

# PCAU Annual Report 2023

## Highlights of our Achievements for the Year

Celebrating 25 years of extending compassion, holistic care, pain relief, hope, and justice to individuals and families in Uganda.



# PCAU Board of Directors and Members of Staff



Dr. Henry Ddungu, the Board Chairperson awarded some of the staff members that signed for PCAU Life Membership during the AGM 2023.



Some of the members of staff during the #HatsOn4CPC 2023 to raise international awareness of the need for children's palliative care and the work of Children's Palliative Care (CPC) services worldwide.

## Members of the Board of Directors 2023

- |                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| • Dr. Henry Ddungu              | Chairperson      |
| • ASP John Muwonge              | Vice Chairperson |
| • CPA Josephine Kampi Tatyabala | Treasurer        |
| • Grace Nayiga                  | Secretary        |
| • Rtn. Gerever Niwagaba         | Member           |
| • Hajati Mwazi Batuli           | Member           |
| • Dr. Miriam Ajambo             | Member           |
| • Gloria Kirungi Kasozi PhD     | Member           |
| • CPA Timothy Basiimampora, PhD | Member           |

## Members of Staff 2023

- |                              |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Mark Donald Bikosa Mwesiga | Executive Director               |
| • Joyce Zalwango             | Capacity Building Manager        |
| • Lisa Christine Irumba      | Research and Information Manager |
| • Ritah Nannyomo             | Finance Officer                  |
| • Anita Balikobaku           | Program Officer Road to Hope     |
| • Cynthia Kabagambe          | M&E Officer                      |
| • Dr. Angella Namatovu       | Capacity Building Officer        |
| • Fiona Siima Karakire       | Membership & Partnership Officer |
| • Zipporah Kyomuhangi        | Administrative Assistant         |
| • Doreen Nalwadda            | Accounts Assistant               |
| • Margret Kabajungu          | General Assistant                |
| • Jaffar Mohamed             | Driver                           |
| • Tonny Agondeze             | Volunteer                        |
| • Joseph Serebe              | Volunteer                        |

## Staff of PCAU, West Nile Branch / New Life Hospice Arua (NELIHA)

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| • Agaboru Sebi Lucy | Clinical Team Leader |
| • Ndemaru Patricia  | Administrator        |



# Member Organisations of PCAU

No.	Organization
1.	Kawempe Home Care
2.	Mildmay Uganda Hospital
3.	St. Francis Naggalama Hospital
4.	Palliative Care Education and Research Consortium
5.	Joy Hospice Mbale
6.	Rays of Hope Hospice Jinja
7.	Mengo Hospital
8.	Hospice Africa Uganda
9.	Kitovu Mobile
10.	St. Francis Nsambya Hospital
11.	Kabale Christian Care
12.	The Aged Family Uganda
13.	Yotkom Medical Centre
14.	Uganda Reach the Aged Association

No.	Organization
15.	SD Cancer Palliative Care Centre
16.	Cancer Disabilities Advocacy Centre (CADAC)
17.	Reach Out Mbuya
18.	Kamuli Mission Hospital
19.	The AIDS Support Organization (TASO) Uganda
20.	CoRSU Rehabilitation Hospital
21.	Ibanda Central Clinic
22.	Ngora Hospice Program-FADO-T
23.	Samaritan Development Organization
24.	Hospice Tororo
25.	Peace Hospice Adjumani
26.	Kadama Widows Association
27.	Mama Maria Health Centre
28.	Mother Mary Cancer Palliative Care Centre



Some of the PCAU Staff, with the Ag Executive Director of Kawempe Home Care and the Executive Director of Ray of Hope Hospice Jinja, at the cancer run organized by Rays of Hope Hospice Jinja in 2023



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*Dr. Henry Ddungu*  
PCAUI Board Chairperson



*Mark Donald Masesiga*  
PCAUI Executive Director



*We are grateful to all PCAUI members, the Board, partners, donors, staff, and volunteers for your contribution to the work of the association in 2023.*

*As we celebrate PCAUI's Silver Jubilee, let us rejuvenate ourselves to do even more. Let us continue working together, building more partnerships, and leveraging all the resources and opportunities that we have, to alleviate the pain and suffering among many in our country."*



# The message from the Board Chairperson and the Executive Director

## Dear PCAU Members, Partners, and Friends,

Thank you for your continued support of the Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU).

This year, we celebrate PCAU's Silver Jubilee. This association has been at the heart of palliative care development in Uganda since 1999. It is therefore proper to look at the milestones. The association is growing. We need to thank the founders and all the people who have served PCAU in various capacities over these years. That includes the membership, the current and former members of the Board, staff, volunteers, and partners. Thank you all!

We are midway through our strategic plan which we launched in 2021. As we look at the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of our plan, we recognize that we need to do more research to generate more evidence for informed decision-making in palliative care. We call upon scientists and academic institutions to join this effort.

PCAU has published a research agenda to guide this process. PCAU has also invested in supporting palliative care reporting through the national health management system.

The government took a commendable step to create positions of palliative care in the health service structure up to Health Center III. This structure will take palliative care to the primary health care level where it is very essential. The operationalization of this structure has been slow. We appeal to the government to prioritize funding for these structures. Many people who need palliative care, especially at the end of life, can benefit from home care.

As we gather for the AGM today, we will elect new members of the Board to take PCAU forward. We have five people leaving the Board. The outgoing Board led PCAU through the transition from the founding

Executive Director, guided the secretariat through the COVID-19 season, and instituted a new strategic plan. We thank them individually for their support to PCAU and we welcome the new Board to steer PCAU ahead.

The work of palliative care is facing reduced donor financial resources. We need to find ways of working together and supporting one another as a palliative care fraternity. We need to build partnerships to leverage the resources and mobilize for more together. PCAU will lead the way.

We appreciate all our members, sponsors, partner institutions, and our donors the American Cancer Society (ACS), and the Center for Hospice Care (CHC) for your support in 2023.

*Thank you all.*



# Thank you!

With your support, we have been empowered to make a lasting impact.

