



The Republic of Uganda

UGANDA AIDS COMMISSION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

CONCEPT NOTE

THE 3rd NATIONAL HIV AND AIDS SYMPOSIUM 2023 FEATURING THE ANNUAL JOINT AIDS REVIEW, NATIONAL HIV AND AIDS SCIENTIFIC MEETING, AND PHILLY LUTAYA MEMORIAL (November 14th to 16th, 2023)

Theme: "My Contribution Towards Ending AIDS by 2030"



Uganda AIDS Commission
P.O BOX 10779, KAMPALA
May, 2023

1.0 Introduction/Background

1.1 Introduction

After over four decades of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Uganda, the epidemic is described as mature and generalized, but with concentrated sub-epidemics in key and vulnerable populations. The latest Uganda Population-based HIV Impact Assessment (UPHIA) estimated the HIV prevalence at 5.5% among the population aged 15 to 49 years with 1.43 million adults living with HIV (UPHIA 2020). Studies, however, indicate that HIV prevalence is 15-40% in fishing communities, 31.3 % among female sex workers, 18% in the partners of female sex workers, 12.7% in men who have sex with men and 18.2% among men in the uniformed services (PEPFAR 2018; Opio, Muyonga, & Mulumba, 2013; Seeley, Nakiyingi-Miir, et al., 2012; Asiki et al., 2011). In the 2022 Modes of Transmission study, 11% of all annual new HIV infections were estimated to occur in female sex workers (MoT, 2022).

Under the stewardship of Uganda AIDS Commission, Uganda has recorded success in the fight against HIV and AIDS from 1992 to date, with marked decline in HIV prevalence from 18% in 1992 to 6.4% in 2002 to 5.5% in 2020. There was a programmatic millstone of reaching the 'Tipping Point' in 2016, where the numbers enrolled on ART surpassed new HIV infections. However, epidemic control, where new HIV infections fall below mortality in those with HIV, is not yet attained. It is estimated that by the end of 2021, a total of 1.43 million persons were living with HIV. The number of new infections had declined by 60% from the 2011 figures (94,000 to 54,000). AIDS-related mortality had declined by 70% from 56,000 in 2010 to 17,000 (Uganda HIV & AIDS Fact Sheet; 2022).

1.2 Background

Uganda AIDS Commission (UAC) and partners developed the National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan (NSP) 2020/2021 – 2024/25 to guide implementation of the HIV and AIDS multi-sectoral response and align HIV and AIDS interventions to the key drivers

of the epidemic and other key national development plans. The NSP is aligned to the third National Development Plan (NDP III) and provides overall strategic direction for the national response under four broad thematic areas: (i) prevention, (ii) care and treatment, (iii) social support and protection, and (iv) systems strengthening.

To operationalize the NSP, UAC and partners developed a National Priority Action Plan (NPAP), which articulates activities by stakeholders for each strategic action. The NPAP spells out output results, time frame, and lead sectors for implementation of strategic actions. The M&E plan for the NSP lays out a framework for tracking and evaluating the interventions. UAC also worked with partners to develop the National HIV and AIDS Research Agenda 2020/2021 - 2024/2025. UAC therefore organizes the Annual National HIV and AIDS Scientific Meeting to provide a platform for programmers and scientists to discuss progress and challenges in implementation of the research agenda and the HIV response generally, and to dialogue on solutions to the challenges.

Since 2020, the Annual JAR and the Annual National HIV and AIDS Scientific meeting have been organized together as the National HIV and AIDS Symposium (NHAS) to leverage resources for both events. The NHAS 2022 occurred in an open space setting at Makerere University Business School in Nakawa, Kampala. The meeting combined the Scientific Meeting, the JAR presentation, the Philly Lutaya Memorial Lecture and associated events, the Financing Dialogue, and The Partnership Forum. The meeting was successful, was attended by many high-level participants, and had substantial community participation. The total number of registered participants was 1,400. The invitation of PLO Lumumba to deliver the Key Note Speech for the Financing Dialogue attracted some participants to the meeting. Renowned gospel artist, Pastor Wilson Bugembe (Philly Lutaaya Memorial Lecture) gave a moving address about HIV and AIDS and how it impacted his family. There were also some lessons learned. The Philly Lutaaya Memorial events could become more integrated with the rest of the activities. Some technical presentations were interrupted by guest arrivals. Scientific presentations

were solicited from targeted presenters; there was no competitive submission and evaluation of abstracts.

Scientific and programming issues, which emerged at the NHAS 2022, and were marked as requiring attention, include: complacency about HIV and AIDS among community members, especially young people; targeted testing missing some HIV positives; punitive laws and policies limiting access to services among vulnerable groups; increased mother to child transmission rates; reduced retention and viral suppression rates; high rates of HIV transmission among adolescent girls and young women (15-24) and among men aged 25-35; limited dissemination and utilization of research findings; the need to mainstream HIV in the Parish Development Model; limited coverage of economic empowerment programs for vulnerable populations; funding of HIV activities in local governments; and the need for efficiency in programming.

NHAS 2023 will draw from the successes and lessons of NHAS 2022, aim to prevent some of the challenges encountered, and attempt to include the highlighted scientific and programming issues into the scientific program. The NHAS 2023 will feature: the JAR presentation, the Scientific Meeting, Financing Dialogue, the Phily Lutaya Memorial Lecture, and the National HIV and AIDS Exhibition. For the scientific meeting, we will issue a call for abstracts, and we will distribute presentations into plenary, breakout, and poster sessions. We will still identify and invite key note speakers. We will deliberately involve the UAC self-coordinating entities in organizing and implementing NHAS 2023. In particular, we will ask members of the youth constituency to assist with organizing and to perform tasks such as: publicity, protocol, technology, time keeping, and organizing for plenary and breakout sessions. We will evaluate and consider one or more of the following groups for this purpose: Young Positives, Uganda National Young Positives Association, Uganda National Students Association, Makerere University Environmental Health Science Students Association,

MUBS Students Association, Kyambogo Students Association, National Youth Council, among others).

