



IntraHealth
INTERNATIONAL
Because Health Workers Save Lives.

UGANDA

A client receives antenatal care services at Nakaloke Health Center III in Mbale, Uganda. Photo by Esther Ruth Mbabazi for IntraHealth International.



**79% increase in new users
of family planning**



**43,000 health workers
added in 128 districts**



**Improved data systems for
reporting, client records,
and decision-making**

IntraHealth collaborates with Uganda's government and local partners to **strengthen the country's health workforce and systems, improve health services, and support locally led development.** Our programs:

- ▶ Provide high-quality **integrated service delivery** for communities in need at all levels of the health system
- ▶ Strengthen **district leadership and transition** of service delivery to districts and local partners
- ▶ Use the **power of data** to advocate for health sector funding, recruit and deploy more health workers, and reduce health worker absenteeism
- ▶ Implement **digital health solutions** such as iHRIS, IntraHealth's open source health workforce management software, and a community health worker registry
- ▶ Employ **gender responsiveness and rights-based approaches** to reduce discrimination, hold the health system accountable, and influence healthy behaviors
- ▶ Support **health training institutions** to graduate more students and better prepare them for careers in health care.

USAID Regional Health Integration to Enhance Services in Eastern Uganda (RHITES-E) (2017-2023)

RHITES-E worked with the government to expand access to high-quality health services—including family planning; maternal, newborn, and child health; HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis; malaria; nutrition; and response to emerging threats in 30 districts across Eastern Uganda and Karamoja. The project used health systems strengthening as its approach for improving service delivery, building on strong collaborative relationships with districts, regional hospitals, and health facilities, and fostering data-based decision-making to strengthen their leadership in oversight of implementation. During its last two years, RHITES-E provided technical assistance in transitioning HIV service delivery to local implementing partners and family health services to the districts in alignment with IntraHealth's and USAID's focus on local capacity-strengthening.

Key results included:

- ▶ Increased **new users of family planning by 79%** to 447,169 in 2022, along with a 575% increase in users of long-acting and reversible contraception
- ▶ Increased **women delivering in a health facility from 57% to 81%** and saw regional achievement of the national 90% expanded program on **immunization target**
- ▶ Provided over **70,000 clients with antiretroviral therapy (ART)** for HIV
- ▶ Improved rates and timeliness of reporting into the national **health management information system from 67% to 91%**, and increased coverage of **electronic medical records** in ART sites from 12% to 60%.
- ▶ Built district capacity to fully functionalize the **national integrated iHRIS** to guide workforce planning, recruitment, deployment, and monitoring of attendance to duty. As a result, districts **filled 10,288 health worker positions**, 76% of approved positions in the region.
- ▶ Offered technical and logistical support and mentorship to improve **laboratory services**, including quality assessments and results turnaround times, leading to four laboratories **achieving SANAS accreditation status**.
- ▶ Contributed to the region's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other threats, including supporting districts to **fully vaccinate over 1,300,000 people** against COVID-19 and establish two **emergency operations centers** in regional referral hospitals.

Scale-Up and Capacity Building in Behavioral Science to Improve the Uptake of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Services (SupCap) (2018-2022)

With funding from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, IntraHealth partnered with ideas42 to use a behavioral science intervention to improve postpartum contraceptive uptake in eastern Uganda. This program:

- ▶ Engaged over **20,500 male partners** of postpartum women, village health teams, and health workers through an **educational game and child-spacing planning cards**, which taught players about the benefits of family planning.
- ▶ Contributed to **61.5% of total postpartum family planning uptake** in the six project districts.
- ▶ Tracked individuals who brought a child spacing planning card to the health facility: 100% received family planning counseling and 95% chose a method.

District Health System Strengthening on RMNCAH, HIV/AIDS, and Nutrition in Karamoja (2019-2020)

IntraHealth worked to strengthen Karamoja's systems at the district, facility, and community levels for maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS, and nutrition services. With funding from UNICEF, this program:

- ▶ Worked with nine district health teams and local governments to plan, implement, and monitor

high-quality, equity-focused interventions, including continuous quality improvement by **mentoring 255 health workers** and training key district staff on a bottleneck analysis methodology for health and nutrition.

- ▶ Helped health facilities provide a full range of essential services, including **maternal, newborn, and child health and nutrition services** at 61 facilities.
- ▶ Connected more community members to services through our Family Connect initiatives, which improved health workers' knowledge, skills, and use of digital technologies and **real-time information dissemination**.

Strengthening Human Resources for Health (2014-2019)

IntraHealth worked with the government to help central ministries, local governments, health professional councils, private nonprofits, and health training institutions plan and manage the health workforce, especially in HIV high-volume facilities. This USAID-funded program:

- ▶ Helped the government to strengthen staffing structures and **add more than 43,000 health workers** to improve access to services in 128 districts
- ▶ Provided technical support and tools in 112 districts to track, analyze, and report on health worker attendance, **reducing absenteeism from 50% in 2015 to 8% in 2019**.
- ▶ Improved workplace environments by addressing occupational safety and gender discrimination; **76% of districts implemented gender-mainstreaming interventions** such as ensuring promotional mechanisms were the same for men and women.
- ▶ Transferred ownership of iHRIS to local leaders in 112 districts and 33 central organizations to determine staffing needs and develop long-term health worker recruitment plans.
- ▶ Partnered with health training institutions to **increase enrollment by 3,285** and improve the quality of training through curriculum review, installing **eLibraries** in 62 institutions, and offering over 750 bonded scholarships to keep students in school.
- ▶ Developed a **community health worker strategy** with the Ministry of Health, created a **web-based registry** for community health workers, and developed a financing framework for community health workers.

Other Projects and Funders

- ▶ **Accelerating Support to Advanced Local Partners (ASAP) and ASAP II, 2019-2024 (USAID)**
- ▶ Uganda Client Registry, 2019-2020 (CDC)
- ▶ Community Health Extension Worker Registry, 2016-2017 (UNICEF and Korean International Cooperation Agency)
- ▶ **CapacityPlus, 2009-2015 (USAID)**
- ▶ **Uganda Capacity Program, 2009-2014 (USAID)**
- ▶ **Capacity Project, 2005-2009 (USAID)**
- ▶ **PRIME II Project, 1999-2004 (USAID)**
- ▶ DISH II, 1999-2002 (USAID)

CONTACT

William Mubiru
wmubiru@intrahealth.org



www.intrahealth.org/countries/uganda

January 2024