



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

**UGANDA NATIONAL HEALTH
LABORATORY SERVICES/CPHL**

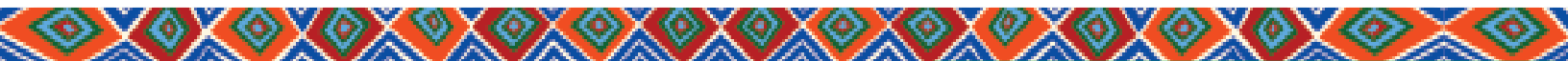
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UNHLS eNOTICE BOARD

The Health Lab Monthly News Series

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Commissioning of Liquid Nitrogen production Plant

Picture Narrative

A liquid nitrogen production plant was commissioned by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Dr. Diana Atwiine on 18th August 2017 at UNHLS Headquarters, Butabika.

“We thank the US government through its Department of Defense and Centres for Disease Control (CDC) for supporting the Walter Reed Project that constructed a Nitrogen Manufacturing Plant at Butabika. The plant will improve disease testing across the country by making it easier for laboratories especially in upcountry areas to easily obtain Nitrogen.” Says Dr. Diana Atwiine

Our vision

Quality health laboratory services available and accessible to all people in Uganda

Our Mission

Provide quality, cost-effective and sustainable health laboratory services to support the delivery of the Uganda National Minimum Health Care Package at all levels.

Our Mandate

- To undertake and coordinate clinical and public health laboratory services needed to support the implementation of the Uganda National Minimum Health Care Package
- To provide for the purpose and functions of modern and high-technology reference laboratory services with international standards that will address the challenge of testing specimens for complex diagnostic and forensic purposes.

FEATURED STORIES

- Laboratory Equipment Calibration Centre Established at UNHLS - Butabika
- EID POC Testing program update to stakeholders
- Enrolling CPHL laboratory on the Virology Quality Assurance (VQA) Proficiency Program



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Center for Global Health



Editorial Opinion

Dear readers, the issue for the month of August brings to your attention, how laboratory services in Uganda are improving with the manufacturing of liquid nitrogen at UNHLS Butabika.

Laboratories analyze patient samples or specimen and thereafter present information used for; patient care, disease surveillance, planning and research. There is always a need to transport samples for testing elsewhere or store for longtime awaiting follow up in a manner that keeps the physical, chemical, and biological properties unchanged. Most samples routinely handled by our laboratories especially purified proteins and nucleic acids (or living cells) are supposed to be stored in liquid nitrogen (-192° C) to prevent unwanted chemical reactions before time for the next required procedure.

Liquid nitrogen has been a scarce resource in the financially constrained laboratory service system hence limiting storage and transfer of samples from remote areas. Consequently, this often delays feedback on results while causing resource wastage where additional samples could be required to complete the procedure but hindering customer satisfaction.

There is a need to put aside resources both human expertise and financial resources for maintenance to ensure sustainability of the services.

Kasuse Michael
MakSPH – CDC Fellow

LABORATORY EQUIPMENT CALIBRATION CENTRE ESTABLISHED AT UNHLS - BUTABIKA

A laboratory equipment calibration center was commissioned by the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Health, Dr. Diana Atwiine as part of the Lab Day activities held on 18th August 2017 at UNHLS Butabika. Calibration is a set of operations under specifies conditions that establish the relationship between units of quantities indicated by a measuring instrument or system and the corresponding units realized by existing standards. The center will maintain and calibrate the measurement instruments and standards with the highest level of accuracy for public and private laboratories. It may work with the national standards agency to issue quality marks and certificates, and hold seminars about laboratory measurements and calibrations among others.

This center will also support the current drive for international accreditation for all laboratories in private and government sector. This is because all equipment must be calibrated once a year for a laboratory to be internationally accredited, a service we have been getting from private providers from South Africa and from the region.

Other activities for the Lab Day include; commissioning the liquid nitrogen manufacturing plant, receiving the UNHLS staff van from MAUL, handing over motor bikes to Hubs, and graduating 4 Biosafety cabinets certified Engineers among others.



