



# CEHURD

social justice in health

## WHY WORK IN A COALITION

The experience of working as the Civil Society Coalition to Stop  
Maternal Mortality Due to Unsafe Abortion

CSMMUA/CEHURD

Joy Asasira

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# Presentation Scope

- Defining a coalition
- What you need to know before starting a coalition
- Examples of Coalitions
- The Experience of working within the coalition to stop maternal mortality due to unsafe abortion
- The Pros of working within a coalition
- The Challenges
- Way forward

# Defining a coalition

- A temporary Alliance for combined action - Oxford dictionary
- A temporary union of people of people who agree to work together to achieve a shared aim - Macmillan Dictionary

# What you need to know before working as a coalition

- What is the goal/ Problem to solve (Problem statement, vision, mission)
- Stake holder mapping
- What is in for you (does the coalition Goal fit in with your individual/organizational goals)
- Financing
- Secretariat
- Ways of working together ( attribution/ownership of work, strategic planning and monitoring, communication strategy)
- Sustainability of coalition
- Accountability ( meaningful, measurable indicators)of success/failure

# Examples of coalitions

- Coalition to stop maternal mortality in Uganda (CSMMU)
- Uganda Coalition on access to essential medicines (UCAEM)
- Coalition to stop maternal mortality due to unsafe abortion (CSMMUA)

# The CSMMUA

- Coalition to Stop Maternal Mortality Due to Unsafe Abortion ('the Coalition') formed in July 2012 to address this preventable crisis, and advance the cause of increased access to safe and legal abortion, as a comprehensive strategy to accelerate access to SRH services
  - Coalition mapping by Women's Link Worldwide helped generate core Coalition membership
  - Multidisciplinary (service providers, professional bodies, advocates, legal fraternity, community organizations)
  - Active links with policymakers, Ministry of Health, technical partners
  - International partners are part of the team: Women's Link Worldwide, IPAS, Health GAP, Guttmacher Institute, Center for Reproductive Rights

# The Coalition

**1. VISION:** A Uganda where no woman suffers or dies from unsafe abortion.

**2. MISSION:** The Coalition is a national, multidisciplinary team committed to ending unsafe abortion through improving laws and policies, promoting a conducive environment for service delivery; increasing access to safe services for prevention and management of unwanted pregnancy, reduction of maternal morbidity and mortality, and reduction of abortion stigma and discrimination.

- **THE EXPERIENCE OF WORKING IN  
A COALITION**



# Pros of Working in a Coalition

- Pooling together of resources
- Pooling together of capacities/skills/ideas
- Wider coverage of area (geographical and scope /pace of doing work)
- Gives work/processes validity
- Work is done faster
- Moral support
- Mutual beneficence ( raising organizational profile)
- Networking (both internally and externally)
- Increasing impact ( results impact/ maybe seen much faster)

# Challenges of working in a Coalition

- Competing interests (Coalition Vs. Individual organization)
- Attribution and ownership of work
- Work may not be done in time ( Every body's responsibility is no one's responsibility)
- Resources ( who will fundraise?)
- Way of working together ( tendency to think that some organizations are benefitting more than others)
- Decision making maybe difficult (the challenges of democracy)
- Time constraints ( time to do organizational work vs. time for coalition activities)
- Communicating with the outside world

If you fail to plan, you  
plan to fail - Dr. Miles Manroe