



CEHURD
social justice in health

U^UCHD 2023

**UGANDA NATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON HEALTH, HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT**

26th - 29th September, 2023 | Mestil Hotel, Kampala

Theme: The right to Health: A vital component in achieving SDGs

CONFERENCE ABSTRACT BOOK



#UCHD2023
#HealthConference23

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Welcome and message from the Minister of Health

Dear delegates and invited guests,

I am deeply honored to welcome you all to the Inaugural Uganda National Conference on **Health, Human Rights and Development** (UCHD 2023). I am thrilled to see a diverse gathering of healthcare professionals, legal practitioners, human rights advocates, the youth, policy makers and legislators, researchers, academia, development partners and most importantly, the communities we all serve coming together to address the crucial intersection of these pillars.

Our collective acknowledgement of the intersection between health, human rights and development and taking steps to share knowledge, best practices, challenges and solutions on the same, demonstrates our steadfast commitment towards the realization of our national development goals and indeed SDGs by 2030. As a nation, we recognise that access to quality healthcare is a fundamental human right that is essential for sustainable development and ensuring the dignity and rights of all our people.

The 2022 Uganda Demographic Health Survey has demonstrated that we have registered remarkable progress in areas such as reducing the maternal mortality ratio, increasing deliveries in health facilities, reduced under-5 and infant mortality rates, reduced the unmet need for family planning as well as bolstered our healthcare workforce and decreased the HIV infections per 1,000 in susceptible populations. As we celebrate this progress, we must also acknowledge the need to do more in the race to realise the SDGs in the remaining 7 years. I wish to acknowledge and appreciate the contribution of other government sectors towards the realisation of this progress as well as CSOs, private sector and development partners.

This conference marks a significant step in our commitment to promoting a holistic, multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach to healthcare that requires our collective efforts. These approaches are well grounded in our national policies, laws and strategies and the conference gives us an opportunity to become stronger in their application for greater outcomes. Attaining good health and well-being (SDG 3) not only requires medical treatments, but also encompasses the broader context of human rights and socio-economic development. Addressing these interconnections becomes key to building a healthier, more equitable and prosperous future for our people. This will take the efforts of not just the Ministry of Health, but other sectors too – education, gender and social development, trade, agriculture and financing and planning, among others. The contribution of CSOs, private sector and development partners continues to be pivotal.

I therefore encourage you to engage in insightful discussions, share expertise and best practices, share innovative solutions and foster collaboration. Together we can create a roadmap that enhances health outcomes, upholds human rights and accelerates our national development agenda. Let us use this platform to bridge gaps, inspire action and focus on transformative change.

I extend my gratitude to you all, to colleagues in the Ministry of Health, our co-host CEHURD and partners who have made this conference possible. I am confident that the outcomes of this event will contribute significantly to advancing healthcare, human rights and development in Uganda. Let us work together to ensure that every Ugandan enjoys the right to good health, lives in dignity and contributes meaningfully to our nation's prosperity.

I wish you all a productive and impactful conference.

Dr Aceng Jane Ruth Ocero
Minister of Health

Welcome and message from the Executive Director, Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD)

Dear delegates, honoured guests and colleagues,

I warmly welcome you to the Inaugural Uganda National Conference on Health, Human Rights and Development (UCHD 2023) held under the theme: “The Right to Health: A vital component in Achieving SDGs.” This conference provides us with a unique opportunity to come together, reflect, strategise, monitor progress, and hold ourselves accountable for realising good health and well-being for all people in Uganda.

To date, despite our shared goals and combined efforts to tackle challenges in the fields of health, human rights, and development across the country, we have lacked a dedicated collective platform to convene and assess our mutual achievements, share valuable insights, exchange best practice and replicable models, address challenges, and identify innovative solutions and priorities.

UCHD 2023 represents a new opportunity, one that enables us to take action and engage the vital intersection between health and other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including poverty alleviation, hunger eradication, quality education, gender equality, and climate action, among others.

