

Improving access to Anti Retroviral Therapy (ART) in Karamoja region

St. Kizito Hospital Matany is located in the remote Karamoja region, a poor area that has seen droughts, armed conflict and high unemployment. The roads are poor, settlements can be difficult to reach, and telephone service is irregular.

This makes caring for people who live there a significant challenge. Matany Hospital, which sees nearly 25,000 patients each year, opened the first specialized HIV/AIDS clinic in the region. The clinic sought to provide comprehensive care for people living with HIV/AIDS, a

once-deadly virus that can now be managed successfully with a regimen of antiretroviral medicines.

But for many years, these life-saving medicines were hard to come by. If antiretroviral therapy is discontinued, patients are not only vulnerable to HIV/AIDS disease progression, they can even develop resistance to the medicines that treat the virus. That is why continuous treatment is essential to maintain health.

Besides not receiving the antiretroviral medicines the hospital desperately needed, "we also

lacked medicines for opportunistic infections like pneumonia and meningitis, infections that arise out of one's weakened immunity system due to HIV/AIDS," Dr. John Bosco Nsubuga, the hospital's medical superintendent said.

But with funding for medicines from the U.S. government and with the help of Medical Access Uganda Ltd. (MAUL), Matany Hospital began receiving the medicines it desperately needed. MAUL was responsible for procuring, warehousing and then distributing the medicines and helping the hospital manage inventories so that Matany Hospital would have a constant supply of the critical medicines it needed. In the past five years, these medicines have reached over 2,000 patients.

"Given that medicines are very important in a clinical setting, it was a very big relief that MAUL ensured that all commodities ordered were supplied in time," said Dr. Nsubuga. "Additionally, MAUL trained our staff on logistics management and supported the hospital by supplying shelves and computers." This helped

ensure that the drugs and medical supplies remained secure and allowed for simple online ordering.

Over
2,000 patients
Supported in
Karamoja

Matany Hospital has been able to alleviate many challenges of getting medicines to people who live in hard-to-reach settlements. With a steady supply of antiretroviral medicines, the hospital can provide people in these areas with a three-month supply of medicines, which helps ensure they stay on treatment.

Matany Hospital continues to reach out and treat people living with HIV/AIDS throughout the Karamoja region and has made steady progress toward its goal of sustainable high-quality health services to a vulnerable population. ■



Letter from the Executive Director



Soweddi Muyingo
Executive Director
Medical Access Uganda, Ltd.

I am pleased to recognize and commemorate the 20th anniversary of Medical Access Uganda, Ltd., a not-for-profit organization that has been dedicated to acquiring and distributing life-saving medicines that restore health and improve the lives of Ugandans throughout our country.

Since our humble beginnings in a one-room office at the height of the global HIV/AIDS epidemic in 1998, we now have two state-of-the-art warehouses that house more than 400 essential medicines and a staff of 100 committed professionals who work hard each day to ensure that clinics and health facilities have a continuous supply of the medicines they need to care for patients.

Over time we have expanded our offerings to include not only critical HIV/AIDS medicines but also rapid testing kits to diagnose HIV/AIDS and malaria, male circumcision kits to help reduce viral transmission, and other essential supplies for medical laboratories. We have trained more than 2,000 health care workers in the

best practices of managing medicines and operating laboratories. But most importantly, the medicines we procure and distribute have reached more than two million Ugandans.

We share this success with our many partners – government of Uganda, U. S government through PEPFAR, global and local funding organizations, the world's largest pharmaceutical companies and all the health care workers who care for patients every single day. I take this opportunity to express our appreciation for all they have done to improve lives.

Despite the strides that have been made in stemming the HIV/AIDS epidemic, there are still an estimated 300,000 Ugandans who are infected with the deadly virus and don't know it. As we celebrate two decades of service, we know that our work is not yet finished. We take this opportunity to rededicate ourselves to our mission of ensuring all Ugandans receive the medicines they need, wherever they are. We believe this goal is achievable, and we will not rest until it is met. ■



MEDICAL ACCESS 20 years anniversary



Dr. Moses Kanya

Makerere University Joint AIDS Program (MJAP) has enjoyed a strong partnership with MAUL since 2004. This partnership has over the years supported MJAP in its journey towards scaling up of access to life-saving ARVs for numerous adults and children in different parts of the country. With support from CDC, MJAP was able to procure adequate quantities of high quality ARVs through MAUL, which supported MJAP to establish numerous HIV treatment clinics including: MJAP Mulago ISS Clinic, former KCC HC IVs (Kawempe, Naguru, Kiswa, Kisenyi, Kitebi, Kiruddu and Komamboga), Mbarara

Municipal Council HC IV HIV Clinic, Bwizibwera HC IV HIV clinic and Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital HIV Clinic.

The collaboration between MJAP, Clinton Health Access Initiative (then Clinton Foundation) and MAUL supported MJAP to access second line ARVs for patients failing on first line regimens, as well as ARVs for treatment of HIV infected children at a time when access to these medicines was still quite limited. Currently, the support from the HSIP project implemented by MAUL is vital in supporting MJAP to continue offering quality HIV treatment to the largest number of HIV patients in a single clinic in the country with over 16,500 patients being provided life-saving ARVs.

