

Newsletter

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Trainer of trainees (TOT)



Uganda Tobacco Tax Coalition Pushes for Increased Tobacco Taxes



ACCR at the UICC Conference: Shaping Global Cancer Strategies



Editor's / Note

This quarter, the Uganda Cancer Society (UCS) has made significant progress in advancing cancer control through a series of impactful initiatives. Notably, we have delivered several capacity-building sessions for our members, focusing on areas such as monitoring and evaluation, awareness raising with specific focus on acute myeloid leukemia, tobacco control advocacy, and tobacco taxation engagements. In addition, UCS has actively sought partnerships with like-minded organizations and programs to strengthen our collective efforts in cancer control. This includes new collaborations with Global Relay for Life, Tech for All, and the Uganda Tobacco Taxation Coalition.

From July to September, we have achieved remarkable milestones with meaningful impact. Our members have played a pivotal role in addressing the multifaceted challenges of cancer control. The Soleterre Foundation has provided invaluable support through media campaigns, health worker training, and essential services such as nutritious meals, accommodation, transportation, counseling, and ambulance services for children with cancer. Faces of Courage has launched a special breakfast program, ensuring that every child in the cancer ward at UCI starts their day with a nutritious meal. The ERIC Cancer Initiative has championed early detection efforts for breast cancer through innovative solutions, while Namawelness has extended screening services to local communities. Meanwhile, Ahavah and Ananda Center for Cancer Research have raised awareness to foster community support for cancer control.

These efforts and those of all our other members underscore the critical role we play in tackling the diverse challenges associated with cancer care, from patient support to public health awareness. Coordination remains central to our mission. The fight against cancer requires a united and collective approach, and UCS is dedicated to fostering partnerships with both public and private stakeholders, both locally and internationally. By working together, we can enhance patient outcomes, strengthen healthcare systems, and advocate for policies that ensure equitable access to cancer care. These partnerships allow us to pool resources, share expertise, and create a sustainable impact in our shared mission to fight cancer.

Looking ahead, the Uganda Cancer Society (UCS) is dedicated to strengthening its capacity-building initiatives for members while enhancing coordination efforts to achieve a more significant impact in cancer control.



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Advocacy remains central to UCS's mission, with a steadfast commitment to championing the rights of cancer patients and advocating for policies that improve public health outcomes. We remain resolute in supporting our members in every endeavor to advance cancer control in Uganda

Brenda Nandutu Programs officer

Secretariat key engagements



UCS to join Global Relay for Life

The Uganda Cancer Society (UCS) is thrilled to announce our steps toward becoming part of the Global Relay For Life (GRFL), a world-renowned program that offers an international platform that brings people together to honor cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost, and strengthen efforts to fight cancer worldwide. This program empowers cancer organizations to foster community engagement, raise funding, and boost advocacy and volunteerism in their communities.

UCS has embarked on this journey, with the aim to become the 35th partner in a global network that already spans thirty four (34) countries across six continents. In preparation, UCS has already participated in three virtual training sessions facilitated by the American Cancer Society - Global Relay for Life team led by Matt Lewis. These sessions provided UCS staff, board, and members with foundational knowledge on the essence of Relay For Life, what to anticipate during the event, and practical insights into planning and implementing a Relay For Life in Uganda. Through this training, UCS is gaining invaluable skills to ensure a meaningful and impactful Relay For Life experience that will resonate within our communities.

Uganda Cancer Society Joins the Uganda Tobacco Tax Coalition (UTTC)

The Uganda Cancer Society (UCS) recently joined the Uganda Tobacco Tax Coalition (UTTC), an alliance of civil society organizations dedicated to developing a sustainable, WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) - compliant tax policy aimed at reducing tobacco consumption in Uganda by 2029. This coalition includes key organizations such as the Uganda National Health Consumers Organisation(UNHCO), Centre for Tobacco Control in Africa (CTCA), Uganda Alcohol Policy Alliance (UAPA), Uganda Health Communication Alliance (UHCA), United Nations Association of Uganda (UNAU), and Way Forward Youth Africa (WFYA).