Celebrating 25 years of extending compassion, holistic care, pain relief, hope, and justice to individuals and families in Uganda.



**Thank you for your generous support to PCAU in 2023**

We appreciate all those who purchase our branded items including T-shirts, caps, scarves, and bangles among others.

You have also been very generous to us through the donation boxes at;

- Quality Supermarket-Naalya
- Quality Supermarket-Lubowa
- Quality Supermarket-Kitende
- Senana Hypermarket
- Peral Supermarket-Entebbe
- Entebbe International Airport



# The PCAU Strategic Plan 2022 – 2026

## PCAU Strategic Direction



### Our Mission

To accelerate the provision and integration of palliative care in Uganda's healthcare system through capacity building, advocacy, research, governance and resources mobilization.



### Our Vision

Palliative Care for All in Uganda



### Goal

Universal provision and access to culturally appropriate palliative care in Uganda.

- | Service Provider Focus
- | Collaboration
- | Integrity
- | Volunteerism
- | Professionalism

## Focus Areas & Objectives

2022 - 2026

To strengthen the capacity of palliative care providers in Uganda through supporting training, continuous professional education, mentorship, and supervision.



**Capacity Building**

To enhance resource mobilization and financial efficiency for Palliative Care in Uganda.



**Sustainability and Financial Efficiency**



**Advocacy and Awareness Creation**

To advocate for a supportive environment and increase understanding of palliative care among stakeholders in Uganda.



**Palliative Care Research and Information**

To establish a hub of research and information on palliative care in Uganda.



**Governance and Support Functions**

To enhance effective and efficient governance and management of Palliative Care Services in Uganda.

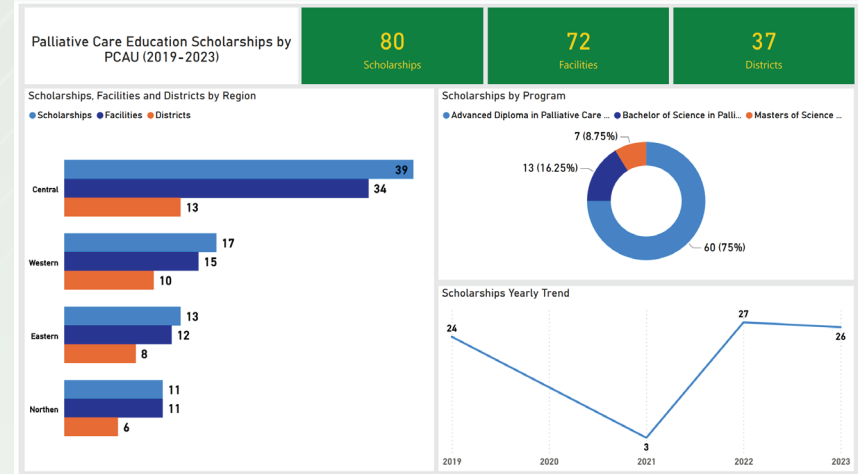


# Capacity Building for Palliative Care Providers in Uganda:

We focus on strengthening the capacity of palliative care providers in Uganda through supporting **training, continuous professional education, mentorship, and supervision.**



Over the years, we have realized the impact of our palliative care education scholarships on expanding coverage of the service in the country. In the last five years, we have offered a total of 80 scholarships to nurses, midwives, clinical officers, and doctors to undertake palliative care education. These have initiated palliative care units in at least 37 districts of Uganda.



## Achievements under our capacity building work in 2023 were:

- **20 Health facilities across the country recommended nurses and midwives to undertake the Diploma in Palliative Care Nursing with PCAU scholarships.** They graduated and are initiating palliative care programs in their districts.
- **7 most deserving students of Bachelor of Science in Palliative Care received scholarships** from PCAU to complete their studies.
- **We worked with 3 palliative care practicum sites: Hospice Africa Uganda, Kawempe Home Care and Palliative Care Education and Research Consortium** to continue strengthening the capacity of students undertaking palliative care training. We further supported 20 students to undertake clinical placement at Uganda Cancer Institute and at the Sickle Cell Clinic in Mulago National Referral Hospital.



“I am empowered and feel very proud that I can do something to improve the quality of life of patients and their families who would otherwise suffer so much pain. Several patients and caregivers have given us positive feedback since we established a palliative care unit. This motivates me a lot.”

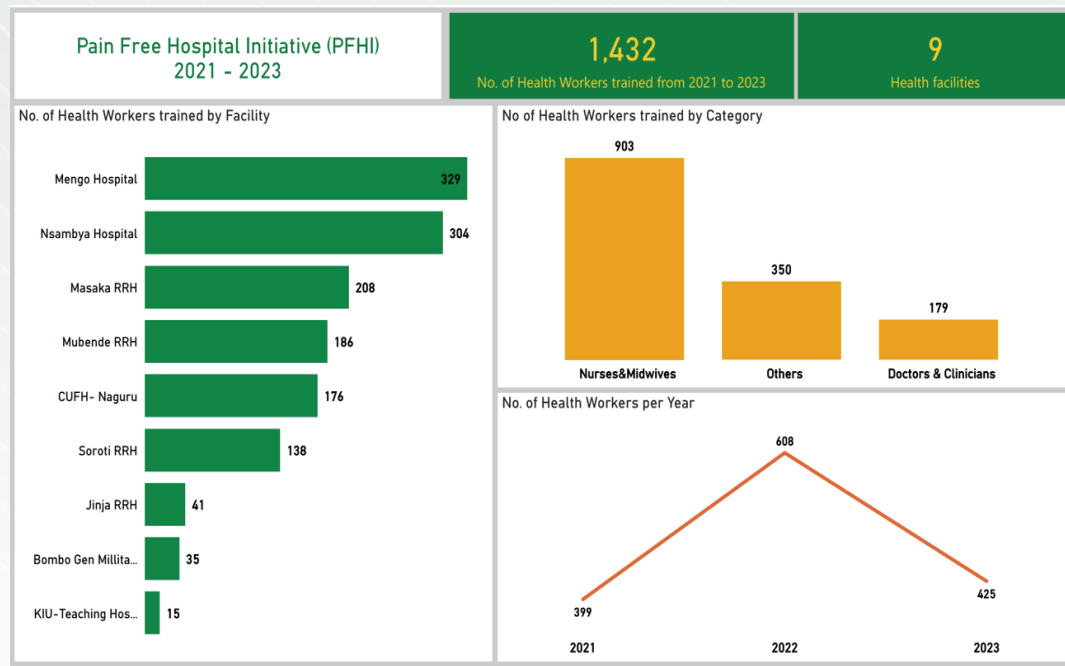
One of the Graduates of the Advanced Diploma in Palliative Care Nursing (ADPCN) 2022 Cohort who works at a Health Center IV in Central Uganda.

