

PD-ABR-496

UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT LINKAGES PROJECT

Case Western Reserve University-Makerere University
Public Health Linkage

USAID Cooperative Agreement No PCE-5063-A-00-2040-00

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT FOR YEAR 6

September 29, 1997 - September 28, 1998

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INTRODUCTION

This report describes the activities of the sixth and final year of this USAID/UDLP linkage between Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) in Cleveland, Ohio and Makerere University (MU) in Kampala, Uganda. At CWRU the linkage has been based in the Center for International Health (CIH) and at MU it has been based in the Institute for Public Health (IPH). The reach of the collaboration has extended far beyond the home units at both institutions, however.

Both universities are distinguished centers of biomedical education. MU was originally founded by British colonialists under the leadership of Sir Albert Cook, it became the premier medical school in colonial East Africa and the IPH the only degree-awarding school of public health. CWRU, cited 70 years ago in the Flexner report as one of only two North American medical schools with a science-based curriculum (Johns Hopkins was the other), introduced a revolutionary organ system-based medical curriculum in the mid 1950s. It is a major biomedical research university, ranking tenth nationally in National Institutes of Health.

During the Idi Amin/Milton Obote wars of the 1970s and 1980s, medical education all but collapsed in Uganda. The IPH was left with only two faculty members, no course offerings, and no enrolled students. When the USAID/UDLP program was announced, CWRU had already initiated a research collaboration with MU focused on AIDS and tuberculosis, which were and still are Uganda's two most important public health problems. We at CWRU saw the USAID/UDLP program as an opportunity to expand our efforts beyond those of our focused research and to help our Ugandan colleagues rebuild their once prestigious institutions of biomedical education. Our objectives were drawn accordingly.

We believe that our five years of UDLP collaboration was highly successful. We were awarded a sixth year as a no-cost extension without additional funds. We planned a program of work for that year that we felt would emphasize activities likely to provide the basis for on-going, sustainable programs within our original objectives and that would bring activities not intended to be or capable of being on-going to an orderly end. We believe we have largely achieved this goal. We finish this extension year with a fund balance close to zero, and we think we have been good stewards of the money awarded to us.

This report begins with a review organized by objectives as originally proposed six years ago and within each objective by activities as described in our work plan for this extension year submitted on July 28, 1997. Sections on sustainability, problems encountered, environmental impact, section II 6 (B), and the "Y2K" problem follow.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES DURING YEAR 6 BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND WORK PLAN ACTIVITIES

Objective 1 To strengthen the collaboration between CWRU and Makerere University

Activity 1 1 Maintain communication between CWRU and MU faculty

As we have noted, communication with our Ugandan colleagues has been a problem throughout, although it is becoming easier. There is first the problem of infrastructure. Telephone service (and fax) is reasonably reliable but expensive (especially for Uganda to Cleveland calls) and impeded by an 8 hour time difference. Email reaches the IPH in Uganda via a satellite receiver on the main MU campus, but then must travel across town on local telephone lines that are not well maintained. However, the greatest impediment to all communication is a cultural one. In North America we are accustomed to instant availability and universal access. In Africa, the whereabouts of individuals is not generally known to their offices, voice mail does not exist, and email is rarely checked. As a result, our efforts to communicate with Ugandans must seem like merciless bombardment to them, while their responses seem like a slow trickle to us. Thus, other forms of communication, including faculty encounters and binational conferences, are of great importance.

Activity 1 2 Faculty encounters

Our program of faculty encounters was severely limited by our budget for this extension year. Professor Sana Loue of the CWRU Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics went to Uganda during the summer of 1998. Her agenda included activities related to several CWRU-MU collaborative programs, and our USAID/UDLP program accordingly paid only a portion of her expenses. For our program, she has served as a consultant to the Busiro North District Health Project, and she met with Drs. Fred Wabwire-Mangen and Imelda Simbe for this purpose during her visit.