Our conference theme aligns with the vision of the Center for Health, Human Rights, and Development (CEHURD): “A society in which social justice and human rights in health systems are realised.” I strongly believe that this theme speaks to many of our shared goals and objectives rooted in obligations within our national Constitution which recognises that health is a fundamental human right and guarantees access to healthcare for all.

Like all other human rights, states have a legal obligation to respect, protect and fulfil the Right to Health. This entails refraining from encroaching upon the enjoyment of this right, preventing interference from the fulfilment of this right, and implementing suitable measures to ensure its realisation through quality health services for all. The theme also reflects Uganda’s national development goals as outlined in Uganda Vision 2040 and the National Development Plan (NDP) III, which specifically aims to enhance household incomes and quality of life, emphasising productivity, inclusivity, and overall well-being.

At this conference, we must remind ourselves that good health and well-being (SDG 3) is a development issue. The Right to Health encompasses not only health care, but also the underlying social determinants of health, such as education, income status, water, sanitation, food and nutrition, information, and environmental conditions, among others. We must therefore collaborate with this in mind, recognising that good healthcare outcomes are key indicators of a country’s overall development.

I would like to appreciate the Ministry of Health for the collaboration in organising this important conference and other government line ministries and agencies who have joined us. I extend my appreciation to our development partners who have trusted us with this new initiative and provided all forms of support. Special thanks to our partners in the sector, including CSOs, CBOs and the private sector. I appreciate the sustained leadership of the conference organising committees and the abstract reviewers who volunteered their time to make the conference and related events happen. A special thank you to the young people and those who have shared their powerful and impactful life stories to influence change. And to you all colleagues at CEHURD and the team at the Ministry of Health with the leadership of Dr Charles Olaro for your selfless efforts towards turning the vision of this inaugural event into a reality.

May this conference catalyse the next 7 years as we jointly strive to overcome our persistent health challenges and make greater progress in realising the Right to Health and SDGs by 2030.

I hope you share my enthusiasm for this monumental initiative, through which we will renew our commitment and accelerate our collective actions.

Wishing you all fruitful deliberations ahead.

Fatia Kiyange
Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD)

About the Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD)

The Center for Human Rights, Health and Development (CEHURD) is an indigenous Non-Governmental and Not-for-Profit Organization established 13 years ago to advance the right to health in Uganda and within the East African region. We envision a society in which social justice and human rights in health systems are realized. Our mission is to advance health rights of vulnerable communities through litigation, advocacy and action research. Our mission is achieved through four programmatic strategic objectives: promoting sustainable access to justice in health and human rights in Uganda; positioning health and human rights as a key strategy for sustainable development; enhancing institutional and programmatic growth through knowledge management; and building community capacities and agency on health and human rights.

CEHURD's approaches of work include, among others: strategic litigation; legal aid service for health rights violations; capacity strengthening; legal empowerment and social accountability; research and learning, legal and policy advocacy; social mobilisation through campaigns; social movement building and institutional grounding. Our work is implemented at national, regional, district and community level in Uganda, and seeks to impact laws and policies; health practices and services and change of social norms and practices. We work collaboratively with other health and human rights organisations, community structures, government structures and systems; professional councils and associations as well as relevant Government Ministries Departments and Agencies.



About the Ministry of Health of Uganda

The Ministry of Health is a government body set up with the mandate of stewardship and leadership of the health sector. The Ministry of Health is responsible for policy review and development, supervision of health sector activities, formulation and dialogue with health development partners, strategic planning, setting standards and quality assurance, resource mobilization, advising other Ministries, departments and agencies on health-related matters, and ensuring quality, health equity, and fairness in contribution towards the cost of health care. The vision of the Ministry of Health is to have a healthy and productive population that contributes to socio-economic growth and national development. The **mission is to provide**

the highest possible level of health services to all people in Uganda through delivery of promotive, preventive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative health services at all levels”.