# The Pain Free Hospital Initiative (PFHI) in Uganda

**We accomplished pain management training for 425 health workers in six large referral and teaching hospitals.** The Pain Free Hospital Initiative (PFHI) implemented in the six hospitals has made a key transition to sustainable quality pain assessment and management.

Our approach enabled the six hospitals to:

- Establish teams of motivated clinicians to evaluate and treat pain.
- Integrated appropriate medicines to treat pain in their budget and ordering schedules.
- Actively engage in continued teaching, learning, and awareness about pain.



The Regional Referral and other teaching hospitals where PFHI was implemented in 2023.

## PCAU Quartery Update Meetings

Our quarterly continuous medical education (CME) session at the PCAU Secretariat and regional communities hosted over 500 participants during the year. These are essential for continuous quality improvement of the palliative care service across Uganda.



Palliative care units at five Regional Referral Hospitals and two private hospitals redesigned their plans for integrating palliative care into their routine practice with the guidance of our support supervision teams. Our support supervision composed of staff from PCAU, and the Ministry of Health reached more than 18 health facilities in a total of 11 districts during the year. We make a difference when the support supervision is conducted. The team will address challenges in service delivery and support strengthening linkages for referral, and access to medicines as well as share best practices.



**PCAU is now a Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Provider for Nurses and Midwives in Uganda.** The Uganda Nurses and Midwives Council (UNMWC) approved PCAU's request after a rigorous process to become a CPD for nurses and midwives who attend palliative care training sessions.

The five days short course introduction to palliative care curricula for both health and non health professional are now reviewed and available for institutions in Uganda to use.



In 2023, PCAU developed a sickle cell pain management guide for health workers and reviewed two Palliative care short course training curricula for health and non-health professionals. In addition we held strategic meetings with two universities in Uganda to integrate palliative care as a course unit in their bachelors of social work training programs. We held meetings with the Ministry of Education and Sports to integrate Palliative Care training at the tutor's training college. We hosted nineteen students from eight African Francophone countries who were undertaking the palliative care initiators course at Hospice Africa Uganda. We shared the important experience of PCAU as an initiator of many palliative care programs in Uganda.



## Advocacy and Awareness Creation for Palliative Care in Uganda:

We advocate for a supportive environment and work to increase understanding of palliative care among stakeholders in Uganda.



We launched Uganda's pioneer compassionate community program in 2023. Our initiative aims to respond to the dignity and quality of life needs among vulnerable persons by empowering neighbors in their community to provide important physical, emotional, social, spiritual, and practical support including referral. Community members in Lweza Zone B are aware of who is vulnerable in their neighborhood and now they participate in compassionate activities to support the sick, older persons, and other vulnerable people.

Our primary partner for the compassionate community program is Lweza Community Health Program, a community-based organization in the same area.



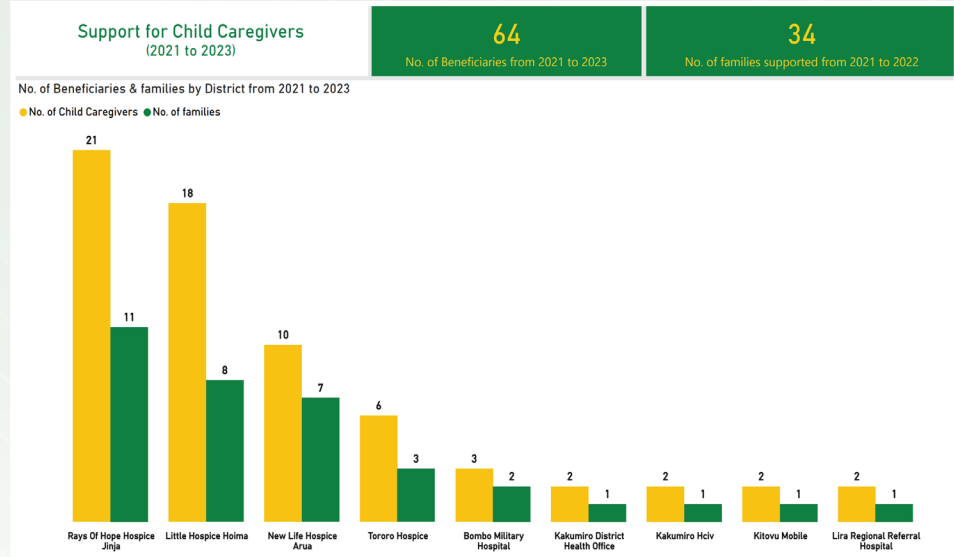


*“I consider myself fortunate because the Road to Hope program picked me from a poor state while I was looking after my grandmother. The program protected me, gave me hope, and educated me. I established a barbershop after my vocational studies. I am now self-sufficient and proud to assist my ailing grandmother with all her essential basic needs....”*

The program supports children who are the sole caregivers of their very sick parents or grandparents. Most of the children are orphans.



## The Road to Hope Program Expanded to 64 Child Caregivers in 2023.



Empowering people and communities: 23 districts have groups of people dedicated to promoting the rights of patients in need of palliative care, their caregivers, and disease survivors. The groups are supported by nine hospices and health facilities. The message of palliative care goes beyond the schools to communities where 64 child caregivers enrolled in the Road to Hope program come from.



