed over to the district and hospital management on March 9th, 2016 at Serere Health Center IV.

We were privileged to host the Director General of Ministry of Health Dr. Jane Ruth Acheng to officiate at the global launch. In this Health System for advocacy project, Amref Health Africa is Prime and will be working in partnership with, Health International (HAI), WEMOS and ACHEST. This project is fully funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA).

Amref Health Africa continues to make its modest contribution towards the health of Ugandan people through sharing of information about the activities we implement.

Abenet Lyekun Berhanu
Country Director

Amref Health Africa in Uganda 's Annual performance Review and Planning meeting Held on January 13th–16th, 2016.

Amref Health Africa in Uganda held its Country Annual Performance Review and Planning meeting on January 13th -16th, 2016. The three days meeting brought together all Amref staff in Uganda.

The Country Director Mr. Abenet Leykun Berhanu presented the meeting objectives among which was to review the previous year's performance, agree on key areas that need improvement, Share knowledge in areas of planning, Budgeting and implementation of activities across all departments.

During the 3 days meeting staff had an



Country Director leading reflection meetings during the planning and review meeting with staff

opportunity to be taken through a team building session that was facilitated by Coach Africa.

At the end of the three days each department had a detailed and clear budget, logical monthly targets and quarterly work plans that will be used to develop the monthly work plans throughout the year.

Amref roles out an efficient and effective procurement system: Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) is a business process management software that allows an organization to use a system of integrated applications to manage the business and automate many back office functions related to technology, services and human resources. ERP software integrates all facets of an operation, including product planning, development, manufacturing, sales and marketing.

This software is considered an enterprise application as it is designed to be used by larger businesses and often requires dedicated teams to customize and analyze the data and to handle upgrades and deployment.

In May 2015 Amref Health Africa in Uganda management made a decision to introduce the Enterprise Resource Planning system this meant that the country program teams had to be trained on how to use this system and then give time for orientation and later roll it out in the Country Program.

On January 15th, 2016 during the Annual Review and planning meeting one of the items on the agenda was to officially launch and roll out the ERP system. Amref Health Africa in Uganda has now joined some of the Amref Health Africa offices across Africa in embracing and using this software.

This system has improved on timeliness in the procurement process, efficiency and effectiveness. It has also enhanced accuracy and completeness of data, reduced paperwork and associated costs.

As a program we are able to track documents as and when required using Purchase Requisition Number, Cost Centre and owner (Requester). It is easy to access using any smart device like smart phones as long as it has internet connectivity

Most of all it has created more time for other activities in the department due to its automated nature and shortened procurement processes

Like any other new system it did have some challenges but these are far less than the benefits we have gained. This year we will continue to activate other components in this system to improve our services.

Amref Health Africa hands over a fully renovated and Refurbished Theater in Serere Health Center IV.



Amref Health Africa is implementing a 3 years Maternal Health Project. Funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This project aims towards contributing to the achievement of the millennium development goal 5(a) which is the reduction of maternal mortality rate by 75%. This Project is implementing with a goal to significantly reduce the maternal morbidity of the 80,940 women of Child bearing age in Soroti, Serere and Katakwi districts in North- Eastern Uganda.

On March 9th, 2016 Amref Health Africa handed over a fully renovated theater ward at Serere Health Center IV. This gesture was in line with two of the key project purposes which are to ensure women that live in peasant subsistent agriculture

and post conflict conditions deliver under skilled care of a health worker and emergency obstetric care is provided when the need arises.

Furthermore Soroti, Serere and Katakwi are districts with high incidences of fistula abnormalities. The main cause of this vice is the high numbers of teenage marriages, and many child bearing women give birth under unskilled medical supervision.

At the handover ceremony the In-charge of Serere Health Center IV was excited about the renovations having served for a while in the center with a theater that was non functional and trying to operate from it was a health hazard. Women could not risk giving birth at the Health center

fearing that if they are in a situation that needs an emergency they may not make it on time to Soroti referral hospital which is about 50Kms away. He was optimistic that the completion of the renovations have led to access to quality care and the number of patients will increase.