The timely delivery of ARVs has helped MJAP offer uninterrupted supply of ARVs to all our supported clients over the years of the collaboration. ■

Dr. Moses R. Kanya

Professor and Dean, Makerere University School of Medicine; Board Chair, MJAP.

The Clinton Health Access Initiative, Uganda (CHAI) warmly congratulates Medical Access Uganda Limited (MAUL) on reaching its twentieth anniversary serving the people of Uganda.

CHAI has enjoyed a decade long collaboration with MAUL in an integrated approach to reducing the burden of HIV/AIDS in Uganda. Together, we have worked to reduce the prices of ARVs resulting in billions of cost savings across the globe. These successes have been achieved through MAUL's innovative business approach to solving supply chain challenges and collaborative participation at the national and lower levels. MAUL goes the extra

mile beyond warehousing and distribution to train, mentor and support personnel on-ground at subnational facilities ultimately ensuring the availability of life-saving HIV products at all levels and improving the livelihoods of patients across the country.

We wish MAUL many more years of success and look forward to our continued partnership.

Management and Staff, Clinton Health Access Initiative, Uganda. ■

Andrew C. Musoke

Country Director
Clinton Health Access Initiative, Inc.

It is with great pleasure that I share the testimony of the great partnership that Alive Medical Services (AMS) has had with Medical Access Uganda Limited (MAUL) since AMS was founded in 2007. In Uganda, MAUL is a giant in procurement and supply chain management, offering exceptionally reliable and unbeatable services.

MAUL has been very instrumental in supporting AMS to provide state-of-the-art medical services to our clients, because of its commitment to delivering cost-effective, reliable and sustainable healthcare supply chain management solutions. Every year, MAUL has provided AMS with quality pharmaceutical products and health commodities, including essential medicines, ARVs, drugs for Opportunistic Infections (OIs), laboratory equipment, reagents and supplies, rapid test kits,

consumables and other supplies timely and without fail.

AMS has never had any stock outs for all these years because of the excellent services of MAUL and the capacity that MAUL helped AMS to build in supply chain management. In the last two years AMS received two gold awards in recognition of our outstanding performance in Logistics management of HIV commodities as a result of the support of MAUL.

Beyond supplies, MAUL is a generous donor!

MAUL is enabling AMS to achieve the UNAIDS 90-90-90 and majority of our clients have viral suppression. ■

Dr. Pasquine Ogunsanya

Executive Director,
Alive Medical Services



Dr. Michael Etukoit

On behalf of TASO, let me express our sincere gratitude to MAUL for the technical support in Supply Chain Management in the area of HIV prevention, care and treatment since 2005 to date. The support has been broad but not limited to pharmaceuticals and Laboratory supplies as we support PLHIV/AIDS at the 11 TASO CoEs across the nation.

TASO recognizes the health care achievements as a best practice of cooperation and collaboration with MAUL, clients improved wellbeing and their ability to contribute to the economy and to their families. I would like to specifically acknowledge the professionalism shown by the MAUL team which

facilitated the implementation of all activities in a satisfactory and timely manner towards the UNAIDS goal of 90, 90, 90 strategy thus significantly contributing to denting the epidemic. Thanks to MAUL Leadership and governance for the noteworthy improved service delivery of HIV/AIDS commodities and supply chain management. Particularly spectacular, is your reliable, resilient supply chain management free of stock outs that has enabled TASO to register over 90% viral suppression, less than 2% of MTCT, and availability of commodities that has facilitated test and treat as well CDDPs/CCLAD models in communities.

Your efforts have greatly contributed to improvement in the quality of lives, number of lives saved and given hope to many PLHIV in the struggle towards an HIV/AIDS free generation. Our achievements are shaped by the strength of our partnerships and collaborations.

Thank you for your continuous and never-ending pursuit and commitment to excellence. ■

Dr. Michael Etukoit

Executive Director,
The AIDS Support Organisation

Medical Access and Patient Engagement



Regina Kamoga

It is a great pleasure for me, on behalf of the Community Health And Information Network (CHAIN) and the Uganda Alliance of Patients Organisations (UAPO), to extend my warm congratulations to Medical Access Uganda Limited (MAUL) on its 20th Anniversary.

MAUL is a valuable and reliable partner with a very committed team. For over 6 years we have worked together to contribute to the attainment of Universal Health Coverage. We have worked towards increasing access to healthcare for vulnerable patients in Kampala, Mukono, Mityana, Wakiso, Luwero and Kiboga districts. And have reached over 10,000 people through provision of access to safe medicines, advisory on quality healthcare, financial support and delivery of patient-centered health care services.

Every year MAUL has joined us to commemorate patient solidarity day, where patients across the world with different diseases including cancer, HIV/AIDS, epilepsy, sickle cell, Hepatitis B, diabetes, mental health etc come together with an aim of raising awareness of the critical role of meaningful patients' involvement in healthcare; speaking with one voice, regardless of disease, religion or nationality.

This engagement with patients and interface with the practical realities in the patient community provides an opportunity for MAUL to gain a true understanding of the patients' perspectives and needs.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with MAUL to ensure the involvement and engagement of patients, families and communities at all levels of healthcare service delivery; put patients at the forefront of healthcare and work towards improving access to safe medicines by making medicines affordable and ensuring that patients everywhere get the care they need, when they need it. ■

Regina Kamoga

Executive Director,
Community Health and Information Network (CHAIN)