## Advocacy for Essential Palliative Care Medicine in Uganda

It is still legal for specially trained nurses and clinical officers to prescribe morphine for pain relief in Uganda. The Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act 2023 upholds the Statutory Instrument of 2004. In July 2023 PCAU composed a working group of experts that successfully led advocacy efforts of recognizing the need for palliative care during the process of developing the Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act. The team formulated a position paper and met members of the Committee on Health in Parliament. The working group had representatives from the Ministry of Health, Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI), Hospice Africa Uganda (HAU), Uganda Police Force, Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF), African Palliative Care Association (APCA), Uganda Network on Law Ethics and HIV/AIDS (UGANET) and PCAU. Our advocacy was successful. Health workers need to check out the law to act within limits.



# In the News and Palliative Care Information Dissemination Through the Mainstream Media

**eHospice** Palliative care news, views and inspiration from around the world

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## 30 years of Palliative Care in Uganda: PCAU energized with new strategic Plan

March 27, 2023  
Care, Leadership  
Author: Mark Donald Mwesiga, Executive Director, Palliative Care Association of Uganda

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Palliative Care Association of Uganda seeks more funding

Oct 17, 2023



**MONITOR**

National Education Insight World

## Lack of palliative care policy hindering service delivery - experts

Saturday, October 14, 2023

**A common condition**  
This article is more than 1 year old

## 'It's not just about dying': Uganda's pioneers of palliative care undaunted by huge challenges

Morphine was first introduced to the country 30 years ago, but as the burden of cancer increases, thousands of people still lack access to even basic treatment or pain relief

by [Isabel Choat](#) in Kampala and Mbarara

**THE INDEPENDENT**  
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Home / Society category / Health / Only 11% of Ugandans in need of palliative care can access it

## Only 11% of Ugandans in need of palliative care can access it

The Independent October 16, 2023 Health, NEWS 1 Comment

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08:37 PM

**Good Morning Uganda**

**JOYCE ZALWANGO - CAPACITY BUILDING MANAGER, PCAU**

**CANCER TREATMENT**  
UNDERSTANDING PALLIATIVE CARE FOR CANCER

**UBC LIVE**

A SECTION OF MP: ASK THE WORLD BANK TO RETHINK ITS DE



# Our Community Engagement Interventions

Our community engagement interventions have empowered 23 impoverished families to beat treatment abandonment for their children facing cancer. Our conviction is that we can raise a community of compassionate people to support children from impoverished families facing challenging life situations to realize their full potential. So, we support and motivate palliative care teams in the countryside to get directly involved in referral and navigation for children from impoverished families who face cancer, sickle cell disease, stuntedness, and other conditions. In 2023, we worked with the palliative care team at Kitagata Hospital to support 23 children in four districts of western Uganda to continue with their cancer treatment.



Our support to six hospices and hospital-based palliative care units assisted over 200 patients with cancer to access essential medical sundries.

**Empowered 23 impoverished families** to beat treatment abandonment for their children facing cancer.

**Supported 23 children in 4 districts** of western Uganda to continue with their cancer treatment.

**Assisted over 200 patients** with cancer to access essential medical sundries.

**Engagements** including a day-out event for 50 older persons.

**High School Students for Palliative Care:** On the World Hospice and Palliative Care Day 2023 we launched the Pioneer High School Palliative Care Club at Taibah International School.



The club, working with Lweza Community Health Program, has had several engagements including a day-out event for 50 older persons. The older persons met for networking, relaxing, exercise, and information-sharing. The students came in handy in supporting the older persons to navigate their way to the venue, serving meals, package gift hampers for the older persons, and other assisting roles.





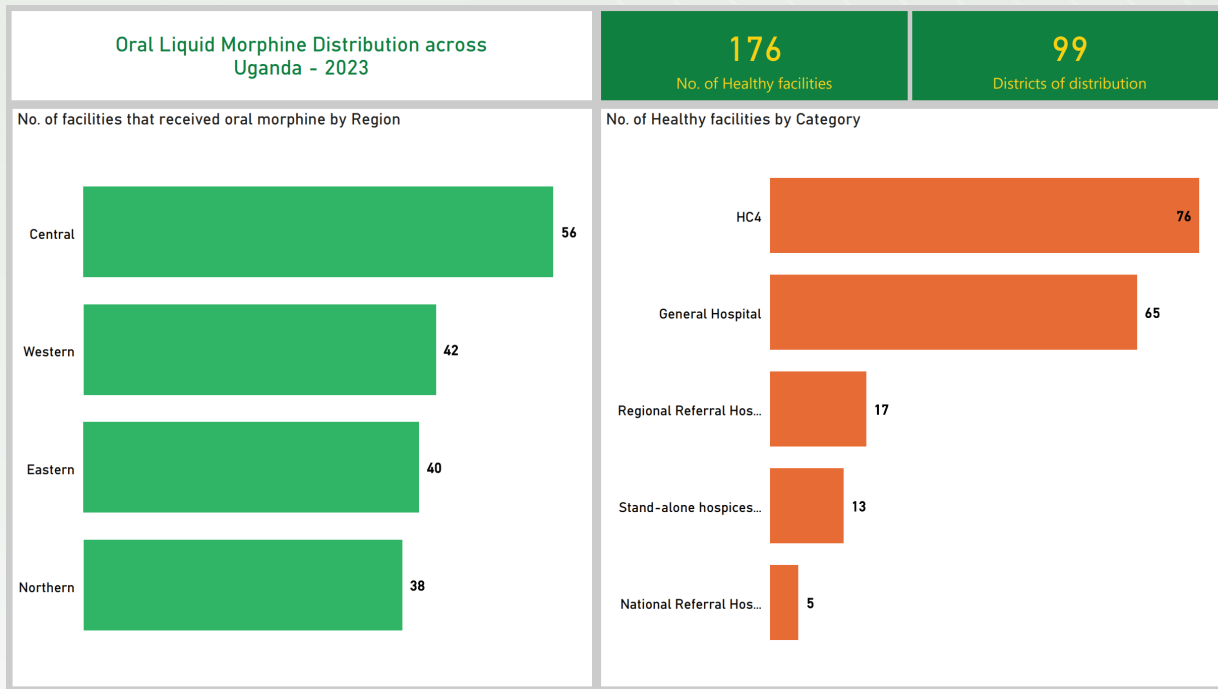
During cancer treatment, many families in Uganda are pushed to deprivation due to the various expenses involved. As a last resort, several families sell basic possessions such as a family house and piece of land to get funds to afford transport, medicines, and other supplies. In many ways, our Road to Hope program assists in mitigating this poverty challenge. For some families where the children are the sole caregivers, the Road to Hope program has assisted in equipping teenagers with entrepreneurial skills so that they have income. In other families, the program supports children to continue with formal education. The program also assists by supporting hospital referral mechanisms, cancer treatment navigation, and information dissemination among activities.