As part of our commitment to reducing cancer incidences in Uganda, UCS is advocating for increased tobacco taxes. The American Cancer Society reports that tobacco use is a leading cause of at least 12 types of cancer, including cancers of the lung, mouth, throat, and bladder. By raising tobacco taxes, we can help decrease tobacco consumption, especially among youth and low-income populations who are most affected. It is important to note that, for every one dollar that the country raises through taxation, it spends four dollars treating tobacco induced illnesses.

Uganda Tobacco Tax Coalition Pushes for Increased Tobacco Taxes

As part of the activities for the Uganda Tobacco Tax Coalition meetings were held for three (3) days September 2nd, 3rd, and 12th, with 11, 12, and 9 participants respectively. The meetings were to build a consensus on reliable data sources to measure the health impact of tobacco use in Uganda. These gatherings resulted in two substantial achievements aimed at reducing tobacco consumption and its associated health risks.

First, a formal proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Health advocating for a considerable increase in tobacco taxes, urging for a twofold rise in the excise duty on tobacco products. Specifically, the proposal calls for an increase in the tax on hinge-lid cigarettes from UGX 80,000 to UGX 160,000 per 1,000 cigarettes, and on soft cap cigarettes from UGX 55,000 to UGX 110,000 per 1,000 cigarettes. Supported by the Tobacco Excise Tax Simulation (TETSim) Model and aligned with global best practices, these recommendations aim to bring Uganda closer to the WHO's recommended target of excise duties comprising at least 70% of the retail price. The proposal suggests an interim target of 42%.

Second, a comprehensive report detailing primary data sources that will serve as references for ongoing and future assessments of the tobacco-related health burden was developed. This report will guide continued efforts to refine policy proposals that will mitigate the tobacco epidemic in Uganda.

These outcomes underscore Uganda Cancer Society's dedication to evidence-based advocacy and effective policy change to lessen tobacco's harmful effects on public health. We look forward to seeing how these proposals, if adopted, could lead to significant health benefits for communities across Uganda.



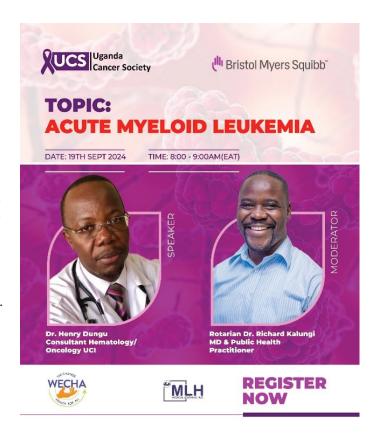
Members of the Uganda Tobacco Taxation Coalition discuss to generate data sources and a proposal for Tobacco Tax Increase in Uganda

Uganda Cancer Society and Tech Care for All Host Training on Acute Myeloid Leukemia

On September 19, 2024, the Uganda Cancer Society (UCS), in partnership with Tech Care for All, hosted a highly anticipated training session through the Medical Learning Hub, an e-learning platform designed to make expert-led medical training accessible to healthcare professionals. This session is part of a broader effort by UCS to strengthen the capacity of its members and stakeholders, equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary to advance cancer care in Uganda.

The one-hour session was led by Dr. Henry Dungu, a consultant hematologist from the Uganda Cancer Institute. Dr. Dungu presented on the complexities of Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML), a fast-growing cancer of the blood and bone marrow that requires timely diagnosis and specialized care. He shared valuable insights on the latest diagnostic techniques, treatment options, and patient management strategies, drawing from his extensive experience and knowledge in the field.

UCS is committed to offering such educational opportunities as a part of its mission to enhance cancer control and care in Uganda. Through partnerships with organizations like Tech Care for All, UCS is making significant strides in bridging the gap in cancer knowledge and expertise, ultimately improving patient outcomes and supporting the professional development of those dedicated to the fight against cancer.





Skill Up Initiative

Uganda Cancer Society (UCS) has actively continued the online Skill-Up series, a platform aimed at strengthening the skills and knowledge of our member organizations. These sessions, held on the last Thursday of each month, provide an invaluable opportunity for our teams to exchange knowledge and gain insights that empower us to further our mission. Each session runs for 90 minutes, where participants benefit from the expertise shared by staff from UCS's diverse network.

