

AFROHUN WORK IN UGANDA

Students participate in HPAI outbreak investigation and response on L.Victoria

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AFROHUN Network

Africa One Health University Network (AFROHUN) is an international network, currently in 29 higher education institutions of public health, veterinary medicine/sciences, pathobiology, environmental sciences, medicine and global health, in 10 countries in Africa. The countries are Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda.

AFROHUN is working to transform the training environment and approaches in universities and allied institutions in Africa, to develop a One Health workforce: a workforce with competency to work across disciplinary boundaries. AFROHUN is building a workforce with competency to predict, detect and respond to the kind of complex health challenges we are increasingly witnessing today. To achieve this transformation, we are reviewing curricula, designing new and exciting experiential learning multidisciplinary training programs, re-tooling teachers and trainers, educating communities on complex health challenges, while engaging national and sub-national governments to domesticate and integrate One Health into national policy and strategic planning.



Our Work in **Uganda**

In Uganda, AFROHUN member institutions are Makerere University School of Public Health (MakSPH), Makerere University College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity (COVAB), Mbarara University of Science and Technology Faculty of Medicine. AFROHUN Uganda works with several other institutions at Lira University, and Uganda Christian University. In our work, we engage government at different levels, NGOs, private sector, civil society organizations, Regional Emergency Operations Centre's, Regional Veterinary laboratories, work with the National one health platform, communities and stakeholders working in the same One Health space.

<https://afrohun.org/uganda>

Our Impact



AFROHUN Uganda has built a robust One Health Institute which began in 2016, has grown over time and transformed lives of graduates, faculty and communities. The Uganda One Health Institute has delivered several trainings in one health to over 2000 pre-service cadres and 850 in-service cadres. This covers a wide range of areas including outbreak investigation, bio risk management, community engagement, leadership in infectious diseases, among others.



AFROHUN Uganda has supported curriculum developed with a one health lens, the integration of one health competencies in university curricula has also taken shape at MUST and Makerere University transforming siloed programs into competency-based courses benefiting 1000s' of medical and clinical students at MUST, veterinarians and public health specialists at Makerere University. Ahead of curriculum delivery, we delivered pedagogical training to faculty re-tooling them with skills and competencies on how to deliver online training efficiently.



Key to these achievements are partners including the line ministries, FAO, National One Health Platform, Infectious Disease Institute, Regional Emergency Operations Centres, Regional Veterinary Labs, Districts officials, Amref Health Africa, AFRISA among others.

Our Impact



Over time, AFROHUN Uganda has contributed to Global Health Security through outbreak investigation and emergency response; key zoonotic diseases responded to include CCHF, RVF, Rabies, Yellow Fever, Rabies, Anthrax coupled with the conduction of EVD assessments. Thirty zoonotic disease outbreaks were responded to in 25 districts, where students alongside the national task force sensitized over 800,000 community members, participated in sample collection, contact tracing, active case search among others. With this approach, we recorded a reduction in yellow fever and rift valley fevers because of behavioral change, contributed to the JEE scores on zoonotic response shifting from 2 to 3 during the recent assessment. We established great partnerships with government, academia, NGOs etc.



AFROHUN Uganda has awarded small grants to innovative students and faculty, who have developed products innovative enough to address one health challenges. In addition, we have awarded fellows and internships to several graduate students and faculty with a goal of building a competent workforce ready to address complex challenges brought about by zoonotic diseases. Through the one health fellowships, we have conducted research on key zoonotic diseases such as RVF, supported a SIMEX exercise on anthrax in Eastern Uganda, supported the implementation of several action plans on Rabies contributing to the national and global target of eliminating rabies in Uganda by 2030.

Our Impact



For Rabies, between 2022-2024, AFROHUN Uganda deployed teams of pre-service cadres mainly veterinarians, public health specialists, medical doctors, and social scientists. The cadres drawn from Makerere University, Mbarara University of science and Technology, Lira University were paired with mentors from academia, regional emergency operations centers, one health core ministries, and local government personnel. They led in several activities including vaccination of pets, risk communication and community engagement, surveillance, training of pet owners, spaying and neuter surgeries of pets and active case search. Over fifty (50) pre-service cadres were engaged, mentored by ten (10) in-service personnel drawn from sectors during the response to rabies emergencies in Kampala, Gomba, Bukwo, Butaleja and Busia districts. In Gomba district, fifty-two (52) pets spays, and neuter surgeries performed, aimed at controlling the stray animal populations thereby, reducing the risk of rabies transmission. Over 3000 dogs and cats received rabies vaccinations which are vital in preventing the spread of rabies, protecting the local community, and ensuring the safety of pets.



They aided in the administration of deworming injections and tablets to dogs and cats respectively, addressing common parasitic infections in pets, improving their overall health and quality of life. In Kampala the veterinarians provided over 150 pet owners with personalized advice on pet care, nutrition, and general health and sensitized more than 5000 school going children on dangers of stray dogs. In Bukwo district, they vaccinated 426 pets, provided professional advice to several pet owners, sensitized over 1500 community members on dangers of stray dogs and their control in the community. In Busia district, over 630 dogs and cats were vaccinated against Rabies and performed spays and surgeries on more than 30 pets in several affected sub counties highlighting the role of students towards eliminating rabies in Uganda.

Let's Work Together

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