**In the photo**, staff at one of the hospitals in Uganda ask a patient to mark the point on the line that best relates to the pain intensity they feel. This point is measured with a ruler and the pain intensity expressed in centimeters. Numerical scale: This ranges from 0 to 10; with 0 representing no pain and 10 pain of the greatest intensity.

“The pain management training sessions have equipped us with the knowledge and skills to provide compassionate and effective pain management. Our hospital is now a sanctuary of comfort and relief. I can confidently say that the program has transformed our approach to patient care.”

**One of the hospital staff said this about the Pain-Free Hospital Initiative (PFHI) in 2023.**



Up to 176 health facilities in 99 districts accessed oral liquid morphine in 2023. PCAU plays a key role in strengthening the supply chain of essential medicines for palliative care and pain relief including oral liquid morphine. PCAU coordinates meetings of the morphine partners in Uganda. The partners who meet quarterly focus on the continuous availability and access to oral liquid morphine for patients in need. The Morphine Partners Meetings

in Uganda, include the Ministry of Health, the manufacturer (Hospice Africa Uganda) Distributors (National Medical Stores and Joint Medical Stores), the National Drug Authority, high consumption health facilities (Uganda Cancer Institute, Mulago National Referral Hospital, Kiruddu Referral Hospital, and Kawempe Specialized National Referral Hospital) as well as other partners like the American Cancer Society.





## Palliative Care **Research and Information:**

We are working towards establishing a hub of research and information on palliative care in Uganda.

**PubMed**  
Advanced

Save Email

> Ecanccermedicalsience. 2023 Nov 13:17:1628. doi: 10.3332/ecancer.2023.1628. eCollection 2023.

### Scaling up availability, accessibility, quality and equity – highlights from the 4th Uganda conference on cancer and palliative care, held in Kampala, Uganda

Julia Downing <sup>1 2 3</sup>, Nixon Niyonzima <sup>4</sup>, Eddie Mwebesa <sup>5</sup>, Lisa Christine Irumba <sup>6</sup>, Judith Asasira <sup>4</sup>, Bernadette Basemera <sup>2 6</sup>, Diana Basirika <sup>5</sup>, Alfred Jatho <sup>4</sup>, Immaculate Mbarusha <sup>4</sup>, Harriet Nalubega <sup>5</sup>, Dorothy Olet Adong <sup>5</sup>, Deirdre Ryan <sup>5</sup>, Danait Tesfai <sup>7</sup>, Cynthia Kabagambe <sup>6</sup>, Joyce Zalwango <sup>6</sup>, Catherine Amuge <sup>4</sup>, Cissy Nassolo <sup>4</sup>, Edward Kakungulu <sup>4</sup>, Jackson Orem <sup>4</sup>, Mark Mwesiga <sup>6</sup>

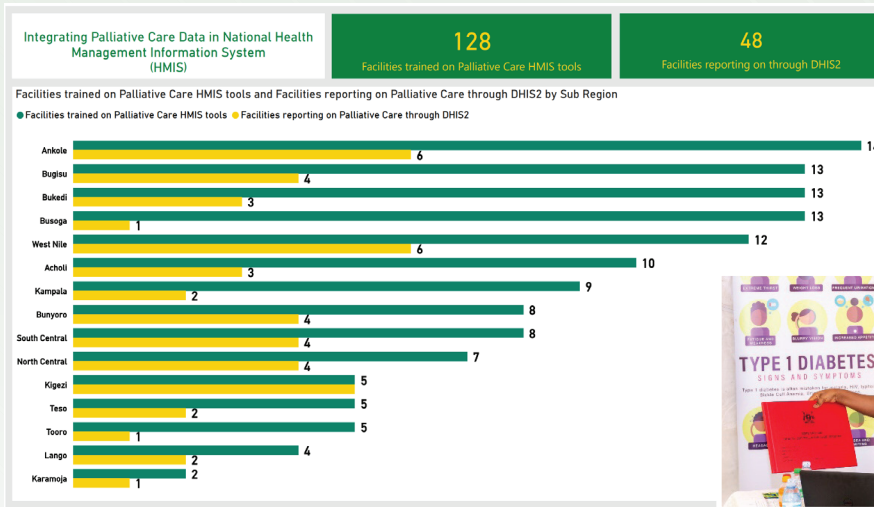
Affiliations + expand  
PMID: 38414953 PMCID: [PMC10898879](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PMC10898879) DOI: [10.3332/ecancer.2023.1628](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/10.3332/ecancer.2023.1628)

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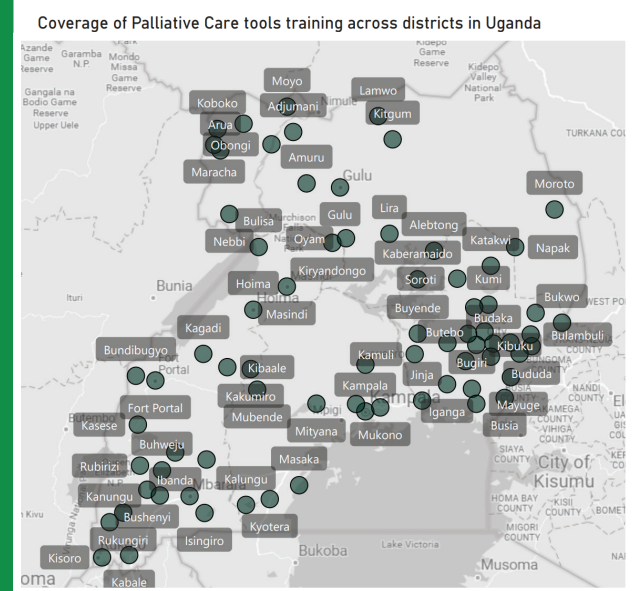


In partnership with the Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI), we host the largest cancer and palliative care conference in the region. The 4<sup>th</sup> Uganda Conference on Cancer and Palliative Care in Uganda brought together 450 delegates for face-to-face conference after COVID-19. Find the published conference report online <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38414953/>

# Uganda Has Achieved Reporting on Palliative Care Through the District Health Information System II (DHIS2) with our Partnership with the Ministry of Health.



