

Service delivery drives JMS

By Ritah Mukasa

With timely provision of medicine and vaccines, the quality of peoples life has improved across the country, thanks to the Joint Medical Store (JMS). This was revealed by Dr Emmanuel Higenyi, the JMS director technical services.

"Provision of life-saving commodities required for maternal health and mothers has saved lives. This has, in the long run, increased the lifespan of Ugandans.

"The quality of children's life has also improved, thanks to JMS provision of important products that treat conditions such as diarrhoea and pneumonia, among others," he says.

This has been possible due to the innovation and technology advancements at the stores.

JMS also partners with development partners to manage and distribute inventory comprising donor items like ARVs, ACTs and laboratory reagents. These are distributed to various facilities, including Private Not-for-Profit (PNFP)



The Joint Medical Store head office in Nsambya, a Kampala suburb

facilities, private and non-governmental organisations among others.

Higenyi says his department is responsible for quality assurance, health system strengthening, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and business analytic, as well as regulatory affairs.

Closer to the facilities

When it comes to technological advancements, which ease service delivery, Higenyi says JMS has been seeing new trends in technology, systems

and processes.

"Since we are in an industry directly concerned with saving lives, we appreciate that conditions keep changing. It is a dynamic environment. In that context, we keep on evolving and this is where we bring in the concept of innovation," he says.

As part of the celebration to mark 40 years of JMS' fruitful existence, the organisation put up a challenge.

They invited students of medical courses to participate in an innovation challenge.

The participants were tasked with thinking about the supply chain and other associated services.

They were supposed to reflect on them, to propose different ways and methods, changes in technology or changes in service delivery. These were aimed at optimising and also improving service output.

"We have got quite a number of proposals related to the supply chain," he applauds.

Higenyi adds that most of these innovations are looking at the fundamental problems related to the supply chain, communication, needs assessment and quantification

of products.

"These innovations are also looking at other associated services. For example, infection control and management. Some are related to direct patient management to improve adherence. It has been a successful venture from our side as JMS," Higenyi adds.

According to Higenyi, the challenge has given the students a chance to solve problems of society during the trainings. "We have also stimulated an entrepreneurial spirit within the students' community. We made them to believe in themselves," he says. The challenges are good

because they address the key issues of data management, communication, quantification and needs assessment.

They are all moving in the direction of how JMS can get closer to the health facilities through improved communication and i data can exchange. These are key mechanisms that are needed to improve the supply chain.

JMS is also moving to ensure that key technology advancements are put in place to ensure that the biomedical equipment that the facilities use is well-maintained and serviced. There are also different technological innovations that have been invented by JMS staff, including computer and phone applications, which aid service delivery.

"We have a logistics module that helps us to plan for deliveries. We plan and optimize load and hence maximize the economies of scale," Higenyi explains.

He adds that as the country moves towards the universal health care coverage, as JMS, they believe the supply chain is going to play an important role.

"We need adequate, quality supplies at the right time. We are putting a lot of emphasis on speed, access and quality," Higenyi says.



MENGO HOSPITAL
Christian Medical Witness

OUR SERVICES:

- EYE CLINIC SERVICES
- DENTAL SERVICES
- IN & OUT – PATIENT SERVICES

SPECIALISED SERVICES:

- Endoscopy
- Theatre
- Imaging
- Laboratory
- Physiotherapy
- Neurology services
- ENT
- Urology
- Blood Bank Services

ALBERT COOK ROAD MENGO
P.O. BOX 7161, KAMPALA – UGANDA
Tel: +256 (0)312 307100
medicaldirector@mengo-hospital.org
www.mengo-hospital.org

Congratulations



Mengo Hospital congratulates
Joint Medical Store (JMS)
for Marking 40 Years of Supply Chain
Management of quality Medical Supplies.

Mengo Hospital is proud to be
associated with you.

#MengoCares

HAPPY 40TH
Anniversary



The Bishop of Masaka Diocese, Board of Governors, Management and Staff of Masaka Diocesan Medical Services Ltd. (MDMLS) wish to congratulate Joint Medical Store (JMS) upon celebrating 40 years of providing health services to transform lives.

We are proud to be Associated with JMS as your exclusive Distributors in Greater Masaka.

About US:

Masaka Diocesan Medical Services Ltd. is a registered company limited by guarantee and not having share capital. It was incorporated under Cap 110 of the laws of Uganda, on 15th March 2013, Certificate No. 164227. The company has undertaken to be a distributor of JMS in the Greater Masaka region, involved in storage and sale of products, including pharmaceuticals, medical and surgical sundries, equipment and instrument as well as laboratory supplies.

Therefore MDMLS distributes pharmaceutical supplies exclusively from JMS assured of their quality, safety and availability at all times to her customers. MDMLS supplies these products to Government health facilities, PNFPs, Private for profit health facilities, NGOs, as well as pharmacies and drug shops within Greater Masaka.

The operations officially started on the 22nd of July 2013 after receiving the first consignment from JMS on 20th July 2013. The rationale for the creation of this company was service delivery, not profits. Any surplus will not be shared by subscribers but to be ploughed back into the **business**. In future surplus could be used to support health services at health facilities with a preferential attention to PNFPs.

Vision: To be the leading producers on pharmaceutical products in the Southern region of Uganda.

Mission: To supply pharmaceuticals, medical and surgical equipment, sundries, as well as laboratory supplies in the Southern region of Uganda.



MASAKA DIOCESAN MEDICAL SERVICES LTD.

Contact Us:

CARITAS MADDU, Dungu Wing, Kifovu Cathedral Road,
P. O. Box 14 Masaka, Tel: 0704675666, 0786814912, 0758334263
Email: mdms@ucmb.co.ug, mdmsales@ucmb.co.ug