



Uganda Harm Reduction Network

"Our Lives begin to End the Day we Become Silent About things that Concerns Us"

UHRN's Report on Overdose Cross Learning Dialogue Held on Sunday, 31 Aug 2014

Uganda Harm Reduction Network (UHRN) is a youth led; drug user organization established in 2011 and registered as company limited by guarantee; **Reg. No. 181733** to respond to the drug use crisis in Uganda. UHRN is best placed to utilize practical interventions aimed at supporting and addressing issues of people who use drugs. The organization seeks to provide a national platform for health and policy programs that promote good practices and advocate for a supportive environment for the implementation and expansion of harm reduction programs for drug users-sex workers, young people and Injecting Drug Users (IDU). Currently UHRN is the only drug users organization advocating for the inclusion of "harm reduction programmes and services" for drug users in Uganda.

On Sunday, 31 Aug 2014 –Uganda Harm Reduction Network and its Partners around Kampala Uganda gathered at UHRN's resource Centre to commemorate the International- Overdose Awareness Day. The event was aimed at raising awareness on the overdose risks, prevention, stigma and misery felt by families and friends of drug users who have experienced permanent injury as a result of drug overdose.

Event Photos: Participants at the event including; drug users, health workers, Police, local Authorities and local community representatives.



The event was graced by a sensitisation forum for people who use drugs from the five Divisions of Kampala and Wakiso district, Health workers, Police, local Authorities and local community representatives. This forum was aimed at raising awareness on the overdose risks, prevention, stigma and misery felt by families and friends of those who have met permanent injury as a result of drug overdose and put forward practical solutions to reduce wherever possible the risk of overdose.

Matters discussed included overdose risks, prevention, stigma and police harrasment faced by people who use drugs attributed to overdose. The program focused on

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empowering participants with the knowledge on the issues of drug – overdose among the drug user community.

Uganda Harm Reduction Network the organizers of the event expressed the need for harm reduction education and community referrals in addition to the need to lobby and advocate for the inclusion and adoption of harm reduction packages for people who use drugs in the National Strategic Plan for **2015/25** in Uganda.

Uganda Harm Reduction Network finally called on participants to support and join the struggle to promote awareness on overdose risks and to advocate for programs and policies that may reduce the number of overdose problems among people who use drugs in Uganda.

For more information, contact;

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