The role of the Ministry of Health also includes; mobilization of resources such as human resources, health infrastructure, medicines and other health supplies, health data and information. The Ministry of health handles capacity development and technical support supervision; provision of nationally coordinated services including health emergency preparedness and response, epidemic prevention and control, coordination of health research, monitoring and evaluation of the overall health sector performance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- Seth Nimwesiga, Center for Health and Human Rights Development
- Twaibu Wamala, Uganda Harm Reduction Network

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PLENARY SPEAKERS: BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Wednesday 27th September 2023

Plenary sessions

08.30 - 08.45am *Dr Charles Olaro, Director, Curative Services, Ministry of Health, Uganda: Welcome remarks*



Dr. Olaro Charles is the Director Curative Services at the Ministry of Health, Uganda since April 2017. He has over 30 years of experience working in the Public and Private sector, serving within Health services as Medical Officer, Medical Officer (Special Grade Surgery), Consultant Surgery, Medical Superintendent, Senior Consultant Surgery and Hospital Director. He as an Accounting Officer of Arua Regional Referral Hospital (RRH) and Fort portal RRH for 17 years before joining the Ministry of Health headquarters. He headed the Continuity of Essential Health Services Pillar in context of COVID-19 Pandemic and the last Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Epidemic. He is a strong champion of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and Self-care for SRHR in Uganda.

Dr Olaro has won various Awards and honorary positions including: Chancellor, Fins Medical University; Member of Global FP2030 Board; Chair FP2030 Country Focal Points; Honorary Fellow, College of Surgeons of East Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA); Fellow of International Visitors Leadership, USA; Charter Member of Rotary Club of Sonde. (PHF/ President Elect); Member Board of Directors, Uganda Cancer Institute; Member of Board of Directors, Mulago Specialized Women and Neonatal National Hospital and Chair to the National Health Laboratory Technical and Advisory Committee (LTC). He holds MBChB and MMed Surgery from Makerere University. He also holds Master of Science in Health Services Management, Uganda Martyrs University, Nkozi and MBA, ESAMI.

08.30 - 08.45am *Fatia Kiyange, Executive Director, Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD): Welcome remarks*



Fatia Kiyange is the Executive Director of the Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD), an indigenous not-for-profit non-Governmental organisation based in Uganda. She has more than 20 years of advocacy work experience for social justice in health and social protection systems focusing on the most vulnerable and marginalised people. She has worked at the national, regional and global level. Her public health and social work approach to health rights issues complements the human rights-based approach towards realising social justice in health and social protection systems.

Ms Kiyange serves on several governance bodies including the Board of directors of the Uganda SRHR Alliance; steering committee of Regional Network for Equity in Health in East and Southern Africa (EQUINET) and board of directors the Uganda Cancer Institute, among others. She has authored and co-authored several peer reviewed research papers and contributed to the development of reference materials in the field of health.

She holds a Masters of Public Health with University College Cork, Ireland and a Post Graduate Certificate in Health Protection with the same University. She also holds a Master's Degree in Social Sector Planning and Management of Makerere University, Kampala and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work and Social Administration of the same University.

08.30 - 08.45am *Prof. Fredrick Edward Makumbi, Makerere University, School of Public Health: About the Conference*



Fredrick Makumbi, is a public health professional involved in teaching, research and community service. Dr. Makumbi's research interests include sexual and reproductive health, Evaluation of health programs, Data Science and Statistical analyses, and HIV intervention including the impact of Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) on HIV prevention, survival and on reproductive health behaviors, and is widely published in peer reviewed journals. He is a team-lead for the Performance Monitoring for Action (PMA) project that monitors progress of Family Planning indicators (<http://pmadata.org>), a Uganda team co-lead on the USAID funded project Research for Scalable Solutions (R4S), a member of the Family Planning Technical Working Group (TWG), Equity Steering Committee, National Self-care guideline expert group, Safety Monitoring Team (SMT) of the Safe Male circumcision at the Ministry of health, Uganda. He has conducted international trainings in data management and statistical analysis at the Ministry of health, Family Health & Nutrition Unit in Seychelles and, at the National Food Technology Research Center in Botswana through support by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Prof. Makumbi graduated with a bachelor of Statistics (Makerere University), and Master of Health Sciences'00 and PhD'04 from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, USA.