The Project Manager Edward Sebuyira was in agreement he said the theater was in a deplorable condition and it kept patients away

which lead to high mortality rates among mothers as complicated deliveries could not be urgently addressed the Referral Hospital is 50Km away from Serere town.

With this intervention there will be an improvement of care seeking services in the district and this will contribute to the reduction of maternal mortality and morbidity with in the North Eastern Region. Indeed there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Global Launch of the Health Systems Advocacy Project in Uganda.

In the October – December issue of 2015 we shared the good news of a new grant that Amref Health Africa will be implementing. This five year project worth \$30 million is funded by the Dutch Government and it is to be implemented at both global and regional levels.



from the Ministry of Health to ensure this project is a success and will greatly benefit the people of Uganda.

At the Press briefing Dr. Martin Ruhweza the Deputy Country

As the Prime Organisation of this strong partnership we were able to host all partners and some key Embassy officials and government representatives to the Project Global Launch which was held in Uganda at the Imperial Royale Hotel on March 18th, 2016.

Director of Amref Health Africa in Uganda informed the press that this project brings together a strong partnership which includes the African Centre for Global Health and Social Transformation (ACHEST), Coalition for Health promotion and social Development (HEPs/HAI) and WEMOS. We all bring different expertise

At the event we were privileged to host the Director General - Ministry of Health in Uganda Dr. Jane Ruth Acheng as Guest of Honor. In her opening speech she informed the guests that Sexual and Reproductive Health rights are among the highest priorities in health that government seeks to improve greatly. She also thanked civil society organizations that have contributed to this high priority area and pledged full support



Amref staff, Partners, some key Embassy officials and government representatives who attended the launch of the project

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on the table and we are here to learn from each other, share knowledge and ensure we advocate for strong health systems in Africa. The HSA Partnership is focusing specifically on the contribution of failing health systems to poor health.

In this project Amref Health Africa brings a wealth of experience in Human Resources for Health and Sexual Reproductive Health rights. We are responsible for one block of HRH and SRH commodities.

At the level of access, health service delivery suffers from low numbers and poor distribution of trained health workers and poor availability and affordability of life-saving medical commodities and devices. Lack of financial resources, poor governance and inadequate information systems also contribute to this.

As we start rolling out this project in the six pilot districts of Kisoro , Kabale , Serere, Soroti, Lira and Dokolo we are seeking to improve access to SRH services and focus on strengthening those three blocks shared above.

Amref Health Africa joins the world to commemorate **the Sanitation week** and world water day.

Amref Health Africa joined the rest of the world to commemorate the Sanitation week and the World Water Day. Under the theme Good Sanitation “What is the role of your leader” The Sanitation week was held from the 14th to the 18th of March, 2016 and the world water day was held on the March 22nd, 2016.

of a number of WASH activities including construction of pour flush toilets, drainable ventilated improved pit latrines (VIP), construction of Ferro cement tanks in all the targeted schools and formation , training of all the school health clubs, school management committees in operation and maintenance of WASH Facilities.

To commemorate this day Amref Health Africa used a unique approach of WASH School competitions. WASH in full is Water Sanitation and Hygiene. This innovative approach proved to be effective and at the same time cost effective towards improving sustainable WASH services both in schools and surrounding communities.

During the sanitation week Amref Health Africa organised WASH competitions for the 20 targeted schools in Kawempe Division. Following an intense but fascinating implementation



School Children presenting a Sanitation poem to the guests.

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Schools participated in community and school clean ups , community WASH out reaches with their respective localities , school debates on the theme of the year were organised and this created opportunities for school health club members to sensitize their peers.

Schools which clearly understood the WASH components and demonstrated a more clean environment and use of sanitation facilities, were invited to present at the District Event where they recited poems, shared posters and presented folk songs in praise of clean environment

The Director of Preventive services Dr. Semwemba appreciated Amref Health Africa's contribution to the changing environment in Kawempe Division sighting that there is an improvement in the general cleanliness of the division, the use of children to be the voices in the community in the fight against poor sanitation and hygiene.



