



SUCCESS STORY

Uganda



Photo: MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership / Acheng Brenda

NAME: Ritah Niwamanya

ROLE: Enrolled Midwife/Nurse, Kanungu Health Center IV

LOCATION: Kanungu, Uganda

SUMMARY: After MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership provided hygiene supplies and training on infection prevention and control for Ritah Niwamanya and other health workers, infection rates at the Kanungu Health Center declined.

IMPROVING HAND HYGIENE AMONG HEALTH WORKERS AND PATIENTS IN KANUNGU, UGANDA

As a midwife and nurse at a community health center in the southwestern Uganda district of Kanungu, Ritah Niwamanya didn't think much about the importance of handwashing until COVID-19 hit.

"I was part of a group of health workers who had less knowledge about the importance of hand washing," says Ritah. "I also knew that the practice was one of the measures that could help prevent one from contracting Covid-19. I realized that washing hands was one of the ways that would set everyone free from the infection, so that is why all of us at the health center had to embrace it."

Ritah and other midwives and nurses received training from the U.S. Agency for International Development's MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership project on infection prevention and control measures.

"After receiving the trainings, together with my colleagues, we started sensitizing others and patients on the numerous advantages of handwashing. We used communication charts to teach patients how to wash hands and the importance of the practice," says Ritah.

MOMENTUM also donated handwashing facilities to the health center, including a 2,000-liter water tank, installed at the facility's main entrance, and sinks in all wards and major areas that are accessed by cleaners and health workers. Everyone who enters the facility now has to first wash their hands before interacting with others.

"This has eased the process and improved hygiene at the center," says Ritah.



Ritah Niwamanya uses soap provided at the sink for effective hand washing.

These efforts by Ritah and her colleagues, which were supported by MOMENTUM training and equipment, are making a major impact in the health facility.

As a result of support received from MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership, the Kanungu Health Center saw its infection prevention readiness score rise from 54 points at baseline to 89 points at endline (100 points possible). Similar improvements were seen within the labor and delivery, outpatient, and postnatal care wards. The labor and delivery ward scored a perfect 100 points at endline.



A woman washes her hands at one of the new handwashing facilities at the 2,000-liter water tank.



Photos: MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership



SUCCESS STORY

Uganda



Photo: MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership

NAME: James Muhindo

ROLE: Cleaner, St. Paul Health Center IV

LOCATION: Kasese, Uganda

SUMMARY: It was not until James Muhindo and other cleaners at the St. Paul Health Center went through a two-day training organized by MOMENTUM that they realized they still had a lot to learn about their jobs.

THE INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL TRAINING HAS HELPED MY COLLEAGUES AND ME BECOME BETTER CLEANERS AT ST. PAUL HEALTH CENTER

For the past 10 years of his career as a cleaner at the St. Paul Health Center IV in Kasese, in southwestern Uganda, James Muhindo had never received training in infection prevention and control. That changed in April 2021 when U.S. Agency for International Development's MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership project organized a two-day training for James and the other cleaners at the health center.

"I had been complaining about why cleaners are always left out during trainings, we had never been recognized despite of the enormous and tiresome work we do," says James. "But I thank MOMENTUM for taking their time and recognizing cleaners at this facility and in Kasese District. MOMENTUM is heavenly sent because it has saved the cleaners' lives by training them on basic issues, which they did not know for years.

"I was shocked that during the training, we were taught things that we had been ignoring, yet they are important. I didn't even know that we were transmitting diseases. The training has eased my long-term dream of making St. Paul Health Center IV, the cleanest health facility in Kasese and Uganda," says James.

“At first, we used to work in our daily clothes, making it difficult for the public to identify us cleaners, but due to the training, it is now possible,” James says. “The instructors also showed us different techniques in cleaning. I can now measure the amount of chlorine I use without hardship. I know how to differentiate between the chlorine required for cleaning and the one meant for disinfection. The work is now easier because they have given me all the personal protective equipment, and now I always see positive results in my cleaning.”

“I was shocked that during the training, we were taught things that we had been ignoring yet they are important. I didn’t even know that we were transmitting diseases.”

– James Muhindo

As a result of the support received from MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership, St. Paul Health Center’s Infection Prevention Readiness Score rose from 73 points at baseline to 91 points at endline, out of 100 points possible.