NHAS 2023 will build into World AIDS Day (WAD) 2023. For example, collaborations with SCEs established for NHAS 2023 will be leveraged to promote the active participation of SCEs in WAD 2023. Important new data and information from NHAS 2023 will be shared on WAD 2023. Also, pre-events for NHAS 2023 e.g., regional symposia, media campaigns, publicity events, regional concerts, etc., will be leveraged to build into WAD 2023. Awards for outstanding performance in the HIV response which will be part of NHAS 2023 preparations will also build into WAD 2023.

1.3 The National HIV and AIDS Scientific Meeting 2023

The National HIV and AIDS Scientific Meeting for 2023 will be the major event for NHAS 2023. The meeting will bring together programmers, scientists and all partners in the UAC partnership mechanism to share and discuss their work, challenges, and innovations to improve outcomes for the HIV program in Uganda. The meeting is an opportunity for scientific partners in the HIV response to present their work, get feedback from peers, and come up with a common strategy to address emerging challenges.

1.4 The Annual Joint AIDS Review

Uganda AIDS Commission conducts Joint Annual AIDS Reviews of the implementation of the National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan (NSP) to fulfill its mandate of Strategic Information management for the response including reporting obligations. The 2023 JAR/ Global AIDS Response Progress Reporting marks the seventh year of reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the 6th year of the PFTI implementation. SDG 3 (“Good health and well-being”) has among its targets the goal of ending communicable diseases including HIV and AIDS (‘By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases’). JAR 2023 also comes after the Mid Term review of the NSP 2020/21 – 2024/25.

Therefore, this review gives the country an opportunity to assess the state of the national response and progress in achieving HIV related targets during the 3rd year of the NSP. Furthermore, the review will contribute to a better understanding of the global response to the HIV pandemic, including progress toward the global targets set in the 2011 Political Declaration and the SDGs.

The United Nations general assembly of 9th June 2022 reaffirmed commitment to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030. This commitment includes acceleration and scale up of interventions in the fight against HIV and AIDS to reach set targets. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes the “Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030” has also enumerated opportunities for ending AIDS. The JAR offers an opportunity for reporting on the progress made on these commitments. In 2016, the GARPR and JAR processes were harmonized and, since then, only one narrative report is produced annually to fulfill both reporting mandates.

The Annual reviews offer an opportunity to recast and sharpen the national responses to AIDS, and to scale up interventions in those areas where a difference can be made in reaching the revised NSP targets including those for 2030.

1.5. The Philly Lutaya Memorial, Financing Dialogue, and the HIV and AIDS Exhibition

The NHAS 2023 will feature the Philly Lutaaya Memorial Lecture where a key note speaker will be invited to give the lecture. Other Philly Lutaaya Memorial activities, e.g., testimonies and edutainment, will be integrated into the symposium program. There will be regional events such as, engagements with youth leaders, engagement with cultural institutions, music concerts and quizzes, among others. Music concerts will feature renditions of Philly Lutaaya’s popular “Alone and Frightened” song. The goal of these activities is to awaken the communities on the HIV and AIDS epidemic and to fight Stigma within the communities. UAC will partner with a popular radio station in each region to innovatively engage communities to listen to the messages on

HIV and AIDS. For example, during a radio program where different singers present their renditions of the Phily Lutaya song, the public will be encouraged to call-in and vote for the best singer.

The NHAS 2023 will also feature a financing dialogue to: discuss progress and challenges in realizing different financing mechanisms for the current NSP. The financing dialogue for 2023 will be a dialogue and not a key note presentation (i.e., there will be one or two technical presentations by UAC followed by a panel discussion led by partners). There will be an HIV and AIDS exhibition featuring the scientific and programming innovations of different partners doing scientific, prevention, and treatment work.

2.0 Rationale

The National HIV and AIDS Symposium 2023, will feature the National HIV and AIDS Scientific Meeting, the Annual Joint AIDS Review, the Philly Lutaya Memorial Lecture, Financing Dialogue and programming and science exhibitions.

2.1 Rationale for The National HIV and AIDS Scientific Meeting

In 2019, Uganda AIDS Commission worked with partners to develop the National HIV and AIDS Research Agenda 2020-2023. The objectives of the research agenda are: to articulate HIV and AIDS research priorities; to serve as a national framework to guide HIV and AIDS research; to facilitate the coordination of HIV and AIDS research among stakeholders; and to serve as a tool for resource mobilization and allocation. Thematic areas in the research agenda were based on the NSP and include: prevention, care and treatment, social support and protection, systems strengthening, and monitoring and evaluation. The National HIV and AIDS Scientific Meetings will solicit for abstracts under each thematic area from members of the Research Academia Science and Professional Associations Self-Coordinating Entity (RASP-SCE) and other partners. The abstracts inform the scientific program. The Scientific Meeting for 2023 will occur after the Mid-Term Review for the NSP; lessons learned from the mid-term review will be shared and discussed at the meeting. We will also discuss the HIV and AIDS research

agenda at this meeting to enable stakeholders to learn about the research agenda and offer suggestions for improvements in its content and implementation.

The Scientific Meeting for 2023 will provide a platform for discussions on a cure for HIV and AIDS. A cure for HIV and AIDS was not included in the strategic objectives of the NSP for 2020-2025. Consequently, cure research is also generally absent in the research agenda for 2020 - 2025. This is understandable because it remains unclear whether meaningful progress can be made in this area by 2025, the NSP target, or even 2030, the PFTI target. However, cure research is consistent with the goal of ending AIDS as stated in the PFTI and is also a mandate of UAC. Successful HIV control using non-ART strategies such as bone marrow transplants have been documented internationally (for individuals)¹. There is also some planned work in Uganda at the Joint Clinical Research Centre (JCRC) evaluating gene therapy approaches². The National HIV and AIDS Scientific Meeting 2023 will therefore solicit for abstracts under the theme of cure research and will allow discussions and dialogue on this subject.

2.2 Rationale of the JAR

Member countries of the United Nations are mandated to produce Country Progress Reports annually to inform the Global AIDS Progress Report. Additionally, UAC is mandated to conduct Annual Reviews and report to the Office of the Prime Minister therefore fulfilling both National and International reporting obligations. The JAR is a forum for reflection to establish whether desired change was achieved in a stipulated time.

