Our MoUs with the Ugandan Government Drive Impact

Introduction
Since setting up its operations in Uganda in 2007, Living Goods has been working closely with Uganda’s Ministry of Health and district health teams, as well as partner BRAC Uganda, to recruit, train, and manage a network of community health workers to deliver essential services in 20 districts.

By pursuing Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with local governments, Living Goods strives to align and adhere to government policies during design, implementation, and evaluation of community health programs through coordination and partnership with the relevant governments. Given its span of operations and continuing support towards national policies and decisions, Living Goods has also signed an MoU with Uganda’s Ministry of Health (MoH) to articulate its broader partnership in championing Uganda’s community health agenda.

While MoUs are not legally-binding, they signify mutual respect and understanding of respective responsibilities and expectations for accountability and productive partnerships. The MoUs represent both the Government’s and Living Goods’ commitment to streamlining and coordinating efforts to achieve community health programs for better health outcomes.

Background
Living Goods is a non-profit organization working with governments to save and improve lives in resource constrained communities. Established in 2007 in San Francisco with operations in Kenya, Uganda, Zambia and Myanmar, Living Goods leverages cutting-edge technology and innovative approaches to community health to transform the delivery of essential healthcare, particularly for mothers and children under the age of five years.
Living Goods envisions its role as a valuable partner that can enable governments to achieve their visions of Universal Health Coverage.

Using a simple, low-cost and replicable model facilitated by an integrated digital platform, Living Goods provides access to cost-effective and quality health education, diagnoses, treatments and referrals for basic and pressing health issues. These comprise malaria, diarrhea, pneumonia, pregnancy and newborn care, family planning, under-nutrition, and recently HIV/AIDS and immunization.

**Impact**

In October 2018, Living Goods and Wakiso District renewed the MoU defining their partnership for a further three years (2018-2021). This followed the joint CAO and DHO district leadership assessment of Living Goods’ work during the previous three years of service delivery. District leaders noted the overall success of the partnership in delivering community health services in Wakiso and particularly, Living Goods’ key role in improving Integrated Community Case Management (iCCM), Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child Health (RMNCH) and nutrition outcomes here. These results also paved the way for expansion of essential health services to communities here through the recruitment of new Community Health Workers (CHWs) and enabling the integration of family planning into Living Goods-supported sub-counties.

Located in the Central Region of Uganda that partly encircles Kampala, Uganda’s capital city, Wakiso is home to Kira - the country’s second largest city and suburb of Kampala. With a total of 703 Living Goods-supported CHWs in six branches in Wakiso District, Living Goods has its largest presence in Uganda here.