THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

UGANDA AIDS COMMISSION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

UGANDA AIDS COMMISSION

PROGRAM THE 5TH NATIONAL HIV AND AIDS SYMPOSIUM

Featuring The Annual Joint AIDS Review, The Scientific Meeting, The National HIV Financing Dialogue, Partnership Forum and Philly Lutaaya Memorial

THE NATIONAL HIV AND AIDS SYMPOSIUM 2026

Theme:
Sustainable Interventions to End AIDS as a Public Health Threat by 2030

Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Pharmacology Grounds

https://nhas.uac.go.ug

16 TO 18 NOV

#EndAIDS2030UG

MBARARA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

UNITED NATIONS UGANDA

Sciences For Prosperity

ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

Uganda AIDS Commission and partners annually convene the National HIV and AIDS Symposium (NHAS) to review progress in implementation of the National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan, disseminate research findings and advocate for a stigma free HIV response. This is in fulfillment of UAC's mandate of coordinating the National HIV response and disseminating information on the HIV and AIDS epidemic and its consequences in Uganda. This 5th NHAS 2026 will be hosted by **Mbarara University of Science and Technology** at the **Pharmacology Grounds, Town Campus** on **16th – 18th November 2026** under the theme; '**Sustainable Interventions to End AIDS as a Public Health Threat by 2030'.** The meeting will bring together a national audience of researchers, policy makers, political leaders, HIV and AIDS service providers and the community.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SYMPOSIUM

1. To review performance of national response during the 1st year of the National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan 2025/26-2029/30.
2. To share evidence from latest research and implementation science studies relevant to HIV programming
3. To discuss funding and resources for the HIV and AIDS response in a changing global context
4. To advocate for a stigma-free HIV and AIDS response
5. Update HIV and AIDS Stakeholders on progress made towards ending AIDS; validate and adopt undertakings
6. To showcase best practices and innovations in service delivery and disseminate HIV and AIDS information to the general public

PROGRAM OUTLINE

MCees: Dr. Daniel Byamukama, UAC; Angella Nakato, MUST

Time	Activity	Presenter
Day One - 16th November, 2026		
Virtual plenary session: History of HIV/AIDS in Uganda **Chair: Prof. Pontiano Kaleebu, UVRI,** **Co-Chair: Prof. Damalie Nakanjako, Makerere University**		
08:00AM 09:00AM	The history and evolution of HIV and AIDS in Uganda	**Dr. Andrew Kambugu-Executive Director, IDI**
Plenary Session: The Joint Annual AIDS Review 2025/26 **Chair: Prof. Joseph Ngonzi, Deputy Vice Chancellor, MUST,** **Co-Chair: Dr. Deus Twesigye, Executive Director, MRRH**		
08:00AM 09:00AM	**Arrival and Registration, Edutainment, Prayer**	**Secretariat**
09:00AM 09:10AM	Welcome remarks	**Mr. John Patrick Nuwabigaba**, CAO, Mbarara District Local Government
09:10AM 09:20AM	Official opening and Objectives of the National HIV and AIDS Symposium	**Can. Dr. Ruth Senyonyi**, Chairperson Uganda AIDS Commission

Time	Activity	Presenter
09:20AM 09:40AM	Over view of the Global HIV response	**Ms. Jackie Makokha,** UNAIDS Country Director
09:40AM 10:00AM	Keynote address – The role of science and the missing link towards attainment of the country's 2030 goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat	**Prof. Pauline Byakika-Kibwika**, Vice Chancellor, MUST
10:00AM 10:30AM	Presentation of 2025/2026 Joint AIDS Review (JAR) Report	**Dr. Vincent Bagambe**, SM-PPSI, Uganda AIDS Commission
10:30AM 11:00AM	**BREAK**	**All**
11:00AM 12:00PM	**JAR PANEL**	
	Prevention	**Dr. Peter Mudiope,** Coordinator HIV Prevention, Ministry of Health
	Care and Treatment	**Dr. Mina Nakawuka,** Senior Program Officer Adult HIV Care and Treatment**,** Ministry of Health
	HIV response in Most At Risk Population	**Dr. Peter Sebutinde**, DHO, Mbarara District
	Social Support and Protection	**Ms. Edith Kamakune**, Technical Advisor, Human Rights, TASO

