



## **Project Title: Enhancing TB/HIV Diagnosis in Northern Uganda:**

### **Introduction**

Northern Uganda faces significant public health challenges driven by historical conflicts, such as the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) war, and the presence of refugee settlements from South Sudan. These factors have led to elevated rates of tuberculosis (TB) and HIV/AIDS, which often co-exist, intensifying health risks and straining healthcare systems. The TB/HIV co-infection rate stands at 41.5%, with TB accounting for over 30% of HIV related deaths. Rural areas experience higher mortality rates, driven by poverty, malnutrition, stigma, and limited healthcare access.

**The Irene Gleeson Foundation (IGF) proposes procuring a GeneXpert machine to enhance rapid, accurate TB and HIV diagnosis and treatment, improving healthcare outcomes for underserved populations.**

Proposal Information Hypothesis: Rapid and accurate diagnosis using the GeneXpert machine will significantly improve early detection, timely treatment, and management of TB and HIV in Northern Uganda, thereby reducing mortality and strengthening healthcare systems.

### **Proposed Work:**

#### **1. Procurement and Installation:**

- Acquire a GeneXpert machine for installation at IGF's health facility in Kitgum.
- Ensure the facility is equipped with the necessary infrastructure for machine operation.

#### **2. Training and Capacity Building:**

- Train healthcare staff on the operation, maintenance, and diagnostic interpretation of the GeneXpert machine.
- Conduct workshops to enhance skills in integrated TB/HIV management.

#### **3. Community Sensitization and Engagement:**

- Implement awareness campaigns on the benefits of early TB and HIV diagnosis and treatment.
- Partner with community leaders to address stigma and encourage health-seeking behaviour.

#### **4. Monitoring and Evaluation:**

- Develop a robust monitoring framework to assess diagnostic turnaround time, treatment initiation rates, and patient outcomes.
- Regularly collect and analyse data to inform program adjustments and report on impact.

### **Path to Impact**

If successful, this project will lead to:

- o **Improved Health Outcomes:** Reduced diagnostic delays and enhanced patient management for TB and HIV, leading to decreased morbidity and mortality.

- o **Strengthened Healthcare Systems:** Increased capacity of IGF's health facility to address TB/HIV co-infection challenges in underserved areas.
- o **Community Empowerment:** Reduced stigma and improved community engagement in health interventions.

Next Steps:

- o **Scale Up:** Expand access to GeneXpert diagnostics across additional health facilities in Northern Uganda.
- o **Partnerships:** Collaborate with government and non-governmental organizations to secure funding and technical support for broader implementation.
- o **Sustainability:** Develop a cost-recovery model for long-term machine maintenance and operational sustainability.

By addressing the dual epidemic of TB and HIV, this project directly aligns with IGF's mission to deliver quality healthcare to vulnerable populations, ensuring lasting public health improvements in the Acholi Sub-region.

### Enhancing HIV and TB Diagnosis in Northern Uganda

Budget Breakdown:

Category	Estimated Amount (USD)
Personnel	\$8,000
Sub-contracts	\$4,000
Sub-grants	\$2,500
Capital Assets/Equipment	\$19,500
Travel	\$3,500
Supplies	\$3,500
Other Expenses	\$3,100
Indirect Costs	\$2,500
Total	\$46,600

#### Budget Narrative:

- o The major cost driver in this budget is the procurement of the GeneXpert machine with a laptop configuration, estimated at \$19,500. This investment is crucial for enhancing rapid and accurate diagnosis of TB and HIV in Northern Uganda.
- o **Personnel costs** are allocated to recruit and train healthcare staff to operate the machine effectively.
- o **Sub-contracts and sub-grants** are designated for collaborating with local organizations to support community engagement and awareness campaigns.
- o **Travel expenses** cover transportation for staff training and community outreach programs.
- o **Supplies** include necessary consumables for the machine's operation.
- o **Other expenses** account for unforeseen costs, and indirect costs are calculated to support administrative functions related to the project.