

Roll-out of 'UgandaEMR Mobile' Application to TASO Supported Facilities



Participants from TASO Mbarara during the training

UgandaEMR is currently operational at over 1900 ART facilities countrywide and facilitates HIV /AIDS data capture at various service delivery points at the health facility either in real-time or retrospectively.

Between 16th and 20th January 2023, METS embarked on supporting the rollout of the UgandaEMR Mobile App to several TASO-supported health facilities in the districts of Gulu, Mbarara, and Masaka.

The 'UgandaEMR Mobile' is an innovation

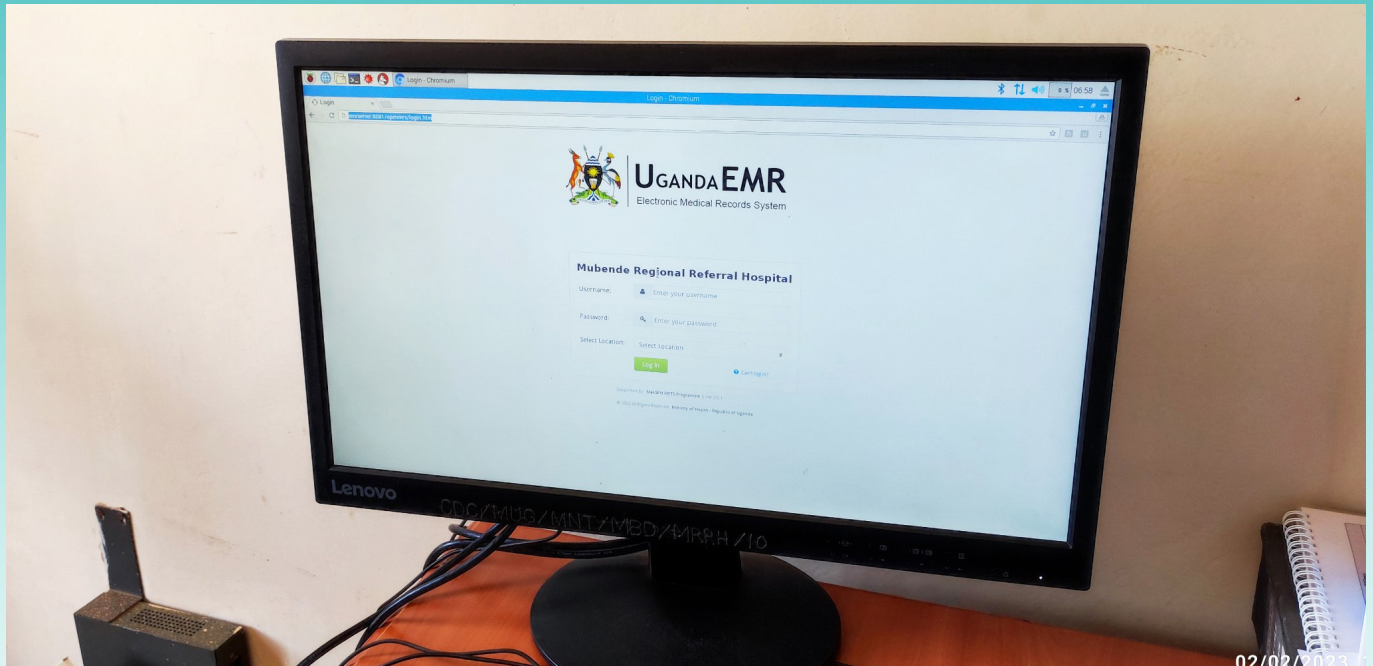
that was developed as an extension of a facility-based electronic medical records (EMR) system and supports community outreach services including 'Back to Care' and 'Community Drug Distribution' through community pharmacies.

To decongest health facilities and take services closer to the community, facilities are providing outreach programs such as HIV testing, antiretroviral (ARV) and anti-TB drug distribution among others. This created a need for innovations to capture data at these remote service points.

To support the rollout of the UgandaEMR Mobile, METS supported upgrading of UgandaEMR to the most recent version, 3.3.9 and oriented TASO-supported facility staff in the use of the App especially on how to enter and generate data.

