

NAME & CONTACT DETAILS

Dr Robert Iriso

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Profile

Dr. Robert Iriso is a goal-driven, dynamic medical professional with a strong understanding of program operations. He is poised to utilize skills in leadership, management, and clinical services to develop and set up systems, procedures, and monitoring of medical programs to contribute positively to organizational/program development. Dr. Iriso has established a strong track record of incorporating gender and youth considerations into health and research projects, such as when he oversaw the Saving Mothers Giving Life (Maternal Newborn and Child Health) project in Uganda, contributed to scale up the eMTCT, Paediatric and Adolescent HIV/AIDS Services Program in Uganda and Nigeria, and established improved procedures for community care of HIV-afflicted children in Gulu with Health Alert Uganda. Over the last 14 years, working concurrently as Head of Pediatric Department (Lacor Hospital), Head of Department of Pediatrics (Gulu University) for five years, Director of Medical & Psychosocial Programs (Baylor Uganda) for seven years, and Programs Coordinator (ANECCA) for about three years, he has acquired clinical, leadership, management and research experience that has enabled him to successfully spearhead the implementation of comprehensive HIV/AIDS, MNCH, Malaria, and TB programs.

Education

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| 2009 | 2010 | : Uganda Management Institute: Postgraduate Diploma in Project Planning & Management |
| 1999 | 2002 | : Makerere University Kampala, Uganda M.Med (Masters of Medicine in Paediatrics and Child Health) |
| 1989 | 1995 | : Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda. MBChB (Bachelor degree of medicine and Bachelor Degree of Surgery) |
| 1987 | 1989 | : St Peter's college Tororo U.A.C.E (Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education) |
| 1983 | 1986 | : Ngora High School U.C.E (Uganda Certificate of Education) |

Short Courses & Certificates Obtained:

- Stroke and Hypertension and preventive cardiology, one week, 2000 (International Christian Medical Institute)
- Good Clinical Practice and Human Subject Research Protection, 2002, Case Western Reserve University
- Paediatric HIV/AIDS Antiretroviral therapy and comprehensive care 9th-16th 2005 (Aidsrelief, Nyeri, Kenya)
- Results based management and strategic planning and management 2005 (Lacor Hospital)
- Paediatric oncohaematology 3 weeks July 2004 (University of Naples, Italy)
- Paediatric Cardiology, 3 weeks June 2004 (University of Naples, Italy)
- Newborn resuscitation, one week 2004 (University of Naples, Italy)
- Paediatric endocrinology, one week 2006 (Nairobi, Kenya)
- Training of Trainers on WHO/MOH Essential Newborn Care Course, one week, 2007, WHO/Save the Children.
- Haematology and Paediatric Infection Diseases, one week, 2006. Kenya Paediatric Association
- HIV Quality Improvement training, one week, 2008, MOH Uganda
- Customer Care in a health setting, one week, 2008, Uganda Health Management Institute
- M&E to track programs, performance and Improvement, one week, 2009 Makerere School of Public Health.
- Good clinical Practice (GCP), 2011, CDC, Uganda.
- Human Resource Management-Understanding your employees, 2013, Baylor Uganda
- Training of Trainers on Helping Babies to Breathe and Essential Newborn Care Course, one week, 2012, Uganda Paediatric Association
- Leadership and strategic thinking, one week, 2013, Makerere University School of Business Administration.
- Training of Trainers on revised ART/PMTCT guidelines 2014, 2016, 2018.
- Leadership and strategic thinking, PEPAL, 2015
- Training of Trainers on Clinical Systems mentorship 2016

EXPERIENCE

Head of the Pediatrics Department. 2002–2008 St. Mary's Hospital Lacor, Gulu, Uganda

Revamped and improved the systems, operations, and efficiency of the Pediatrics Department at St. Mary's Hospital in Gulu, Uganda.

