

A word from the Executive Director — Pg 01

Baylor-ACE Bunyoro Project Hosts Baylor-Uganda Board of Directors — Pg 02

Baylor-Uganda Equips Bunyoro Health Facilities with Neonatal Equipment — Pg 02

Surveillance of Disease Outbreaks Strengthened in Kampala — Pg 03

Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation Uganda Program Coverage Expands To 6 More Districts. — Pg 04



## A Word from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Dr. Dithan Kiragga**  
Executive Director

Dear Readers

Welcome to Edition Four of the Baylor-Mail Newsletter. "This is the Baylor- Board Edition" As you may notice we have considerably reduced the number of content pages to enable you have a quick and easier read.

In this edition, we bring you updates on the board's recent support supervision visit to the ACE Bunyoro region and part of what took place at the closure of Baylor-Uganda's BACKUP Health project.

The BACKUP Health project was implemented from December 2021 to August 2022. The project improved surveillance reporting by utilizing the decentralized urban cluster health service delivery model developed by KCCA.

I am glad to inform you that we have recently grown in business and portfolio to cover 6 more Districts. These are Nakaseke, Kassanda, Mubende, Mityana, Kiboga, and Kyankwanzi.

Overall, Baylor-Uganda has scored well on many fronts. We have also had international engagements to provide and share experiences in HIV research and other areas.

All these have been very well documented and can easily be found on our website @ [www.baylor-uganda.org](http://www.baylor-uganda.org) or our social media sites

Thank you



## 01 Baylor-ACE Bunyoro Project Hosts Baylor-Uganda Board of Directors

Baylor-Bunyoro hosted the Baylor-Uganda Board of Directors (BOD) and Senior Management Team (SMT) to understand the organization's project and scope of work in the Bunyoro region.



*Baylor-Uganda ED Dr. Dithan Kiragga (blue shirt) interacts with staff from Buliisa NICU. Also in attendance was Mr Beine Albert the Finance Board Chairperson of Baylor Uganda*

The visit started with a feedback meeting between the Board of Directors, SMT, Regional SMT, and program heads/coordinators where the Acting Project Manager shared the project's progress. The team further visited some of the district leadership, and refurbished and furnished neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) at Buliisa General Hospital and Masindi General Hospital, the TASO Special Clinic in Masindi, and the Regional Emergency Operation Centre.

Overall, the Board of Directors applauded the staff for the work they do and commended the districts for having a cordial working relationship with Baylor-Uganda in the region.

In his remarks, Dithan Kiragga, the Executive Director of Baylor, urged the district leadership to create sustainability plans for the HIV/AIDS response and other donor-funded health services to ensure these positive changes are maintained and built upon in the future.

## 02 Baylor-Uganda Equips Bunyoro Health Facilities with Neonatal Equipment

Through the ELMA project, Baylor-Uganda donated Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) equipment to the healthcare facilities of Kyangwali HC4, Masindi General Hospital, Buliisa General Hospital, and Hoima Regional Referral Hospital. The equipment that includes baby warmers, incubators, and baby cots aim to address late neonatal sepsis, prematurity, and birth asphyxia, among other neonatal issues.



*Baylor - Uganda Board at a Neonatal Unit in Bunyoro*



*Board members after a meeting with Hoima DLG*

The NICU sites continue to receive specialized capacity-building sessions for frontline health workers on advanced neonatal care to improve neonatal survival in the Bunyoro region.

In Masindi General Hospital NICU, this support has led to an increase in the number of NICU admissions from less than 20 per month to 45 babies on average per month. It has also notably reduced the number of referrals out to Hoima Regional Referral Hospital, improved the quality of care in the NICU, and saved the lives of many very small babies like twins born with a birth weight of 1.2kg & 1.3kg born at 27 weeks of gestation.

*Continued to page 03*





At Buliisa General Hospital NICU, this similar support has funded the ongoing NICU refurbishment that aims to improve the quality of newborn care services in the district. It has also increased the number of NICU admissions from barely any babies admitted in a month to 20 babies on average monthly. It has further reduced the number of referrals out to Hoima Regional Referral Hospital and saved the lives of many very small babies, including a baby of 1.6 kg born at 32 weeks of gestation.

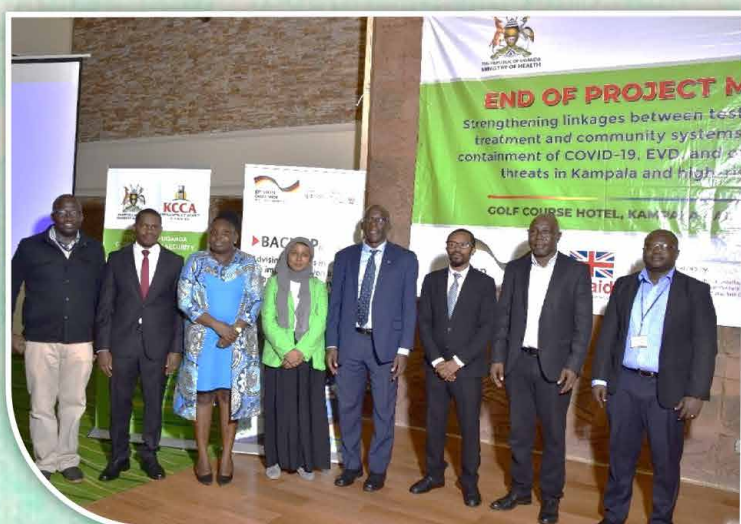
### 03 Surveillance of Disease Outbreaks Strengthened in Kampala