09.00 - 09.30am *Our health needs and how the healthcare system can address them: Healthcare beneficiaries panel discussion*

Ms Ruth Nabbose Kirabo – How the health care system in Uganda addresses the health needs of young people

Mr Emmanuel Ntaborwa- Uganda National Association of the Deaf (UNAD) - How the health care system in Uganda addresses the health needs of people with disability

Ms Maxensia Nakibbukwa (multiple morbidities)

Maxensia Nakibuuka is a development worker with a bias to women-led and women-oriented projects, social justice for women, and community health for women and children in the area of HIV/AIDS, Women's economic empowerment as an avenue for women's emancipation and increasing women's participation in politics as a way of profiling them in decision making positions among others. A role model with a fragmented and touching background. Her personal experience on the effects of HIV/AIDS instigated her to start an initiative, Lungujja Community Health Caring Organisation (LUCOHECO), to fight for the plight of all women in similar situation. She is a political and feminist leader and Alumna of the African Women's Leadership Institute held by Akina Mama wa Afrika.

Ms Rita Nampeera (maternal and child health)

09.30 - 09.45am *Dr Byakika Sarah, Commissioner, Health Services Planning, Financing & Policy, Ministry of Health: The state of Uganda's healthcare services and priorities for realizing Universal Health Coverage (UHC):*



Dr Byakika is the Commissioner Health Services Planning, Financing and Policy at the Ministry of Health and previously served as Acting Commissioner in the same position. She also served as the Assistant Commissioner Health Services, Quality Assurance and District Health Officer and Deputy District Director of Health Services, Jinja District as well as Senior Medical Officer and Medical officer Jinja Regional Referral Hospital. She has facilitated in a number of training programmes for District Health Managers in collaboration with Makerere University, School of Public Health, such as District Health Services Improvement Course, Fellowship Program for Leadership and Management, Quality Improvement Fellowship Programs, Strategic Leadership and Management Skills for Reproductive Health, PMTCT, Support supervision and quality of care. Dr Byakika holds a Msc. in Community Health and Health Services Management and Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from Makerere University.

09.45 - 10.00am *Dr Yonas Tegegn, WHO Representative and Head of Mission to Uganda: Opening Statement: who Guidance on the realization of the Right to Health*



Dr. Yonas Tegegn Woldemariam is the WHO Representative in Uganda. He has over 30 years of experience in general medicine, disaster management, project development, and donor relations at different technical and managerial levels. His international experience includes working with Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) in Rwanda from 1994-1995, WHO Geneva from 1999-2005, WHO South East Asia Regional office from 2005-2009, WHO India from 2009-2011, as WHO Representative to D.P.R Korea from 2011-2013, and as WHO Representative to Thailand from 2013-2015. Before his reassignment to Uganda, he served as Planning Officer at the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia, in New Delhi, India from 2016-2018. Dr. Yonas Tegegn Woldemariam holds a Doctorate degree in Medicine.

10.00 - 10.30am *Ms Else G. Attafuah, Resident representative, UNDP Uganda: Keynote address: The Right to Health – A vital component in achieving Sustainable Development Goals by 2030*



Elsie G. Attafuah has been the UNDP Resident Representative for Uganda since 2019. Prior to that she led UNDP's Climate and Forests team and office in Africa and provides overall strategic direction, policy and technical guidance to 28 countries in the Africa portfolio. Her professional experience spans years of working with UNDP, the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), Government Ministries, private sector, and civil society. Elsie holds a Master's Degree in International Affairs from the University of Ghana, a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Diploma in Education from the University of Cape-Coast.