- Started a family model for HIV/AIDS care and treatment for clients in 2005.
- Set up general pediatric care, nutrition, treatment, and therapeutic feeding systems that reduced mortality from 25% to 6% among the severely malnourished inpatients within a span of two years, as well as from 15% to 3.9% in three years among general pediatric inpatients.
- Trained undergraduate medical students of Gulu University and postgraduate medical (pediatrics) students from Italy who were in a rotation program at Lacor Hospital for 4-6 months (2004 – 2008). Concurrently worked as head of Paediatrics and Child Health Department of Gulu University Medical School 2005-2008, onsite clinical training in Lacor Hospital.
- Trained, mentored and supervised Junior technical officers.
- Providing care, treatment and supporting the continuum of care for the children, mothers and war victims.
- Haemophilus type B Influenza and Pneumococcal Paediatric Meningitis Surveillance for Northern Uganda prior and after introduction of the vaccines; demonstrated prevalent pneumococcal strains and outcomes following vaccine introductions.

Directorate Head of the Medical and Psychosocial Program. May 2008–November 2015 Baylor-Uganda, Kampala, Uganda

Oversaw three, five-year national projects (funded by PEPFAR) in 30 districts in Uganda on: scaling up pediatric HIV/AIDS services in 148 public health facilities in Uganda; and Comprehensive HIV/AIDS program providing technical assistance on adult, pediatric and adolescent HIV/AIDS services in Ruwenzori region; comprehensive HIV/AIDS and TB care and treatment project in Eastern and West Nile Project; and Saving Mothers Giving Life (Maternal Newborn and Child Health) project in 3-districts in Ruwenzori region. During this time, also served as Director of the Baylor Uganda Laboratory at the Centre of Excellence (COE) - Pediatric Infectious Disease Clinic (with over 6,500 HIV Infected children).

- Improved the laboratory systems in the designated district laboratory hubs (19 laboratory hubs) by renovating the labs, recruiting the PEPFAR-supported staff, and establishing systems for national laboratory accreditations to level STAR III and above. Centre of Excellence (COE) Mulago Hospital - Pediatric Infectious Disease Clinic Laboratory accredited by College of American Pathologists (CAP).
- Developed policies, strategies, procedures, guidelines, and activities for scaling up these laboratory services at both national and organizational levels.
- Contributed to capacity building (didactic, mentorship, and support supervision), as well as to monitoring and evaluation of programs.

- Improved HTS (specifically PITC) by recruiting and training lay counselors to complement health facility staff in providing HTS services, increasing PITC service uptake from 20% to 60% in less than 2 years.
 - Set up the community support systems for the continuum of response for HIV-affected and -infected children, adolescents, and adults, increasing ART retention from 85% to 96.9% in the Pediatric Infectious Disease Clinic of Mulago Hospital in Uganda (with over 6,000 pediatric clients) and from 72% to 89% in supported districts of the West Nile, Ruwenzori and Teso regions in Uganda.
 - Spearheaded implementation of the Saving Mothers Project (one-year proof concept and later awarded continuation) that reduced maternal mortality by 30% in one year, increased the proportion of health facilities meeting the newborn health service standards from 68% to 95% (2012-2015) in Ruwenzori region, Uganda.
 - Implemented a project on "Scaling Up Access to Pediatric and Adolescent HIV/AIDS Services in Karamoja Sub-Region, and capacity building of health workers in Helping Babies Breathe plus (HBB+) and Infant Young Child Feeding (IYCF)/Maternal nutrition in 20 districts in Eastern, West Nile and Ruwenzori regions of Uganda". Proportion of Health Facilities providing Helping Babies to Breathe + increased from 15% to 50% in September 2014 to September 2015; Proportion of health facilities providing IYCF/ maternal nutrition services to 60% by September 2015.
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**African Network for Care of Children and Adolescents (ANECCA), Kampala, Uganda.
November 2015– To date.**

Initiate and develop Medical and Psychosocial Programs policies, strategies, guidelines, and SOPs for the programs department in line with ANECCA's policies; proposal writing; participating in research; program planning, budgeting, and monitoring; periodic program reviews and report writing; establishing, strengthening, maintaining, and coordinating strategic technical partnerships; offering human resource technical support and supervision; and providing administrative leadership and guidance to the Medical and Psychosocial Programs.