The Presidential Fast Track initiative to end AIDS by 2030 was launched by H.E the President in 2017. The initiative outlines a Five Point Plan to reduce AIDS as a Public Health threat. The JAR provides an opportunity for stakeholder updates on progress since the launch, popularization and canvass for further commitment at both National and Sub National levels

¹ Hütter, 2009, Long-Term Control of HIV by CCR5 Delta32/Delta32 Stem-Cell Transplantation

² Joint Clinical Research Center, Kampala, Uganda

2.3 Rationale for Philly Lutaaya Memorial Lecture (Philly Bongole Lutaaya (19 October 1951 - 15 December 1989))

PHILLY BONGOLE LUTAAYA (RIP) was a Ugandan legendary singer, who pioneered efforts to give HIV and AIDS a human face amidst stigma, discrimination, denial and ignorance. As a Sweden-based Ugandan musician, Lutaaya was the first prominent Ugandan to publically declare that he had the HIV infection. His declaration created awareness and mitigated myths and misconceptions surrounding HIV/AIDS. He used music to educate the population about the epidemic and articulated the strategies for prevention which evolved into the Abstinence, Being Faithful and Use of Condoms (ABC) model that impacted many lives. Every year, Uganda AIDS Commission mobilizes stakeholders countrywide to commemorate the **PHILLY LUTAAYA** day on 17th October. The day presents a forum to mobilize the entire population to reflect and evaluate the commitments to end HIV/AIDS. The **PHILLY LUTAAYA** day is a local advocacy opportunity to remind communities of the collective effort to end AIDS related stigma and consequently end AIDS. Before dying of AIDS, Lutaaya spent his remaining time writing songs about his battle with AIDS, releasing his last album 'Alone and Frightened', including his famous song "Alone"-which is synonymous with HIV messages, as well as touring churches and schools throughout Uganda to spread messages on HIV prevention.

Philly Lutaaya's advocacy work was a catalyst to Uganda's HIV/AIDS success story and his campaign is believed to have contributed greatly to the reductions in HIV prevalence that subsequently occurred from 18% at that time to 5.2% by 2022. He is acknowledged as the father of "Positive Living" a notion that drives the international principle of greater and meaningful involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS in interventions against HIV.

The **PHILLY LUTAAYA DAY** contributes to the most needed opportunities to reach the communities with facts on HIV strategies, disseminate international and national achievements, share notable research findings and awareness of access to care and

treatment, social support and HIV prevention. The event offers a forum to showcase national interventions and provide the HIV and health services to the communities through exhibitions by AIDS service organizations and partners

The event further stimulates and empowers individuals to access HIV messages, information counseling and testing, sexual reproductive health and referrals to HIV continuum of care. It also serves to reengage leaders to make pronouncements and commitments towards policy development and implementation, resource mobilization and actions targeting improved HIV/AIDS responses.

People living with HIV like Phily Lutaaya have been part of the HIV/AIDS response from the very beginning of the epidemic, often becoming engaged before national governments. Traditional roles such as advocacy, activism, serving as government watchdog, and acting as community caretaker—have been critical to the response. These efforts have contributed greatly in reducing new HIV infections; Reducing AIDS-related mortality and increasing funding for the response.

As part of NHAS 2023, UAC will also conduct awards for outstanding performance in the national HIV and AIDS response. This event and the communication associated with NHAS 2023 and the Phily Lutaaya Commemoration will build into the World AIDS Day (WAD) 2023.

3.0 Objectives of NHAS 2023

The general objectives of NHAS 2023 include the following:

1. To hold the National HIV and AIDS Scientific Meeting 2023 to showcase innovations in the HIV and AIDS response in Uganda.
2. To convene stakeholders in the national HIV and AIDS response to discuss the Annual Joint AIDS Review report to enable the country to review and account for HIV/AIDS performance based on the National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan

targets for FY 2022/23 and form a basis for planning and monitoring of the national multi-sectoral response in the subsequent year 2023/24.

3. To hold the Philly Lutaaya Memorial Lecture and associated events to rally the country against HIV and AIDS-related stigma and discrimination
4. To hold a financing dialogue that brings together stakeholders in HIV and AIDS to discuss progress and challenges in realizing required financing for the National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan
5. Showcase the innovations of partners doing work in HIV and AIDS research, prevention, and care and treatment
6. Hold Awards for Outstanding Performance in the National HIV Response to recognize individuals and/or organizations who have excelled in HIV and AIDS service provision, advocacy, or leadership in HIV and AIDS in the country for the year 2022/2023

3.1 Specific objectives for the National HIV and AIDS Scientific Meeting 2023

- I. To showcase completed, ongoing, and planned research in HIV and AIDS in Uganda
- II. To provide a platform for scientists and other stakeholders in the national HIV response to share and discuss current breakthroughs in HIV implementation science
- III. To provide a platform for emerging scientists, young scientists, and civil society researchers with limited research experience to interact and engage with established HIV and AIDS scientists and explore opportunities for learning, mentorship, collaboration, and growth
- IV. To formulate priority actions in the use of science and innovation to accelerate achievement of PFTI and NSP goals

- V. To synthesize important new data and information for presentation during World AIDS Day 2023

3.2 Specific objectives of the JAR

- I. To review performance during the 3rd year of the NSP 2020/21 – 2024/25
- II. To review and provide highlights on the progress of the Presidential Fast Track Initiative on Ending AIDS as a Public Health threat in Uganda by 2030 launched in June 2017
- III. To disseminate progress on the implementation of undertakings of the Aide Memoire, 2022
- IV. Agree on undertakings for implementation in FY 2023/24

3.4 Specific Objectives of The Philly Lutaaya Commemoration

- I. Conduct regional renditions of Philly Lutaaya concerts across the country as a means of boosting awareness on HIV and AIDS
- II. Engage media practitioners in each region to promote the Philly Lutaaya legacy on reduction of HIV related stigma and discrimination
- III. Hold the Philly Lutaaya Memorial Lecture, which will be delivered by a keynote speaker during they symposium to facilitate dialogue and reflection on the impact of HIV on the Ugandan population and the role of advocacy in the fight against HIV and AIDS
- IV. Leverage pre-event activities for the Philly Lutaaya Commemoration 2023 to promote awareness and build up for the commemoration of World AIDS Day 2023, which will occur in December 2023.