Time	Activity	Presenter
	Community Systems	**Ms. Lilian Mworeko**, Executive Director, ICWEA
12:00PM 01:00PM	Virtual Breakouts / Poster Session /Exhibitors	All
01:00PM 02:00PM	**LUNCH**	**All**
Plenary Session: 5th National HIV Financing Dialogue **Chair: Dr. Rennie Bakashaba, Deputy Research Officer-Finance and Administration, MUST Research Institute,** **Co-chair: Henry Mutebe, Advisor Resource Mobilization and Program Development, CCM**		
02:00PM 02:20PM	**EDUTAINMENT**	
02:20PM 02:30PM	Financing Landscape and Social Contracting for Sustainable Response	**Dr. Nelson Musoba**, Director General, Uganda AIDS Commission
02:30PM 02:40PM	Domestic Resource Mobilization for Sustainable HIV Financing: Opportunities and Challenges for Uganda.	**Mr. Johnson Mutesigensi,** Coordinator Resource Enhancement and Action Program
02:40PM 02:50PM	Returns on Investment for the HIV response	**Dr. Benjamin Musiita**, Economist, Mbarara University of Science and Technology

Time	Activity	Presenter
02:50PM 03:45PM	**PANEL DISCUSSION**	
	Reflections on the state of social contracting in Uganda	**Mr. Kenneth Mwehonge**, Executive Director, HEPS
	Role of Civil Society in a transitioning HIV response	**Dr. Etukoit Micheal**, Executive Director, TASO
	America First Global Health Strategy and its Implications for Sustainable HIV Financing	**Ms. Mary Borgman**, Director, Global Health Security and Diplomacy, USG
	Livelihood interventions for PLHIV through PDM	**Mr. Julius Kapwepwe,** Technical Advisor PDM Secretariat
03:45PM 04:00PM	General discussion	**All**
04:00PM 04:15PM	Wrap up and Action Points	**Charles Otai**, Principal M&E Officer, UAC
Day Two: 17th November, 2026		
08:00AM 09:00AM	**Arrival and Registration, Edutainment, Prayer**	**Secretariat**

Time	Activity	Presenter
Plenary Session: HIV Cure **Chair: Prof. Joel Bazira, MUST,** **Co-Chair: Dr. Gilbert Mateeka, Kabale District Local Government**		
09:00AM 09:10AM	Recap of Day 1	**Charles Otai/Brian Masimbi**
09:10AM 09:30AM	Synthesis and state of HIV cure research in Uganda: challenges and opportunities	**Dr. Sheila Balinda**, UVRI
09:30AM 09:40AM	Using some of the JABASA Artistic creations to breakdown the Hard HIV research science	**Moses Supercharger**, JABASA
09:40AM 09:50AM	Advancing HIV Cure readiness among HIV advocates in Uganda: Lessons from the HIV CUREiculum Training	**Martin Nuwamanya**, Africa HIV Cure Consortium
09:50AM 10:00AM	Ethical considerations in HIV cure research	**Dr. Christopher Ddamulira,** Senior Research Scientist, UNCST
10:00AM 10:30AM	General Discussion	**All**
10:30AM **11:00AM**	**Break**	**All**

Time	Activity	Presenter
Plenary Session: Knowledge Translation **Chair: Dr. Conrad Muzoora, MUST,** **Co-Chair: Dr. Caroline Tiri, JCRC**		
11:00AM 11:20AM	Research to Policy: experiences on moving research from knowledge to policy	**Dr. Flavia Matovu**, MUJHU **Dr. Tom Lutalo**, UVRI **Dr. Paul Gonza**, IDI
11:20AM 11:40AM	Research to Products: experiences on moving research studies from knowledge to interventional products	**Dr. Jimmy Angupale**, PHARMBIOTRAC **Prof. Casim Umba Tolo**, PHARMBIOTRAC
11:40AM 12:00PM	**General Discussion**	**All**
12:00PM 01:00PM	**Breakouts/Poster session**	**All**
01:00PM 02:00PM	**LUNCH**	**All**

