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on MDR-TB treatment at Fort Portal Hospital, a regional referral hospital in Western Uganda. He was later transferred to Bundibugyo Hospital, where he continued his medication at home, thanks to community-based management of drug-resistant TB. Every month, Nuru and Rosette (a MDR-TB nurse at Bundibugyo Hospital) travelled to Fort Portal to attend review meetings with other patients on MDR-TB treatment. All patients attending the meetings received financial compensation to cover transport and food costs.

*“When I started the MDR-TB treatment, I could no longer work—my wife started working on people’s farms of cocoa, digging to raise money for the family. The money provided us opportunity to buy the foods that we didn’t grow and I also saved it to cater for transport to attend the monthly reviews at Fort Portal hospital.”*

In February 2015, Nuru’s prayer was answered when he was declared cured. He is now back in the community, united with his family, and working again.

*“I am now able to work on the farms to fend for my family and raise money for a new piece of land,” Nuru said.*

The system of treatment centers, trained healthcare workers, medicines and transport facilitation is ultimately helping MDR-TB patients like Nuru to regain their health and maximize their potential.

Nuru’s story is an inspiration to his community, because he was the first person to be diagnosed with MDR-TB in his village, and he has been fully cured. He has since escorted two more patients from his village to undergo drug resistance TB tests at Fort Portal Hospital.

USAID/SUSTAIN has expanded access to effective surveillance, diagnosis, prevention and treatment. In addition, the project supports a wide range of interventions, from providing temporary care spaces (tents) to remodeling existing structures and creating more appropriate care spaces. The project ensures treatment centers always have medicines and infection-control supplies available.

Overall, there are 15 MDR-TB treatment centers in the country; 7 of these are supported by the USAID/SUSTAIN project. The project also provides technical and operational support to 78 peripheral sites to offer directly observed treatment to patients in the communities who have been started on treatment.



USAID Strengthening Uganda’s Systems for Treating AIDS Nationally (SUSTAIN) Project

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