It is expected that these facilities will now ably capture data for services provided in the communities, especially in hard-to-reach areas, while decongesting the health centers.

Supporting Electronic Medical Records (EMR) Functionality at Regional Referral Hospitals (RRHs)



The NComputing technology (small device at the back of a computer) deployed at Mubende RRH is hardware and software which creates virtual desktop (thin clients) which enable multiple users to simultaneously share a single operating system instance

The overall purpose of the METS program is to strengthen the Government of Uganda's capacity for Regionally Centered and District-Implemented HIV and TB Programming through Health Information Systems, Case-Based Surveillance, Monitoring and Evaluation, among others.

In January 2023, two Regional Referral Hospitals – Mubende and Soroti experienced challenges in management of their electronic data. As a result, the hospitals were unable to prepare routine program reports. The Ministry of Health established the problem was due to non-functional servers and requested

METS to intervene.

With funding from PEPFAR, METS was able to procure new servers to support the functionality of UgandaEMR in the ART clinics at the two hospitals. This is part of the Centralized Procurement of networking equipment that METS has been leading over the past two years.

At each of the hospitals, the METS support team spent three days providing technical assistance in installing Operations Systems (Windows Server OS), UgandaEMR System, and migrating data from the old servers. The new servers were connected

to the facilities' Local Area Networks (LAN) to facilitate Point of Care data capture at all the service delivery points (Triage to Pharmacy). The METS teams further supported the facilities in data management and provided technical assistance on how to operate the new servers and understanding the standard operating procedures including safety and security measures.

By the end of the three-day exercise, the ART Clinics were fully operational on the current version of UgandaEMR, and servers were being used to facilitate easy data management at the facilities.

Improving Services to Orphans and other Vulnerable Children



Assessment teams at the households



Health Facility Verification Exercises of C/ALHIV in sampled health facilities in the Fort Portal Region

The Orphans and other Vulnerable Children (OVC) program is aggressively and competently contributing to ending the HIV epidemic. Continuous assessment of competence of services and attention to utilization of clean data for program management have a vital bearing on attainment of this goal.

In November 2022, the METS team working together with Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, USAID's Strategic Information Technical Support (SITES) and other stakeholders conducted a follow-on OVC service quality assessment to assess satisfaction among the beneficiaries of the program services

provided between October 2021 – March 2022. The assessment was meant to highlight the strengths and gaps in OVC service provision and provide possible recommended actions for improvement in 261 OVC households in Rwenzori Region. The assessment was done at three levels: the household with an adolescent or child living with HIV (A/CLHIV), the health facility/ community service organization (CSO) site and artisan offering training to the beneficiary.

Up to 10% of OVC households with A/CLHIV were sampled to verify services reported at both the community service organization (CSO) site and at the health facilities. At household level, a customized electronic assessment data form was used to collect information on household income & HIV treatment status. After the household visits, teams visited health facilities where C/ALHIV were receiving ART Treatment to verify ART refills, appointments, and viral load tests. Artisans contracted by the CSO to

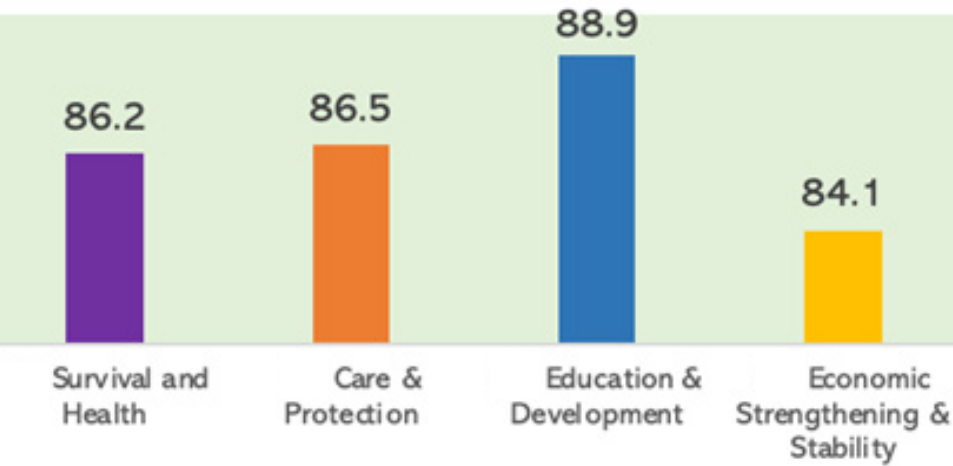
skill household members were visited to assess their progress and competence and to draw specific action plans to address the identified gaps.

