

*Note*  
 from Editor-in-Chief



**Miriam Ahumuza**

Welcome to another edition of the JMS Info Bulletin! Globally, stronger health systems require meaningful partnerships, and this September at JMS, we celebrated the collaborations that make JMS' mission possible. As you read on, reflect on the realities and partnerships at your own institution and explore how shared vision are driving healthier communities every day.

“ Contribute by sharing articles to [miriama@jms.co.ug](mailto:miriama@jms.co.ug) ”



**Strengthening Health Partnerships Together: Highlights from recent partnership visits with some of our valued collaborators. Front row (left to right): UNBS, Uganda Healthcare Federation, and TASO. Second row (left to right): Population Services International (PSI), Nsambya Hospital National Drug Authority (NDA).**

# Foreword

from the **JMS Executive Director**



**Dr. Bildard Baguma**

## Partnering for Progress

I take this opportunity to thank all our esteemed partners for your unwavering support and patronage over the past financial year and just concluded quarter. Your trust has been the driving force behind our shared successes, and it continues to inspire us as we work to ensure sustainable access to quality healthy solutions and strengthen health systems across the country.

At JMS, we are in the final stages of transitioning to a new Enterprise Resource Planning system, Microsoft Dynamics. This milestone will enhance our customer centricity and promote greater efficiency in how we serve you. The next step on this journey is to explore opportunities for integrating B2B systems and launch a customer service portal so that we can achieve mutual benefits such as real-time visibility of stock. This will support data-driven planning and stock optimization, ultimately ensuring that the right products reach the right places at the right time.

We are also delighted to share that JMS is finally ready to open its Gulu

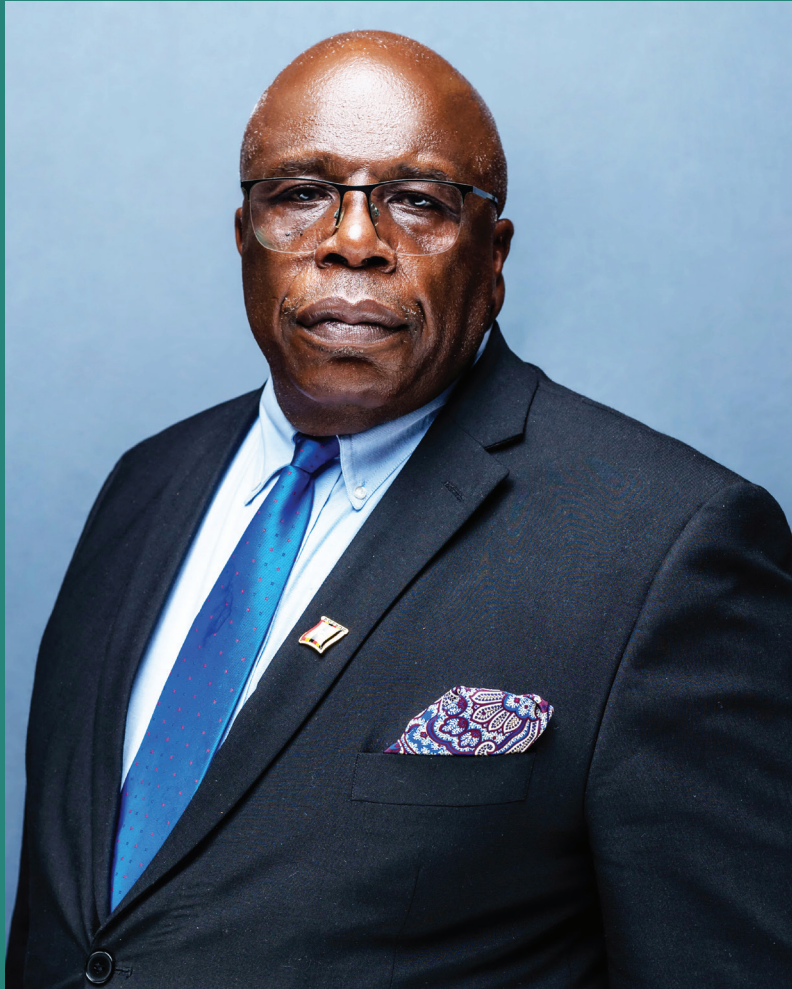
branch. Beginning this October, the very first orders will be processed from Gulu, bringing services much closer to health facilities in the northern region. We extend our deep appreciation to the Global Fund whose generous support has enabled the equipping and furnishing of the new warehouse. This expansion marks a significant step in our commitment to make access to quality health supplies faster, more reliable, and more convenient for our partners.