Time	Activity	Presenter
Plenary Session **Chair: Dr. Dennis Tindyebwa** **Co-Chair: Dr. Elias Kumbakumba, MUST**		
02:00PM **02:40PM**	**UPHIA 2025 SESSION**	
	Uganda Population Based HIV Impact Assessment (UPHIA) 2025	**Dr. Sam Biraaro**, MakSPH
	Challenges and limitations in the set-up and implementation of UPHIA 2025	**Dr. Herbert Kiyingi**, Medical Epidemiologist CDC
	The lessons and implications of UPHIA 2025	**Dr. Robert Mutumba**, Program Manager, AIDS Control Program/MoH
2:40PM **3:00PM**	**General discussion**	**All**
03:00PM **03:15PM**	**EDUTAINMENT**	
03:15PM 03:35PM	From Fragmentation to Integration: A strategic Shift from Disease-based to Integrated Service Delivery in Uganda	**Dr. Simon Muhumuza**, MakSPH
03:35PM 04:00PM	Roll out of Lenacapavir PrEP: results from the National technical support supervision	**Dr. Herbert Kadama**, Ministry of Health ACP

Time	Activity	Presenter
04:00PM 04:30PM	**General Discussion**	**All**
Day Three: 18th November 2026		
Virtual plenary session: Leadership and Governance Panel Chair: Prof. Philipa Musoke, MUJHU, Co-Chair: Prof. Everd Maniple, Kabale University		
08:00AM 08:10AM	Management and governance challenges in the transition from donor-led to GoU-led HIV programs	**Dr. Miya Yunus,** Chief Programs and Capacity Development, TASO
08:00AM 08:20AM	Challenges in HIV and AIDS partnerships	**Prof. Stella Kyohairwe,** UMI
08:20AM 08:30AM	HIV and AIDS research in the era of integration and GoU-led HIV programs	**Dr. Susan Babirye,** UMI
08:30AM 09:00AM	**General discussion**	**All**
08:00AM 09:00AM	**Arrival and Registration, Edutainment, Prayer**	**Secretariat**

Time	Activity	Presenter
Philly Lutaaya Commemoration, Partnership Forum and Closing Ceremony **Chair: Hon. Dr. Elioda Tumwesigye** **Co-Chair: Hon. Samuel Mucunguzi Rwakigoba**		
09:00AM 09:10AM	Recap of Day 2	Rapporteurs Team
09:10AM 10:00AM	Debate	UNSA
10:00AM 10:10AM	Statement by young people	**Mr. Conrad Twinomugisha**, Guild President, MUST
10:10AM 10:20AM	Testimony	Mbarara PLHIV Network
10:20AM **10:30AM**	Remarks by Philly Lutaaya Family	**Ms. Tezra Lutaaya**
10:30AM **11:00AM**	**Break**	**All**
11:00AM **11:20AM**	**EDUTAINMENT**	
11:20AM 12:00PM	Philly Memorial Lecture	**Prof. Maggie Kigozi**

Time	Activity	Presenter
12:00PM 12:10PM	Arrival of Chief Guest and Anthems	Session Chair
12:10PM 12:20PM	Statement by PLHIV	**Ms. Salome Atim**, Board Chairperson, NAFOPHANU
12:20PM 12:30PM	Presentation of the NHAS undertakings and Introduction of The UAC Application	**Dr. Nelson Musoba**, Director General, UAC
12:30PM 12:40PM	Statement Chair ADPs	**Ms. Joy Batusa**, Chair, AIDS Development Partners Group
12:40PM 12:50PM	Remarks - MUST	**Prof. Pauline Byakika-Kibwika**, Vice Chancellor MUST
12:50PM 01:00PM	Remarks by Chairperson HIV Parliament Committee	**Hon. Stephen Kisa,** MP Chairperson, Parliamentary Committee on HIV and related matters
01:00PM 01:10PM	Remarks by Minister of Health	**Dr. Chris Baryomunsi**, Hon Minister of Health
01:10PM 01:30PM	**Closing remarks by the Chief Guest and Launch of the UAC Application, Partnership Manual**	**Hon. Babirye Milly Babalanda**, Minister for the Presidency
01:30PM	**Lunch and Departure at Leisure**	**All**

END

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM – VIRTUAL BREAKOUT ROOMS

Time	Session	Topic	Presenter	Chair	Co-chair	Timekeeper
DAY 1						
	Breakout	**Epi, Prev, SDH**				
12:00	HIV Prevention among Most at Risk Populations	HIV and Co-infection Trends among Female Sex Workers in Kampala, Uganda: Preliminary analysis of reports from the CRANE Survey Programme, 2011–2025	**Dr. Musinguzi Geofrey**, MakSPH	**Prof. Samuel Kabwigu**, Soroti University	**Dr. Baker Bakashaba**, Project Director, AIC	Soroti University
12:15PM		Beyond National Averages: Spatially Dynamic Hotspots of Recent HIV Infection in Uganda, 2021–2024	**Sydney Nsubuga**, Busitema University			
12:25PM		Feasibility and Acceptability of a Barbershop-Based HIV Intervention for Ugandan Men (HPTN 111)	**Zubair Lukyamuzi**, MUJHU			
12:35PM		**General discussion**	**All**			
	Breakout	**Care and treatment**				

