



**GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND  
FEDERAL STATES PROGRAMME**  
BUND-LÄNDER-PROGRAMM (BLP)



**Federal state – partner country**  
Saxony – Uganda

**Title**  
Strengthening Infectious Disease Capacity  
in Uganda

**In cooperation with the GIZ programme**  
University and Hospital Partnerships in Africa

**Financing arrangements**  
BMZ contribution € 346,000  
Saxony contribution\* € 230,000

\* This project is co-financed from tax funds based on the budget passed by the members of the Parliament of the Free State of Saxony.



**Duration**  
01.05.2021 – 31.12.2022

**Responsible ministry**  
State Chancellery of Saxony

This project helps to achieve the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



Dr. Charles Kabugo takes the delegation from Saxony on a guided tour of the laboratory at Kiruddu Referral Hospital (from left: Dr. Henning Trawinski, Christoph Schmitt, Dr. Amrei von Braun, Dr. Charles Kabugo, Dr. André Gerth)

## Strengthening Infectious Disease Capacity in Uganda

### Local situation

Antimicrobial resistance is increasing around the world and driving up the number of infections that are difficult to treat, with devastating consequences both for those directly affected and for global health. As a general rule, microbiological diagnostic testing to identify pathogens and cases of resistance is available to patients with infectious diseases in Kampala (Uganda) only as part of a scientific study or for the very small group of patients paying for themselves. The procedure for sending off samples for testing is complicated, and this delays the results. The lack of diagnostic facilities means that targeted treatment is not possible, and this has a significant impact on medical care for the majority of patients with infections, especially those with lower incomes. It is also important to understand that empiric treatment with very wide-spectrum antibiotics creates resistance.

*“Bacterial infections are a global challenge. Resistance to antibiotics restricts the options open to doctors around the world. The project helps us tackle this challenge, both in Saxony and in Uganda.”*

**Oliver Schenk,**  
State Minister for Federal and European affairs and  
Chief of the State Chancellery of Saxony



© Prof. Dr. Christoph Lübbert

The University of Leipzig Medical Center and Kiruddu Hospital share their international experience: Prof. Lübbert and Dr. Kabugo visit patients.

Infections and resistance to antibiotics are a global health problem that can be spread by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, particularly in countries with less developed health systems. The project's objective is to strengthen infectious disease capacity at Kampala's Kiruddu Referral Hospital (a teaching hospital) regarding prevention, diagnostics, treatment and measures to combat the further development and spread of multi-resistant bacteria.

## Cooperation arrangements

The project is part of the German Government and Federal States Programme (German: Bund-Länder-Programm; BLP). Its implementation partners in Germany – the State Chancellery of Saxony and the University of Leipzig Medical Center – are working with Kiruddu Referral Hospital in Uganda.

## What we are doing – and how

The University of Leipzig Medical Center and in Kampala both the Infectious Diseases Institute at Makerere University and the Kiruddu Referral Teaching Hospital have formed a partnership in order to draw up a strategy for achieving direct and sustainable improvements in the care of patients with bacterial infections. The strategy is designed to mitigate or prevent collateral damage due to COVID-19

and permanently strengthen the health system. The BLP project is setting up a modern microbiology laboratory at the Kiruddu Referral Hospital in Kampala to expand its diagnostic capacity. At the same time, the project is facilitating regular exchanges of knowledge and the introduction of a programme to support young doctors and scientists in Uganda and Saxony. A final conference will be held with experts from Saxony and Uganda and representatives of the responsible ministries to encourage the dissemination of knowledge acquired through the BLP in Uganda.

## Useful links

- Technical cooperation programme  
University and Hospital Partnerships in Africa:  
<https://hospitalpartnerships.org/>
- Kiruddu Referral Hospital:  
<https://www.kiruddu.hosp.go.ug>
- More information on the programme:  
<https://bund-laender-programm.de/en>  
<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/91262.html>  
<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/34949.html>

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