

## Community Engagement

The current population of Uganda at 40 million people and projected to hit 50 million people by 2025 will increase pressure on the already strained health systems. Mildmay believes that optimising capacity and meaningful engagement of all players in the sector shoulders the pressure on the health systems through implementation of proven prevention strategies. In our work, we have continued to engage local structures for health including community resource persons, Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and other private actors to build a well-coordinated response to health challenges facing the communities we serve and a resilient health system.

## Community engagement to Empowering Girls and Young Women to stay free from HIV

When Margaret Nalugo was growing up in the rural community of Kasaana, Kibaati village in Buweekula, her dream was to be a medical doctor with the aim of treating her mother and other children in the community. Her dream quickly faded when she dropped out of school after the death of her father. "My mother could not support me anymore and was left to fend for myself and the family. We went on for days without meals and basic necessities. We lived a miserable and appalling life," narrates Margaret. The situation was pathetic!

At 16 years old, Margaret, started having sex with men around the village to access basic necessities like soap, sanitary towels, food and supporting her mother. With peer pressure from fellow girls in similar conditions, Margaret was recruited into taking drugs and commercial sex work. "We moved from village to village, and across trading. No one cared about getting infected with HIV; we only worried about getting money," Margaret narrates.

Then a quick chart on DREAMS program at a DREAMS partner Office in 2017 with a counsellor changed her life. DREAMS is a PEPFAR-Funded public-private partnership designed to help girls in 10 sub-Saharan African countries develop into Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe women. In Uganda, Mildmay Uganda implements the DREAMS project in five districts in Central Uganda in partnership with Community based Organizations (CBOs). Mildmay Uganda is using an Asset Building Model approach to empower at risk, vulnerable girls by delivering a suite of "Protective Assets" and "Opportunity Opening" interventions. These interventions specifically focus on building three assets: Human Assets, Social Assets, and Economic Assets. Since its inception, DREAMS has reached over 36000 adolescent girls and young women with critical comprehensive HIV prevention to reduce their risk of HIV infection help them to know their HIV status, and ultimately prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Margaret was enrolled into the program after undergoing an HIV/AIDS test (that was the first in her life). "I knew that I was already infected with HIV based on my past history," she explained with excitement. She adds that her mother is now very proud of her. "My mother did not want to associate with me. I was a disgrace to the entire family. Today, my mother calls me best friend and always consults me on strategic issues in our family. Am happy that I could finally put a smile to my mother. Thank you DREAMS," she narrates.

11

Only Sero-conversions documented out of the 33,862 enrolled high risk AGYW since 2016

912

Community Resource Persons (CORPS) and peers Supported

27

CBOs and civil society organisations supported



Margaret Nalugo at her home

## Placing Research to Practice

Mildmay Uganda Center for Research and Strategic Information (MUCREST) hosts the Mildmay Uganda Research Ethics committee (IRB) that ensures ethical guidelines are followed by researchers while conducting research through ensuring participant's rights protection and also improving on the quality of research conducted in the country.

2014 Mildmay IRB was accredited

103 Study protocols reviewed

**MUCREST in partnership with Makerere University School of Public Health, & University of South Carolina with funding from International Initiative for Impact Evaluations (3ie) conducted the "HIV Self-testing" (HIVST) study for Partners of Women Attending Antenatal Care in Central Uganda, the study generated local evidence for inclusion of HIV self-testing in the national testing policy.**

**2017 National HIV testing policy reviewed to include HIV self-testing**  
**94% Acceptability of HIV self-testing**

The study further revealed that HIVST increases partner HIV testing compared to education and encouragement of partner testing, increases couple testing and knowledge of partner status and with the limited HRH. HIVST could potentially reduce provider workload by screening off HIV-ve individuals.

## Cost of our response



P.O. Box 24985 Kampala, Uganda +256 312 210200 / +256 312 210205  
 mailbox@mildmay.or.ug www.facebook.com/mildmayuganda MildmayUganda & MUGImpact



Message from the Executive Director

It is with great excitement that I unveil our 2017/2018 Annual Report marking the end of our 2013/2018 Strategic Plan period. We continued to Save Lives and contribute to the national transformation towards sustainable health improvement in our society and communities.

Our HIV prevention, care, treatment, and support services made significant contribution to achieving national health and development outcomes in eight districts that are crucial to national programming. Our Training and Education Directorate grew into a separate legal entity called The Mildmay Institute of Health Sciences (MIHS). The Institute was accredited nationally as an institution of higher learning and fully owned by Mildmay Uganda. MIHS registered outstanding progress on its journey to contribute to addressing critical gaps in human resources for health in Uganda. In order to grow our health care services to serve more people in the era beyond HIV epidemic control, we embarked on growing the Mildmay Uganda General Hospital. The Hospital provides general health care beyond HIV services. The Directorate of Research and Strategic Information (RSI) embarked on its growth journey to become the Mildmay Uganda Center for Research and Strategic Information (MUCREST). This bold stance in institutional growth necessitated the organisation to redefine itself as the Mildmay Uganda Group to effectively manage its autonomous and non-autonomous entities.