James Muhindo (above, far left) pauses with fellow staff and the MOMENTUM team at the renovated maternity toilet that was funded by Jhpiego. Photo: MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership



SUCCESS STORY

Uganda



Photo: MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership

NAME: Ephrance Nsimire

ROLE: Head of Cleaners,
Rukungiri Health Center IV

LOCATION: Rukungiri District,
Uganda

SUMMARY: After she and her colleagues received training from MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership, Ephrance Nsimire is playing a key role in implementing improved infection prevention and control practices at the Rukungiri Health Center.

IMPROVING INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL PRACTICES AT THE HEALTH FACILITY IN RUKUNGIRI, UGANDA

As head of cleaners at Rukungiri Health Center in southwestern Uganda, Ephrance Nsimire plays a key role in the cleanliness and safety of the facility.

“I had very limited knowledge as far as personal protection was concerned,” says Ephrance. “However, this all changed when some of my colleagues, who attended a training, organized by the U.S. Agency for International Development’s MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership project, taught me and my other colleagues about several issues, ranging from personal to environmental protection.”

Ephrance’s colleagues shared what they learned from the training, including changing attire after cleaning, how to carry out proper handwashing, and following good hygiene practices, such as using clean gloves,

“Through the infection prevention and control focal persons, my colleagues and I have received increased awareness about infection prevention and control,” says Ephrance. “There is a great improvement in general cleanliness across personal, patient, and environmental areas. For instance, hand washing facilities are stationed at every entry point of the health facility and around pit-latrines. Through these mentorships and trainings, I have also started advising and encouraging health workers, patients, and communities to apply infection prevention and control best practices.”

Ephrance's work has resulted in improved observance of COVID-19 standard operating procedures at the health facility, such as wearing facemasks, social distancing, isolating, and taking temperatures.

Her work has also been supported by logistical supplies provided to the health facility by MOMENTUM, including gloves, facemasks and shields, and gum boots. These efforts have improved the protection of both health workers and patients.

As a result of the support received from MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership, the Rukungiri Health Center saw its infection prevention readiness score rise from 23 points at baseline to 78 points at endline, out of 100 points possible. Similar improvements were seen at ward level within labor and delivery, postnatal care, and outpatient wards.



SUCCESS STORY

Uganda



Photo: MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership

NAME: Lilian Biira

ROLE: Nurse, St. Paul Health Center IV

LOCATION: Kasese, Uganda

SUMMARY: After receiving infection prevention and control training from MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership, Lilian Biira is sensitizing fellow health workers at her health center, which has been equipped with hygiene supplies and now has an active infection prevention and control committee.

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL TRAINING EQUIPS NURSES WITH SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO HANDLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE CASES

Before receiving infection prevention and control training from the U.S. Agency for International Development's MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership project, Lilian Biira and her colleagues at the St. Paul Health Center IV found it difficult to handle cases of infectious diseases.

"Previously, our work at the facility was not smooth because we lacked skills and equipment to apply infection prevention and control," says Biira. "I got a miraculous chance when I attended training organized by MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership. It equipped me with skills, built confidence in me, and turned me into a trainer, since I was able to pass on the knowledge to my colleagues and other health staff."

The health center also received disinfectants and training for health workers on their use.

"The training helped our teams in guiding each other.... For example, we are able to follow the standard operating procedures," says Lillian. "The training also helped us do our work effectively. Handwashing has been emphasized in the unit, starting from the entrance to the out-patient department, which was not the case before."

Lilian also notes that other staff are keen on observing hygiene practices—a result of an active infection prevention and control committee that created daily cleaning logs, which are filled out daily.

“Although we had a committee for infection prevention before the training, it was inactive due to lack of skills and equipment. But currently, it is on ground and active,” says Lilian. “We are now confident in handling infectious cases.... The community is also benefiting from these trainings because, when they come to the facility, they do not contract infections. A patient will be managed thoroughly until they recover.”

As a result of the support received from MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership, St. Paul Health Center saw its infection prevention readiness score rise from 73 points at baseline to 91 points at endline, out of a total 100 points possible. Similar improvements were seen at the ward level within labor and delivery wards and COVID-19 wards.



Lilian Biira (center) and MOMENTUM team members at the renovated toilet structure of the St. Paul's maternity ward. Photo: MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership