Uganda Cancer Society

Newsletter
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PAGE 3

GOVERNANCE



Uganda Cancer Society members and leadership convened for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 25th July 2026

PAGE 7

PARTNERSHIPS



A New Identity, A Renewed Commitment to Saving Lives. UCI marked two significant milestones: the unveiling of its new brand identity, “Life. Reimagined.”, and the successful discharge of its second bone marrow transplant patient.

PAGE 4

PATIENT SUPPORT



In partnership with Girls4Girls (G4G), We launched the Leadership for Early Detection, Advocacy and Peer Support (LEAP) programme.

EDITOR'S NOTE



As we reflect on the past three months, what stands out for me is that the strength of our cancer-control community lies in what we can achieve when we work together. Whether through sharing knowledge, supporting patients, empowering survivors or responding to needs within our health facilities, every effort contributes towards improving the lives of people affected by cancer in Uganda.

This quarter reminded us of the importance of having an active and connected membership. During our Annual General Meeting in July, members came together not only to reflect on our progress but also to openly discuss the challenges they face and how UCS can better support them.

We were equally encouraged to see our LEAP programme, implemented in partnership with Girls for Girls, take shape. Watching cancer survivors embrace opportunities to build their confidence, strengthen their leadership skills and prepare to support others has been particularly meaningful. We believe that people who have lived through cancer have so much more to offer beyond sharing their stories. Their experiences, knowledge and voices deserve a place in shaping the programmes and services intended to support them.

As you read through this edition, I also invite you to think about the role you can play. Cancer continues to place a significant financial and emotional burden on individuals and families, and there are many ways we can make a difference. Through our LEAP and Cancer Early Detection Fund (CEDEF) fundraising initiatives, we are creating opportunities for everyone to contribute, whether by supporting a survivor's participation in leadership training or helping us bring cancer screening services closer to communities.

To our members, partners, supporters and everyone who continues to walk this journey with us, thank you. Your efforts, however big or small, are what keep this work moving forward.

I hope this edition inspires you to connect with another organisation, support an initiative, share information that could save a life or simply find a new way to contribute to the cancer-control effort.

Because ultimately, a stronger cancer-control community is one that leaves no one to face cancer alone!

Brenda Nandutu
Programs officer, UCS

2026 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

On 25 July 2026, UCS convened its Annual General Meeting at the Global Oncology Research Centre, Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI). The meeting brought together member organisations to review progress, reflect on collective achievements, and identify priorities for strengthening collaboration and coordination within Uganda's cancer-control community. A key milestone was the review, improvement and adoption of the UCS Board Charter, reinforcing the Society's commitment to effective governance and institutional accountability.

During the discussions, members raised concerns about challenges encountered when renewing their registration certificates with the NGO Bureau. They called upon UCS to strengthen its advocacy and coordination role by engaging relevant authorities to facilitate smoother renewal processes and organising capacity-building sessions to equip member organisations with the knowledge and skills required to meet regulatory and documentation requirements.

Delivering the keynote address, Ms. Tina Wamala emphasised the importance of strategic networking, encouraging member organisations to proactively cultivate meaningful partnerships, leverage collective strengths and explore opportunities beyond their individual programmes.



Figure 1: Left: UCS members participate in the Annual General Assembly

LEAP Moves from Partnership to Practice

Following the Uganda Cancer Society – Girls4Girls partnership, the LEAP programme began engaging its first cohort of cancer survivors and NGO representatives in a structured leadership journey. The programme aims to equip survivors to become trusted voices for early detection, cancer advocacy, patient navigation and peer support.

An online information session was held in July, followed by the first training session on 22 August and the second on 19 September 2026. Sessions covered building trust and understanding cancer as a disease, as well as negotiation & Advocacy for Self, Patients and the community. The sessions brought together and average of 31 participants with the majority being Survivors. These engagements have been made possible through the generous support of Stanbic Bank and individual donors, whose contributions have helped facilitate survivors' participation, including the provision of meals and transport for in-person sessions.

LEAP recognizes that survivors' experiences are not simply personal stories, they are a resource for better-informed cancer awareness, responsive support and stronger participation in decisions affecting people living with cancer.