We launched a Palliative Care Service Provider Directory for Uganda in 2023. The Directory is an important resource to help anyone locate palliative care in or near their area in the country. The directory includes all palliative care programs, in hospitals, hospices, and other organizations that have listed themselves with or are known to the Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU). All the listed palliative care providers voluntarily accepted a call by PCAU to be in this resource. Access it <https://pcauganda.org/pcau-publications/>



Since 2015, PCAU has offered technical and financial support to a very successful rigorous process of establishing national palliative care tools in Uganda. PCAU has supported the Ministry of Health in accomplishing the development of the national palliative care data collection tools. These are; HMIS OPD 008: Health Unit Palliative Care Register and the HMIS 105c: Health Unit Palliative Care Monthly Report. Report). In 2023, we registered success with 48 health facilities submitting reports.



# Collaborations with Ugandan and International Universities for Research and Exposure Learning



We hosted students John and Ethan from the University of Notre Dame USA who worked along our teams strengthening palliative care data in Uganda, disability inclusion for hospices in Uganda, and supporting palliative care teams to engage communities on children's palliative care.



PCAU hosted nursing students Christie, Nena, and Suzanne from HAN University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands who worked with PCAU on the study to establish palliative care training needs among community volunteers. PCAU is taking forward this successful study findings for publication.




## Palliative Care for Older Persons in Uganda

PCAU is one of the organizations that form the HelpAge Advocacy Network Uganda which is a consortium of older persons-focused organizations in Uganda.

At the 4<sup>th</sup> Uganda Conference on Cancer and Palliative Care, a dedicated round

table discussion on Ageing, Ageism, and Palliative Care was held to propel this work. PCAU is advocating for and creating awareness and supporting palliative care units on long-term care and healthy aging agenda.





**Palliative  
Care Unit 3**



*“The scholarship from PCAU towards my MSc in Palliative Care came at the right. The qualification has broadened my knowledge base and skill set for both clinical practice and leadership role to advance palliative care in the Bunyoro Sub-Region of Uganda.”*

**Germans Natuhwera** currently works as the Health Services Coordinator with Hospice Africa Uganda in their field office at Little Hospice Hoima.

# PCAU Information Education and Communication Materials (IEC) 2023: Available on <https://pcauganda.org/>



**4th Uganda Conference on Cancer and Palliative Care**

Hosted by  
The Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI) and  
The Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU)



**Conference Abstract Book and Programme**

[conference.pcauganda.org](https://conference.pcauganda.org)




**Highlights of our achievements for the year.**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2022**



■ PCAU Toll Free: 0800 399 100  
■ Email: [pcau.admin@pcau.org.ug](mailto:pcau.admin@pcau.org.ug)

■ Touching lives, healing families, transforming community



August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023

**The Chairperson**  
Committee on Health  
Parliament of the Republic of Uganda

**Position paper by the Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU), beneficiaries of palliative care, and other stakeholders involved in patient care and advocacy on the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Bill 2023.**


**Brief Background**

The constitutional court of Uganda repealed the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act, 2016 in May 2023. The Parliament of Uganda is now in the advanced stages of tabling a fresh Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Bill 2023. The Minister of State for Internal Affairs presented the Bill for the first reading, and it was forwarded to the Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs and the Committee on Health for scrutiny. The Bill re-enforces Uganda's position that misuse and/or the illicit use and diversion of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances must be controlled. The Bill introduces a more rigorous and criminal-law-based legal regime, in a bid to domesticate the global war on drugs.

**15 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP**



Center for Hospice Care | Hospices Foundation | GLOBAL PARTNERS IN CARE



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

**PRACTICAL GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH WORKERS FOR PAIN MANAGEMENT IN SICKLE CELL DISEASE**



## Supporting the Governance and Support Functions to Enhance Effective and Efficient Management of Palliative Care Services in Uganda



***“My people are suffering, please bring your palliative care and your oral morphine. We need you.”***

Dr. James Makumbi Minister of Health to Dr. Anne and Fazal in February 1993.

In 2023, Uganda commemorated 30 years since Dr. Anne Merriman and her first palliative care team introduced palliative care in Uganda. Dr. Merriman founded Hospice Africa Uganda which has been a model for palliative care service delivery in Uganda and Africa. PCAU hosted two events to commemorate the 30th anniversary as well as created a platform for further advocacy for the service.



In 2023, PCAU celebrated 15 years of partnership with the Center for Hospice Care (CHC). The partnership which is part of the Global Partners in Care has contributed immensely to the development of palliative care in Uganda. Read the partnership report here <https://pcauganda.org/pcau-publications/>



## PCAU Advocates for and Supports Collaborative Partnerships for Enhancing Palliative Care Policy and Implementation in Uganda



At the 4th Uganda Conference on Cancer and Palliative Care in September 2023, PCAU, in partnership with Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI), Hosted the Inaugural Board Members and CEOs side event. Over 70 members of boards and CEOs from hospices, hospitals, and other health care organizations attended. The event was facilitated by CEOs of Centenary Bank, UCI, HLB Jim Roberts, and Global Health Collaborative.