Overall, the assessment revealed that the quality of OVC service offered in the

Rwenzori region was adequate and met expectations at 86% on average under the sections of Economic Strengthening & Stability, Education & Development, Care & Protection and Survival and Health. Identified gaps included inadequate documentation to confirm CSOs follow-

up of A/CLHIV, unverified information between the CSO OVC register and information provided by the OVC caregivers, data inconsistency in the OVC household case files and OVC register, and use of wrong OVC service codes to document services at households.

Overall Quality of OVC services in Fort portal Region



The results of the assessment demonstrated that there is strict adherence to quality standards by OVC service providers when offering OVC services to OVC households on ART which can significantly increase the number of virally suppressed Children.



Provision of feedback on the OVC SQA results to CSO Teams in Fort Portal Region



Back yard gardening

Site-readiness Assessment for Safe Male Circumcision (SMC)

METS in collaboration with the three new Implementing Partners (Uganda Catholic Medical Bureau, Uganda Protestant Medical Bureau and Kampala Capital City Authority) conducted an interagency service quality assessment for SMC site readiness at 13 supported sites.

The objective of the assessment was to determine the level of readiness of the sites to start offering SMC services, identify challenges, develop site-specific action plans and establish site-specific basic needs to inform the planning process.

Looking at the findings,

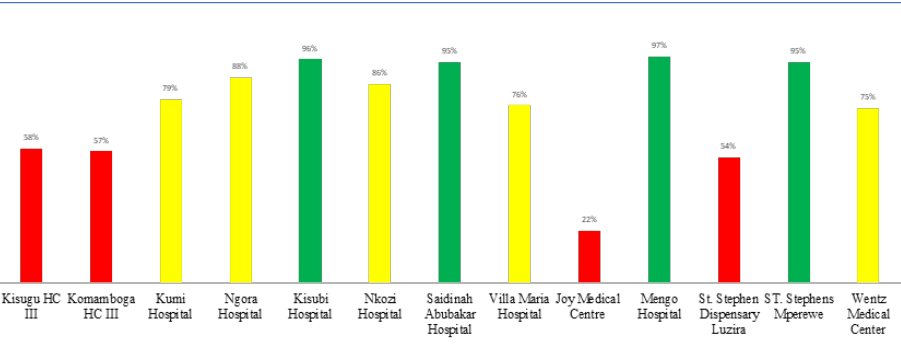
- Four sites obtained low scores (below 60%) mainly due to suboptimal availability of key items for the SMC services indicating a low level of readiness.

- Four sites had a high score (at least 90%) indicating a high level of readiness
- The remaining 5 sites had acceptable level of readiness (60-89%) for SMC service provision with minimal need for improvement.

was that 7 of 13 sites did not have all the key emergency resuscitation drugs and functional equipment. Eight (8) sites did not have items for handwashing, aseptic technique, and instrument processing. Only 46% of the sites had the required information, education and communication materials.

The most important challenge observed

Percentage of items required for SMC service provision available at each site (Level of readiness as of Dec 2022)



Distribution of HIS Hardware equipment

Over the last 3 years PEPFAR, through the METS program, has procured computer and networking equipment for distribution to health facilities. This equipment is intended to support the Ministry of Health digitization project, improve electronic medical (EMR) coverage, and accelerate the implementation of Point of Care (PoC).

METS was tasked to centrally procure Health Information System (HIS) equipment for PEPFAR implementing partners for redistribution to the health facilities to support data capture and network connectivity across service points as well as facilities.