Out of our partnership with GOU ministries and Uganda's development partners, we became one of the apex implementing partners entrusted with core mandates in the national HIV response. I express my heartfelt gratitude to Government of Uganda, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Sports, Office of the President and other Government ministries, departments, councils and units. I thank the Embassy of the United States Government in Uganda, US Government departments and agencies, Uganda's Development Partners, District Local Governments, the Private Sector and the Civil Society fraternity (NGOs, CSOs, FBOs, CBOs, Networks) for your great partnership, and support. I thank the governance structures across the Group (the Board, the Council and Committees).

I thank the beneficiaries, clients, mothers, fathers, women, men, children, young people, families and households who choose to be part of this work in any form. Looking ahead, we have more to do, and I am confident that we are progressing in the right direction guided by our vision, mission and values buttressed in our next five years strategy. We are on track to fulfill our targets by making continuous improvements throughout to save lives.

Every day, I see staff and volunteers across the organization doing their best to save lives through our diverse program and business activities. Thank you for your dedication and commitment. Mildmay Uganda placed her trust in you, and you have proven again that you are worthy of that trust.

I welcome you to explore our 2017/2018 work presented herein.

The Journey continues from Good to Great.

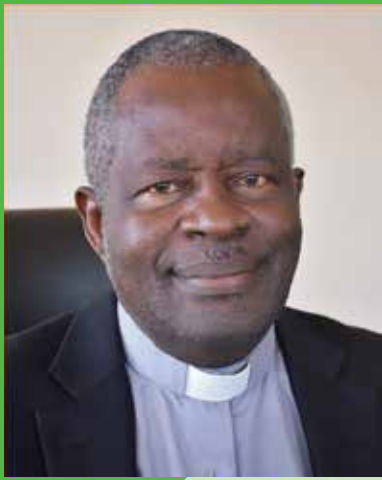
*Barbara Mukasa*

Dr. Barbara Mukasa  
Executive Director  
Mildmay Uganda Group



20 YEARS OF SAVING LIVES

Annual Report 2018



## Message from the Chairman Board of Directors

The year 2017/2018 was an extraordinary period during which we celebrated 20 Years of Mildmay's Life-Saving work in Uganda. Highlights during the period included: Graduation at Mildmay Institute of Health Sciences; Launch ceremonies of key studies at Mildmay Uganda Research Center for Strategic Information (MUCREST); transition of the Hospital to a 24 - Hour service; and continued stakeholder commendation of the impact from our projects.

This year's Annual report contains key milestones and evidence of our impact at community, national and global levels. Our growth is guided by the Mildmay Uganda 30 Year Masterplan that continues to focus us to more impact creation. Now, with the new Five Year strategic plan (2018/2023), our growth path is clearly defined. We will make an indelible mark to fast-tracking the end of HIV while maintaining attention to emerging health priorities. We will model delivery of quality healthcare to our communities. We will continue to make our indisputable contribution to addressing the Human Resources for Health (HRH) challenges in the healthcare sector. We will be an informed, constructive and influential voice in our health policy fora. We will consolidate our institutional capacity for sustainable contribution to Uganda's national growth. I am pleased to introduce our new Board Members appointed this past year, namely: Mrs. Merab Gaamuwa, Dr. Vincent Okoth Oketcho, Dr. Sarah Nakubulwa, and Ms. Sarah Kyejjusa. They bring with them extensive professional, corporate and board experience. I would like to thank Mrs. Vivian Kityo, Pastor Andrew Mwenge and Mr. James Kalibala who served on the Board so well. We appreciate them for their dedication as Board Members. They were an invaluable resource to Mildmay Uganda, providing strong leadership through a period of tremendous growth.

Finally, I would like to thank Government of Uganda and its development partners for their support to the work. I also thank the Board of Directors, all partners and stakeholders, clients, customers, communities and staff for your contribution and support. Without you, our success today and tomorrow would not be possible.