On August 30, 2023, representatives from Baylor-Uganda, the Ministry of Health, KCCA Directorate of Public Health and Environment, GIZ, and the United Kingdom Agency for International Development (UKAID) convened at the Golf Course Hotel, Kampala, to celebrate achievements of the BACKUP Health project that focused on strengthening connections of testing, surveillance, and community systems to contain the COVID-19 and Sudan Ebola virus diseases in Kampala. The participants also discussed strategies to sustain these commendable achievements.



Baylor-Uganda's BACKUP Health project was implemented from December 2021 to August 2022. The project improved surveillance reporting by utilizing the decentralized urban cluster health service delivery model developed by KCCA and training 324 village health teams to conduct community active case searches in Kampala. As a result, over 6,258 Ebola warnings were identified and investigated, leading to a high follow-up rate of 92%. This success serves as a valuable example for response to other epidemics.

*1PHOTO: The KCCA disease surveillance team prepares to go out a field activity.*



The BACKUP Health project also upgraded a web-based system to enhance surveillance data visualization and real-time decision-making for Ebola in Kampala. The project further trained 145 healthcare workers to use electronic laboratory investigation forms, which improved COVID-19 reporting.

*From Left to Right: Dr. Joseph Ojwang, CDC DGHP; Dr. Michael Mwanga, MOH Assistant Commissioner of Surveillance, Information and Knowledge Management; Agnes Batangira, GIZ; Lisha Lala, UKAID; Dr. Dithan Kiragga, ED, Baylor-Uganda; Dr. Alex Ndyabakira; Mr. Albert Maganda, Baylor-Uganda Director of Strategic Development; and Mr. Rogers Kisame, GHS Program Manager, Baylor-Uganda, share a photo moment at the closeout meeting.*



## BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION UGANDA PROGRAM COVERAGE EXPANDS TO 6 MORE DISTRICTS.

Mildmay handed over 6 districts under the ACE program which include Nakaseke, Kassanda, Mubende, Mityana, Kiboga, and Kyankwanzi.

Baylor-Uganda received instruments of work from Mildmay-Uganda and CDC in the first entry meeting that took place at Hotel Africana on Friday 15th September 2023.

The Program which started 6 years ago covers 4 hospitals, a DREAMS project with 73 structured spaces and 9 model safe spaces and OVCs in all the 6 districts.

The area of coverage has 3 out of 8 laboratories SANAS accredited, 8 hubs all ALIS accredited, and 128 Facilities, 42 HCIIIs, 68 HCIIIs.

Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation-Uganda (Baylor-Uganda) is a leading provider of high-impact integrated, high-quality, high-impact comprehensive HIV, Tuberculosis (TB), Reproductive Maternal Neonatal Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH), and Global Health Security (GHS) services in Uganda.

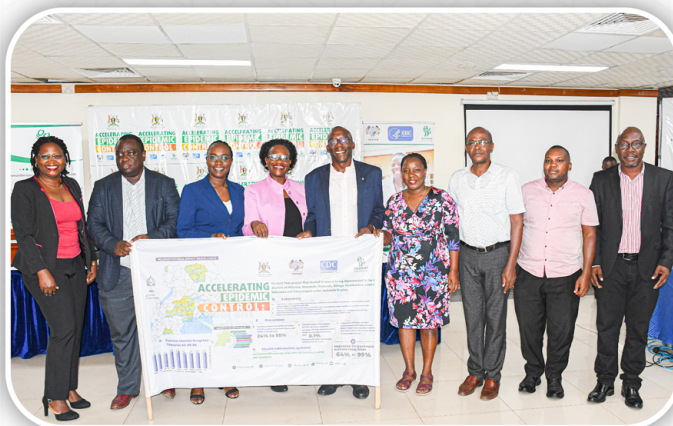
An indigenous, not-for-profit organization established in 2006, We are affiliated with the Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative (BIPAI), a network of Pediatric HIV care and treatment at Children's Clinical Centers of Excellence (COE).



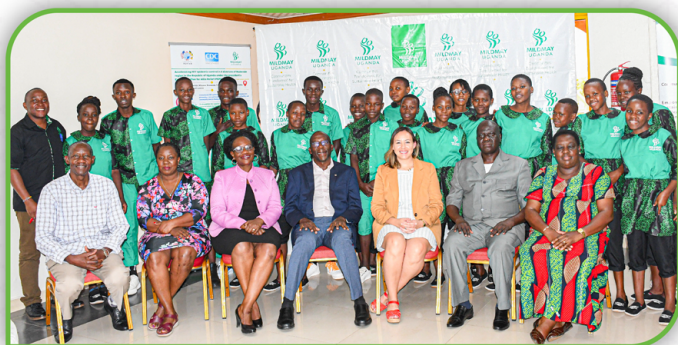
BU CDC



Flag



Pic Map Mildmay



Pic Kids Mildmay

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