Projects include: *Catalysing Access to Quality Services for Children and Adolescents Living with HIV*, a project funded by Global Fund (implemented in Burundi, Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda), and *Strengthening eMTCT, Adolescent and Pediatric Components of the National HIV Response*, funded by UNICEF (implemented in Uganda).

Key achievements:

- Over the last year, conducted national assessments of training needs for Pediatric and Adolescent HIV services (in Burundi, Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda), assessed and reviewed guidelines to identify bottlenecks to access and coverage of these services, and supported the seven countries to develop national specific action points for action planning.
- As a step towards strengthening the adolescent component of the national HIV programme, worked with Ministry of Health -Uganda in collaboration with other stakeholders and with the support from UNICEF conducted a phased country assessment of the adolescent HIV

component of the national HIV programme in line with the All IN global call to action to end Adolescent AIDS. Defined priority gaps and is working with stakeholders to develop priority actions for accelerating and improving the quality of adolescent services (2015-2016).

- Provided technical assistance to Ministry of Health – Uganda to develop the Clinical Systems Mentorship Framework (CSM) for HIV services and rolled out CSM through regional trainings and onsite mentorship to build skills and competencies of district and regional mentors.
- Recruited national project officers for seven countries and provided technical support for project implementation.
- Led in the development of the Pediatric and Adolescent HIV indicator matrix and development of ART dashboard for monitoring performance (currently being piloted).
- Contributed to the National Pediatric TB/HIV guidelines and training curriculum development and revised the ANECCA Pediatric and Adolescent psychosocial training curriculum.
- Provided technical assistance to EGPAF-Malawi in training and onsite mentorship of health workers on Pediatric and Adolescent psychosocial support/care and counseling.

**Consultant for Class Assessment for Systems Strengthening (CIASS) 2011–2012
Health Resources Services Administration.**

As Clinical Reviewer, participated in CIASS assessments of AIDS Relief Local Partner HIV/AIDS projects in Kenya, Tanzania, and Zambia

**Program Specialist
2007**

Family Health International/Global HIV-AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN)

Provided consultancy services on the scaling up of the Pediatric HIV/AIDS Services Program, including technical assistance to state and facility health officers on implementation and roll-out of Pediatric HIV services in 5 states (Benin, Benue, Edo, Niger, and Taraba). This led to re-programming on Pediatric HIV services.

**Operations Specialist
2006**

Health Alert Uganda, Gulu, Uganda

Provided consultancy services to develop and establish community procedures and systems for follow-up and care of HIV-infected and -exposed children, and linkages/referrals from community to health facilities and vice versa.

Languages:

- English: Proficient in both spoken and written; Ateso: Proficient in both spoken and written; Kuman: Proficient in spoken; Luo: Proficient in spoken; Kiswahili: Moderate proficiency in spoken.

Selected Publications and Presentations

Editorial and lead contributor team member ([EDITORS: Rosemary Nasaba, Denis Tindyebwa, Victor Musiime, Robert Iriso, Resty Ingabire, Denis Nansera, Monica Etima-Kizito, Joseylee Kasule, Malia Duffy](#)) on the writing of Handbook on Counselling and Psychosocial Care for Children and Adolescents living with and Affected by HIV in Africa by the African Network for the Care of Children Affected by HIV/AIDS – ANECCA September 2018

Core team member ([Nansera Denis, Atukunda Ruth, Denis Tindyebwa, Iriso Robert, Eleanor Namusoke, Asire Barbara, Cordelia Katureebe, Joseylee S. Kasule, Rose Nasaba, Ivan Lukabwe](#)) in developing / writing Clinical Systems Mentorship Framework for Comprehensive HIV and AIDS Prevention, Care, Treatment and Support Services - Uganda

[Eleonora Leucci, Anna Onnis, Mario Cocco, Giulia De Falco, Francesco Imperatore, Antonicelli Giuseppina, Valentina Costanzo, Giovanna Cerino, Susanna Mannucci, Rocco Cantisani, Joshua Nyagol, Walter Mwanda, Robert Iriso, Martin Owang, Karin Schurfeld, Cristiana Bellan, Stefano Lazzi, and Lorenzo Leoncini](#). B-cell differentiation in EBV-positive Burkitt lymphoma is impaired at posttranscriptional level by miRNA-altered expression. [Int J Cancer](#) 126(6):1316-26 (2010)

Irigoien R, Ocakcon R, Acayo J, Kisakye A. Bacterial meningitis following introduction of Hib conjugate vaccine in northern Uganda. [Ann Trop Paediatr](#) 2008; 28: 211 – 216.

