

CAPACITY STATEMENT

INTRODUCTION / WHO WE ARE

Busoga Health Forum (BHF), a registered non-profit, membership-based organization, aims to improve health and well-being in the Busoga sub-region. Established by health professionals, researchers, community leaders, and development practitioners, BHF bridges communities with policymakers, health institutions, and development partners. It serves as a unique connector between government, academia, donors, and grassroots in Uganda's health landscape.

VISION, MISSION, AND CORE VALUES

Vision: A healthy, thriving Busoga where every individual enjoys dignity, equity, and access to quality health services.

Mission: To mobilize expertise, partnerships, and community-driven solutions to strengthen health systems, reduce health inequities, and promote sustainable development in Busoga.

Core Values: Integrity, Accountability, Community Engagement, Innovation, Equity, and Evidence-Based Practice.

MANDATE AND RATIONALE

- Strengthening community participation in health service delivery.
- Building health systems capacity at household, community, and institutional levels.
- Addressing cross-cutting issues such as climate change, environmental health, and social justice.
- Promoting health rights and inclusive policies that safeguard marginalized populations.
- Conducting applied research and knowledge sharing to inform decision-making.

Our work responds to persistent structural infrastructure issues such as professional capacity as well as disease challenges; high maternal and infant mortality, the burden of HIV and TB, malaria prevalence, non-communicable diseases, climate-related health risks, and the marginalization of vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities, children, women, and young people.

CORE COMPETENCIES AND PROGRAM AREAS

Community Health and Empowerment

- Mobilizing households, communities, schools, and faith institutions to promote health-seeking behaviors.
- Working with Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWS), Village Health Team (VHTs), and Community Health Brigades (CHBs) to deliver preventive and promotive health interventions.

Health Rights and Advocacy

- Engaging policymakers to enact and enforce inclusive by-laws that protect people living with HIV, women, and children.
- Supporting local leaders, traditional authorities, and community influencers to promote stigma reduction and inclusive health practices.

Research and Knowledge Management

- Conducting operational research on malaria, HIV, maternal health, and other pressing issues.
- Documenting community innovations and using evidence to influence policy and programming.

Capacity Building and Leadership Development

- Training (online and offline) of frontline health workers, community health volunteers, and youth leaders.

GLOBAL POSITIONING

- Our work aligns with SDG 3, ensuring healthy lives and well-being for all ages, especially Universal Health Coverage (UHC). We support the UN, WHO, AU, and EAC's focus on health as a human right and development priority, and regional health cooperation within partner states.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

Continuous Medical Education

- We have strengthened the professional capacity of over 6,000 health workers from more than 200 health facilities across Uganda, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and professional councils. Through the Busoga Health Forum Learning Hub, we have

consistently delivered weekly CME sessions every Friday from 8–9 PM, connecting health workers nationwide with facilitators from Uganda and the diaspora. Our sessions on Sickle Cell Disease, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), Mental Health, and Emergency Care have attracted up to 300 participants per session, making the Learning Hub one of the most active and inclusive CPD platforms in Uganda.

Improving Community Outreach

- We successfully implemented large-scale reproductive health projects in Busoga, Uganda, reaching over 3.6 million people through family planning and postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) interventions under the Urban Thrive and NLUM-PPH projects, in collaboration with the Uganda Ministry of Health, Makerere University, Jinja Regional Referral Hospital, and other partners. We also coordinated the design and rollout of the community-led Busoga Malaria Elimination Program, combining mass spraying, mass testing, and mass treatment to combat malaria in the region. In addition, ENT outreaches are conducted every last Saturday of the month at Mafubira Health Centre II, alongside regular NCD clinics and medical camps that have collectively reached over 10,000 people with essential health services.

Institutional Development Support

- Supported the re-establishment of Busoga University, transitioning it from private to public status. Provided technical support for establishing a medical school, curriculum design, and faculty constitution. Collaborated with Uganda's Ministry of Health, Jinja Regional Referral Hospital, and Busoga Kingdom to mobilize resources for acquiring and using Sickle Cell Diseases diagnostic machines, improving access to quality and affordable diagnosis for 4.5 million people, especially children under 12. Coordinated the establishment of the first cancer institute in Busoga region, benefiting 9 million people from the region.

- We successfully informed Uganda Parliament about the need for budget allocation for a second regional referral hospital in Busoga and upgrading Nalufenya Children's Hospital into a national specialized children's hospital serving 2.3 million children in the region. We also coordinated partners to lobby for resources for a regional blood bank in Busoga, where Malaria and Sickle Cell Disease are prevalent, which is projected to save an estimated 2.3 million lives, especially children and young mothers.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

BHF has built a reputation as a convener and connector of diverse stakeholders:

- **Government agencies:** Ministry of Health, Uganda Health Activity, and District Health Offices.
- **Cultural and community structures:** Busoga Kingdom, clan leaders, faith leaders, and local councils.
- **International partners:** USAID, Global Fund-linked networks, international universities, and research institutes.
- **Civil society and grassroots organizations:** Over 60 NGOs and CBOs engaged in health service delivery and advocacy.

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

BHF operates under a strong governance structure that ensures transparency, accountability, and strategic leadership.

- **Membership:** A diverse pool of over 1,000 professional members actively contributing technical expertise and financial support through annual subscriptions and voluntary donations.
- **Board of Directors:** A highly experienced team of 5 Board Members, providing oversight, strategic guidance, and policy direction.
- **Management Team:** Competent and dedicated staff headed by the Executive Director, leading program implementation, research, communications, and operations.
- **Financial Management:** Robust systems aligned with donor compliance and national financial standards.

- **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL):** Functional regional frameworks for data collection, performance tracking, and adaptive learning under the Regional Quality Assurance Framework.

FACILITIES, RESOURCES, AND SYSTEMS

- Secretariat in Jinja City serving as the coordination hub for all programs, in unison with 12 liaison district-level field offices.
- Digital infrastructure to support communication, mobilization, and project management.
- A growing network of over 1000 trained health volunteers and professionals across Busoga.
- Access to training facilities and community resource centers through partnerships with schools, health institutions, and the Busoga Kingdom.
- Efficient reporting and IT-enabled data systems that ensure timely tracking and dissemination of results, sharing and utilization of health data across the region.

COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE / VALUE PROPOSITION

Dual legitimacy: trusted by communities through cultural and grassroots networks, while respected nationally and internationally for technical expertise. Proven ability to convene stakeholders across government, civil society, and development partners. Track record in innovation: unique malaria elimination approach, popular CME weekly webinar program, active grassroots community structures under our community-led model, and dynamic, multiskilled pool of members. We're well-positioned to transform lives in Busoga region.

CONCLUSION – WHY PARTNER WITH BHF

Busoga Health Forum designs, implements, and sustains high-impact health and development programs in Uganda. With robust governance, financial accountability, professional expertise, and a vast grassroots network, BHF advances global health agendas while delivering tangible impact at the community level. Partnering with BHF means investing in sustainable, community-led, scalable, innovative, and transformative health solutions.