Activity 1 3 Evaluation of the September 1997 Uganda Conference

By all measures, this conference was very successful. It brought many CWRU and MU faculty members together. Importantly, it brought Nathan A. Berger, the recently appointed Dean of the CWRU School of Medicine to Uganda. We provided opportunities not only for him to hear a review of our collaborative efforts at the conference but also individual meetings with the Vice-Chancellor, Dean of Medicine, and other key MU faculty members. He is now a strong supporter of this collaboration, and that is of great importance to its sustainability.

Activity 1 4 Busiro Community Health Project

The Busiro North District is a rural district about 30 kilometers northwest of Kampala. Although roads in the district are unpaved and many are suitable only for foot or mule traffic, a main paved road from Kampala passes through the district. The district has three health posts, all functional but in varying states of repair, but no hospitals. The faculty of the IPH identified this district as one suitable for both educational purposes and community-based research. Funds from the ministries of education and health were committed to maintain health records in the health posts and provide the additional facilities for education and research, but there was a need for initial funding for the purposes of conducting a base-line health census and health needs survey and for training of the district health workers in the modalities necessary for the conduct of long term health care research and community-based medical education. After review with Drs Gilbert Bukenya and Fred Wabwire-Mangen at the IPH, initial visits to Busiro North by Drs Thomas Daniel (UDLP Project Director) and Christopher Whalen, CWRU Associate Professor of Epidemiology, and assurance that the continuation of this project would be funded, we agreed to use USAID/UDLP funds for these start up costs. Dr Sana Loue agreed to serve as the CWRU consultant to the project. Although somewhat slowed by unusually heavy rains this year in Uganda, all of the planned work of training, census, and health needs survey was completed by late summer 1998.

Activity 1 5 Frederick C Robbins Conference in Cleveland

After the very successful conference in Kampala in September 1997, the CWRU faculty involved in collaboration with Uganda felt a need to hold a similar conference in Cleveland. This was done on June 18, 1998, and the conference was named in honor of Frederick C Robbins, distinguished University Professor, Nobel Laureate, CWRU Dean of Medicine Emeritus, and President Emeritus of the Institute of Medicine. Dr Robbins led the first delegation of CWRU faculty to Uganda in 1987, and has been a leader in our collaborative efforts since. Although not in our original plan of work, we had no hesitation in joining with the CWRU Tuberculosis Research Unit in sponsoring this conference and providing partial funding. In particular, the USAID/UDLP paid for the travel to the conference of the Honorable Crispus Kiyonga, Minister of Health of Uganda, Professor John Ssebuwufu, Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, and Professor Nelson Sewankambo, Dean of Medicine of Makerere University. That these major leaders in Ugandan medical education came to this conference, met the academic leaders of CWRU in Cleveland, and participated in the conference program was of great importance both the assuring the sustainability of the CWRU-MU collaboration and to strengthening the position of the participating MU faculty members within their own institution.

Objective 2 To increase faculty capability at Makerere University

Activity 2 1 Plan and conduct faculty encounters to enhance MU faculty research and scholarship

The trip of Dr Sana Loue to Uganda in the summer of 1998, which as noted above was partly funded by the USAID/UDLP, was the only faculty encounter scheduled this year. At the same time, the two conferences held, the one in Kampala in September 1997 and the one in Cleveland in July 1998, provided opportunities for substantial dialogue between CWRU and MU faculty members.

Activity 2 2 Improve information retrieval at the Albert Cook Medical Library at MU

In March, 1998 we terminated the USAID/UDLP support of biomedical journal article retrieval in Cleveland for transmittal to Uganda. Support for this service as related to AIDS has continued under a separate AIDS program, but the need is much greater than that source can meet and it cannot provide long term funding. We are disappointed in the outcome of this project, as we felt at the onset that the outlook for sustained institutional funding and the development of internet connections in Uganda would assure either its continuation or its replacement by a minimal cost comparable service, neither of which came to pass.