Women display their hand made crafts from waste products within their communities

At the event women groups that have been trained by Amref Health Africa in waste management presented hand-made items made out of waste materials. This activity clearly demonstrated that waste can be turned into wealth and improve household incomes. Indeed Amref Health Africa as a lead organisation in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene has demonstrated that Good sanitation is key to reduction of disease and poverty. Our question to you today is “what is the role of your leader” in improving Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in your community.

Corporate Organisations Witness Amref Health Africa's work

On October 07th, 2015, Amref Health Africa held its first ever Fundraising Gala Dinner at the Serena Hotel in Kampala. This event brought together 405 invited guests from all over the Country and abroad. Among the guests were representatives from 35 organisations.

Our guests were able to raise about 268, million Uganda shillings this amount will go towards training of midwives in the hard to reach areas of Karamoja Region. The training starts in August 2016.

To enhance the partnerships developed Amref Health Africa invited Corporate Organisations to spend a day in the field without project teams and see how we work and what we do in the communities we work with. Eleven Organisations were able to spend a day with us on 23rd of March 2016.

Two project areas were selected within the Central region. The Water and Sanitation Project in the Peri Urban and urban area in Kawempe and the Scaling up of Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Prevention project in Wakiso District.

The Water and Sanitation Project in Kawempe is part of a bigger project



funded by the European Union. Other districts that benefit from this grant are Gulu and Kitgum Districts.

In Kawempe Division this WASH project works towards improving basic Sanitation to poor Peri Urban and urban communities in the division, increasing access to safe drinking water and uphold personal hygiene and sanitation education in schools and communities in the Slums of Kawempe Division.

The Corporate Representatives who visited the Kawempe Project witnessed all the above activities and infrastructure that the Project has provided and how the beneficiaries are using them.

They were able to interact with the community sharing more about how these interventions have lead to an improvement in the quality of life that they lead.

The guests were able to witness some of the project's successes as indicated below;

- a) Affordable access to sufficient quantity of water.



- b) Improved sanitation hygiene behavior and this was made more possible and partake because Amref Health Africa works thorough government structures at community, sub county and District level. Amref Health Africa team explained that this is to ensure sustainability of the WASH interventions even after the project ends.
- c) The guests were also able to see that WASH has been integrated with other programmes like health, Livelihoods and education among others. This has promoted a holistic approach to development.

- d) Promotion of personal Hygiene and Sanitation education methodology in schools, the strengthened school structures and rejuvenated school health club and school management committees that have lead to increase promotion of PHASE among pupils.
- e) Very active women and Youth groups within the communities who have since gained skills in Waste management and re- cycling for better use that brings in an income to them by turning WASTE into WEALTH

Corporates visit to the Amref's Wellness Centre in Wakiso District

The Second group visited the Scaling up of Comprehensive HIV/AIDs project in Wakiso District. Whose project goal is to contribute to the reduction of the number of new cases of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in Uganda. Here they visited a wellness center at Kiira Health Center IV.

This wellness center is temporally was majorly set up with a basis of accessibility to services by the populations at static sites.

All our activities are implemented through the health systems strengthening approach in six districts and are conducted through 15 health facilities. At the majority of facilities (13), the implementation is done by public facility employees while at two facilities, dedicated teams who are employees of Amref Health Africa conduct the project implementation. The services are accessed by the population at static sites and through outreaches held in different parts of the population.

At present our annual target is 44,483 Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC). The VMMC service is offered as a comprehensive HIV prevention package and includes HIV counseling and testing, treatment of Sexually Transmitted infections, condom distribution and management of other reproductive health problems.

This project is implemented in the central region where the HIV prevalence is disproportionately higher than the national (9-11% compared to the national average of 7.3%). The region is also characterized by a rapidly advancing social-cultural context.

With the above background the guests were able to interact with the VMMC clients, meet the project team on the ground as they carried out their work, held discussions with the Health Center Management team to better understand how we collaborate with government structures.