Commented [SA1]: The memorial lecture will have an objective, like there will be a message that we want the key not speaker to deliver or a discussion that we want them to cause. That message or the discussion we intend to generate will inform this objective statement.

3.5 Specific Objectives for the Financing Dialogue

- I. To discuss progress and challenges in realizing the required financing for the current NSP
- II. To discuss progress and challenges in the implementation of HIV and AIDS mainstreaming agenda

- III. To bring together funders and implementers to dialogue on the way forward for financing the national HIV response

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The National HIV and AIDS Symposium 2023 will feature The National HIV and AIDS Scientific Meeting, The Annual Joint AIDS Review, The Phily Lutaaya Memorial and Associated Events, The Financing Dialogue, and Program and Science Exhibitions. UAC will constitute an Organizing Committee – Core Team for NHAS 2023, which will be responsible for overall organization and implementation. The UAC Core Team will harmonize the NHAS activities. The Core Team will establish the NHAS 2023 Secretariat and manage the program.

UAC will also create a National Multi-Sectoral Organizing Committee, which will establish sub-committees (outlined below). We will collaborate with an events manager, who will be selected through competitive bidding and who will be responsible for tents, power supply, public address and ICT, and publicity. Other aspects of the meeting will be managed by UAC, the Youth Constituency, and Self-Coordinating Entity Partners. The Youth Constituency will also support publicity for the symposium. Activities of NHAS 2023 will be leveraged to build into WAD 2023.

4.1 The National HIV and AIDS Scientific Meeting 2023

The Scientific Meeting will use a mixture of plenary sessions, breakout sessions, and poster sessions. UAC will establish and convene a Scientific and Programs Committee to evaluate and approve abstracts. The Committee will prepare and issue a call for abstracts, receive, review and approve abstracts, and schedule approved abstracts into plenary, breakout, and poster sessions. Abstracts will fall under the following thematic areas; care and treatment; social support and protection; systems strengthening; monitoring and evaluation; and cure research.

4.2 Overall NHAS 2023 Program

NHAS 2023 will occur over 3 working days. Activities on each day will include at least 2 plenary sessions, at least 2 breakout sessions including a poster session (on day 2), 2 breaks for tea and one break for lunch (see Section 6.3 for Draft Scientific Program).

4.3 NHAS 2023 Committees

4.3.1 Organizing Committee - UAC Core Committee

The UAC Core Committee will be headed by the Director Planning and Strategic Information (DPSI). UAC Members will include: the Director General (DG), Director Partnerships (DP), Director Policy Research and Programming (DPRP), Director Finance and Audit (DFA), Director Human Resources and Administration (DHRA), Chief Internal Auditor (CIA), Head HIV Prevention (HHP), Head Planning, Head Monitoring and Evaluation, Head Resource Mobilization, Head Communication, Head Procurement and Disposal Unit, Head Special Programs, HIV Prevention Officer, Coordinator Public Sector, Coordinator Civil Society and Private Sector, Coordinator Equity and Human Rights, Data Manager, and Head ICT. The Core Committee will also have some external membership from partners (see attachments for detail). This committee will provide overall leadership to the organization and implementation of the NHAS 2023.

4.3.2 The Multi-Sectoral National Organizing Committee

This Committee will be headed by the Director General and will, for government, draw membership from UAC, Public Universities and government affiliated Research Institutions (IDI, JCRC, UNHRO, UVRI, Makerere School of Public Health, and Rakai Health Sciences Program), Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Gender, Ministry of Finance, and Ministry for the Presidency. For civil society, the committee will draw membership from UNASO and other civil society partners including the human rights and KP populations groups. For private sector, the committee will draw members from the media, telecom, banking, and other sectors. The Committee will provide overall leadership for the meeting and harmonize the activities of different players in the UAC partnership mechanism. The Multi-Sectoral

National Organizing Committee will be responsible for organizing and coordinating the activities of the Phily Lutaya Memorial Lecture. The Multi-Sectoral Committee will establish sub-committees to take care of specific activities. There will be 6 sub-committees: 1) Scientific and Programs, 3) JAR, 2) Philly Lutaaya Commemoration, 4) Resource Mobilization, 5) Communication Exhibition and ICT, 6) Awards. Sub-Committees of the Multi-Sectoral Committee will report to both the Multi-Sectoral Committee and to the UAC Core Committee.

4.3.3 Scientific and Programs Sub-Committee

This sub-committee will be chaired by the Director Policy Research and Programming (DPRP) and will draw membership from UAC and external partners (see attachments for detail). The committee will manage the scientific program. The committee will issue calls for abstract on a conference website and in other outlets as appropriate, evaluate abstracts and authors, approve and allocate abstracts to plenary, breakout and poster sessions. The Committee will evaluate applications for sponsorship by young and emerging scientists to attend and present at the meeting. The Committee will also solicit for and manage oral presentations from key note speakers.

4.3.4 The JAR Sub-Committee

The JAR Committee will be chaired by Head Monitoring and Evaluation and will be responsible for the JAR and associated activities. The Committee will coordinate pre-JAR activities including the compilation and writing of the JAR report. The Committee will prepare and manage the JAR presentation at the symposium (see attachments for detail). The committee will draw membership from UAC and partners as appropriate.

4.3.5 The Philly Lutaaya Commemoration Sub-Committee

The Philly Lutaaya sub-Committee will be chaired by Director Partnership. The Committee will organize pre-NHAS Philly Lutaaya Commemoration activities, NHAS activities including the Philly Lutaaya Memorial Lecture. The committee will also

organize testimonies, regional engagements with partners, edutainment, and community activities at the symposium.

4.3.6 Resource Mobilization and Sub-Committee

This committee will be headed by the DPSI and will draw membership from UAC, Ministry of Finance, other government bodies, civil society, and private sector (see attachments for detail). Head Resource Mobilization will coordinate and convene the committee. The committee will be responsible for mobilizing resources, drawing up the budget, and planning and organizing the exhibitions. The exhibitions will be one way to mobilize resources for the symposium, partners will be contacted early, even as the rest of the organizing is still going on.

4.3.7 Communication Exhibitions and ICT Sub-Committee

This sub-committee will be chaired by Head of Communication and Advocacy and will draw membership from UAC (communication and other departments) external stakeholders including the Youth Constituency (see attachments for detail). The committee will assist the symposium with technology issues including internet, manage the exhibitions and do publicity work.