The Journey continues from Good to Great

Rev. Prof. Dr. Sam Luboga  
Chairman Board of Directors

## Our reach



**6.5 Million**  
People reached directly with Mildmay Uganda innovative solutions

## Our strategic next

Our efforts to saving lives will continue to be guided by the new strategic goals as laid out in our new strategic plan The journey continues. We purpose to save lives and be part of building a future for the most vulnerable Ugandans through focusing on our four interlinked strategic goals;



## In 2017/2018

**10,369**  
Estimated new HIV infections averted

**1,001,903**  
Estimated DALYs averted

## HIV Care

**107,132**  
PLHIVs supported on life saving drugs

**6,119**  
Children supported on life saving drugs

**2%**  
Mother To Child Transmission (MTCT) rate

## Maternal and Child Health

**5,700**  
Supported SBAs

## HIV Prevention

**660,502**  
Tested for HIV

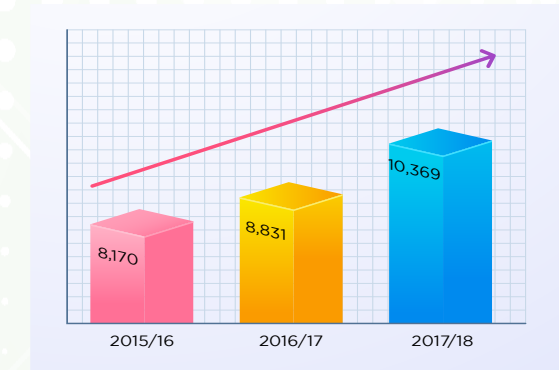
**956**  
KPs received Standard HIV package

**53,455**  
Reached with Voluntary Male Medical Circumcision (VMMC)

**4,000,000**  
Condoms distributed

**33,000**  
Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYWs) receiving a minimum of 3 HIV prevention

## Trend of Estimated new HIV Infections averted



## THE POWER OF STRONG HEALTH SYSTEMS

At Mildmay Uganda, we believe that human resources for health cannot optimally perform under sub-optimal health systems at all levels. Over 15 years of our work in systems strengthening for optimal service delivery have seen many facilities in over 336 facilities spanning 19 Districts deliver on their promise to the local communities they serve. Mildmay Uganda has thus strengthened health systems in the areas of lab service delivery, Comprehensive HIV service delivery, capacity building and tooling, Strategic information systems and governance.

## Bold milestones to ending HIV epidemic

With ending HIV epidemic at the center of National efforts, the national shared goal of reaching epidemic control is increasingly within reach today than ever and, once reached, increasingly sustainable. For 20 years, Mildmay Uganda has been part of this national journey and bold milestones have seen many lives saved in central Uganda.

For Veronica and her husband, accessing lifesaving drugs at Mildmay Uganda has made it possible for them to live healthier lives and enabling them to go about their work with less trips to health facilities to seek for treatment of HIV related illnesses. They epitomise what Mildmay Uganda has done for over 100,000 more others supported on the lifesaving drugs with funding from PEPFAR through CDC. This is however not to forget the over 50,000 people that have not yet been diagnosed and connected to vital health services in the areas we serve.

## Lab story



Closing this gap is critical to reaching the epidemic control and subsequently UNAIDS goal of 95-95-95 by 2020 where 95% of all people living with HIV will know their status, 95% of all people diagnosed with HIV infection will receive antiretroviral therapy (ART) and 95% of all people receiving ART will have an undetectable level of the virus.

In central Uganda, Mildmay has worked with over 19 districts to provide HIV prevention, counseling, testing and treatment services using a systems strengthening approach for sustainable outcomes and resilient health systems.

## Human resources capacity for optimal resilient health systems

We believe that healthcare without trained health workers can never be passable. The single most reason we have invested in training and education for human resources for health. Through our institute for health sciences offering a wide range of hands-on courses and training programs, Mildmay has trained over 12,000 health care workers who have become health care leaders in the communities they serve.

## Developing Health Professionals, Isaiah grows into a Laboratory Technician

24-year-old, Anthony Isaiah Ssekitoiliko is a former diploma student in school of Medical Laboratory Technology at Mildmay Institute of Health Sciences (MIHS) now serving as a laboratory assistant in the laboratory technology school at MIHS.

After high school I chose to pursue a diploma in medical laboratory technology because I believed it is the center of medicine in the sense that it is in the laboratory that tests are carried out on clinical specimens to obtain information about the health of a patient to aid in diagnosis, treatment and prevention of diseases. So I really wanted to be one of those people to give results to a doctor.

I thank MIHS for enabling me achieve my DREAM- Being one of the best laboratory technology school students 2015/2018. This is due to favourable learning environment characterized by extensive computing facility and well-stocked library with different reference books, well equipped training laboratory (a hands on to relate theory to practical), professional lecturers that follow-up on students' welfare and learning.

I want to encourage students that, it is fundamentally important to be determined; result oriented and use the available resources for your learning. I project my future to having developed academically and become a laboratory manager at a big health facility.