[Lewis RF, Kisakye A, Gessner BD, Duku C, Odipio JB, Iriso R, Nansera D, Braka F, Makumbi I, Kekitiinwa A](#). Action for child survival: elimination of Haemophilus influenzae type b meningitis in Uganda. [Bull World Health Organ](#). 2008 Apr; 86(4): 292-301.

[Accorsi S, Fabiani M, Nattabi B, Ferrarese N, Corrado B, Iriso R, Ayella EO, Pido B, Yoti Z, Corti D, Ogwang M, Declich S](#). Differences in hospital admissions for males and females in northern Uganda in the period 1992-2004: a consideration of gender and sex differences in health care use. [Trans R Soc Trop Med Hyg](#). 2007 Sep;101(9):929-38.

[Greco L, Balungi J, Amono K, Iriso R, Corrado B](#). Effect of a low-cost food on the recovery and death rate of malnourished children. [J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr](#). 2006 Oct;43(4):512-7.

[Irigoien R, Mudido PM, Karamagi C, Whalen C](#). The diagnosis of childhood tuberculosis in an HIV-endemic setting and the use of induced sputum. [Int J Tuberc Lung Dis](#). 2005; 9(7):716-26.

[Accorsi S, Fabiani M, Nattabi B, Corrado B, Iriso R, Ayella EO, Pido B, Onk PA, Ogwang M, Declich S](#). The disease profile of poverty: morbidity and mortality in northern Uganda in the context of war, population displacement and HIV/AIDS. [Trans R Soc Trop Med Hyg](#). 2005 Mar; 99(3):226-33.

[Accorsi S, Fabiani M, Ferrarese N, Iriso R, Lukwiya M, Declich S](#). The burden of traditional practices, ebino and tea-tea, on child health in Northern Uganda. [Soc Sci Med](#). 2003 Dec; 57(11):2183-91.

[Iriso R](#), [Accorsi S](#), [Akena S](#), [Amone J](#), [Fabiani M](#), [Ferrarese N](#), [Lukwiya M](#), [Rosolen T](#), [Declich S](#). 'Killer' canines: the morbidity and mortality of ebino in northern Uganda. *Trop Med Int Health*. 2000 Oct; 5(10):706-10.

Sandro Accorsi, Bruno C, Iriso R, et al. Competing demands and limited resources in the context of war, poverty and disease: in the case of Lacor Hospital. *Health Policy and Development*. 2003;1(1) 29 - 39.

Special Skills

Clinical, leadership, coordination, management, budgeting, programming, proposal writing, communication and program monitoring.

MEMBERSHIPS

International AIDS Society, International Christian and Dental Association, The Cedars of Lebanon, Uganda Medical Association, and Uganda Pediatric Association

REFERENCES

- Dr. Barbara Asire, Program Officer, UNICEF Uganda, Email: basire@unicef.org, Phone: +256-772-491109. Relationship: UNICEF Technical Officer in-charge of Program Implemented by ANECCA.
 - Mrs. Barbara Sentiba, Former Human Resource Manager, Baylor Uganda, Kampala, Uganda, Email: bsentiba@gmail.com, Phone: +256-772-690-316. Relationship: Former employer
 - Dr. Peter Elyanu, Former Coordinator of Pediatric and Adolescent HIV Services, Ministry of Health, Kampala, Uganda, Email: ellypj@yahoo.co.uk, Phone: +256-392-946-315/+256-776-946-36. Relationship: MOH Technical Supervisor for program implementation
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