Over the past quarter, representatives from the Uganda Women's Cancer Support Organization (UWOCASO), the Cancer Information and Support Society of Uganda (CISSU), Kawempe Home Care, and Nama Wellness Community Centre (NAWEC) joined us as presenters. Together, we engaged in productive discussions on topics such as fostering effective partnerships and collaboration, building a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework, and utilizing data to evaluate projects for impact.

Each session saw between 15 and 25 participants, underscoring the strong interest in professional development and collaborative learning. These sessions reflect the power of collaboration and the importance of shared learning. By leveraging the strengths across our network, we continue to equip our teams with practical skills and knowledge to advance cancer care and advocacy across Uganda.



The promotional flyers used to publicize the session.



Rotary Cancer Run

The Uganda Cancer Society (UCS) actively participated in this year's Rotary Cancer Run, held on August 25, 2024, under the theme "Spread Magic in Every Step." This event, now in its 13th year, drew over 50,000 participants in Kampala and across Uganda, with further global participation in key cities. Proceeds from this year's run, amounting to approximately 2.5 billion Ugandan Shillings, will go towards constructing a cancer treatment center at St. Francis Hospital Nsambya, equipped with Linear Accelerator (LINAC) machines for cancer treatment.

UCS's engagement in the Rotary Cancer Run highlights the critical need for accessible cancer care services across Uganda. With current treatment facilities limited to the Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI) in Kampala, UCS advocates for comprehensive support to reach cancer patients countrywide. Although the government has established regional cancer centers in cities like Mbarara and Gulu, many patients still face significant travel and financial burdens for specialized care. The strain on resources and healthcare personnel at UCI underscores the need for expanded facilities like the one in Nsambya.



Some of the staff members along with other Rotarians pose for a picture after completing the run

Member organizations' key engagements



Ananda Center for cancer research. ACCR Champions Breast Cancer Awareness at Kyambogo College

The Ananda Center for Cancer Research (ACCR) conducted a breast cancer awareness outreach at Kyambogo College School, bringing crucial health information and support to students, community members, and staff. This impactful event was driven by dedicated volunteers, including Constance Annet, Florence Babirye, Dr. Angella Nakiganda, and Kathryn, who represented ACCR's commitment to cancer awareness and prevention.

•During the outreach, the team engaged the students, community members, and staff in interactive sessions on the importance of early cancer detection, the risks of common cancers, and preventive measures. Educational materials were distributed, and personal stories were shared to emphasize the impact of cancer on individuals and communities. The event also featured a Q&A segment where participants could ask questions and receive personalized advice from our experts. Additionally, a cancer screening booth was set up to provide free screenings and consultations, empowering the community with the knowledge and resources needed to take proactive steps in their health journey.

ACCR team engaging with students at Kyambogo University



ACCR Hosts Key Health Awareness Events in Nsangi and Kitintale

ACCR recently held two impactful health awareness events aimed at educating the community on critical cancer issues. In collaboration with Musawo Betty Care & Research Center at Club Quarters, Nsangi, ACCR hosted a session focused on adolescent breast health and cancer awareness. Led by Dr. Angella Nakiganda, the event empowered teens with vital information on breast health, using resources from the Know Your Lemons Foundation to promote early detection and prevention.

Additionally, on September 7, 2024, ACCR organized a prostate cancer awareness event in Kitintale, amid a heavy downpour. Mr. Mukiibi, a dedicated volunteer, led an informative session, raising awareness about prostate cancer and fostering greater understanding of this important health issue among the local community.





ACCR at the UICC Conference: Shaping Global Cancer Strategies

ACCR participated in the UICC World Cancer Congress in Switzerland, held from September 17th to 19th 2024 represented by their Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr. John Alex and Dr. Aneet Nakaganda. The conference focused on the latest advancements in cancer control, featuring workshops, panel discussions, and networking opportunities with global leaders in the field. Their representatives engaged in knowledge sharing about innovative strategies in prevention, treatment, and advocacy. Participation in this conference is crucial for their organization, as it enhances their understanding of emerging trends, fosters collaborative partnerships, and raises visibility in the international cancer community. The insights gained from this congress will help strengthen ACCR'S efforts in cancer prevention and Advocacy.



