

AFRICAN CENTRE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION



ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT, 2021.

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This report summarizes the activities undertaken by ACHEST during 2021 as follows.

1. Institutional governance

During the year the operations of ACHEST continued to be influenced by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Most staff worked from home and SOPs observance was maintained. The weekly staff meetings, national and international engagements were conducted virtually. These virtual meetings have increased considerably and occupy time in order to prepare and participate effectively. ACHEST visibility and relevance has been highlighted by these engagements.

Governance arrangements were reviewed with the creation of a Consulting department and a new organogram. The number of staff on the regular payroll was reduced and the emoluments were also adjusted down to respond to available resources. Governing Board meeting all took place on schedule.



Figure 1: ACHEST Board of Directors take a group photo after a meeting on November 25, 2021

2. Leadership and Governance of Health Systems

2.1. Community Engagement for COVID-19 Response:

ACHEST continued to provide national leadership in the Community Engagement Subcommittee of the National Taskforce for COVID-19 Response. Weekly meetings take place virtually and well attended by GoU and Partners providing guidance to District and Sub-district structures in the fight against COVID-19. Special support was provided to the four Pilot Districts of Amuru, Busia, Mukono and Ngora with a grant from JICA where the CES was implemented to scale. Village Health Teams were provided training, equipment and supervision; including activation of Village Covid Taskforces to promote Community Dialogue and social cohesion. As a result, there was a marked improvement in all monitored health indicators and household hygiene and sanitation. These results will be shared with policy makers in and outside Uganda.



Figure 2: Homemade Tippy Tap at Entrance of Households



Figure 3: A model Home in Amuru district

2.2. World Bank/MoH Mentorship Project

ACHEST was contracted by MoH to provide consultancy services for clinical skills and mentorship for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health in 19 districts of the Bugisu and Teso regions in eastern Uganda. This project lasted 14 months and ends in April 2022. The project has improved the skills of frontline health workers at the Regional Referral Hospitals, district hospitals and lower level health centers. The project also addressed leadership and management capacity of political and administrative leaders in the districts. The supportive role of Health Professional Associations was also utilized.



Figure 4: A group of mentors including: Professor Kaye and Dr. Kazibwe in a session with interns at Soroti Regional Referral Hospital

2.3. WHO Global Malaria program

WHO engaged ACHEST to organize a meeting on rethinking malaria in Africa in collaboration with identified stakeholders and African thought leaders from 10- 11 June, 2021. The meeting proposed a road map of actions towards a high level political African malaria event.

2.4. Advocacy for Health systems

ACHEST participated in many national and international meetings virtually in advocating for just and pro-people health systems, affordable health care, working with groups such as Network of African Parliamentary Health Committees (NEAPCOH), the Health Committee of the Parliament of Uganda, the UK All Party Parliamentary Group on Health, African CDC, The Tropical Education and Health Trust (THET), etc.

As part of advocacy, a number of publications were issued by ACHEST as Blogs, journal articles and social media postings.



Figure 5: Dr. Patrick Kadama addressing a Network of African Parliamentary Committee

3. Human Resources for Health

3.1. Support to Health Workers in Uganda

ACHEST supported the Uganda Medical Association and the Federation of Uganda Medical Interns during negotiations with HE the President, the Prime Minister and GoU on conditions of service, regulation of education and training for which industrial action that had been taken. This resulted in agreement by government to enhance salaries, improve working conditions and employ more health workers.

3.2. Induction Training of New Interns

ACHEST organized a one-day training program to prepare newly qualified health professionals for entry into the public service in Uganda. This work is supported by a grant from Health Education Partnership (HEPI) to Makerere College of Health Sciences. A Hand Book on this training program has been developed by ACHEST in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Makerere University.



Figure 6: Prof. Omaswa receives an award from the from one the medical interns



Figure 7: ACHEST receives a certificate from the Federation for Uganda medical interns

3.3. Global Nursing Now Campaign

The global campaign to increase the visibility of the Nursing and Midwifery profession was extended by one more year to 2021. ACHEST ED is a member of the Governing Board for this campaign. The key achievements of this campaign are the adoption by the World Health Assembly of a Resolution on the Nursing and Midwifery profession, the creation of the Uganda Nurses and Midwives Association, legal services provided pro bono by Prof. Frederick Ssempebwa, who is ACHEST Board member. The Nightingale Challenge

Scholarships for young nurses on leadership has been established and some Ugandan nurses have benefitted.



Figure 8: Nursing now Global Board meeting at Hilton Garden Inn Kampala, Uganda

3.4. WHO Code on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel

ACHEST has continued to advocate for the application of this Code in the international movement of health workers from poor to rich countries and supports African countries to report every three years to WHO on the performance of the Code. ACHEST ED is a member of the WHO Expert Committee that reviewed the performance of the Code following ten years of implementation. There is evidence that Uganda health workers are being recruited and are leaving the country. The GoU needs to do more to take full advantage of the Code.