Figure 2: Left: A participant paints the colour symbolising the type of cancer she survived. Right: Participants pose for a group photograph.

Faces of Courage Extends Compassion Through Bed Donation

In September, UCS celebrated member organisation Faces of Courage for donating 10 beds to the Solid Tumor Centre ward at Uganda Cancer Institute. Inspired by observing patients and health workers facing difficult ward conditions, the organisation responded to a need beyond its usual focus on children affected by cancer.

The donation demonstrates how member organisations can strengthen the wider care environment through practical, dignified support. UCS commends Faces of Courage for translating compassion into action and reminds partners that patient-centred care includes comfort, safety and respect.



Figure 3: Representatives from Faces of Courage officially hand over 10 beds to the Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI) in support of improved patient care and comfort

September Gold: Standing with Children Affected by Cancer

Throughout Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in September, UCS used its digital platforms to draw attention to the experiences of children living with cancer and the families who care for them. Under the "September Gold" message, the Society encouraged the public to learn warning signs, seek medical advice promptly for concerning symptoms and support access to diagnosis and treatment.

Behind every gold ribbon is a child who deserves the opportunity to learn, play, grow and receive compassionate care. By amplifying the work of child-focused member organisations and reminding communities of the importance of timely care, UCS reaffirmed its commitment to making childhood cancer everyone's concern.

UCS also continued sharing public education messages encouraging people to pay attention to unusual or persistent symptoms, attend recommended cancer screening services, seek timely medical review and follow clinical advice during treatment. The emphasis was on practical action and accessible information rather than fear or stigma.

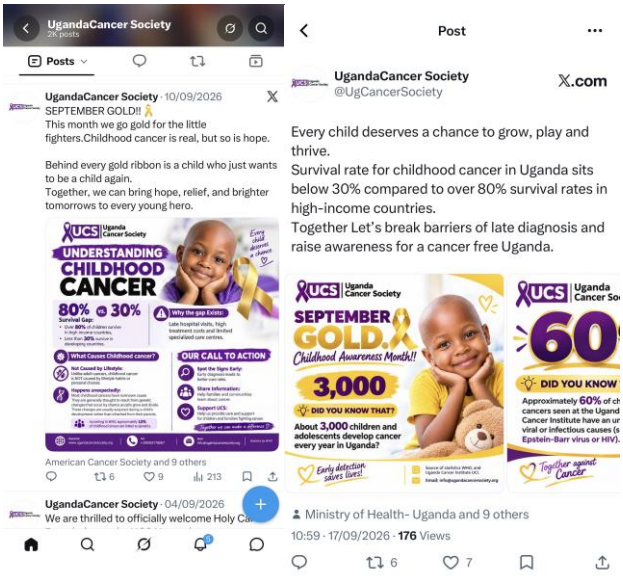


Figure 4: A selection of childhood cancer awareness messages shared across Uganda Cancer Society's social media platforms for September Gold

Welcome New members

We are pleased to welcome Esseza Paediatric Cancer Care Ministries Limited and Holy Care Foundation as our newest member organisations for this quarter. Their inclusion marks another step towards strengthening the Society's network of organisations committed to advancing cancer awareness, patient support, advocacy and improved access to quality cancer care in Uganda.

Esseza Paediatric Cancer Care Ministries Limited, also known as Esseza Ministries, is dedicated to providing care, support and hope to vulnerable children and families affected by childhood cancers and related illnesses. The organisation focuses on early detection and awareness, home-based care, psychosocial support, healthcare financing, survivor rehabilitation and caregiver empowerment. Through these interventions, Esseza Ministries seeks to reduce preventable suffering and improve access to timely, compassionate and comprehensive childhood cancer care.

Holy Care Foundation also joins the UCS membership network, creating opportunities for greater engagement, knowledge-sharing and collaboration with other cancer-focused organisations. UCS looks forward to learning from the Foundation's work and identifying areas of mutual interest that contribute to improved cancer-control outcomes.