4.3.8 The Awards Sub-Committee

This committee will be responsible for organizing awards for outstanding performance in the HIV response for 2023. The details will be worked out by the committee, which will be chaired by DHRA.

4.3.9 The Event Management Sub-Committee

There will be an event management sub-committee chaired by DFA. Other members of the committee will include DPSI, DHRA, DPRP, DP, Head Resource Mobilization, Head Procurement, Head Communication and Advocacy, Head ICT, HPO, Coordinator Private Sector, Head M & E, Mary Kataike. This committee will develop terms of reference for the event management firm, hire the firm, and work closely with the firm to ensure success of the event.

4.4 The NHAS 2023 Secretariat and Rapporteurs

There will be a secretariat at the NHAS 2023 headed by The Chair of the UAC Core Committee (DPSI). The Chair Person of the Secretariat will command the Symposium, and will have 3 deputies (Head M& E, HPO, and Coordinator Public Sector). The Chair Person will continuously manage the program, and whenever otherwise occupied, e.g., making presentations or attending other meetings, the deputies will take over as appropriate. The Secretariat will hire and manage MCs for the event, ensure that activities start and end on time, and ensure that there are neither protocol violations nor interruptions to technical presentations. The secretariat will hire and manage rapporteurs to capture proceedings and make reports. The secretariat will also manage protocol, entertainment, participant registration, etc, and will appoint different officers from UAC, the Youth Constituency, and other Partners to perform different duties as appropriate. The secretariat, just like the multi-sectoral organizing committee, will have sub-committees (e.g., Protocol, Food, Registration, Edutainment, etc.) as needed, and will work with the Youth Constituency to ensure that members of that constituency can play roles for which they are competent (e.g., MC, rapporteuring, etc) and be compensated where appropriate. For food and refreshments, UAC will invite service providers to sell food and refreshments. UAC will provide cash reimbursements to staff and invited guests to enable them purchase food and refreshments from the vendors. For the conference, we will only budget for and purchase water to be distributed in the conference rooms during meetings.

4.4.1 Venue for the Symposium

The venue for the symposium will be Kololo Independence Grounds. UAC will elect multiple tents to support symposium activities within the Kololo premises for the 3 days of the symposium (a large plenary tent, up to 4 breakout tents, multiple tents for health e.g. dining, and multiple tents for the exhibition). Other facilities will be agreed upon and availed as needed in collaboration with the management of Kololo Airstrip/Independence Grounds.

4.5 Activity schedule and timelines

Activity	Timing	Responsibility
Draft Concept note	June, week 4	Lilian, Dr. Asimwe, Dr. Wakooba, Hope, Dr. Bagambe, Ruth
JAR Report compilation by SCEs and MDAs, submission of reports by SCEs and MDAs	June, week 4	Dr Wakooba, Tom Eti, Charles Otai
Constitute NHAS 2023 Committees (Core Committee, Multi-Sectoral Committee)	August, week 1	Dr. Bagambe, Dr. Zepher, Enid Wamani
Constitute sub-committees	August, week 1	Dr. Bagambe, Dr. Zepher, Enid Wamani, Joanita Kemigisha, Dr. Wakooba, Zypher Tanzani, Quinto Ryotoyera
Conference website	August, week 3	Richard, James, Ivan, Dr. Zepher, Dr. Asimwe, Brian
Issue Call for Abstracts	August, week 2	Dr. Zepher, Dr. Byamukama, Dr. Asimwe, Enid Wamani, Hope Murungi
Procure JAR consultant	August	Dr. Wakooba, Judith
Synthesis of 2023 JAR report (This is the work of the consultant, reviewing existing JAR related documents)	August, week 2	Dr. Wakooba Peter, Mr. Otai Charles and the Consultant
Awards - Call for Nominations	August 30	Awards Committee
JAR Report review retreat	September, week 1	Dr. Wakooba Peter, Mr. Otai Charles

		Jotham Mubangizi
Convene the organizing committee - UAC core	Start Week 1 of August, Occur Weekly, every Thursday at 10:00 AM	Dr. Musoba, Dr. Bagambe, Dr. Zepher, Lilian
Convene National Multi-Sectoral Organizing Committee	1st september	Dr. Nelson Musoba, Dr. Asimwe, Margie, Ruth, Christine, Dr. Bagambe, Dr. Zepher, Enid Wamani
Thematic TWG meetings (JAR)	September, week 1	Dr Wakooba Peter and the thematic team leaders
Update JAR report with input from TWG meetings	September, week 2	Facilitator, Dr. Peter Wakooba and Charles Otai
Procure Events Management Team	September, week 2	Dr. Bagambe
Identification of key note speaker for the Philly Lutaaya Memorial Lecture	September, Week 2	Enid, Joanita, and Hope
Awards- select and communicate to the host (person to host the awards, like an MC)	September 30	Awards Committee
Regional advocacy events (concerts, meetings) in Mbarara, Gulu, Kabarole, Kampala, Lira, Moroto, Adjumani, Soroti, Mbale, Jinja, Hoima	Sept, Oct, Nov	Enid Wamani, Hope Murungi, Tom Eti, Dr. Bagambe, Dr. Asimwe, Dr. Byamukama, Joanita
Scientific committee - review of abstracts	October,	Dr. Zepher, Dr.