Activity 2 3 Busiro District Health Project

As noted above, this project has been completed as scheduled.

Objective 3 To modernize public health curricula in the Institute of Public Health and in the Department of Nursing

Activity 3 1 Publication of District Health Manual

A District Health Manual written collaboratively by CWRU and MU faculty members was completed and published by Fithian Press in Santa Barbara, CA. 500 copies were shipped to Uganda in December 1997, a small number of copies have been retained by the publisher to fill any domestic orders, with any profits to be returned to the CWRU CIH. This manual is now being used in Uganda. It has been well received, and IPH faculty members have reported that they have found it of great use in their teaching.

Activity 3 2 Busiro District Health Project

As noted above, this project has been completed as scheduled.

Objective 4 To strengthen and broaden the capabilities of the CWRU Center for International Health

Activity 4 1 Conduct needs assessment and planning for more courses in international health at CWRU

Activity 4 2 Conduct needs assessment and planning for a Masters Degree in International Health at CWRU

Although informal discussions have continued at CWRU for both of these activities, no decisions have been reached and no detailed planning has been undertaken. It may be that the thinking of the leadership of the CIH is too far ahead of the faculty to move in these directions at this time.

Activity 4 3 Strengthen existing collaborations in Mexico

Substantial progress has been made in strengthening the ties between CWRU and the Instituto Nacional de Enfermedades Respiratorias (INER). A second continuing medical education course was held in Cleveland in May 1998 with Mexican participation of two faculty members, and a counterpart course in Mexico in September 1998 had three CWRU faculty members as lecturers. The CIH has continued to send elective medical students to INER, and we have had preliminary discussions with a private donor who seems interested in funding CWRU medical student fellowships at INER. A set-back in the research collaboration was sustained when Dr Elizabeth Rich, a major CWRU collaborator at INER, was killed in a tragic automobile accident in August 1998.

SUSTAINABILITY OF THE CWRU-MU COLLABORATION

There is no doubt that the CWRU-MU collaboration will be sustained for many years to come. During the course of its six year life, the USAID/UDLP program shifted from being a major component of that collaboration to being a relatively minor one, at least in terms of size and budget. We view that as an achievement in which we should take pride. Some of the individual projects we undertook this year---most disappointingly our efforts at the Albert Cook Library---will not be sustained, but most will, importantly including the Busiro North Health District Project and teaching with the District Health Manual. The people-to-people linkages we have established will most certainly endure. Some of those contacts are at the highest level of leadership of the academic leadership of the two institutions.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

We have mentioned the problems of communication and the delay in the Busiro Project caused by heavy rains. These have been minor---annoyances rather than real problems.

The greatest problem this year for our USAID/UDLP linkage has been the changing role of Gilbert Bukenya, the Uganda UDLP Project Director. When the linkage started, he was the Director of the IPH. Later, he became Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. While this change in his role meant he had less time to devote to the UDLP, it also meant that he had greater influence at MU. He remained then--as he does today---devoted to the collaboration. Thus, his shift to the deanship increased our communication problems somewhat but strengthened our position at MU. Later, Dr. Bukenya was elected to the newly formed Ugandan parliament. With this, he resigned the deanship, although keeping his IPH faculty appointment. Midway through the past year he became leader of the parliamentary caucus, a position analogous to Speaker of the House in American congressional terms. With this he was unable to devote any attention to the USAID/UDLP. Dr. Wabwire Mangen stepped in on an ad hoc basis for him, but had there been more than a few months remaining in our final, extension year we probably would have had to appoint Dr. Wabwire Mangen to the Ugandan Project Directorship. From the point of view of the CWRU-MU collaboration, Dr. Bukenya's move into political prominence in the reemerging democracy of Uganda is a positive event, for Dr. Bukenya is a strong supporter of CWRU and the collaboration, holds an adjunct professor appointment at CWRU, and is a personal friend of many of us at CWRU.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

There has been no impact on the environment in either Cleveland or Uganda from this linkage.

