



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

**UGANDA NATIONAL HEALTH  
LABORATORY SERVICES/CPHL**

Plot 160 - 1602 Old Butabika Road, Kampala  
Phone: +256-414-230265  
Email: cphlug@gmail.com



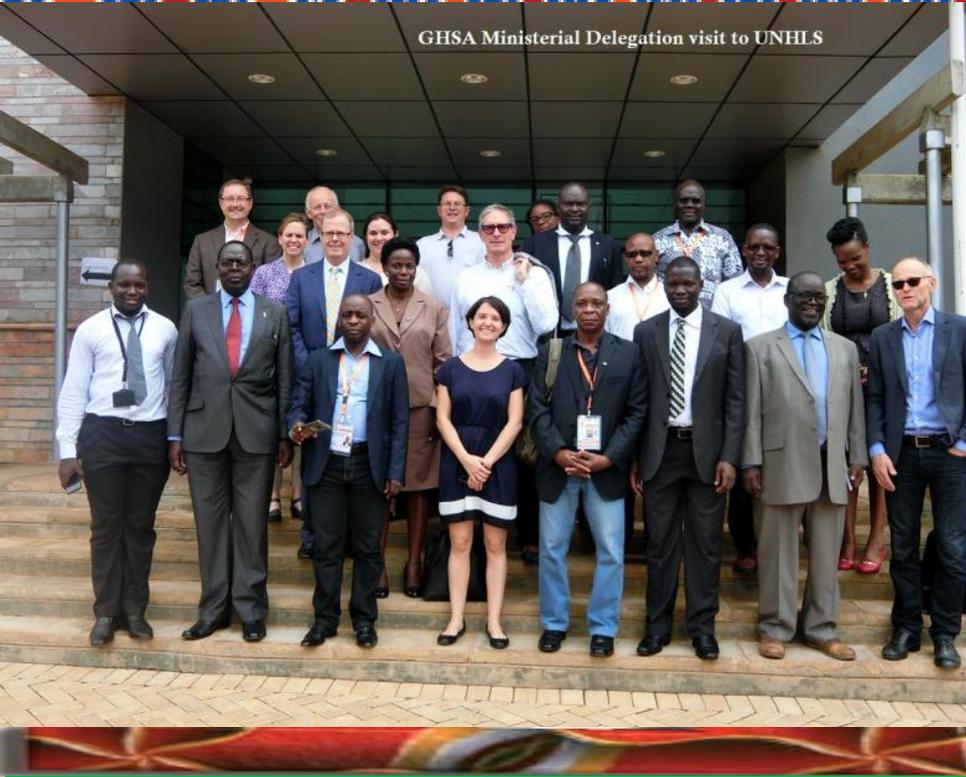
# UNHLS eNOTICE BOARD

*The Health Lab Monthly News Series*

**Featuring Month of:** OCTOBER 2017 **Issue date:** Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017; Vol .1, Issue 9



GHSA Ministerial Delegation visit to UNHLS



### Picture Narrative

On 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017, UNHLS hosted Delegates from the 4<sup>th</sup> High-Level Ministerial Meeting of the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) held in Munyoyo, 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017. Anti-Microbial-Resistance (AMR) is one of the discussed threats to GHS and AMR laboratory surveillance is a key interventional Strategy.

Delegates were following among others, the GHS Partner Project of IDI that supported UNHLS to set up Antimicrobial Resistance Information System (ARIS) at the Microbiology laboratory that will process country specific information on AMR to GLASS (Global Antimicrobial Surveillance System).

### 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

- UNHLS hosts the South Korean Minister of Health and Welfare
- UNHLS launches the national laboratory biorisk audit report 2017
- The Laboratory Sector gets the first ever students Conference
- Review of Data Management; IT assets management; Back up and Disaster recovery policies for UNHLS
- GCLP Principals imparted at UNHLS to maintain accreditation
- Setting Guidelines to monitor all Health and Animal Laboratories



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Center for Global Health



## Editorial Opinion

Dear readers, the issue for the month of October brings to your attention the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) and was partly featured as AMR in our issue of June 2017.

