

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

FACING COVID-19 AT LACOR HOSPITAL. THE ITALIAN AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION SUPPORTS THE HOSPITAL EFFORTS IN DEALING WITH THE DISEASE.

KAMPALA, 24th June 2020. Thanks to the support of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), in cooperation with the Embassy of Italy in Kampala, the Lacor Hospital will receive medical equipment to extend its Intensive Care Units (ICU) services, while ensuring safety to the Hospital staff. The donation is part of the ongoing efforts of the AICS Nairobi Regional office to support local health systems that, under such extraordinary circumstances, are facing constraints to provide also a more effective and timely response against the spread of the COVID-19 disease.

The Agency's contribution will support the St. Mary Hospital Lacor (Uganda), which has been also supported over the years by the Italian Civil Society Organization "*Fondazione Corti*". Located few kilometers west of Gulu and already on the frontline during the Ebola crisis in 2000, it immediately started to re-organize its main services to cope with the pandemic. The center has been recently identified by the Ugandan Ministry of Health (MoH) as referral Hospital for the most serious cases of COVID-19 in need of specialized care.

As of today, Uganda is counting 774 confirmed Cases, with no deaths registered, out of which 28 were Health Care Workers. Following three-months lockdown and curfew, the country is slowly going back to its normalcy but the alert in the Northern Region is still high due to the COVID-19 cases entering from the South Sudan border and spreading within the communities in the Gulu area.

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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 **Corti Foundation** is a non-profit organization aimed at supporting the Comboni missionaries-founded St. Mary's Hospital Lacor in Gulu, Uganda, both financially and with technical-logistical assistance. Hospital's mission is to offer accessible health care to all, especially to the most disadvantaged (women, children, the poor, people with chronic diseases), and to fight diseases and poverty. Of the 250,000 patients treated annually, 30% are children under six years of age, 50% are women.