SECTION II 6(B)

USAID/UDLP funds received as a part of this program have not been used for any testing or breeding feasibility study, variety improvement or introduction, consultancy, publication, conference or training in connection with the growth or production in countries other than the United States of an agricultural commodity for export that would compete with a similar commodity grown or produced in the United States.

Y2K PROBLEM

No computers and no computer programs have been purchased or developed with USAID/UDLP funds. All work funded by the USAID/UDLP was completed by September 28, 1998. No Y2K problem will exist with respect to the USAID/UDLP project.



UGANDA-CWRU RESEARCH COLLABORATION



AGENDA

A Tribute to Frederick C. Robbins, M.D.

The Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the Uganda-CWRU Research Collaboration
Presentations of Successful Research Endeavors

June 18, 1998

CWRU School of Medicine/BRB - Frohring Auditorium (1st Floor)

- 8 15 - 8 45 Continental Breakfast
- 8 45 - 9 00 Welcome
Dr Nathan Berger, Dean, School of Medicine, CWRU
- 9 00 - 9 30 History of the Uganda-CWRU Research Collaboration
Dr Roy Mugerwa, Professor, Makerere University
- Collaborative Research Overviews
- 9 30 - 9 45 Tuberculosis Research
Dr Jerrold Ellner, Professor, CWRU & University Hospitals
- 9 45 - 10 15 Behavioral Research
Dr Janet McGrath, Associate Professor, CWRU
- BREAK
- 10 30 - 11 15 Training Activities
School of Nursing - Ms Joette Clark, Coordinator, African Programs, CWRU
AIDS International Training & Research Program/Fogarty International Center -
Mr David Hom, Director, TB Research & HIVNET Unit, CWRU
University Development Linkages Program - Dr Thomas Daniel, Professor
Emeritus, CWRU
- 11 15 - 11 45 Pediatric Research
Dr Laura Guay, Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins University
- 11 45 - 1 00 Luncheon Buffet served in the BRB Lobby
- 1 00 - 1 30 Comments from Distinguished Guests
Professor Nelson Sewankambo, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Makerere University
Professor John Ssebuwufu, Vice Chancellor, Makerere University
The Honorable Crispus Kiyonga, Minister of Health, Uganda

Research Presentations

- 1 30 - 1 50 Interventions to Prevent HIV Vertical Transmission
Dr Brooks Jackson, Professor & Vice Chairman of Pathology, Johns Hopkins University
- 1 50 - 2 10 Preventive Therapy of TB in HIV-Infected Adults
Dr Alphonse Okwera, Head, National TB Treatment Centre, Mulago Hospital
- 2 10 - 2 30 Preparation for AIDS Vaccine Evaluation Studies (PAVE) & AIDS Vaccine Studies
Mr David Hom, Director, TB Research & HIVNET Unit, CWRU
- 2 30 - 2 50 *Mycobacterium vaccae* as a Therapeutic Vaccine in TB
Dr John L Johnson, Assistant Professor, CWRU & University Hospitals
- 2 50 - 3 10 Predicting the Risk of Treatment Failure in Tuberculosis
Dr Robert Wallis, Associate Professor, CWRU & University Hospitals
- BREAK
- 3 30 - 3 50 Transmission of TB in Ugandan Households
Ms Annette Nassali, Student, Fogarty Training Program
- 3 50 - 4 10 Chemokines in HIV-associated Tuberculosis
Dr Harriet Mayanja-Kizza, Lecturer, Makerere University
- 4 10 - 4 30 Overview of New Collaborative Initiatives
Dr Jerrold Ellner, Professor, CWRU & University Hospitals
- 4 30 - 4 45 Closing Remarks
Dr Frederick Robbins, Professor Emeritus, CWRU