The GHSA was launched by G7 in February 2014 with a primary goal of helping countries build their capacity to contribute towards a world safe from health threats (Ebola, MERS, highly pathogenic infectious disease, AMR and Bioterrorism) and to elevate GHS as a national and global priority. GHS is a shared responsibility that cannot be achieved by a single nation, actor or sector of government. Its success depends upon collaboration among the health, security, environment and agriculture sectors. Capacity is built to prevent, detect and respond to human and animal infectious disease threats whether naturally occurring, accidental or intentional, hence, the one health concept.

Country commitment to GHSA is driven by annual ministerial meetings where the 1<sup>st</sup> was held in the White house, Washington DC in 2014; then Seoul, Republic of Korea, 2015; Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 2016 and Kampala, The Republic of Uganda, 2017.

Uganda is one of the 5 countries (Georgia, Peru, Portugal, Uganda, & UK) piloted for the GHSA external assessment tool of 11 targets where assessment outcomes will be a global policy. Uganda has notable success stories of curbing health security threats and it also advanced the GHSA through technical support of human resource, training materials, SOPs etc, it provided to the West Africa Ebola epidemic. Therefore, continued capacity should be built at UNHLS to detect GHS threats.

**Kasuse Michael**  
MakSPH – CDC Fellow

## UNHLS HOSTS THE SOUTH KOREAN MINISTER OF HEALTH & WELFARE

Hon. Park Neunghoo – The Minister of Health and Welfare, Republic of South Korean; and Several Ambassadors who were part of the 4<sup>th</sup> High-Level Ministerial Meeting of the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) visited UNHLS on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

The Korean government provides support to UNHLS and NTRL for strengthening human resource capacity for TB diagnosis. Currently, four staff of NTRL are training in South Korea under similar arrangement.

UNHLS is finalizing a mutually beneficial staff exchange program with South Korea focusing on TB diagnosis as a strategy to build human resource capacity for both partners.



ED Dr. Susan Nabadda receives Hon. Park Neunghoo, Minister of Health & Welfare, South Korea

*Dr. Susan Nabadda, ED UNHLS, welcoming the South Korean Minister of Health & Welfare*

## UNHLS LAUNCHES NATIONAL LABORATORY BIORISK AUDIT REPORT 2017

The Minister of State for General Duties, Hon. Sarah Opendi launched the Biorisk Audit report during the Lab day on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The report which involved 210 laboratories shows that laboratories provide only 33% compared to the recommended 50% protection against biological substances which pose a threat to the health of living organisms primarily that of humans.

This national audit by UNHLS is a national laboratory risk management programme under the GHSA aimed at achieving a world safe and secure from health threats. The biorisk checklist used in the assessment was abridged due to terrorism threats hence one of the reasons for low performance. But this provides an opportunity to fix the gaps such that there is improvement in the next audit.



*Hon. Sarah Opendi displaying the Biorisk Audit Report 2017*

## THE LABORATORY SECTOR GETS THE FIRST EVER STUDENTS CONFERENCE

Dr. Hakim Sendagire represented the ED UNHLS and officiated the first ever Laboratory Students Conference that was held at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Animals Resource and Biosecurity (COVAB), Makerere University on the 05<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The Keynote Speaker was Mr. Patrick Ogwok, Principal Laboratory Technologist and National Quality Assurance Coordinator, UNHLS.

This conference that brought together students from several laboratory training institutions, research institutions and alumni; was organized by Makerere University Biomedical Students Association (MUBSA) under the theme: "The Influence of Laboratory Profession in Health Science".

According to the President, MUBSA, Mr. Isabirye Herbert, this conference provides a platform for dialogue between the education community and laboratory practitioners. It also provides students with opportunities for mentorship, networking, and first hand updates within the laboratory sector.



*COVAB Principal Prof. David Kabasa, Dr. Hakim Sendagire and MUBSA Executive Committee*

# GOOD CLINICAL LABORATORY PRACTICE (GCLP) PRINCIPALS IMPARTED AT UNHLS TO MAINTAIN ACCREDITATION

Whenever a clinical laboratory is enrolled onto a proficiency program and is eligible to conduct internationally recognized research, it must conduct regular trainings of Good Clinical Laboratory Practice (GCLP) in order to maintain the accreditation. On 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2017, the CPHL Laboratory was enrolled on the Virology Quality Assurance (VQA) proficiency program with LabID; 667. This enrollment will eventually make the laboratory become eligible to participate in NIH funded clinical trials. This requires regular or annual GCLP training for the UNHLS staff and associated researchers for that matter; because, compliance with the GLCP standards is monitored annually by external audits so as to allow research labs to maintain data integrity and to provide immunogenicity, safety, and product efficacy data that is repeatable, reliable, auditable and can be easily reconstructed in a research setting.