They also had an opportunity to listen to testimonies from VMMC clients. At the end of the field visit they shared their reflections as indicated below;

Feed Back from the Corporates

1. Monitor Publications Representative felt that the field visit was very educative and encouraged Amref Health Africa to open up more , this gesture can guide companies on how best to partner with Amref Health Africa
2. Orient Bank representative believed that this was an opportunity for them as corporates

to choose how to work with Amref Health Africa and how to link their Corporate Social responsibility to given projects in Amref.

3. CITI Bank Representative felt the experience has not left her the same, it was very strong and she believes there is something they can work on with Amref in a bid to continue bringing better health to our people.
4. UBA Bank Representative shared that this experience has confirmed that Amref Health Africa is an organisation that accounts to the community and their donors. She was sure that United Bank of Africa and Amref will definitely work together.

The Corporate field visit improved our visibility and it created avenues for Amref Health Africa to strategically position and partner with Corporate Organisations by raising funds from within the country.

Community Voices from the Water and Sanitation project implemented by Amref Health Africa in Gulu District and funded by the European Union.



Without water, none of us can live a comfortable life. Amref Health Africa believes Water is a part of everyday life and we are glad to share and show the world how we have made societal change through water.

Ms Tereza Alip, Chairperson L.C.1. Police Ward, in Gulu District feels empowered following the skills she has gained in WASH and Community Social mobilization. She explains that before the Water and Sanitation project implemented by Amref Health

Africa she used to experience problems in handling WASH issues (Hygiene and sanitation improvement), wastes management in my community, now she is a strong advocate of clean environment in her community. The training she received from Amref Health Africa has equipped her in taking a leadership role in WASH management in her community.

She reported that her community members now appreciate the benefit of good latrine use and management, hand washing with soap after using latrines and washing water collection containers (Jerri cans). These are very simple interventions but their importance to her community was not known so they used to suffer from many diseases caused due to poor sanitation and hygiene practices.



Wang Madi spring, is in the background where **Ayot Concy** is standing as she took a photo for this photo she had this to say “We used to drink contaminated water the same water point was being shared with animals and during the dry seasons, we had to travel long distances to fetch clean water. We felt neglected then but, now proud we have a safe and clean water source, near by the ward. ‘We do not have to worry about water shortage any more. The Water and Sanitation Project by Amref Health Africa has brought clean water closer to our community.”



Ms Grace Omiya, Layibi division, has this to say “**Amref has been my eye opener**” Re-use of wastes was regarded an abuse and meant for mentally affected people, My involvement in wastes collection and recycling earned me a lot of abuses but now I am glad I never gave up on collecting waste to ensure we have a clean environment.

Amref identified a number of us, mobilized and trained us in economic re-use of wastes, (wastes is wealth), I have moved from collection to sorting and recycling to making hand crafts, composting of manure for my garden and hiring of skilled labour to support my business venture. I’m now a trainer with Uganda Prisons program “*From Rehabilitation to Reintegration*” hand crafts for female prisoners, in Gulu prisons, our products are on very high demand.



Yugi aye lonyo “Wastes is wealth” Adongpiny Irene, plastic recycler from industrial ward, was all smiles as she pushed a wheel burrow full of plastics. She was happy that Amref Health Africa worked with the local government to set up primary waste collection points, and **metallic skips,** in her division. This is were Vugi collects plastic bottles (papap), take them home for washing and cleaning and finally for sale around the petrol stations, the demand is high and she gets at least Ugs 10,000 per for bottles and 35000 for jerricans



Women and children are now able to access clean and safe water

Akumu Lillian the Vice chairperson, Wang Lukwiya spring, appreciated the well built water source and she thanked Amref Health Africa, for coming to their rescue, she said that having a clean water source has restored the safety of their families, especially their daughters and young children, she pledged her commitment to work with her water source committee to ensure good operation and maintenance of this water point.

To date Amref Health Africa rehabilitated five spring wells that serve up to 300 people this translates to 15000 people in Gulu district can now access safe and clean water.