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QUARTERLY News Letter

VOLUME 3

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Uganda Harm Reduction Network

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Dear reader,

Greetings from Uganda Harm Reduction Network (UHRN).

We are excited to bring to you the final edition of our newsletter. In this newsletter we highlight some of the key events that happened in the last quarter of 2022. We hope you will find this useful and informative.

UHRN has continued to make tremendous efforts towards addressing the issues affecting PWUDs in Uganda. UHRN has continued to strengthen advocacy at all levels as will be seen in this newsletter. UHRN conducted the digital health campaign “my data my health”, an initiative that was aimed at creating awareness on health data governance and the way it’s regulated in Uganda. UHRN has continued to implement MAT program, Needle and syringe program for PWUDs.

All these efforts have been possible with contributions from our different partners, harm reduction advocates, like minded civil society organizations, donors and the community of people who used drugs among others. We are grateful for your continuous support.

Sincerely,
Wamala Twaibu
Executive Director



UHRN DROP IN CENTERS

UHRN's Drop in Center (DiC) is a safe space which provides accessible services to the community of people who use and inject drugs in Uganda.

Harm reduction services offered at the UHRN -DiC

- ◆ Risk reduction Counselling
- ◆ Targeted HIV, STI, TB &SGBV Screening
- ◆ Screening for Opioid substitution therapy (OST)
- ◆ PrEP
- ◆ Post -violence care
- ◆ Art adherence support
- ◆ Alcohol /drug harm reduction
- ◆ Methadone and other medical assisted therapies (MAT)
- ◆ Needle & syringe program
- ◆ Buprenorphine &Naloxone naltrexone
- ◆ Condom, Lubricant distribution
- ◆ Referrals (HTS ,VMMC,ART)
- ◆ Stigma & discrimination reduction capacity building.



ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WHO USE DRUGS CAMPAIGN -EVAWUD 2022



UHRN organized an awareness raising campaign in commemoration of the **16 Days Of Activism** aimed at Eliminating Violence Against Women Who Use Drugs (EVAWUD 2022 Campaign) in Uganda. The purpose of this campaign was to “Demystify the myths and misconceptions that perpetuate violence against women who use drugs (WWUDs) in Uganda”, amplify the voices of Women Who Use Drugs (WWUDs) and raise awareness about their Human rights.

All through the 16 days of Activism, UHRN shared messages on their social media platforms ie Twitter and Face book aimed at demystifying the myths and misconceptions that society holds against WWUDs that perpetuate violence against them and called upon everyone to end violence against WWUDs.

The campaign messages targeted all groups of society, including the law enforcers, Government, community members, among others. The campaign called for commitments and actions to Eliminate Violence against Women Who Use Drugs in Uganda



PROGRAM UPDATE

UHRN conducted the **'my data my health'** digital health campaign to create awareness about health data governance and the way it's regulated in Uganda. This campaign attracted diverse range of stakeholders and the community of People Who Use Drugs in their diversity.



Community advocacy trainings for over 40 CSOs/CBOs and groups were conducted in Lira district. This was aimed at equipping and empowering the different CSOs, CBOs with advocacy skills to deepen and sustain social mobilization activities for TB, HIV and Malaria related interventions at grass root level.



Community dialogues were conducted in Abim, Lira and Amolatar districts. These community dialogue meetings were aimed at creating awareness on HIV, TB and Malaria and for promoting improved HIV treatment, adherence, follow up and improved TB casefinding and adherence among others



Community Scorecards were conducted in different health facilities in Dokolo, Lira, Amolatar, Abim and Kotido district, through a participatory process that aimed at empowering communities and service beneficiaries to influence the quality, efficiency and effectiveness with which HIV, TB and Malaria services are provided and to improve service performance.



Partnerships and collaborations

UHRN was privileged to host the **CDC-Ethiopia delegation led by CDC-Uganda** and IDI Makerere team during a learning visit on community delivery of HIV and Harm reduction programmes for people who use drugs (PWUDs)



UHRN participated in the '*Our Rights, Everybody's Rights,*' A Joint Regional Technical Assistance training on Drug Policy and Human Rights in Nairobi



UHRN Participated in policy & advocacy training for Key Population CSOs conducted by @IAVI

To wine up the year, UHRN conducted it's Annual General Meeting (AGM), 2022 to discuss the Key mile stones. This AGM was attended by several stakeholders, CSO and PWUDs community.



It's with profound sadness that we are announcing the untimely death of our beloved community peer educator, Mr. Ongwara Mathew who passed on yesterday. Our deepest sympathy goes to UHRN staff, his family , friends & partners . Mathew will be dearly missed

May his soul rest in peace



Acknowledgement

We thank our donors: Global Fund/TASO, CDC /PEPFER, NIH, OSIEA, ARASA, UHAI, UNAIDS, Harm Reduction International, Youth RISE.

We also thank our CDC implementing partners: IDI, Mild May Uganda, RHSP and the Makerere University School of Public Health and Makerere School of Population Studies.

Special thanks also to the GoU, MoH, Uganda AIDS Commission, MAT Task Force Team, the district local governments, Anti Narcotic Department of Police.



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