

Monitor: “To Keep Track of”



Dr. Moses Joloba (left) and Samuel Kirimunda (right) are happy to spot a crocodile in Lake Victoria, from the top deck of the ferry.

Dr. Moses Joloba and Lab Scientist Samuel Kirimunda have a special assignment within the EMBLEM Study. They are the monitors. Their job is to keep track of each study site’s progress during EMBLEM.

In May 2011 they teamed up to visit Bugando Medical Center in Mwanza, Sengerema DDH and SHED Foundation sites in Tanzania.

The visit started in Mwanza, where the monitors and the local EMBLEM Tanzania team met at Bugando Medical

Center. They visited the office space assigned to EMBLEM, as well as the EMBLEM designated part of the main laboratory of the hospital.

Early the next morning, the team set off to visit Sengerema DDH, which is to be another site for enrolling cases. This necessitated boarding a large ferry that travels across a wide inlet of Lake Victoria between Misungwi and Sengerema Districts. At Sengerema DDH, they were hosted by Dr. Simplicite Harusha, who is in charge of the BL treatment and will serve as an EMBLEM Study doctor.

The third case enrollment site, Shirati, was visited by Samuel Kirimunda on his final day. He assessed the chosen EMBLEM office and laboratory site of SHED Foundation.

The final step in monitoring was writing a report for the lead PI of the EMBLEM Study to summarize findings and recommendations for each study site. This report is then used to make a work plan and schedule for final pre-implementation activities.



L to R: Dr. Esther Kawira, Samuel Kirimunda, Josiah Magatti, Dr. Moses Joloba, Dr. Jackson Kahima, Amy, in laboratory of Bugando Medical Center



Ferry crossing Lake Victoria en route to Sengerema



L to R: Dr. Simplicite Harusha, Dr. Nestory Masalu, Dr. Esther Kawira, Dr. Moses Joloba, Josiah Magatti, Samuel Kirimunda in Pediatric Ward of Sengerema DDH

EMBLEM UGANDA

Community involvement in the EMBLEM activities

In May, preceding the census, EMBLEM continued with community mobilization activities reaching the districts of Yumbe, Koboko and Arua. One BL case enrolled this month was spotted and referred to Lacor hospital by the Kitgum District personnel as a result of community mobilization efforts.

The EMBLEM Steering Committee (Uganda) met by tele-conference in May. They recommended that they receive monthly reports to stay informed about **progress and challenges**.

Control enrollment

Census is ongoing in five villages in west Nile region under direction of the Uganda Bureau of Statistics. A cleaned dataset for this census will be delivered to EMBLEM by mid July. This dataset will be used for random selection of households to enroll pilot population controls.

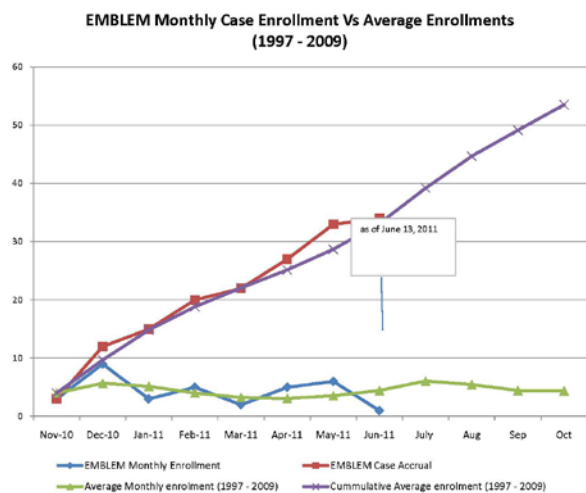


Figure 1: Community Mobilization in Jungi Village, Koboko District

Pilot HC-II controls will be enrolled at three villages that are near rivers, swamps, or lakes (“wet villages”) starting at the end of June. This phase will take about three weeks, depending on attendance at HCII units.

Staffing and Laboratory

Figure 2: AC Unit in the EMBLEM Laboratory



An AC unit was installed

in the Lacor laboratory. Laboratory supplies sufficient to enroll at least 1,000 cases/controls were procured and delivered to Lacor. The renovation of the Kuluva laboratory space was completed. Two new staff, Mr. Charles Onek (driver) and Mr. Ismail Dragon (laboratory scientist) also came on board during this period.

EMBLEM Kenya

Renovations at the Homabay hospital are nearing completion. Meanwhile, the EMBLEM group in Kenya took the opportunity to publicize EMBLEM



at a recent meeting of health professionals in Nyanza, who came from hospitals throughout the EMBLEM study region. (See photo left)

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