

# WHO UGANDA NEWSLETTER

April - June 2023



## OVERVIEW

- ✓ **Routine Yellow Fever Vaccination for children in Uganda takes shape**
- ✓ **Uganda trains Points of Entry Disease Surveillance Officers in Lamwo district**
- ✓ **E-cigarettes ban, a critical tool in Uganda's battle against tobacco use**
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Uganda has embarked on a national program to safeguard its at-risk population against the devastating impact of yellow fever through a comprehensive vaccination campaign.

The preventive immunization campaign will be conducted in three phases. The first phase, (9 -13 June 2023) targeted 51 districts in Lango, Acholi, West Nile, Rwenzori, Bunyoro and Kigezi sub-regions. The second phase is in October 2023 and the last phase in October 2024. The phased approach ensures efficient and widespread coverage of the population, as Uganda works toward eliminating yellow fever epidemics by 2026.

## Routine Yellow Fever Vaccination for Children taking shape in Uganda



A healthcare worker presents a vaccination card to a mother at Bukakata Health Center III.

### ROUTINE YELLOW FEVER VACCINATION

“In line with the EYE recommendations, I would like to commend the government of Uganda for successfully introducing the yellow fever vaccine into routine immunization since October 2022. This will boost the prevention and management of yellow fever in the country,”

Dr. Yonas Tegegn Woldemariam,  
WHO Representative in Uganda.

Two hundred kilometers from Uganda’s capital Kampala lies Bukakata sub-county in Masaka district. Located along the shores of Lake Victoria, the sub county is one of the areas that reported a case of yellow fever in 2022 through the sentinel surveillance system.

The laboratory confirmed case scared community members, fearing the disease would spread among the largely mobile fishing community. It took the joint effort of local leaders, Village Health Teams (VHTs), and health workers to contain the situation. The efforts included promoting health seeking behaviour and addressing the myths and misconceptions about the disease.

With support from the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and Gavi, Uganda’s Ministry of Health is expected to immunize over 1.9 million children in 2023 with both yellow fever and measles-rubella vaccines. This is part of Uganda's commitment to the multi-stakeholder Eliminate Yellow Fever Epidemics (EYE) Strategy (2017-2026). Yellow fever vaccine is now available in all health facilities as part of the routine immunization program and provided for free to children aged nine months of age.



## Uganda trains Points of Entry Disease Surveillance Officers in Lamwo district



Harriet Mayinja, Research Officer and Point of Entry (POE) Focal Person from the Division of Surveillance and Knowledge Management at the Ministry of Health, conducting training for participants at the POE Training.

The World Health Organization (WHO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in collaboration with Uganda's Ministry of Health (MOH) organized a five-day training for 21 Point of Entry (POE) health officers in Lamwo district.

The training aimed at building the capacity of border officials, health workers, and Village Health Teams (VHTs) in disease surveillance, emergency response, infection control, communication coordination, and health reporting.

The border district preparedness for epidemic potential diseases is crucial in reducing the public health impact of emergencies, the cost of response, and recovery and serves as a long-term investment in the health system.

## E-cigarettes ban, a critical tool in Uganda's battle against tobacco use



In the face of consistent opposition from the tobacco industry, Uganda is standing firm on its successful eight-year long ban on the sale of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), says WHO Country Representative Dr. Yonas Tegegn Woldemariam.

The Tobacco Control Act, 2015 sought to effectively remove this globally popular tobacco alternative to smoking cigarettes from public life. Current evidence indicates that using e-cigarettes is dangerous, especially for young people and people who have never smoked. This is especially significant, says Dr. Yonas, for a country in which over 15% of boys and 13% of girls aged 13 to 15 start smoking every year.

WHO continues to support the Ministry of Health tobacco control initiatives, including sensitizing communities about the negative impacts of tobacco consumption on health and the environment, and encouraging local farmers to plant food crops rather than tobacco.

A snapshot of contemporary E-cigarettes.

## WHO Uganda continues to build staff capacity in Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment



WHO Team taking a firm stand against Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment with a resolute palm.

WHO, with support from the Governments of Norway and United Kingdom, has enhanced the capacity of 26 members of staff on Prevention And Response To Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, And Harassment (PRSEAH).

The capacity building sessions, that were co-facilitated by the WHO Africa Regional and Uganda Country offices targeted PRSEAH focal points from head office and regional hubs included cluster heads and pillar leads. The cluster heads are expected to cascade the training to other team members. This will contribute to a zero-tolerance culture for PRSEAH in WHO and create a conducive environment that promotes staff well-being.

“Managers, leaders and heads of country offices, all have an added role to play to create the systems and environment for effective prevention, early detection, safe reporting, and support to victims and survivors,” said Cocco Benedetta, a trainer during the Training of Trainers session for focal points.



“WHO is committed to zero tolerance to Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment, with a mandate to support survivors, improve SEAH capacity, and strengthen reporting mechanisms. I am glad that AFRO has organized a PRSEAH meeting for staff including Cluster Leads.

Dr. Yonas Tegegn Woldemariam ,WHO Representative to Uganda.

[Click here to enjoy reading more on WHO work in Uganda](#)





## WHO UGANDA COUNTRY OFFICE IN CHARITY DRIVE

As part of the year-long celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of WHO and commemorate the 2023 World Health Day, staff members of the Uganda Country Office organised a charity drive to support vulnerable children and bring smiles to at least 75 faces.



## WHO CONSULTANTS FAREWELL

In June, WHO bade farewell to some consultants who supported on the Ebola outbreak on the various response pillars. Their exceptional service contributed to the timely containment of the outbreak in Uganda.

## A TOKEN OF APPRECIATION TO WHO LONG-SERVING COLLEAGUES

WHO Uganda long-serving colleagues, Andrew, Anne, Sophia, Annette, Christine, and others were honored for their continued efforts and remarkable dedication to serving the world on the principle of championing good health for all for the past 15 years. WHO is proud of them.





# The power of partnerships

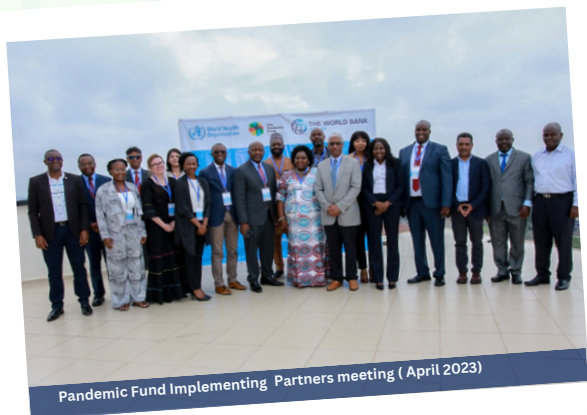
We extend our sincere appreciation to all our partners who have contributed to our work in supporting the Government and the people of Uganda in ensuring continuity of essential health services, improving the health and well-being of people living in Uganda, and responding to the most urgent needs of the health sector. We can only meet our goals through the power of partnership.



Points of Entry Surveillance Training Workshop (April 2023)



Mid-term Review of the National Strategic Plan for TB and Leprosy (April 2023)



Pandemic Fund Implementing Partners meeting (April 2023)



Orientation of trainers for Reproductive, Maternal, New-born Child and Adolescent Health Project (RMCAH) (May 2023)



A participant receives a certificate from Dr. Pontiano Kaleebu, Director of the Uganda Virus Research Institute after completing the wetlabs training (June 2023)



Dialogue on malaria with Members of Parliament (May 2023)

## Editorial team

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