	Week 1	Asiimwe
Approval processes for JAR report	September, week 4	Dr. Wakooba
Draft symposium program	September, Week 1	Dr. Bagambe, Dr. Zepher
Identify and send invitations for key note speakers, session chairs, facilitators, co-chairs, moderators etc.	September, Week 1	Dr. Zepher, Enid Wamani, Dr. Bagambe, Dr. Nelson, Dr. Byamukama, Dr. Asiimwe, Dr. Wakooba
Finalize symposium program	October, week 2	Dr. Zepher, Dr. Bagambe
Awards - Closing date for nominations	October 30	Awards committee
Award - Panel to start review of nominations	November 1	Award Committee
Award - nominees notified and invited to the World AIDS Day	November 15	Awards Committee
Hold Symposium (Presentation and dissemination at the JAR Meeting)	November, 14 th to 16 th , Kololo Ceremonial Grounds	Dr. Bagambe Vincent, Dr. Nelson Musoba
Philly Memorial Lecture	November 16 th	Enid Wamani, Tom Eti, Hope Murungi
Edutainment for NHAS 2023	November 14 th - 16 th	Enid Wamani, Hope Murungi, Tom Eti, Joanita Kemigisha, Dr. Asiimwe, Dr. Bagambe
Awards - Trophies and Certificates prepared	November 20	Awards committee

Awards - Final press release ready for publication after granting of the awards	November 25	Awards committee
Awards - Awards presented at the WAD	December 1	Awards committee
Awards - Press Release	December 2	Awards committee
Awards - series featuring winners to showcase their successful work to the public	December 3-10	Awards committee
Consolidated report	December, Week 2	Dr. Bagambe, Dr. Zepher, Enid Wamani, Dr. Asimwe, Lilian, Dr. Wakooba
Abstract book	December, Week 3	Dr. Zepher, Dr. Asimwe, Kemigisha Joanita

4.6 Priority topics for abstracts and presentations by thematic area

<p>HIV Epidemiology, HIV Prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Safer sexual behavior and reduction in high-risk behaviors among key populations, priority population groups and the general population ✓ Implementation studies of new HIV prevention technologies ✓ Program evaluation and optimization for EMTCT ✓ Harm reduction programs ✓ Early infant diagnosis ✓ Mitigation of socio-structural, cultural, gender and other drivers of HIV/AIDS 	<p>Basic Science, HIV Care, HIV Treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Treatment options, viral load suppression, drug resistance ✓ Optimizing linkage to care ✓ Adherence and retention in care ✓ Comorbidities, coinfections, general health, nutrition, mental health ✓ Integration of HIV care and treatment with other health services ✓ Natural and traditional remedies, spirituality ✓ Cure research
Social Support and Protection, Human	Systems Strengthening, HIV and AIDS

Rights, Gender	Financing, Monitoring and Evaluation
✓ Describing HIV related stigma, stigma reduction interventions	✓ Effectiveness of national leadership and coordination frameworks
✓ Interventions to reduce vulnerability to HIV and AIDS	✓ Workforce for delivery of HIV services
✓ Gender based violence and discrimination	✓ Innovations for optimizing the HIV supply chain systems
✓ Child protection and reducing violence against children	✓ Infrastructure for delivery of HIV services
✓ Equity and social inclusion	✓ Community systems
	✓ Sustainable financing of the HIV response
	✓ Strategic information for the response including sub-group prevalence, size estimations for key, vulnerable, and priority populations
	✓ Increased information sharing and data utilization

4.7 Joint AIDS Review General Methodology

The Country Progress Report 2022/2023 will be prepared through a consultative and participatory process in 2 phases; by conducting a comprehensive desk review, convening a series of pre-conference meetings including GAM validation, and SCEs to assess their performance based on the indicators in the NSP and UNAIDS guidelines/GAM indicators. The report will also include progress on implementation of the undertakings for JAR 2022. The JAR report will be presented at the Annual HIV and AIDS Scientific Conference, where the new undertakings for FY 2023/24 will be compiled.

Key questions to be answered by the JAR 2023

I. What were the 2022 game changers and what are the key lessons from the HIV response (in programming, governance, coordination, implementation, stakeholder engagement, community ownership and sustainability) that can be applied to the new NSP to accelerate ending AIDS by 2030?

II. What game changers are required in the National HIV response at all levels to accelerate progress towards attaining the 95-95-95 targets by 2025 across all sub-populations and ending AIDS by 2030?

III. What commitments can key HIV constituencies make towards accelerating progress towards HIV prevention and treatment targets?

IV. What are implications of the AHA law on the HIV response and how do we mitigate these effects

4.7.1 Validation of data for the GAM tool

This activity was completed. A validation meeting was convened bringing together all the key players from multi-sectoral response. The purpose of this meeting was to validate the data to be entered into the online GAM tool for submission to UNAIDS. Following the meeting, data were cleaned and uploaded by the end of March 2023. Queries raised by UNAIDS are being addressed.

4.7.2 Compilation of the JAR report

Building on the last year's approach of compiling the JAR report, an editorial team will be constituted to generate the JAR report with the aim of having the report printed before convening the HIV and AIDs Annual scientific meeting.

4.7.3 The proposed approach

The response boasts of very recent data and documentation including;

- The GAM report comprising of many indicators
- The Mid-Term Review of the NSP 2020/21-2024/25
- The HIV and AIDS estimates
- The Modes of Transmission Study 2023

- Population size estimates for adolescents and young women at high risk of HIV in Uganda
- Rapid HIV epidemic, programme, and modelling analysis for the national response
- Key Population Estimates
- The 4th edition of the PFTI
- The Addendum to the NSP
- Sustaining the HIV and AIDS Response in Uganda: Going Beyond Increasing Domestic Financing
- The National AIDS spending Assessment among others.

Technical Assistance will be procured comprising of a maximum of 2 consultants, and these will be responsible to study the various documents and synthesize a report based on the NSP 2020/21 – 2024/25. This report will provide progress by the 3rd year of the NSP, and formatted according to the indicators (impact, outcome, and some output). The report will be about 40 – 50 pages covering all the thematic areas and the progress of implementation of the JAR 2022 undertakings.

A three-day residential retreat will be convened to review the report to provide input. The main focus is data from January to June 2023, which is not captured in the Midterm Review. After the retreat, the report will be peer-reviewed and subjected to the respective thematic Technical Working groups before finalization for approval and printing in readiness for dissemination at the Annual Scientific meeting.

4.7.4 The JAR Editorial Team

A multi-sectoral team will be constituted for the JAR by thematic areas;

Thematic Area	Team Composition
Prevention	Dr. Byamukama Dan (UAC), Dr. Peter Mudiope (MOH), Dr.

