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### **Application Title:**

Advancing mBC understanding and supportive care in Uganda

### **General Audience Summary:**

Despite growing efforts to improve awareness and early detection of breast cancer (BC) in East Africa, over 75% of breast cancer patients in the region present with late stage disease (stage III or IV). Physical pain and psychological issues have been identified as the most common symptoms among patients with advanced cancer in East Africa. Clinical trials have demonstrated that early palliative care in the management of advanced cancer results in improved symptom control and quality of life and psychosocial support has been identified as a strong motivating factor for women coping with BC, however, provision of these services remains limited. This project will identify the existing challenges and gaps in meeting the needs of advanced BC patients in Uganda, improve awareness of their clinical and psychological needs among providers, advocates, family members, and policy makers and take active steps to address those needs through new tools and improved understanding and services. It will also produce a policy plan for advancing supportive and palliative care along a resource-stratified pathway to allow for coordinated incremental program improvement. This will result in increased access to supportive care for BC patients with advanced disease and improved quality of life. Uganda Women's Cancer Support Organization (UWOCASO) will implement this project in partnership with Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI). UCI being the only treatment centre it will provide expertise on managing MBC patients and link patients to advocates for psycho-social support resources. In addition UCI will play an advisory role on best practices of information flow between advocates, clinicians and policy makers.

### **Keywords:**

Earlier Diagnoses  
National Planning  
Patient Navigation  
Voices for Change