



**MEDICI
CON L'AFRICA**
CUAMM
Doctors with Africa

IMPROVING DISTRICT HEALTH SYSTEMS TOWARDS THE REALISATION OF UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

About CUAMM: Founded in 1950, Doctors with Africa CUAMM is an Italian organization engaged in the health sector in Sub-Saharan Africa, it operates in 8 countries (Uganda, Angola, Tanzania, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia and Mozambique), where its working to improve the health of vulnerable communities through delivering long-term health programmes and expertise to help bring health services closer to those who need them most and with a non-profit aim. CUAMM partners with the Ministries of Health and Universities to deliver services, the main areas of intervention include Health System Strengthening, Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria, Response to public health emergencies, Prevention and support to people with disabilities, and Health training. Since 1958 focusing mostly in the north, CUAMM has continued to work uninterrupted in Uganda with activities seen in 20 districts in 2022/23. The main emphasis is now on improving the functionality of the district health system, a key requirement for realisation of universal health coverage.

Within the health system strengthening framework, CUAMM continues to focus on its flagship maternal child health programme – Mothers and Children First, and other priority services including response to Malnutrition, Tuberculosis, Malaria and HIV/AIDS. The implementation of the actions has been through projects such as; UNICEF-CUAMM Partnership for Health system strengthening in Karamoja, the Embassy of Ireland funded Strengthening District Health Systems for Improved Access to and Utilization of Quality Reproductive Maternal Neonatal Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) Services in Karamoja, Global Fund/TASO - Supporting Uganda's Malaria Reduction and Elimination Strategy in Karamoja, Foundation Assistance Internationale (FAI) - Support to TB control services in Karamoja, ERASE – Malaria project in Oyam and Kole and Mainstreaming eye care and disability in west Nile supported by the Italian agency for development cooperation (AICS). Some of the key results realized through these actions include;

- A functional blood collection and distribution center set up at Moroto regional referral hospital. A total of 2,718 blood units were collected in Karamoja from November 2022 to April 2023 with 2,325 individuals receiving blood transfusion services in the different health facilities.

- Enhanced capacity of the eye care department at Arua regional referral hospital and Omugo health center IV in Terego district to offer quality eye care and disability mainstreaming services. A total of 43,632 individuals were diagnosed and treated for eye conditions, 4,007 individual received visual aids, and 707 cataracts surgeries successfully conducted.
- A total of 31 Health workers currently granted various scholarship position (11 in anesthesia; 8 in radiography; 2 in pediatric nursing; 4 in medical laboratory science; 6 - general nursing and midwifery) to address critical human resource for health deficiencies in Karamoja and Lango.
- Improved capacity of Matany school of nursing and midwifery and Kaabong college of nursing and midwifery to provide competency-based education for midwives and nurses.
- Improved health and nutrition services for adolescents and young people across selected health centers in Karamoja an Oyam district in Lango. All the 9 districts of Karamoja have functional district level committee on adolescent health.
- Total of 60 health facilities in Karamoja supported to implement quality of care standards for Reproductive, Maternal Neonatal Child and Adolescent Health and nutrition
- Enhanced use of bottleneck analysis (BNA) tools to streamline evidence based planning for health and nutrition services across the 9 districts of Karamoja
- Enhanced district capacity for response to public health emergencies including COVID-19, Tuberculosis and Malaria in Karamoja and Oyam district in Lango.



Figure 1: COVID 19 vaccination outreach in Nyakvea Sub-County - Abim District.