3.5. The Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET)

THET partnered with ACHEST and Esther Alliance to host the second conference on COVID-19 Partnerships. The conference was held under the theme: “COVID-19 Partnerships in the

International Year of Health and Care Workers: Protect. Invest. Together.” This is in line with the World Health Organization year-long campaign to recognize health workers for their dedication and resilience in fighting the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Later in the year, ACHEST and THET partnered to host 3 symposia on the role of the UK in ethical recruitment of health personnel. These were closed meetings. However, a report from these meetings has been published and is available on the websites of the organizations.

3.6 ECFMG/FAIMER Health Systems and Education

ECFMG/FAIMER engaged ACHEST to gather web-based information on health systems and education in 12 African countries. The research included systems for training, evaluation, certification and regulation of physicians at country level. This information is of relevance to prospective medical students, medical graduates seeking post graduate training in another country and regulatory agencies charged with evaluating the qualifications of international medical graduates. A second study involving 12 more countries is planned during 2022.

4. Strategic Communication

4.1. Use of Social Media

The ACHEST Communication Officer is very active on tweeter, face book and other social media in promulgating ACHEST positions on health issues and our visibility has been greatly enhanced as a result.

4.2. Blogs and Webinars

ACHEST issues regular Blogs in the media, Ashgovnet discussion group and convenes Webinars as well as joining with multiple partners on global health. These provide an opportunity for advocacy, networking and leadership in advancing pro-people health. This is also an avenue for showcasing ACHEST work on UHC, Inter-sectoral collaboration and Community Health systems.

4.3. Africa Health Journal

ACHEST continued to publish the AHJ quarterly during the year. The readership of the journal has increased and there is a queue of requests from global institutions to publish their work in the AHJ. More work needs to be done to attract advertisements in the journal.

5. Recognitions and awards

5.1. *Giants of Medicine in Uganda*

The ACHEST Executive Director, Prof. Francis Omaswa, was one of the 26 medical doctors that was recognized by the Uganda Medical Association (UMA), for their dedication and service to humanity and health care in a publication titled “The giants of Medicine in Uganda.” It features inspirational real-life stories from the very first medical doctors in Uganda. Most of them are from humble backgrounds, and have risen to become exceptional leaders nationally, regionally, and globally.

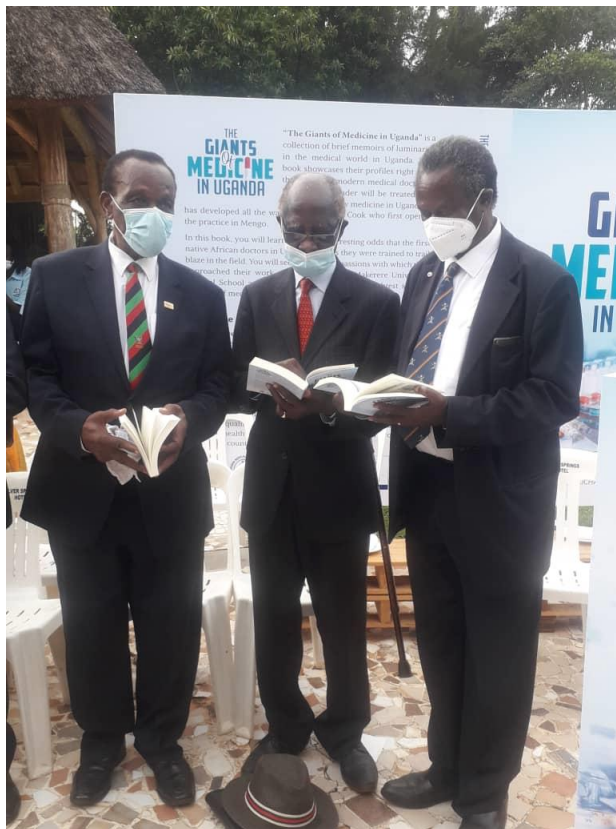


Figure 9: Professor, Francis Omaswa together with Dr. Charles Olweny and Professor George Kirya during the launch of the book “The giants of Medicine in Uganda.”

5.2. *International Advisory Committee on NCDs*

In July 2021 The ACHEST Director of Health Systems and Health Promotion, Dr. David Okello was appointed to the International Advisory Committee of the World Federation for Non-

Communicable Diseases (NCDs). The committee is tasked with overseeing the work of the Center of Excellence for Evidence Based Research on NCDs in low-and-middle income countries; and the utilization of the evidence generated through systematic reviews and meta-analyses.

5.3. African Forum for Education and Research in Health (AFREhealth)

Dr. Elsie Kiguli-Malwadde was elected as President of the AFREhealth effective from August, 2022. She has been Vice President for the last two years. AFREhealth brings together all health professional education and research institutions in sub-Saharan Africa. The secretariat is hosted by the Kwame Nkrumah University in Kumasi, Ghana.

5.4. World Health Summit

ACHEST participated at the first World Health Summit (WHS) Africa Regional Meeting held in Munyonyo and virtually from the 27- 29 of June, 2021. The ED received an award of recognition as a promoter and member of the Scientific Committee. The Summit was addressed by President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and Dr Tedros, the Director General of WHO.



Figure 10: The ED ACHEST Professor Francis Omaswa was in a panel discussing on Global Surgery during the World Health Summit held in Munyonyo