



Fundraising collaboration to support Kawempe Home care

UCS members advocate for Tobacco Tax Increase

UCS in a training on Global Relay For Life



■ Editor's Note

Dear Members and Partners of Uganda Cancer Society,

As we celebrate the new year (2025), I would like to state that we have witnessed the end of another incredible year, and I want to take a moment to reflect on the journey we have shared together in 2024. The year was filled with challenges, triumphs, and countless stories that have shaped our work in the cancer control.

Throughout the year, our Newsletter has strived to bring you the very best in activities of your organisations, features, news on cancer control efforts by the State and non-state actors as well as news insights around the policy and planning terrain in the country. We have explored new horizons around online fundraisers, delved into complex issues such as advocacy for adoption of national cancer control plan, and celebrated cancer survivorship as an enhanced launchpad for patient-led and survivor-led advocacy in the cancer control space in Uganda

Our team has worked tirelessly to ensure that each Release of the Newsletter is a testament to our commitment to a Cancer Free Uganda and reflects our quest for effective coordination of civil society response and resources in the fight against the disease.

As we enter the New Year, we remain dedicated to our role of coordinating cancer civil society actors in Uganda. We will continue to provide you with meaningful content that resonates and sparks conversation. We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and the new stories waiting to be told including the final efforts to adopt the Uganda National Cancer Control Plan (2025/2026 – 2029/2030), National Development Plan IV (2025/2026 – 2029/2030), as well as efforts around finalizing on the National NCDs Strategic Plan.

Thank you for your continued support and for being part of our vibrant cancer community in Uganda. We wish you a prosperous 2025 filled with hope, happiness, and success.



As we enter the New Year, we remain dedicated to our role of coordinating cancer civil society actors in Uganda.



**Thank you,
Olodi Dennis**

Secretariat key engagements

Confirmation as the Global Relay Members

Uganda Cancer Society (UCS) is proud to announce its official membership in the Global Relay for Life (RFL) community, marking a significant milestone in its journey toward expanding cancer advocacy and support initiatives. This achievement follows a series of capacity-building trainings, held both online and in-person, which equipped UCS with the knowledge and tools to successfully implement Relay for Life activities in Uganda.

Joining the Global Relay for Life is a monumental step for UCS, as it connects the organization to a worldwide movement, uniting communities in the fight against cancer. Relay for Life events are not only fundraising platforms, but also opportunities to celebrate survivors, remember those lost to cancer, and inspire hope for a cancer-free future. As a member, UCS will benefit from shared resources, best practices, and collaboration with global partners, enhancing its ability to raise awareness, fund lifesaving programs, and offer support to patients and families.

For UCS, participating in the Global Relay for Life means more than hosting events. It signifies joining a global network committed to making a lasting impact on cancer prevention and care. This membership will enable UCS to mobilize communities across Uganda, fostering solidarity and resilience while emphasizing the importance of early detection, treatment, and healthy lifestyles.



Figure 1: UCS and some of her members in a training ahead of the confirmation



Figure 2: UCS board members pose for a picture after one of the trainings.



Figure 3: members pose for a picture with their Luminarias

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Training for UCS members on Uganda tobacco tax advocacy

On October 8th, UCS conducted a training session for its members focusing on tobacco control, tobacco taxation, and advocacy. The session brought together nineteen (19) participants, including representatives from organizations such as Lumps Away Foundation, Soletterre Foundation, Bless a Child Foundation, Rays of Hope Hospice Jinja, Uganda Women's Cancer Support Organization (UWOCASO), Cancer Information and Support Services Uganda (CISSU), Nama Wellness Community Centre, Eric Cancer Initiative, Uganda Child Cancer Foundation (UCCF), and three UCS Board members. Facilitated by Mr. Aziiz Agaba and Mrs. Kukunda Mable from the Uganda National Health Consumers' Organisation (UNHCO) and Ms. Asaba Linda from the United Nations Association of Uganda (UNAU), who are members of the Tobacco Taxation Coalition, the training aimed to enhance participants' understanding of the harmful

effects of tobacco use, its economic and health impacts, and the role of taxation in reducing tobacco consumption. Participants were equipped with advocacy skills to engage policymakers and stakeholders in campaigns promoting increased taxes on tobacco products. The training resulted in heightened awareness of tobacco as a risk factor for diseases like cancer, increased social media advocacy, and the recruitment of new advocates for tobacco taxation. By pushing for higher taxes, UCS and its partners aim to reduce the affordability of tobacco products, discourage smoking initiation, and lower consumption rates, contributing to the prevention of tobacco-related illnesses and the fight against cancer in Uganda.