Together, let us continue building stronger, healthier communities.



**Dr. Bildard hands over a plaque to Mengo Hospital ED during the Partnership visit**

# Strengthening Leadership for a Sustainable Future



**Dr. Rhobert Korutaro**  
Board Chairman

In July 2025, JMS embarked on the implementation of its new Vision 2030 Strategy, centred on service excellence, strengthened partnerships, enhanced customer experience, and sustainability. Alongside the rollout, JMS also undertook a strategic realignment, to promote greater efficiency in the face of evolving donor priorities and the need to remain sustainable. As part of this transition, some colleagues reached retirement, while others moved on to serve in new capacities. We recognize with gratitude the dedication and contributions they made during their time with us, which laid a firm foundation for the next chapter of our journey.

To align with our new direction, certain support functions have also been restructured through outsourcing, ensuring that we maximize resources and sharpen our focus on core services that directly impact our partners and the communities we serve.

At the helm of this new structure is a committed leadership team that will guide JMS into the future with renewed energy and focus.

- **Executive Director** - Dr. Bildard Baguma
- **Director Finance, Investments and ICT** - Mr. Brian Ainebyoona
- **Director Planning and Procurement** - Mrs. Denise Tusiime Mutambi
- **Director Supply Chain Services** - Mrs. Joanita Namutebi Lwanyaga
- **Director Internal Audit and Compliance** – Ms. Mercy Naggadya
- **Director Biomedical Equipment** - Eng. Kenneth Rubango

This team brings together a wealth of experience, innovation, and vision to ensure that JMS continues to deliver value, resilience, and excellence in health supply chain management.

# JMS and UNFPA Launch the EMPOWER Project to Strengthen Access to Reproductive Health Commodities

On 8th September 2025, Joint Medical Store (JMS) together with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) officially launched the Empowering Women to Achieve Better Reproductive Health Outcomes (EMPOWER) Project at the Odonga Warehouse in Kampala. The initiative, generously funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), is set to ensure uninterrupted access to essential reproductive health commodities for women and girls across Uganda.

Speaking at the launch, Dr. Bildard Baguma, JMS Executive Director, underscored the importance of this milestone for the health and dignity of women and families. *“This is not just about distributing products; it is about safeguarding the reproductive health and rights of Ugandan women and girls. With this project, we are ensuring that every mother, every young woman, every family can access safe, affordable, and reliable health services,”* he said.

The EMPOWER Project comes at a critical time when commodities worth over UGX 7.39 billion donated by USAID risked remaining in warehouses following a stop-work order that affected distribution. With FCDO’s support, JMS will now distribute a wide range of commodities including male and female condoms, contraceptive implants, injectables, oral contraceptives, and related medical supplies to PNFP health facilities, key hubs, and community hotspots across Kampala, Wakiso, and Mukono.

Ms. Giff Malunga, UNFPA Country Representative, highlighted the broader impact of the project on Uganda’s development agenda: *“Reproductive health commodities are not only health interventions; they are investments in Uganda’s social and economic development. When women can plan their families, they are more likely to complete their education, join the workforce, and contribute to household and national prosperity.”*

The EMPOWER Project will run from July 2025 to March 2026, with an allocation of UGX 370 million specifically for distribution. It builds on the success of the Alternative Distribution System (ADS), jointly



Mr. Phil Elks, Team Lead, Humanitarian and Human Development FCDO the funders of the project sharing his remarks.

implemented by JMS and UNFPA since 2019, which has already expanded access to over one million women and girls through 320 accredited facilities nationwide.

The launch reaffirmed the power of collaboration between government, development partners, and the private-not-for-profit sector in advancing Uganda's FP2030 commitments and the National Development

Plan IV targets to reduce the unmet need for family planning.

## Celebrating Collaboration

September marked our annual Partners' Month, a special period dedicated to celebrating and strengthening the vital relationships that drive JMS' mission. This year,

the month was particularly significant as we reflected on our shared achievements, acknowledged the collaborative efforts that sustain our supply chains, and showcased the impact of our joint initiatives. Each moment reminded us that our progress is powered by partnership, commitment, and a shared vision for healthier communities.





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