

STRENGTHENING UGANDA'S SYSTEMS FOR TREATING AIDS NATIONALLY

KEY INTERVENTIONS

Strengthening Laboratory Services

The USAID Strengthening Uganda's Systems for Treating AIDS Nationally (SUSTAIN) project supports laboratories at 17 healthcare facilities by improving working space, equipment, staffing, quality improvement and supply of laboratory reagents

Supporting HIV/AIDS-related tests

- ◆ In collaboration with the Securing Ugandans' Right To Essential Medicines Supply Chain Management System (SCMS) project, USAID/SUSTAIN supports Ministry of Health (MOH) efforts to quantify reagent needs—including reagents for existing and newly procured equipment—for the whole public system for the next two years until 2015

Improving hospital laboratory space through renovations and remodelling

Using a phased approach, the project, in partnership with the MOH and hospital management teams, works to improve physical laboratory infrastructure through renovations and remodelling. For example:

- ◆ By end of 2012: USAID/SUSTAIN completed laboratory renovations at eight Regional Referral Hospitals (Gulu, Mbale, Jinja, Mubende, Fort Portal, Kabale, Mubende, and Moroto) and two General Hospitals (Nebbi and Entebbe)
- ◆ 2013: Renovation of laboratories at Arua, Lira, Soroti, Kawolo, and Gombe Hospitals
- ◆ 2013–2014: Renovations of laboratories in the Karamoja region at Kaabong, Abim, Kotido, and Tokora Hospitals
- ◆ Providing power back-up and water reservoirs to renovated laboratories

Equipping laboratories for HIV and non-HIV related services

- ◆ Supporting the MOH to develop a national standardised list and guidelines for recommended



laboratory tests and equipment at each level of the healthcare system

- ◆ Procuring and installing automated and non-automated laboratory equipment for all refurbished laboratories—including platforms for CD4, chemistry, hematology, and supporting equipment—and supporting the installation of Global Fund-procured equipment at selected hospitals (Moroto, Nebbi, and Entebbe)
- ◆ Supporting servicing/maintenance contracts for laboratory equipment at the various hospitals
- ◆ Training laboratory teams on the use and maintenance of various equipment

Supporting quality improvement

- ◆ Promoting the use of quality improvement approaches for laboratories through trainings, on-site mentorships, and shared learning sessions

Increasing participation of hospital laboratories in external quality assessment schemes

- ◆ Supporting laboratories to participate in the national and international external quality assessment schemes to ensure results produced are accurate, reliable, and comparable with national and international benchmarks