	Linda Nabitaka (MOH), and Dr. Peter Kyambadde(MOH), Dr. Shaban Mugerwa(UAC)
Care and Treatment	Dr. Asimwe Steven (UAC), Dr. Cordelila Katureebe. (MOH), Dr. Mina Nakawuka (MoH) and Mr. Moses Luwunzu
Social support and Protection/gender	Ms. Lilian Tatwebwa (UAC), Ruth Mbaguta (MoGLSD), Kasule Muhammad MoES) Mr. Richard Mugumya (NAFOPHANO)and Cherop Silas (UNASO), Juliet Cheptoris (MOH)
Systems Strengthening	Mr. Tom Eti (UAC),Dr. Bagambe Vincent (UAC) , Dr. Susan Wandera (MOH), Ms. Hope Murungi (UAC) (add SPH MTR member)
Costing and Resources	Dr. Sarah Khanakwa (UAC), MoH and MOFPED, SPH-MTR member and UHSS rep
Monitoring and Evaluation	Dr. Wakooba Peter, Mr. Otai Charles and, Mr. Lordwin Kasambula (MOH), Dr. Patience Mwine (MOH), Brian Masimbi (UAC)
	ADPs and IPS: UNAIDS, CDC, METS and SITES
	Coordinators: Dr. Nelson Musoba, Dr. Vincent Bagambe and Dr. Wakooba Peter

Each team has a UAC staff who is a team leader to ensure that the respective thematic area in the report is comprehensively reviewed and data gaps are filled. The members will be facilitated according to GOU guidelines.

4.8 The SCE and TWG Meetings

These will target Self-Coordinating Entities and Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) to allow for regular reporting and performance monitoring by UAC. These will build up on the quarterly Review meetings during which each of the 12 SCEs provides a performance report. Reporting formats were developed by UAC, discussed with the SCEs, and agreed upon. The fourth quarter reports will emphasize the undertakings of

the JAR 2022. The consolidated report will be part of the reference document during the writing retreat.

As earlier stated, the synthesized report will be presented in the respective TWG meetings for validation before printing. The M&E TWG as an overarching team reviews the final report and these are its roles;

- Provide any additional relevant documents to the Consultant
- Analyse the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and other guidelines for monitoring and evaluation of HIV and AIDS-related activities to ensure that the report addresses all the indicators in the NSP
- Review the JAR report and provide input before the report is subjected to the approval processes

5.0 Funding for the NHAS 2023

Refer to the consolidated budget as attached.

JAR activities will be supported with funding from GOU mainly covering the data collection and writing process. Engagements are being done with UNAIDS to support the facilitator and venue for the writing process. Funding for Scientific Meeting activities and for Philly Lutaaya Activities is also supported with funding from GoU. The resource mobilization team will harmonize the budget for different activities and mobilize additional resources to ensure that the full set of activities is supported.

5.2 Data abstraction from existing Software/ Management Information Systems

A number of software are in existence to facilitate data collection and aggregation for the JAR process e.g. Gender Dashboard among others. The data from this software will be used to triangulate the data from DHIS 2, EMIS, and OVC MIS. Other dashboards like the Viral Load and SURGE will also be utilized to ensure a robust data collection system for a comprehensive report. These will mainly be used to provide data from January to June since the MTR captures data up to December 2022

The JAR report must focus on the following key issues:

1. Demonstrate progress of the NSP along critical indicators using the GAM, Programme data, and all sources possible to reflect the real epidemic and response picture in the country. This will help the country to show trends, identify data contradictions and identify areas that require improvement as we roll out the new NSP. This will further enable harmonization of the NSP and GAM indicators for routine progress tracking
2. Emphasis on new infections among key populations may lead to a concentrated epidemic putting into context the political /policy environment; including the laws governing operations and the reality

6.0 Program for the NHAS 2023

6.1 THE JAR MEETING

This 16th JAR Meeting will be convened during the Annual HIV and AIDs Scientific meeting on the 30th August to 1st September 2023 as part of the plenary sessions to discuss the report. All respective thematic reports will be presented and discussed. The JAR Meeting will be attended by key National Stakeholders including representatives of AIDS Development Partners, Non-Governmental Organizations, Ministries Departments and Agencies, selected districts, People living with HIV, and Implementing Partners among others.

6.2 Key Note address

The Secretariat shall identify an internationally recognized personality to give a keynote address at the JAR meeting. The identified personality should be someone globally recognized for their contribution and efforts towards the HIV/AIDS response. The personality could also be from a country with a successful approach to HIV and AIDs or a distinguished international HIV and AIDS organization with vast experience. This

will create an opportunity to learn best practices and achievements from a global perspective.

6.3 Draft NHAS 2023 Meeting Program

Time	Topic	Presenter
	Day 1	
8:00AM - 9:00AM	Arrival and Registration/Edutainment	Secretariat
9:00AM - 9:10AM	Opening Remarks (Secretariat)	UAC
9:10AM - 9:30AM	Plenary session: The JAR Report for 2023	UAC
9:30AM - 10:00AM	Discussion	TBD
10:00AM -10:30AM	Tea break/Edutainment	Secretariat
10:30AM - 12:30AM	Opening Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edutainment • Remarks by Organizing Committee • Edutainment • Remarks by UAC • Remarks by Ministry of Health • Remarks by Guest of Honor 	TBD
12:30AM - 1:30PM	Plenary Session: Lessons from the Mid-Term Review for the National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan.	TBD
1:30PM - 2:30PM	Lunch break/Edutainment	Secretariat
2:30PM - 3:00PM	Plenary Session: Behavioral interventions to reduce HIV transmission and acquisition among key populations	TBD

3:00PM – 3:30PM	Discussion	Partner institution
3:30PM – 5:00PM	Breakout sessions in different thematic areas (5 breakout sessions, 2 presentations in each session) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention • Care and treatment • Social support and protection • Systems strengthening (+ M&E) • Cure Research 	TBD
5:00PM	End of Day 1	Secretariat
	Day 2	
8:00AM - 9:00AM	Arrival and registration/Edutainment	Secretariat
9:00AM - 9:10AM	Opening remarks (Scientific Committee)	UAC
9:10AM - 9:30AM	Plenary session: The National HIV and AIDS Research Agenda	UAC
9:30AM - 10:00AM	Discussion	Partner Institution
10:00AM -10:30AM	Tea break/Edutainment	Secretariat
10:30AM – 12:00AM	Plenary session: Dialogue on the recommendations of the Legal and Policy Environment for HIV and AIDS Assessment Study	TBD
12:00AM – 1:30PM	Breakout Sessions in different thematic areas (5 breakout sessions, 2 presentations in each session) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention 	TBD