This has been a phased process that began in January 2022 with distribution to over 600 health facilities.

The current distribution phase is data capture devices which include mini servers, desktops, laptops, tablets, and fingerprint scanners to 26 implementing partners across the country.

The following implementing partners were earmarked as beneficiaries of this exercise and picked their allocated batches during the month of February 2023.



Justin Kaleebi receiving MUWRP's equipment from Abert Mugisha, the Systems Administrator at METS

BENEFICIARIES	
Baylor Fort Portal Region	G2G Mbarara
Baylor Hoima Region	G2G Moroto
IDI Kampala Region	RHSP Masaka Region
ANECCA Karamoja Region	TASO Soroti Region
Baylor Eastern Region	JCRC-Kigezi Region
G2G Jinja	JCRC-Lango Region
IDI West Nile Region	MJAP East Central Region
Mildmay Mubende Region	UEC
MoH KCCA Urban Strategy	UPMB & UPMB_LSD
G2G Lira	UPS
URC_DOD_UPDF	STATE UNHCR
WALTER REED MUWRP	TASO Acholi Region
MoH RRH Strategy	TASO Ankole Region

Pictorial

PEPFAR Partners and Stakeholders Strategy Meeting

A meeting was held on 22-23 February 2023 at Mestil Hotel to review partners' progress and discuss the strategy of 95% of all people living with HIV knowing their status, 95% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection receiving antiretroviral treatment, and 95% of all people receiving treatment having viral suppression by 2030. The purpose

of the meeting was to discuss the Government of Uganda's priorities, identify technical strengths and areas needing additional support, and outline plans for the new year in order to reach and sustain epidemic control.

Meeting in pictures



Hon. Dr. Jane Ruth Acheng, Minister of Health Uganda (4th from left front row) officially opened the meeting that was attended by several dignitaries from Parliament, the Ministry of Health, PEPFAR Coordination office, Embassy of the United States, CDC Uganda and Implementing Partners.



Group discussion on Continuation of Treatment, Prevention & Sub-Groups and Health Systems Strengthening at the PEPFAR stakeholders meeting

PEPFAR Science Summit



METS was part of the annual PEPFAR Science Summit, a U.S. Uganda Mission-led platform that brings together U.S. government researchers and scholars and partners (IPs) in Uganda to share new scientific research to inform the implementation of HIV and TB programs and related policies from January 31 to February 1, 2023, at Hotel Africana, Kampala. The meeting was attended by over 180 in-person and 500 virtual attendees was themed “Following

the Science and Sustaining the Gains as PEPFAR Turns Twenty”.

METS made two presentations on Measurement of Regional Referral Hospitals Health Systems Capacity: Application of Progression Model by Dr. Simon Muhumuza and Improving the Quality of Cervical Cancer Services in Uganda: Onsite Mentorship and Coaching Approach by Connie Ninisiima



Dr. Simon making his presentation on Application of the Progression Model at RRHs at the PEPFAR Science Summit at Hotel Africana

Regional Referral Hospital Performance Review Meetings

METS provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Health (MoH) during a Joint Technical Supportive Supervision and Performance Review exercise for 9 Regional Referral Hospitals (RRH) across the country on February 20-24, 2023.

This review exercise was an opportunity to assess how far along the facilities were implementing their work plans, review their performance targets as well as identifying implementation challenges of the RRH mechanism that

was introduced by MoH. The mechanism expands the mandate of the hospitals to handle quality assurance, capacity building, mentorships and monitoring performance of programs.



Yumbe Regional Referral Hospital performance review meeting



Soroti RRH performance review meeting

Key Population and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (KP/PrEP) Tracker training

The Peace Corps requested METS to support its partners to conduct KP tracker training and an orientation on data collecting tools for community outreaches. Key populations are defined groups who, due to specific

higher-risk behaviors, are at increased risk of HIV. This exercise equipped the Peace Corps partners with data entry, analysis, and reporting skills for key population data.



Isaac Sebuliba conducting PrEP KP/PP Training for Peace Corps Partners at Eureka Hotel, Ntinda

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