PS of MOH listening to Laboratory Calibration experts

EID POC TESTING PROGRAM UPDATE TO STAKEHOLDERS

On 25th August 2017, UNHLS organized a point of care (POC) of Early Infant Diagnosis program update meeting at Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala supported by Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI). In attendance were; Directors of RRH including Lacor Hospital, DHOs, Laboratory In-charges and Advisors, UNHLS SMT, IPs among others who comprehend the relevance, significance and justification of POC EID services to health facilities.

Currently, the UNHLS EID program capacity is reaching 60% of all eligible children in the country. The EID POC testing services will enable POC testing in all health facilities (HC) to reach 100% of all eligible children by bridging gaps of routine testing access especially hard to reach areas.

The implementation plan has items completed including; Policy & pilot plan in place, sites identified, procurement of products completed, assessment done and results shared in this meeting. Items remaining include; trainer of trainer (TOT), facility training, enrollment, collecting data to inform the scale up. The role of UNHLS is to; strengthen human resource capacity, monitoring error rates through coding the rates and automating their notification to national team that determines their magnitude and implication; coordinate logistics supply chain with NMS; conduct comparable testing (validation); data management & monitor consistence with EID programs tools and dashboard; and EQA. The pilot is intended to end by March 2018.



Stakeholders listening to a well attended update meeting

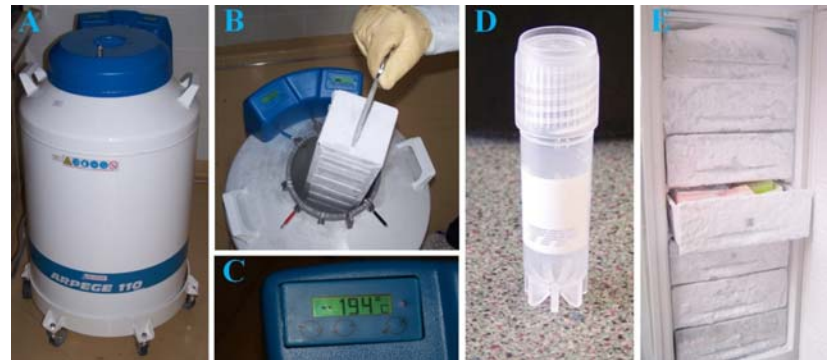
Other activities

- On 23rd August 2017, the CPHL Laboratory was enrolled on the Virology Quality Assurance (VQA) proficiency program with LabID; 667. In case of successful pre-qualification panel under this program, the laboratory will be eligible to participate in NIH funded clinical trials. This follows a recommendation by SANAS to increase the frequency of EQA testing since the lab is very high volume.
- Early August 2017, there was the 6th UNHLS Quality Review Meeting performed annually to evaluate the laboratory's quality management system activities, corrective and preventive actions to ensure its continuing sustainability, adequacy and effectiveness and support patient care. Specific objectives this year included; review performance of QMS; access capacity of the system to meet service demand; identify strength on how to consolidate it; identify opportunity for improvement; and project and forecast resources for next year.

PICTORIAL SECTION



PS Dr. Diana Atwine with the UNHLS SMT inspecting equipment for the laboratory Calibration Centre



(A), Dewar flask filled with liquid nitrogen. (B), Liquid nitrogen storage rack with cryogenic storage boxes. (C), Inner temperature indicated on the top of the Dewar flask. (D), Cryotube for the storage of samples in liquid nitrogen. (E), Laboratory freezer (-80°C)

On-going activities

- National wide training of laboratory professionals in ethics, customer care, hepatitis diagnosis and management during Uganda Medical Laboratory Technology Association (UMLTA) Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Roll out training. More updates by Mushabe Brenda
- Conducting support supervision and assessment of district epidemic preparedness mostly along borders with DRC. UNHLS will train 60 district level officers from 20 high risk districts for meningococcal meningitis case based surveillance. There are preparations for cross border meetings between Uganda and South Sudan and between Uganda and Kenya – More updates by Atek Kagirita
- Monthly Viral Load meetings to discuss the progress of viral load program in accordance to targets – More updates by Dr. Miriam Murungi
- SPARS Training of laboratory managers on logistics management – More updates by Wilson Nyegenye.

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