ACCR representatives at the World Cancer Congress in Switzerland



Kampala City Cancer Challenge: ACCR Joins **Forces for Urban Cancer Control**

On 24th September, ACCR had the privilege of participating in the Kampala City Cancer Challenge, a collaborative initiative aimed at raising awareness and driving actionable solutions for cancer prevention and control within the city. Ananda Center for Cancer Research (ACCR) is proud to be one of the key collaborators in this initiative. Their role is focused on cancer control through research, education, and advocacy, working closely with various stakeholders to improve early detection, enhance community engagement, and support policy development. The event provided a platform for stakeholders, including healthcare professionals, NGOs, and community leaders, to exchange insights, foster partnerships, and reinforce collective efforts in the fight against cancer. ACCR is committed to continuing this critical work, striving to make a significant impact on cancer awareness and prevention across Kampala and beyond.



ACCR Contributes to UICC ATOM Meeting: Pioneering Collaborative Cancer Research

The Ananda Center for Cancer Research participated in the UICC ATOM Meeting, a gathering dedicated to advancing cancer research through collaboration. This meeting aimed to explore how the ATOM initiative can support various stakeholders in the global fight against cancer and introduced the partners involved in this effort.

During their presentation, ACCR showcased their current research projects, emphasizing innovative methods for early cancer detection. They also proposed collaborative research initiatives that align with ATOM's objectives, reinforcing ACCR's commitment to impactful cancer research.



Delegates gather for a group photo following the ATOM meeting.

Ahavah Child Cancer Care Uganda

Sensitization Drive at Buziga Islamic Theological Institute.

On 28th September, AHAVAH Child Cancer Care Uganda successfully hosted a sensitization drive at Buziga Islamic Theological Institute, aimed at raising awareness about childhood cancer and fostering community support for affected children. The event engaged both students and teachers, providing valuable information to demystify childhood cancer, explain treatment processes, and guide participants on where to seek help.

In a bid to further support children battling cancer, AHAVAH encouraged donations of essential items for children undergoing treatment at the cancer institute. The response was positive, with donations collected and commitments made for continued support.

While the event was a success, one of the challenges faced was the technical nature of some of the questions posed, which require the expertise of trained oncologists. To address this, AHAVAH plans to partner with medical professionals for future drives to ensure participants receive the most accurate and helpful information.

AHAVAH is grateful for the community's positive response and looks forward to ongoing efforts in raising awareness and supporting childhood cancer patients.



AHAVAH team members engagin students and teachers at Buziga Islamic Theological Institute



ERIC Cancer Initiatives

As part of their relentless drive to combat breast cancer in contribution to the realization of SDGs 3 and 5, ERIC Cancer Initiative commitment to empowering communities through education, advocacy for early detection via self-examinations, and follow-up support guided by our proven 40-20-40 framework.

Workshops were held in various settings across 186 communities—including markets, schools, churches, mosques, salons, and other village hubs—equipping people with self-examination techniques and early detection knowledge. Notable awareness activities included:

Market Outreach: Awareness sessions held on August 22, 2024, August 16, 2024 and 20th of September at Gayaza, Kireka, and Odramachaku markets respectively, where ERIC members engaged participants through interactive fruit and water challenges. These fun challenges encouraged participants to adopt healthy habits and emphasized the importance of early detection in cancer prevention. Winners received aprons and were appointed as breast cancer ambassadors in their communities.







Various exciting moments of fruit and water challenges by participants in Gayaza market.





The above reveals return demostrations from individual participants.







Winning participants were awarded aprons and made ambassadors of breast cancer awareness in the market community.





A picture (left) of participants having a watermelon for a fruit challenge while (right) showing



our coordinator sharing knowledge with the participants in Kireka market



Awareness efforts extended to informal community settings like salons, savings groups, and home gatherings. This approach allowed ERIC to connect with individuals on a personal level, engaging women in discussions about breast health.