Figure 4: members engage in interactive activity during the training

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Skill-Up Initiative

UCS concluded the year with its monthly Skill-Up sessions, held on the last Thursday of every month. These online training sessions continued to receive strong support and engagement from members. On October 31, Mr. Echodu Moses, Executive Director of the Uganda Child Cancer Foundation (UCCF), delivered a presentation on "Effective NGO Communication: Strategies for Impact and Engagement." To close the year, Mr. Mark Mayega led a session on "Best Practices in Social Media for NGOs." Both sessions attracted 17 to 25 participants, underscoring the members' commitment to capacity building and their dedication to enhancing workplace performance.

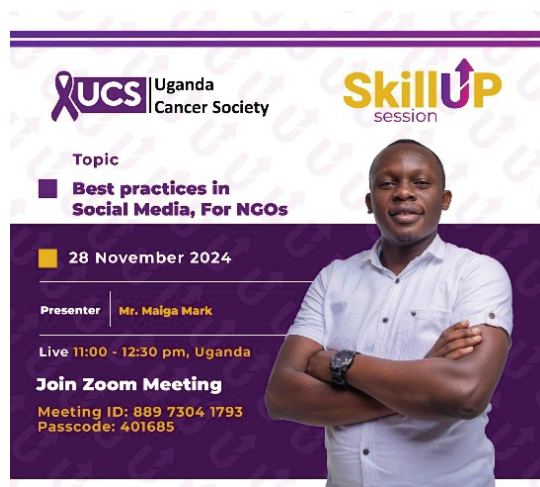
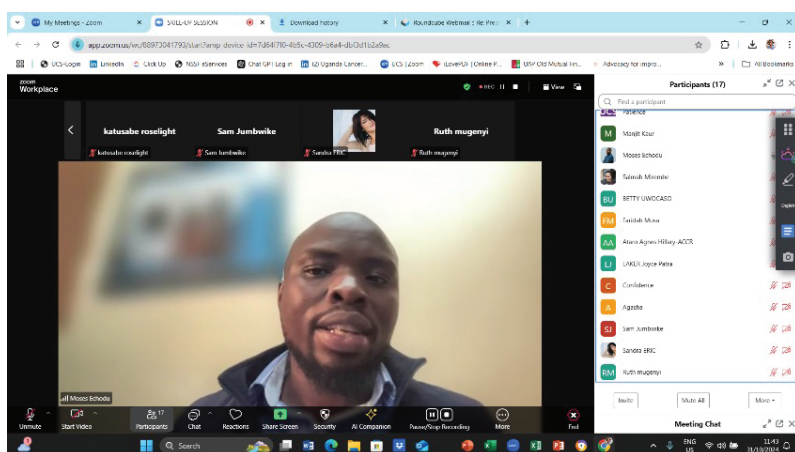


Figure 6: Moses making a presentation and Mark one of our fliers to publicise one of the skill-up sessions

Uganda Cancer Society's 2024 General Assembly Meeting (GAM)

On Saturday, October 5, UCS held its GAM, a governance platform, which allows UCS to present to its members, key events of the year and resources deployed on the same.

The AGM provided a platform to review UCS's performance over the past year, including updates on key projects, financial reports, and achievements in cancer advocacy, awareness creation, capacity building, patient support and Research. Members also discussed strategic activities for the coming year, focusing on strengthening partnerships, coordination, and expanding avenues for resource mobilization.

This gathering not only reinforced UCS's commitment to fighting cancer but also fostered unity among members as they reflected on their collective efforts and renewed their dedication to making an impactful difference in the lives of cancer patients across Uganda.