On 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017, laboratory staff of UNHLS had a GCLP standards/guidelines training for 3 days at Jevine Hotel, Kampala facilitated by re-known GCLP trainers in the region. Staff learnt how to analyze samples from human clinical trials while maintaining the required laboratory practices. This involved performance of protocol-mandated safety assays, peripheral blood mononuclear cell processing and immunological or endpoint assays from biological interventions on IND-registered clinical trials among others. They went through the reliability, quality, consistency and integrity of data generated by clinical trial laboratories which is a crucial outcome of any clinical trial.



*UNHLS Laboratory staff attending the GCLP training*

## SETTING GUIDELINES TO MONITOR ALL HEALTH AND ANIMAL LABORATORIES

Monitoring all health and animal laboratories under the One Health Platform was a recommendation by the regular WHO country evaluation meeting under the International Health Regulation that was organized in the last week of June 2017 and involved; Office of the Prime Minister, WHO, Ministries of; Health, Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries, Water and Energy.

WHO-JEE (Joint External Evaluation) country assessment report observed that Allied Health Professional Council (AHPC) with support from UNHLS were licensing and registering all health laboratories with challenges. This was not the case for animal laboratories.

On 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017, stakeholders including UNHLS and AHPC gathered in a high-level meeting to set guidelines for registering and monitoring all functional public and private animal and health laboratories in Uganda.



*Regional facilitators providing technical support to stakeholders*

## REVIEW OF DATA MANAGEMENT; IT ASSETS MANAGEMENT; BACK UP AND DISASTER RECOVERY POLICIES FOR UNHLS

UNHLS has made several advances in establishing and strengthening laboratory information systems to promote laboratory performance, quality patient care, surveillance, evidence-based planning, policy formulation and research. Such advances involve establishing a LIMS sub-committee within MOH, having a national LIMS master plan in place as well as national guidelines for data dissemination, confidentiality and data archiving.

In order to achieve the LIMS strategic objective 2017-2021, *"To implement HLIMS in the laboratory network for reporting and archiving patient management data and operational research data"*, UNHLS established a central information system unit to effectively manage HLIMS initiatives. And in so doing, UNHLS intends to develop laboratory data management, archival and disaster recovery policies to improve system performance and develop IT assets management policy in collaboration with the UNHLS PDU. There was a meeting for LIMS TWG, MOH and CDC between 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017 in Masaka, to design a data management policy; to review and finalize the IT assets Management Policy and review and finalize the Back up and disaster recovery policy.



*Participants Reviewing UNHLS LIMS Policies*

# PICTORIAL SECTION



Meeting with Minister of Health & welfare, South Korea

South Korean Delegation meeting with UNHLS Senior Management Team



President of Uganda with Ministers of Health from Uganda, USA, South Korea, among others, after the GHSA Conference in Munyonyo, Kampala



Dr. Hakim Sendagire making remarks during the Laboratory Students Conference at COVAB, Makerere University



Hon. Sarah Opendi hands over Motorbikes to Hubs

Hon. Sarah Opendi handing over one of the 83 motor bikes under Global Fund to strengthen the sample transport system of UNHL

## On-going activities

- Engaging UPDF as an institution to be familiar with UNHLS and develop mutually beneficial outcomes.

**Compiled by:** Mugerwa Ibrahim - *Laboratory Technologist, UNHLS* and Namatovu Faridah – *Data Quality Manager, UNHLS*

**Edited by:** Kasusse Michael – *MakSPH-CDC Fellow*, Gaspard Guma – *Senior Laboratory T A*, and Ogwok Patrick – *National QA Coordinator*

**Approved by:** Mr. Sulaiman Ikoba – *HEAD OPERATIONS, UNHLS*

**Distributed by:** Rita Eragu - *Program Secretary*; [eragurita@gmail.com](mailto:eragurita@gmail.com); +256-702-180346

Please send comments and inquiries to [lkasusse@yahoo.com](mailto:lkasusse@yahoo.com) or [sula2050@yahoo.com](mailto:sula2050@yahoo.com)