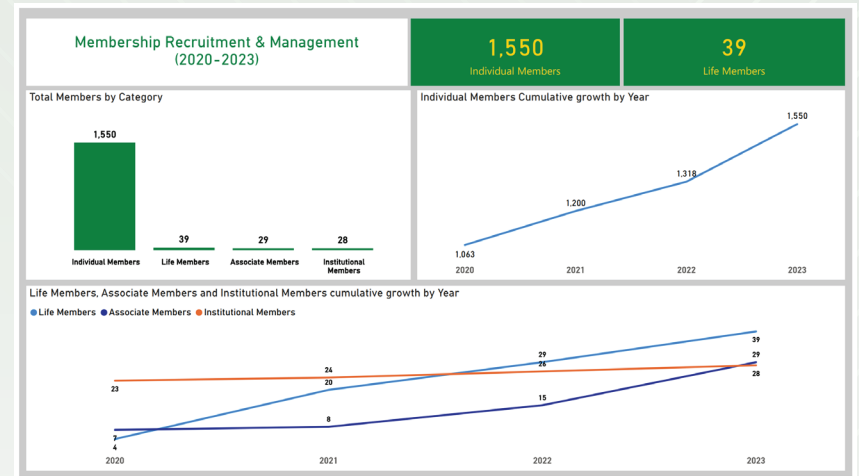


Fatia Kiyange, the Executive Director of the Centre for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD), and Dr. Jackson Orem, the Executive Director of Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI)

# PCAU Membership is Now **Above 1500!**



We continue to grow our membership. PCAU membership is open to individuals and organizations engaged in the provision of palliative care services in Uganda. We have created an umbrella platform for our members to be connected, work together, and have a strong voice for palliative care in Uganda.



PCAU members have an opportunity to contribute to the development of palliative care work in Uganda.





# Join Like-minded and Compassionate People Like You Today

The Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU) was established in 1999 and registered as a non-governmental organization (NGO) in 2003. PCAU was established to advocate and coordinate civil society efforts in supporting the government and to integrate palliative care into the national health care system at all levels. Membership in the association is open to all individuals and institutions interested in palliative care.

## Membership Category, Fees and Frequency

**Individual membership** 20,000/= Annual subscription

**One-time Individual Lifetime Membership** 1,000,000/=

**Institutional/Organizational membership** 1,000,000/= Annual subscription

Subscribe to become a member or give a generous contribution to PCAU through MTN MoMo Pay at +256 0789737786

New Member Organisation:

## Welcome SD Cancer Palliative Care Centre, Jinja

They provide hospice care for cancer and AIDS-affected people, family counseling, free medical camps, outreach programs, assistance with slum education, perpetual adoration, intercessor and prayer missions, prison ministry, and Bible teachings to poor and marginalized Jinja communities.

The facility is founded by Sisters of the Destitute, a religious congregation of nuns and originated in Kerala, India.



## What Affected the Delivery of Our Work in 2023

- **Palliative care is not yet fully integrated within the national health and social care support systems for Uganda at the national, health facility, and community levels.** Thus, the capacity of the national health and social system to meet the needs of all adults, children, and their families with serious health-related suffering is still low. Several national-level health programs and community-based interventions miss palliative care. PCAU is advocating for the government and partners to integrate and support the integration of palliative into primary care and specialized services, its interaction with other areas of the health system, and accessibility.
- **There exist several major unfunded priorities of the palliative approach at the national and community levels.** These include home care, people empowerment and engagement, access to essential medical supplies for patients, and palliative care education for health and non-health service providers. PCAU is advocating to the government and partners to support resource allocation for home care, community engagement, and education for palliative care providers in Uganda. This includes direct funding support to the 13 stand-alone hospices and home care programs which complement the government's effort to offer palliative care, yet currently face serious donor budget cuts.
- **There is a need to fast-track the development of the National Palliative Care Strategy for Uganda.** A national framework including regulations that guarantee the rights of patients, access to palliative care services and essential medicines, and the financing and inclusion of palliative care in the Uganda National Minimum Health Care Package (UNMHCP) is lacking. The current efforts to support the development of this framework lack adequate funding. PCAU is leading the efforts for resource mobilization and the required technical support and therefore appeals to partners for support.



## 5th Uganda Conference on Cancer and Palliative Care

The conference is Co-hosted by the **Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI)** which is the East Africa Center of Excellence in Oncology and the **Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU)**.

10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>  
SEPTEMBER 2025

IN  
KAMPALA

The conference brings together professionals in the field of cancer and palliative care, students, policymakers, eminent researchers and academicians, donors, partners, patients, caregivers, and members of the public.

This is an opportunity for professionals in the East African Region, the African Region, and Globally an opportunity to disseminate groundbreaking research and information. Contact us and look out for more information on how to participate. There will be plenary speeches, oral and poster abstract presentations, workshops, side events, a gala dinner, and exhibitions.

Check out <https://conference.pcauganda.org/>  
Contact us by email: [conference@pcau.org.ug](mailto:conference@pcau.org.ug)

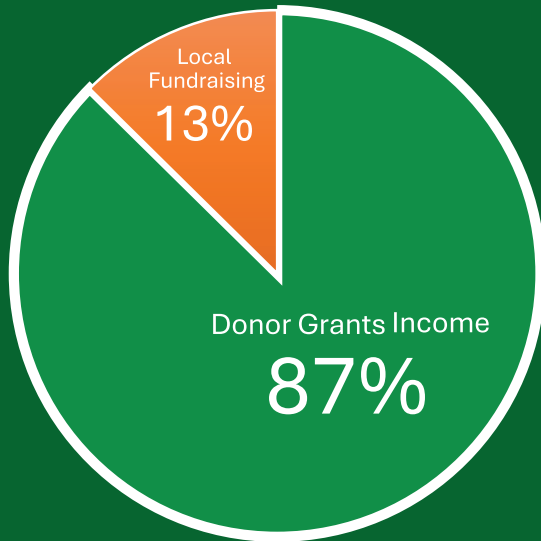


# A Look at our Financial Resources for 2023

In 2023, PCAU's total income was Uganda shillings 1.878 billion. Of this amount, 87% was from PCAU donors who fund our programs and projects. The 13% income was generated from local fundraising initiatives which included membership subscriptions, generous contributions to activities, PCAU branded items, get-together dinners, interest, and donation boxes.

