

waiting area, dispensing pharmacy, public washrooms, and information points.

- The **Research zone** features core patient contact spaces for doctors, nurses, and other specialists, including eight consultation rooms, a nurses' room, examination room, laboratory, 4-bed observation ward and a secondary waiting area with direct access to the consulting/examination rooms.
- The **Staff zone** caters for a select administrative group with access controls, and includes an open-plan administration office, patient filing room, a staff break room and toilet facilities.

SELF SUSTAINABILITY

The facility is able to manage research project costs, and support timely start up and delivery of clinical research projects by centralizing access to vital project-funded assets such as research staff and equipment.

In addition, the building was designed with in-built sustainability frameworks to enhance its future effectiveness, including:

- Improved cross ventilation to decrease reliance on mechanical ventilation, such as air conditioning.
- A grid hybrid solar power system of 23kwp which powers the entire complex and aims to reduce operational and maintenance costs.
- The surrounding area has space allocated for parking and green land.
- The design offers capacity for future expansion to accommodate two more floors for a clinical research laboratory and office space.

KEY PARTNERSHIPS IN CLINICAL RESEARCH

Unit clinical research aims to address important local health challenges, understand mechanisms of diseases and identify solutions in order to prevent disease and improve care. In this regard, strong partnerships with local and international funders, the government, academia, mainstream health sector and like minded research institutions have been key in ensuring access to research participants, specialized medical facilities, and dedicated spaces for clinical research activities. Key partners include:

- The Ministry of Health
- Uganda Virus Research Institute
- Medical facilities such as: Entebbe Regional referral hospital, Masaka Regional referral hospital
- Academic institutions including: Makerere University, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

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ENHANCING CLINICAL RESEARCH AND TRIALS IN AFRICA



Entebbe lab

THE CLINICAL RESEARCH FACILITY (CRF)

Funded by the UKRI/MRC Capital grant and the Wellcome Trust, with land provided by the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI), the Clinical Research Centre facility in Entebbe, Uganda is a center for clinical research in infectious and non-communicable diseases. The £850,000 facility was completed in October 2020 and commissioned by the Minister of Health for Uganda, Hon. Dr Jane Ruth Aceng on 5th May 2022.

GOAL

The overall goal of the Clinical Research Center is to facilitate clinical studies that can make significant contributions to science, policy and practice in Uganda.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Specifically, the facility aims to:

- Promote a safe, high quality, friendly research environment
- Ensure that clinical research and trials are of the highest standard
- Enable the MRC/UVRI and LSHTM Uganda Research Unit to continue to attract world-class research, researchers and funding and;
- Enhance local and international collaborations in clinical research and trials

HOW DOES IT WORK

The facility supports the coordination of clinical research projects led by Unit scientists. By streamlining the visibility of and accessibility to available human and technical research apparatus, it strengthens the Unit's capacity to implement collaborative projects aligned to its scientific strategy.

The CRF offers an integrated, multidisciplinary clinical research environment with consultation and patient rooms, an investigation room, clinical research labs, and support spaces.

It has the capacity to accommodate 20 staff members attending to 114 patients per day, and is divided up in three zones:

- The **Public zone**, comprised of the main entrance, reception, a 50-person capacity