Time	Session	Topic	Presenter	Chair	Co-chair	Timekeeper
12:00	Antiretroviral therapies and other interventions for HIV care	Where to begin?—A prioritization study of barriers to community antiretroviral therapy delivery in refugee settlements in Uganda	**Robin E. Klabbers**, Department of Global Health, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA	**Dr. Pebalo Francis**, Gulu University	**Dr. Gertrude Namale**, ROM	Soroti University
12:10PM		Exercise as a preventive and therapeutic strategy for non-communicable diseases in people living with HIV: evidence, mechanisms and clinical implications	**Nicholas Mwebaze**, Uganda People's Defence Forces			
12:20PM		Musculoskeletal symptoms and associated factors in non-geriatric patients switched from Tenofovir to Abacavir at Infectious Diseases Institute Clinic in Kampala, Uganda: Case Series	**Innocent Arinaitwe**, IDI & Mbarara University of Science and Technology			
12:30PM		**General Discussion**	**All**			
	Breakout	**Social support**				

Time	Session	Topic	Presenter	Chair	Co-chair	Timekeeper
12:00	Social and behavioral support interventions	Harnessing parental social networks to support HIV testing among children of female sex workers in Uganda (HASHTAG): a controlled interrupted time-series study	**Dr. Simple Ouma**, Soroti University	**Dr. Marjorie Kyomuhendo,** Makerere University	**Dr. Anne Otwine**, Bishop Stuart University	Bishop Stuart University
12:15PM		Efficacy of Counselling and other Psychological or Behavioural Interventions For HIV/AIDS: A Systematic Review of Evidence from Uganda and Sub-Saharan Africa	**Mugisha Samuel**, Kampala International University			
12:25PM		From Subjects to Storytellers: Community-Led Narratives by Young People Living with HIV as a Tool for Stigma Reduction and Better Service Delivery in Uganda	**Hadad Allan Nuwagaba**, TASO Mbarara			
12:35PM		**General discussion**	**All**			
	Breakout	**Systems**				

Time	Session	Topic	Presenter	Chair	Co-chair	Timekeeper
12:00	Data systems in the era of integrated health service delivery	Knowledge and Perceptions of Primary Healthcare Providers towards Integration of Antiretroviral Therapy Services at Departmental Level in Lira District, Uganda	**Emmanuel Asher Ikwara,** Lira University	**Dr. Gerald Pande**, MoH	**Dr. Julius Sempira**, CDC	Mountains of the Moon University
12:10PM		"Who Owns My Story?": Narrative Accounts of Data Use, Stigma, and Empowerment among People Living with HIV in Uganda's Digital Health Systems	**Muhaise Hussein**, Kabale University			
12:20PM		One Country, One System: Consolidating Parallel HIV Reporting into a Single National DHIS2 Platform Cut Data Quality Issues by 74% Across 13 Districts	**Collins Agaba**, JCRC			
12:30PM		**General discussion**	**All**			
	Breakout	**Basic Science & HIV cure**				

Time	Session	Topic	Presenter	Chair	Co-chair	Timekeeper
12:00	Priorities in the development of curative interventions for HIV: a practical session	Classifying research priorities in the HIV cure area of the national HIV and AIDS research agenda as: immediate, intermediate and long-term	**Dr. Stephen B. Asiimwe**, UAC	**Dr. Lois Bayigga**, JCRC	**Dr. Sheila Balinda**, UVRI	Busitema University
12:10PM		The Developing Leadership and Innovation in Viral Eradication Research (DELIVER) Initiative	**Dr. Allan Omalla Olwenyi**, MUWRP			
12:20PM		General discussion and classification of priorities in HIV cure research thematic area.	**All**			
DAY 2 Tuesday November 17, 2026						
12:00		**Virtual Breakout Sessions**				
	Breakout	**Epi, Prev, SDH**				
12:00	HIV prevention in the general population	Targeted communication for HIV and AIDS for the last mile as we approach 2030	**Dr. Marjorie Kyomuhendo**, Makerere University	**Dr. Japheth Kwiringira**, Kyambogo University	**Dr. Anne Kapaata**, UVRI	Soroti University

