

## Uganda Health Initiatives for the Private Sector (HIPS) Project

### Engaging the private sector for improved access to health services

The USAID-funded HIPS (Health Initiatives for the Private Sector) Project (2007 – 2010) works with the Ugandan business community to find cost-effective ways to ensure access to vital health services for company employees, their dependents and the surrounding community members.

HIPS provides technical assistance to help companies design and implement comprehensive workplace health programs that also extend to the surrounding community in the areas of HIV/AIDS,

Tuberculosis, Malaria, reproductive health and family planning, and support to orphans and vulnerable children (OVC).

Cardno Emerging Markets USA, Ltd. (Cardno) leads this three-year project, with Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, the Mildmay Centre, and O'Brien and Associates International. HIPS builds on the successes of the predecessor USAID project, the Business PART (Preventing AIDS and Accelerating Access to Antiretroviral Treatment) Project, also implemented by Cardno.

#### Objectives:

- Expand access to and utilization of health services in the private sector.
- Establish Global Development Alliance (GDA) public-private partnerships to leverage company-sponsored health services.

- Strengthen private sector employer organizations to support health initiatives.
- Implement innovative approaches to support orphans and vulnerable children through the private sector.

#### Activities:

HIPS is undertaking activities in the areas of prevention, treatment, training, capacity building and partnership building to ensure that access to health programs are improved and expanded via the private sector.

*“Leveraging private companies’ resources and competencies can help to mitigate HIV/AIDS and improve other health and economic conditions for both employees and surrounding communities.”*

**Barbara Addy**  
CHIEF OF PARTY, UGANDA HIPS PROJECT

For example, the HIPS Project is expanding access to vital AIDS treatment through GDA partnerships in which companies open their treatment services to community members with technical support from HIPS. HIPS assists companies and private clinics to meet strict Ministry of Health (MOH) accreditation criteria and then links them to free anti-retro-virals (ARVs) from the MOH for treatment of community members. Companies contribute their clinic infrastructure, staff time, and other drugs.



In January 2008 in Uganda, participants from Royal Van Zanten flower company took part in an event to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and to increase access to voluntary counseling and testing services.

This model will also be used to expand access to other treatment programs, such as malaria and TB.

**"Our collaboration with the Business PART Project was beneficial in entrenching Nile Breweries' HIV/AIDS programs among employees and in the supply chain. We look forward to enjoying similar support from the HIPS Project."**

**Nick Jenkinson**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR, NILE BREWERIES  
LTD., UGANDA

HIPS is also expanding the number of qualified and accredited private sector health providers in the areas of HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria. Private sector providers are sent to the Mildmay Centre, an internationally recognized Ugandan AIDS treatment and training center, for training and clinical internships.

In partnership with companies, HIPS is developing behavior change communication materials and peer education programs for employees and surrounding community members. Materials and training cover issues such as stigma and discrimination, prevention of malaria and HIV/AIDS, access to care and treatment, reproductive health and family planning methods. The Project also facilitates provision of a variety of health products such as Long Lasting Insecticide Treated Mosquito Nets, contraceptives, and safe water tablets.

HIPS is also collaborating with companies to encourage incorporation of OVC support within their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategies. Part of this strategy includes a matching grants program that links Project activities and companies with local organizations providing care to OVC in their communities.

To foster sustainability, the Project is building the capacity of private sector employer organizations such as the Federation of Uganda Employers (FUE) and the Uganda Manufacturers Association (UMA) to assume the support and

partnership role that HIPS is currently playing with Ugandan companies. This includes linking FUE and UMA with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development to roll out national health policies to the private sector, as well as strengthening their management capacity and service offerings to member companies.

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*For additional information, please contact:*

**HIPS Project Website:**  
[www.ugandahips.com](http://www.ugandahips.com)

**Ms. Barbara Addy**  
Chief of Party, Uganda HIPS  
[barbara.addy@ugandahips.com](mailto:barbara.addy@ugandahips.com)  
Tel: +256 (0) 414 347 594

**Ms. Jeanne Ellis**  
Cardno Emerging Markets USA, Ltd.  
[Jeanne.Ellis@CardnoEM.com](mailto:Jeanne.Ellis@CardnoEM.com)  
Tel: +1 703 373 7715

[www.cardno.com/emergingmarkets](http://www.cardno.com/emergingmarkets)