

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

FACING COVID-19 AT KALONGO HOSPITAL. THE ITALIAN AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION SUPPORTS THE HOSPITAL EFFORTS IN DEALING WITH NEGATIVE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON HEALTH SERVICES.

Thanks to the support of the **Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)**, **Dr. Ambrosoli Memorial Hospital in Kalongo** (Uganda) has received blood bags and other material necessary for emergency and life saving blood transfusions. This support is part of the ongoing efforts of the AICS Nairobi Regional office to support local health systems in the Region that, under the extraordinary circumstances brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, are facing constraints to provide also a more effective and timely life-saving response.

Dr. Ambrosoli Memorial Hospital is **the only hospital in Agago district, serving as head of sanitary district**. Within this mandate, the hospital was appointed by the Ministry of Health as the official Covid hub for Agago district, with the laboratory coordinating sample collection in the district, and the hospital CEO being member of the District Committee for Covid-19.

The adverse effects of the pandemic have severely affected the delivery of basic health services in the hospital, with patients delaying access to medical care due to fear of contagion, thus reaching the hospital in critical conditions, some of which require emergency and life saving blood transfusions. Normally the hospital relies on Gulu Blood bank for transfusions, however the closure of schools and universities created a sudden vacuum in availability of blood which has heavily affected the entire country, as students are the main source of blood donations. Blood shortages can have lethal consequences, particularly for under-5 paediatric patients and for obstetric complications. Within this emergency situation the hospital has had to rely on local blood collection to save patients whose lives depend on blood transfusion.

Thanks to AICS Nairobi **the hospital received** blood bags, reagents, syringes, screening tests and other **material necessary for emergency and life saving blood donations**. The donation made by AICS Nairobi integrates contributions from Ambrosoli Foundation, who has been supporting the Hospital since 1998 and has increased its efforts during the Covid-19 pandemic.

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- **Pictures:** [download](#)

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The **Italian Agency for Development Cooperation Office in Nairobi** oversees development cooperation projects activities in Kenya, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda – an area with several countries moving towards a sound development, and some other countries hit by instability and humanitarian crises. In Uganda, development cooperation activities focus on strengthening local and national health systems to guarantee access to health services to the most vulnerable in rural and urban areas.

The **Ambrosoli Foundation** is a non-profit organization aimed at supporting the Hospital and Midwifery School in Kalongo, founder by Father Giuseppe Ambrosoli, a Comboni missionary and surgeon who will be beatified in 2021. The Foundation supports the hospital and midwifery school in Kalongo, Northern Uganda, providing support to both institutions via fundraising and capacity building activities. The Foundation is guided by the principles of its founder: dedication, professionalism, and participation.