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care and treatment • Social support and protection • Systems strengthening (+M&E) • Cure Research 	
1:30PM - 2:30PM	Lunch break/Edutainment	Secretariat
2:30PM - 3:00PM	Plenary Session: The Presidential Fast Track Initiative to End AIDS, where are we?	TBD
3:00PM - 3:30PM	Discussion	Partner institution
3:30PM - 5:00PM	Plenary Session: Key and Vulnerable Populations, how are we doing?	TBD
5:00PM	End of Day 2	Secretariat
	Day 3	
8:00AM - 9:00AM	Arrival and registration/Edutainment	Secretariat
9:00AM - 9:10AM	Opening remarks (Scientific Committee)	UAC
9:10AM - 9:30AM	Plenary session: The Financing Dialogue	TBD
9:30AM - 10:00AM	Discussion	Partner Institution
10:00AM -10:30AM	Tea break/Edutainment	Secretariat
10:30AM - 12:00AM	Plenary session: The 2022 Uganda HIV Modes of Transmission Study	Dr. Byamukama Daniel
12:00AM - 1:30PM	Poster Session (Posters in Different Thematic Areas)	TBD
1:30PM - 2:30PM	Lunch break/Edutainment	Secretariat

2:30PM – 3:00PM	Plenary Session: The Philly Lutaya Memorial Lecture	Uganda National Cultural Center
3:00PM – 3:30PM	Discussion	Partner institution
3:30PM – 4:00PM	Action planning session: priority actions in the use of science and innovation to accelerate the attainment of NSP and PFTI goals	UAC
4:00PM – 5:00PM	Closing ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edutainment • Remarks by UAC • Remarks by MoH • Remarks by Partner Institution • Remarks by Guest of Honor 	TBD
5:00PM	End of Symposium	Secretariat

6.4 Scientific Abstracts

The scientific program will feature about 8 plenary sessions over the 3 days including an action planning session. Breakout sessions will occur once on day one, and once on day two. Each breakout session will feature 2 presentations for a total of $2 \times 5 \times 2 = 20$ individual presentations. We therefore expect up to 28 approved abstracts. We will target a maximum of 40 abstracts to be submitted into the system and out of these, about 30 will be approved by the Scientific Committee in a 2-day retreat (up to 15 abstracts discussed per day). Up to 5 plenary presentations will be from invited speakers or UAC technical staff and may not require abstracts. However, presentation slides will be reviewed prior to presentation.

6.5 Management of the JAR process

A JAR Secretariat to be located in the Directorate of Planning, Department of Monitoring & Evaluation with membership from all the directorates will be constituted to coordinate the organization of the JAR and the Partnership Forum meetings. The Secretariat will further support the sectors in the compilation of the respective reports for presentation at JAR. Participants for the 13th JAR and 10th HIV will be drawn from all constituencies of the National HIV/AIDS Partnership with deliberate effort to ensure representation and participation from key public sectors, civil society and private sector partners.

6.5.1 Summary of expected participants

No.	Category of participants	Number
1	Technical Working Groups	75
2	UAC technical staff, consultants, facilitators, presenters, rapporteurs	45
3	District delegates	130
4	Ministries (MOH, MOGSLD, MOES, MICTG/NG, MOLG, MOFPED, MOJ, MIA, MODVA, MAAIF, among others)	100
5	Parliament	50
6	Self-Coordinating Entities	50
7	AIDS Development Partners	20
8	Support team	20
9	Special interest Groups (Religious, Cultural)	50
10	Young People	TBD
11	PWH	TBD

12	Others	TBD
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6.5.2 Documents/reports for the JAR

A number of documents/reports will be required for the 2023 JAR including;

- National HIV/ AIDS Strategic Plan (2020/221-2024/ 25).
- National Priority Action Plan (2020 – 202/2023)
- National Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (2020/21- 2024/25)
- Aide Memoire of the 2022 Joint AIDS Review
- Consolidated and Thematic Mid-Term Review reports on the National HIV/ AIDS Strategic Plan (2020/21 - 2024/25)
- The Country Progress Report 202022
- The Uganda HIV and AIDS Investment Case 2014 -2025
- SOPs 2016
- NASA Report
- The Modes of Transmission Report 2023

6.5.3 Expected outputs of the JAR

- A consolidated review report incorporating all comments from the JAR meeting including the Aide Memoire with key undertakings
- Dissemination plan for the JAR report
- Action plan for implementation of the undertakings detailing implementation and coordination centers including the Presidential Fast track activities as part of the JAR report

6.5.4 The Facilitator

One facilitator is required to guide the process of compiling the JAR report. The person must possess at least an advanced degree in the relevant field. Prior experience in working on HIV/AIDS projects/programs will be a pre-requisite. The facilitator should have experience in working in either of the following HIV interventions in Uganda: Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support, Social support, Infrastructure/systems/facilities development/monitoring & evaluation/costing, and Programming in conflict situations

The facilitator must have the following general skills and competencies:

- In-depth understanding of the coordination and leadership of HIV and AIDS programs at global, regional, and national levels
- Good data collection, analytical, and report-writing skills
- A minimum of 8 years of work experience related to development programs
- Track record of completing similar assignments
- Experience in undertaking multi-country studies will be added advantage.
- Team leader who has conducted at least three evaluations in the last five years ideally in the relevant field
- Experience preparing and analyzing a theory of change
- Advanced English writing and presentation skills a requirement.
- Post graduate training(At Master level) in Public Health, Epidemiology or related field
- Experience in implementing or Coordination of HIV Prevention Intervention
- An understanding of Treatment guidelines for HIV and their application in Uganda

6.5.5 JAR Deliverables

The consultants will submit the following reports:

1. An inception report (10-15 pages without annexes). The annexes must include data collection tools
2. PowerPoint Presentation for the JAR report not more than 30 Slides (5 x 8)
3. A final draft report of not more than 50 pages including an action plan for the undertakings without annexes), as per the agreed format

6.6 Expected Outputs from the Scientific Meeting

- Symposium Report
- Scientific Meeting report
- Abstract book
- Actionable recommendations for implementation by UAC in the remaining implementation period for the National HIV and AIDS Research Agenda 2020-2025