School and Worship Center

Outreach: Through partnerships with schools, churches, and mosques across the Central and Northern regions, ERIC provided breast cancer education to students and worshipers alike. The leadership teams at these institutions played an integral role in facilitating these impactful sessions.

HER Working Women **Monthly Meet-up:**

ERIC collaborated with the HER Working Women group, providing education on breast cancer awareness at their monthly meetings, resulting in the early detection of two potential cases for further screening and support.







Ayakaka Doreen leading an awareness session in Odramachaku market Arua city.



Photos of ECI members Sharita during a session at Motiv (HER working women monthly meetup).

Dance Workouts and Health Education: In one of the outreach sessions, Aisha, an ERIC team member, led a dance workout for a group of women, combining fitness with breast cancer awareness.





A group of women participants before and during a dance work out with Aisha our ECI member.





Ayakaka (right) with participants in Oyooze cell and Jovia (left) demonstrating the SBE at Sarahs salon Gaza land.









Group of students of st Marys Ediofe school and participants of Masjid Khadijah mosque.

Trainer of trainees (TOT): Eric Cancer Initiative continuously empowered and equipped 41 Village Health Teams (VHTs) individuals to take ownership of their services. Local council leaders help by identifying and working with these teams, making sure the outreach is broad and inclusive. This strategy helps them continue their mission of reaching every woman, even with their limited full-time staff.





In the photos are a group of VHTs after an orientation of our breast cancer outreaches with team member Jovia.

Breast Cancer Run Press Conference

On September 19, 2024, ERIC held a press conference at Kampala Serena Hotel to officially launch the Breast Cancer Run, a major milestone in raising awareness about breast cancer and generating support for crucial screening services. Sponsored by Nation Media Group, the event gathered stakeholders and supporters dedicated to making a lasting impact on breast cancer care in Uganda.

The Run is a fundraiser event whose funds were earmarked for a breast cancer screening Van. This mobile unit is intended to reach underserved communities, offering affordable early screening services to women who might otherwise lack access. By bringing these vital resources directly to disadvantaged areas, the screening van will bridge significant healthcare gaps, ensuring more women have the opportunity for early detection and timely care.

Through this mission, ERIC is working to ensure that life-saving breast cancer screening is within reach for all.



Pictures of the various sponsors of the breast cancer run during and after the press conference.



The Eric Cancer Initiative's Commitment to Supporting **Breast Cancer Patients.**

Eric Cancer Initiative takes pride in supporting individuals who reach out to them for guidance and support. A notable case this month involved @asio80, who contacted them via TikTok with concerns about a breast lump. After being encouraged to seek medical attention, she was diagnosed with Stage IV breast cancer. Despite the difficult diagnosis, @asio80 expressed deep gratitude for the support and counseling she received from their team. And they remain in contact with her as she undergoes treatment and continue to offer her emotional and practical support during this challenging time.







Pictures of Suspected Breast Cancer Cases Identified During Screening Camps

Faces of Courage



Children Breakfast Program

In September 2024, during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month (Gold Month), Faces of Courage launched a special breakfast program to ensure that every child in the cancer ward received a nutritious start to their day. With the support of the Kampala Metropolitan Rotary Club and other partners, the initiative provided milk, millet, a bun, an egg, and a banana each morning, helping to bridge a critical nutrition gap. This initiative served a total of 2,541 child patients in September alone.

In addition to the breakfast program, Faces of Courage provided transport for two volunteers over eight weekends and organized a special event for cancer survivors, with the support of various partners including schools, the Electricity Regulatory Authority, and the Kampala Metropolitan Rotary Club.

Despite facing challenges due to a sudden increase in child patients—from 80 to 120 per day—resulting in budget constraints, Faces of Courage remains committed to supporting the children and their families through these difficult times.

Through these efforts, Faces of Courage has not only helped meet the nutritional needs of young cancer patients but also created a sense of community, providing vital emotional support to both patients and their caregivers.