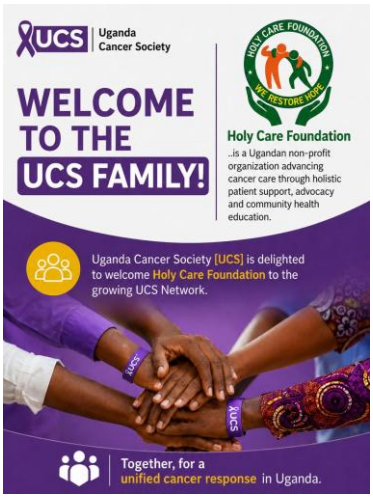


Figure 5: A flyer welcoming Holy Care Foundation

Uganda Cancer Institute Unveils New Brand Identity and Celebrates Second Successful Bone Marrow Transplant

On 10 September 2026, the Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI) marked two significant milestones in Uganda's cancer-control journey, the unveiling of its new brand identity under the theme "Life. Reimagined." and the successful discharge of its second bone marrow transplant patient. The refreshed identity reflects UCI's renewed commitment to advancing specialised, patient-centred cancer care while inspiring hope and redefining the possibilities of life beyond a cancer diagnosis.

The successful discharge of the second bone marrow transplant patient represents another important advancement in Uganda's capacity to provide highly specialised cancer treatment locally. This achievement highlights the growing expertise of Ugandan healthcare professionals and offers renewed hope to patients and families who previously had limited access to such treatment within the country.

Uganda Cancer Society (UCS), alongside several of its member organisations, was pleased to participate in the celebration of these milestones. We congratulate UCI's leadership and medical teams on these achievements, which represent significant progress in strengthening Uganda's cancer-care system.



Figure 6: Left: The UCI team poses for a group photograph with Mr. David Bongomin Awany as his successful discharge. Right: Representatives of Uganda Cancer Society member organisations pose for a picture with the ED-UCI at the milestone celebration.

Making Giving Easier: UCS Mobilises Support for Cancer Survivors and Early Detection

Uganda Cancer Society continues to create opportunities for individuals, corporate organisations and well-wishers to actively contribute towards improving cancer-control outcomes in Uganda. Through its online fundraising campaigns hosted on Akabbo, UCS is making it easier for supporters to contribute directly to specific initiatives, reinforcing the message that everyone has a role to play in cancer control. Two key initiatives currently seeking public support are the Leadership for Early Detection, Advocacy and Peer Support (LEAP) programme and the Cancer Early Detection Fund (CEDEF).

For many cancer survivors, the financial burden of treatment extends well beyond recovery. The high costs of cancer care can deplete household savings, disrupt livelihoods and leave survivors facing significant financial challenges. Some experience difficulties returning to employment or securing new jobs after treatment, making it challenging to afford additional opportunities for personal and professional development. Supporting their participation in LEAP therefore helps remove financial barriers that might otherwise prevent them from accessing valuable training, mentorship and leadership opportunities. Through public contributions, UCS seeks to cover participant training and facilitation costs, with approximately UGX 300,000 supporting one survivor's participation in the programme. Beyond building individual capacity, this investment empowers survivors to use their experiences to support others, promote early detection and advocate for more responsive cancer services.

Support a Cancer Survivor Through LEAP:

To make a contribution, click use the link below or simply scan the LEAP QR code

https://akabbo.com/c/leap-leadership-for-early-detection-advocacy-and-peer-support/



Through the Cancer Early Detection Fund (CEDEF), UCS is mobilising resources towards the purchase of a mobile cancer screening van to bring cancer screening services closer to communities across Uganda. The initiative responds to barriers such as long distances to health facilities, transport costs and limited access to screening services, which continue to hinder timely cancer detection. By supporting the acquisition of the mobile screening van, donors can contribute towards expanding access to screening, promoting earlier diagnosis and improving opportunities for timely treatment and better health outcomes.

Support Early Detection Through CEDEF:

To contribute towards the mobile cancer screening van, use the link below or simply scan the CEDEF QR code.

https://akabbo.com/c/the-cancer-early-detection-mobile-screening-van/



Be Part of the Change! Visit the fundraising links above to make your contribution. Together, we can empower survivors, bring cancer screening closer to communities and save more lives.