Given that the meeting happened in October, a month known for breast cancer awareness, Pink Colour was preferred as the dress code color for the GAM



Figure 7: Ms. Mirembe receives a membership certificate on behalf of Ahava Cancer Foundation and on the right members in attendance of the AGM

Fundraising collaboration to support Kawempe Home care

Kawempe Home Care is a childhood cancer-focused organisation located in Kawempe Division, Kampala. The organisation runs a patients' hostel service, focusing on children with cancer. KHC initiated a funds drive to acquire a permanent hostel facility to their name, a cause around which UCS mobilized its members and partners. On December 12, 2024, Uganda Cancer Society (UCS) reaffirmed its commitment to supporting its member organizations by contributing four million, three hundred fifty thousand shillings (UGX 4,350,000).

The funds were raised through a social media campaign, dubbed the "10K Challenge," which encouraged well-wishers to contribute a minimum of UGX 10,000 and share the initiative with ten (10) other friends, urging them to contribute and further spread the message. UCS was grateful for the support from its member organizations, including the Uganda Child Cancer Foundation (UCCF),

Soleterre, Eric Cancer Initiative, and Cancer Aid Organization, as well as individual contributions from UCS staff, board members, and their networks.

The funds raised are part of KHC's ongoing campaign to secure the future of the New Hope Children's Hostel, a facility that provides accommodation, meals, counseling, and transportation for children undergoing cancer treatment.

This partnership underscores UCS's dedication to fostering collaboration among its member organizations and fulfilling its mission of coordinating efforts in cancer control. By supporting KHC's initiative, UCS continues to demonstrate its commitment to strengthening cancer care services and improving the quality of life for those affected by cancer in Uganda.



Training to Private Health Facilities on the utilization of Cancer Education Materials

Capacity building is one of the core program areas of UCS. The organisation has developed initiatives that support capacity enhancement for health workers and civil society actors, among others. As such, on November 20th-21st, 2024, UCS conducted a two-day training session for twelve (12) representatives from six private health facilities in Kampala. This training aimed to equip the participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively distribute and utilize the Cancer Education Materials for Patients and Caregivers (CEMPCs-2nd Edition). The event was held at Mulago Guest House and was facilitated by two experienced trainers Dr.Jatho Alfred and Dr.Mugisha Noleb – both from Uganda Cancer Institute.

The training was part of UCS's ongoing efforts to enhance the accessibility of Cancer Education Materials for Patients and Caregivers. These materials play a crucial role in supporting patients and their caregivers in their cancer journey. The hospitals present included Nakasero Hospital, 3 Rivers Cancer Centre, St. Francis Hospital Nsambya, Kampala Hospital, C-Care International Hospital of Kampala, and Le Memorial Medical Services.

This training session not only focused on the distribution of the materials but also on ensuring that the representatives from these facilities are equipped to integrate CEMPCs into their patient care processes. At the end of the training each hospital was allocated materials to be distributed to newly diagnosed patients and their caregivers in their facilities. The facilities, through their representatives, expressed gratitude and requested further similar initiatives to be able to support cancer patients and their caregivers.

UCS looks forward to seeing these trained representatives successfully implement the distribution of CEMPCs and continue to make a significant impact in the fight against cancer in Uganda.



Figure 8: participants pose for a picture after the training in picture on the Right

Activities of UCS' members

Uganda Women's Cancer Support Organisation (UWOCASO) holds her 3rd Breast Cancer Awareness Dance Workout

On October 25, 2024, UCS joined UWOCASO for the third annual Dance Workout event. This year's event aimed to raise funds to provide shelter for cancer patients while promoting the importance of physical fitness as a vital component of maintaining good health. Through engaging aerobic dance exercises, the event highlighted the role of regular physical activity in preventing obesity, maintaining a healthy body weight,

UCS worked to contribute to the visibility of this event by publicizing it across our social media platforms. Additionally, we were involved in the sale of event kits and our team was also present at the event, participating in the workout.



Figure 9: staff of Uganda Cancer Society participate in the UWOCASO dance work out.



Rays of Hope Hospice, Jinja's Ride-Walk-Run

On October 26th, Rays of Hope hosted their sixth edition of its annual fundraising event, Ride-Walk-Run. The event aimed to raise awareness and address barriers in Uganda's fight against cervical cancer under the theme, "Detect, Treat, and Defeat." The occasion attracted a large and diverse crowd, including staff from the Uganda Cancer Society (UCS), who joined in solidarity to support the fight against cancer, particularly cancers affecting women. UCS's participation underscored the spirit of collaboration and unity in advancing cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment efforts in Uganda.