Time	Session	Topic	Presenter	Chair	Co-chair	Timekeeper
12:15PM	HIV prevention in the general population	Catalyzing Behavioral Diffusion through Targeted Behavior Change Communication on Adolescent SRHR and HIV Knowledge: Evidence from UNFPA-supported programming in West Nile and Acholi Regions	**Cinderella Anena**, UNFPA	**Dr. Japheth Kwiringira**, Kyambogo University	**Dr. Anne Kapaata**, UVRI	Soroti University
12:25PM		Integrating Community-Based HIV Prevention with Social and Economic Empowerment for Adolescent Girls and Young Women: Lessons from Jinja District, Uganda	**Edward Were**, Jinja District Local Government,			
12:35PM		Progress Towards Elimination of Vertical HIV Transmission: A Retrospective Record Review from Two Comprehensive PMTCT Program Sites in Kampala, Uganda.	**Hanifa Issa Kagolo**, MUJHU			

Time	Session	Topic	Presenter	Chair	Co-chair	Timekeeper
12:45PM		**General discussion**	**All**			
	Breakout	**Care and treatment**				
12:00	HIV and AIDS outcomes in the era of antiretroviral therapy	Mortality and its predictors among adults with advanced HIV disease in Soroti Regional Referral Hospital, Eastern Uganda: a retrospective cohort study	**Acire Robin**, Soroti Regional Referral Hospital	**Col. Dr. John Lusiba**, UPDF	**Mr. Emmanuel Sendawula**, ROM	Gulu University
12:10PM		Using ECHO to bridge HIV knowledge and skills gaps across 22 military healthcare facilities in Uganda	**Moses Balina**, University Research Co., LLC			
12:20PM		Mortality during tuberculosis treatment among people with mental illness in Uganda, 2020 -2025	**Dr. Patrick Kazooba**, ROM			
12:30PM		**General discussion**	**All**			
	Breakout	**Social support**				

Time	Session	Topic	Presenter	Chair	Co-chair	Timekeeper
12:00	Non-biomedical dimension of HIV and AIDS Care	Non-biomedical dimensions of HIV and AIDS care	**Dr. Anne Otwine,** Bishop Stuart University	**Dr. Monica Kuteesa**, Ernest Cook University	**Dr. Geoffrey Musinguzi**, MakSPH	Kabale University
12:15PM		Living Beyond the Diagnosis: How Stigma, Psychosocial Support and Community Belonging Shape the HIV Care Experience	**Flavia Kyomukama**, NAFOPHANU			
12:25PM		Adolescent Mothers, Social Vulnerability, and Maternal Well-Being in Uganda: Reflections from a Social Work Practicum	**Winnie Namukambi**, UCU			
12:30PM		**General discussion**	**All**			
	Breakout	**Systems (DHOs Session)**				

Time	Session	Topic	Presenter	Chair	Co-chair	Timekeeper
12:00	The HIV response in the Local Governments	Local government experiences with integrated health service delivery	**Dr. Gilbert Mateeka**, Kabale DLG	**Dr. Addy Kekitiimwa**, Baylor Uganda	**Dr. Alex Muganzi**, IDI	Soroti University
12:10PM		G2G MoU- Implications for Local Governments	**Dr. Allan Katamba**, Buikwe DLG			
12:20PM		Activating subnational coordination structures for the HIV response	**Dr. Emma Mugisa,** Fortportal City LG			
12:30PM		**General Discussion**	**All**			
	Breakout	**Basic Science & HIV cure**				

Time	Session	Topic	Presenter	Chair	Co-chair	Timekeeper
12:00	HIV-related science	Distinct Patterns of Natural HIV-1 Control in the A1/D-Predominant Rakai Cohort, Uganda	**Edward Kankaka**, RHSP	**Dr. Casim Tolo**, MUST	**Dr. Shiela Balinda**, UVRI	Soroti University
12:15PM		Development of PROVIRID (Herbal Remedy) from indigenous medicinal plants for latency reversal in non-B Human Immunodeficiency Virus type-1 viral subtypes	**Joseph Hokello**, Busitema University			
12:25PM		Amino acid signatures in HIV-1 subtype A1 and D Negative Regulatory Factor distinguish contemporary transmitted/founder viruses from historical strains in East Africa.	**Frank Kato**, UVRI			
12:30PM		**General discussion**	**All**			



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