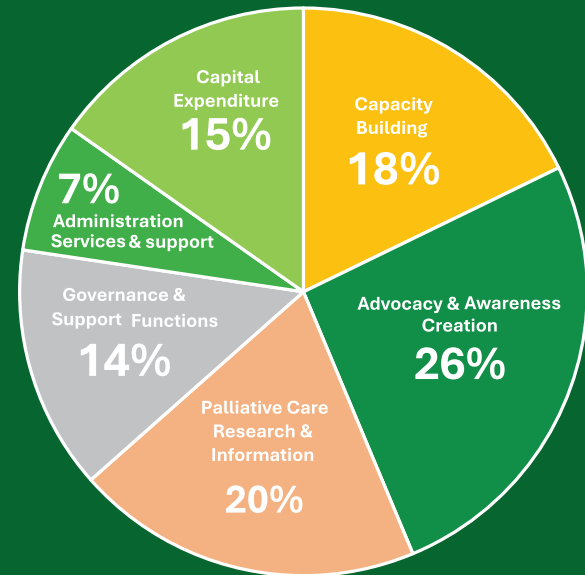
PCAU spent a total of Uganda shillings 1.881 billion in 2023. All PCAU members can access the full audited financial reports of PCAU at the Annual General Meeting or by emailing the Executive Director ([mark.mwesiga@pcau.org.ug](mailto:mark.mwesiga@pcau.org.ug)) to receive a soft copy. PCAU is grateful to all donors, members, and supporters for their generous contributions to PCAU.

## PCAU'S SOURCE OF INCOME



Total income **1.878 billion**

## PCAU'S EXPENDITURE

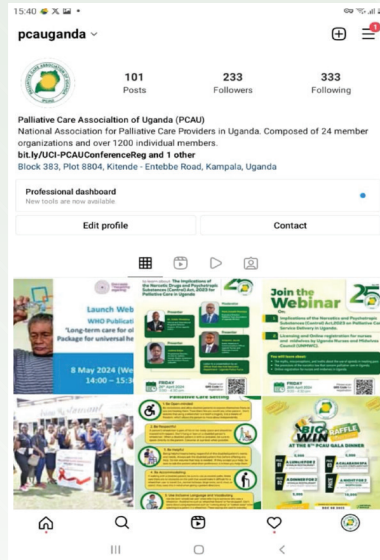


Total Expenditure **1.881 billion**

# Connect with us on Social Media!



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Instagram



LinkedIn



X



WhatsApp +256 789 737786





# Partner with PCAU to Take Palliative Care Across Districts in Uganda.

During this time, we are seeking donors and partners to support us in providing palliative care and pain relief services to the most underserved communities in Uganda. The need for palliative care in Uganda continues to grow. We are seeking funding for our initiatives on palliative care for children, Long long-term care (LTC) for older person, integrating sexual and reproductive health (SRH), spiritual care, and gender-based violence (GBV) into palliative care delivery in Uganda among others.

Contact PCAU through [pcau.admin@pcau.org.ug](mailto:pcau.admin@pcau.org.ug) donations can also be directly given through **Account Number: 8708213487400**

**Account Name:** Palliative Care Association of Uganda  
**Bank:** STANDARD CHARTERED BANK UGANDA LIMITED Swift  
**Address/Code:** SCBLUGKA



PCAU's New Vehicle



## Palliative Care **Alleviates Total Pain**

**Physical Pain** – pain on the affected body part, spasms, generalized body pain, fatigue – Usually needs treatment i.e., medicines.

**Social pain** – Distress on oneself a burden to family, participation issues, friends, and others. Stigma, discrimination, gender-based violence, and human rights violations – usually addressed through social support.

**Psychosocial Pain** – guilt, anger, restlessness, fear, disturbed sleep, sadness – usually addressed through psychosocial support.

**Spiritual Pain** – Guilt/remorse, why me? Why do I have to suffer this? Is life meaningless? – usually addressed through Spiritual Support.

**Do you have questions about Palliative Care services in Uganda?** We are glad to help. Call the Palliative Care Association of Uganda **Toll-Free at 0800399100.** Speak to a Palliative Care specialist today.



0800 399 100



+256 772 535 341



[www.pcauganda.org](http://www.pcauganda.org)



# PCAUA Cares App

## Palliative care Information for Uganda



Are you a patient, caregiver, healthcare provider, or someone seeking palliative care information?

The **PCAUA Cares App** offers free information on palliative care services in Uganda.

### Key Features:

- Latest updates on palliative care in Uganda
- What palliative care is
- Who needs palliative care
- Where to find palliative care services
- Facts and misconceptions about palliative care
- How to get involved with palliative care initiatives

Download the App



[www.pcauganda.org](http://www.pcauganda.org)

[pcau.admin@pcau.org.ug](mailto:pcau.admin@pcau.org.ug)



Follow us for updates and support

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P.O. Box 34985, Kampala, Uganda

+256 392 080713 +256 414 692350

0800 399100 +256 789 737786



# Thank you!

With your support, we have been empowered to make a lasting impact.

Celebrating 25 years of extending compassion, holistic care, pain relief, hope, and justice to individuals and families in Uganda.



# Gala Dinner Invitation

## Join us for our Silver Jubilee Gala Dinner PCAUA Members Annual Get-together



**FRIDAY**  
6<sup>TH</sup> DEC 2024



Fairway Hotel  
Kampala.

### Dinner Tickets

- Couple: 250K
- Individual PCAU Members: 150
- Individual Non-PCAU Members: 180K
- Table of 5 for PCAU Member organizations 1M
- Corporate table of 10 (sponsors) 2.5M

Dress code: **Formal Ball Room**

All Proceeds go towards the establishment of PCAU's Larger Office Premises.

For more information on sponsorships, donations, or queries call us at +256 789 737 786 or [pcau.admin@pcau.org.ug](mailto:pcau.admin@pcau.org.ug)





## **Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU)**

P.O. Box 34985, Kampala, Uganda,  
Block 383, Plot 8804 Kitende, Entebbe Road

**Office Telephone:** +256 392080713,

Follow us for updates and support