Figure 10: members of UCs and staff of UCS at the Rays of Hope Ride-Walk-Run event

ERIC Breast Cancer Run

Uganda cancer society stood with ERIC Breast cancer Run on 20th October 2024 with our team actively engaging in the sale of event kits, publicizing the event and attending the run to show our commitment to the cause. The funds raised from the run, were intended to go toward the acquisition of the mammography van. This mobile screening unit would bring much-needed breast cancer detection services to underserved and rural communities, helping women access timely screenings without the need to travel long distances.



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

Lumps Away Foundation's Jewelry making up skill Session

On October 27, 2024, in Mutungo, Lumps Away Foundation conducted its first Jewelry-Making Up-Skilling session for cancer patients and survivors. Aligned with its commitment to patient and survivor support, the session provided an opportunity not only to teach new skills but also to foster connection and sharing among participants. The event extended its impact to children from Kawempe Home Care, who joyfully crafted beautiful jewelry pieces to share with their friends. This session went beyond skill-building, offering a space for healing, empowerment, and community. Lumps Away looks forward to engaging more women and children in future events, continuing to harness creativity as a tool for transformation and support.

Figure 12: children with cancer engage in making bracelets and later display their finished goods



Activity	Description	Numbers
Early Detection	Talk shows conducted and the population reached	12 Radio Talk show
	Number of beneficiaries enrolled into family home services	66 (33 Kids & 33 Parents)
	Health Facilities reached with mentorship and support supervision on childhood cancer	21 (01 hospital, 02 H C IV and 18 H C III)
	Health workers reached with mentorship and support supervision.	84 (75 Male & 09 Female)
Accommodation and Nutrition	Accommodation capacity	38 Beds
	Beneficiaries reached with accommodation and nutrition	434 (217 Children and 217 parents)
	Number of parents mentored on nutritious porridge preparation	06 Sessions, (33 parents mentored)
Emergency Cash Support	Cash facilitation for Early detection	11 families supported
	Transport support to and from hospital	31 families supported
	Ambulance Service during referral to UCI	10 families
	Emergency Cash Support for bereavement Burial	08 families
	No. beneficiaries reached with home visit follow up	08 (4 boys & 4 girls)
	Number of Phone based follow-ups conducted	103 sessions reaching
Case Follow Up	No. of beneficiaries reached	73 (34 boys & 39 girls)
	Weekly Psycho-Education and sensitization Sessions	12 sessions (28 males and 64 female)
Psychological Support	Psychological assessment sessions conducted	127
	# of individual counseling sessions conducted	112 sessions (51 with children and 61 with parents)
	# of group Counseling sessions conducted	14 sessions (08 with children and 06 with parents)
	# of beneficiaries reached with psychological support.	45 children (30 boys & 15 girls) and 65 parents (31 male and 34 female)
Education	Number of lessons Conducted	250 Lessons (152 with ECD & 98 with Primary learners)
	# Recreation activities conducted with children with cancer	18 Session reaching 37 boys and 39 girls
	Number of learners reached with education services	60 ECD learners and 34 primary learners
	Number of Cancer Educational Flip Charts distributed	48 flip charts during mentorship and support supervision
Mortality Monitoring	Children Who Succumbed to Cancer during the reporting period	16 children (06 Boys and 10 girls)



Figure 1: Above: Soletterre Staff in Black and Oncology Doctor from St Mary's hospital lacor undertaking radio talk show on Radio pacis Gulu



Figure 2: Above, Soletterre Conducting weekly psycho education and sensitization with parents of children with cancer

Upcoming Events

#	Organisation	Event	Date	Reason
1.	UCS	World Cancer Day commemoration	4.02.25	Raise Awareness and advocate for improve service delivery
2.	UCS	CEMPCs 3rd Edition refresher Training	26th and 27th March	Train on the utilization of the current edition of the CEMPCs
3.	UCS	Community Engagement on Tobacco Taxation	14th 02.2025	Advocate for the increase in the taxes levied on cigarettes
4.	All Childhood Cancer Organisations	International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD)	15th 02.2025	Advocate for prioritization of childhood cancer services
5.	Lumps Away	Cervical Cancer Awareness Campaign	January	Raise Awareness
6.	Lumps away	Embracing inner beauty	March	Support cancer patients and survivors

Our Partners



Our Members





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