Nama Wellness

The table below summarizes the key activities related to cancer screening and treatment conducted by Nama Wellness.

Description	Q3 Figures
Number of women screened for cervical cancer.	155
Number of with precancerous lesions successfully treated using cryotherapy.	11
Number of women screened for Breast cancer	10
Number of Suspected Cancer Cases	1



Soleterre Foundation

The Soleterre Foundation Uganda, in partnership with local organizations, has undertaken various impactful initiatives to support childhood cancer detection, care, and psychological support for families in Northern Uganda and surrounding regions. Through media campaigns, health worker training, p rovision of meals, accommodation, transportation, counseling and ambulance services. Soleterre Foundation has made significant strides in improving access to cancer treatment and care for affected children and their families. Here's a snapshot of their activities and achievements from July to September 2024:

Activity	Desciption	Numbers
Early Detection	Talk shows conducted	18
	People reached with childhood Awareness message via media	80000
	Health Facilities reached	20
	Health workers trained	63
	New beneficiaries enrolled	110 (55 children and
		their caregivers
Cancer Care Services	Ambulance Service Provided	26 families
	Accommodation and Nutrition Support	290 individuals (145
		children, 145
		caregivers)
	Home visits conducted	8
	Psycho-Education Sessions	12 sessions, 121
		people (31 children,
		89 parents)
	Emergency Cash Support for Transport	38 Families
Psychological Support	Phone-call based follow-ups conducted	97
	Psychological assessment sessions conducted	201
	Beneficiaries that received Psychosocial support	121
	Counseling sessions conducted	134
	Group Therapy sessions conducted	21
	Primary learners education sessions conducted	133
	Recreation activities organized	20
	Number of families receiving bereavement support	11
	Number of Cancer Educational Flip Charts distributed	24
Mortality Monitoring	21 children	

Kawempe Home Care

Fundraising Campaign to Secure the New Hope Children's Hostel

Kawempe Home Care launched a fundraising campaign to raise 270 million UGX to purchase the New Hope Children's Hostel, a facility providing accommodation and care to children battling cancer. The property, which accommodates 30 children and 30 caregivers at any one time, has been put up for sale by the landlord, with a deadline for purchase set for December 15, 2024. Without the necessary funds, the hostel risks eviction.

The New Hope Children's Hostel offers food, accommodation, transport, and psychosocial support to children and their caregivers during treatment. To save this life-saving facility, Kawempe Home Care has mobilized a variety of efforts, including community events such as awareness activities, online campaigns leveraging social media to reach global donors, and partnerships with organizations and individuals passionate about child health and cancer care.

This collective effort has already gathered significant support, but much remains to be done. Every contribution, no matter the size, will bring Kawempe Home Care closer to securing a permanent home for these vulnerable children and ensuring they continue to receive the stability and care they need.

You can support this campaign by:

- 1. Donating directly through Kawempe Home Care or Uganda Cancer Society's platforms
- 2. Spreading the word about the campaign on social media and within your community.
- 3. Partnering with Kawempe Home Care to amplify the initiative.





Flyers designed to raise awareness and mobilize resources for the purchase of a hostel that provides accommodation for children with cancer

Upcoming Events

#	Organisation	Event	Date	Reason
1.	ERIC Cancer Initiative	Breast Cancer Run	20.10.24	Mammography Van
2.	UWOCASO	Breast cancer Awareness Dance Workout	25.10.24	Patients Shelter
3.	Rays of Hope, Hospice Jinja	Ride Walk Run	26.10.24	Research and Patient Care
4.	Lumps Away	Jewelry-making Session	27.10.24	Engaging Survivors
5.	Kawempe Home care	Charity Fundraising	Up to 15.12.2024	To purchase a rented building and provide the children living with cancer a safe and secure permanent home by December 2024.
6.	Faces of Courage	Cancer Awareness Swimming Gala	14.12.2024	To raise awareness on childhood cancer and engage the community.
7.	Soleterre Foundation Uganda	Surgical camp	17th to 28th Nov 2024	To raise awareness on childhood cancers and offer free surgical sevices to community members

Our Partners























Our Members



























































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