10.00 - 10.30am *Dr Mulumba, Moses, Director General, Afya na Haki Institute, Uganda: Keynote address – respondent*



Dr. Mulumba, Moses is a Lawyer with a special interest in International Human Rights, Global Health, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. He holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB), Post Graduate Bar Diploma in Legal Practice, Master of Laws (LLM), a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in health sciences, and a PhD in Health Sciences from the University of Ghent. His strategic leadership responsibilities include, former member Board of Directors of the National Drug Authority (NDA), steering committee member of the Regional Network on Equity in Health in East and Southern Africa (EQUINET), African Advisor to the HIV and the Law Commission, and principle and co-investigator on various research projects funded among others IDRC, SIDA, Rockefeller Foundation, the Ford Foundation, European Union, the Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR) and the European Space Agency. Mulumba is a founding Executive Director of the Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD), and now Director-General Afya na Haki, an Institute that builds advocacy capacities in Health, Human Rights, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) through Africentric approaches within a national and global context.

10.30 - 11.00am *Dr Aceng Jane Ruth Ocero, Minister of Health, Republic of Uganda: Guest of honour – Official opening*



Dr. Aceng is the Minister of Health of Uganda. She is a Pediatrician Expert and currently at the level of senior consultant pediatrics. She is also a Public Health Expert. She has vast experience both as a manager and practicing medical personnel which she accumulated while serving in various capacities as the Director General Health Services in the Ministry of Health, Consultant Pediatrician, Hospital Director, Medical Superintendent, Medical officer Special Grade, Senior Medical Officer and Medical officer. Dr Aceng holds a MMED (Pediatrics), Masters in Public Health and Diploma in Health System Strengthening and Bachelor's Degree in Medicine (MBChB).

Thursday 28th September 2023

Plenary sessions

08.30 - 09.30am *Why should Uganda care about social justice and human rights in the health system?*



Prof. Ben Twinomugisha is a Professor of Law and former Dean, School of Law, Makerere University, Uganda. He is an advocate of the High court and all Courts of Judicature in Uganda and has practiced law for over 25 years. He is also a visiting Professor at Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU) and Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria. He has taught and examined in a number of universities in the region. He has supervised and examined many masters and doctoral students in Uganda and elsewhere. He has researched and taught in the in the areas of commercial laws, public law, including health and the law, international law, environmental law and human rights at both college and university levels for over 35 years. He has recently published a multidisciplinary book, Fundamentals of Health Law in Uganda, Pretoria: Pretoria University Law Press (2015). He is also the Chairperson, Board of Trustees, Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD) and a senior researcher at Afya na Haki (Ahaki) Institute.



Mr Bernard Oundo is the current President of the Uganda Law Society, Uganda. He is also a past President of the East Africa Law Society a Regional Bar Association comprising 20,000 lawyers across seven National Bar Associations in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, and Tanzania's Tanganyika and Zanzibar Law Societies. He is a Senior Partner with Citadel Advocates (formerly Oundo & Co Advocates), a Ugandan-based law firm specializing in Project Finance and Public-Private Partnership (PPP) legal advisory services. Bernard is passionate about transforming and modernizing the legal profession in Africa. His vision is to place the legal profession at the forefront of social, economic, and political advancement in Africa.



Dr Charles Ayume, Chairperson, Parliamentary Health Committee



Ms Rose Kiwanuka Musoke, Retired Nurse/Community Based Public Health. Rose Kiwanuka is a retired nurse, and was the first palliative care nurse in Uganda, with 30 years of Palliative care advocacy, training and patient care. She is among the founding member of Hospice Africa Uganda and a founding Director of the Palliative Care Association of Uganda. During her active service, she supported the development and integration of palliative care in the healthcare system in Uganda at the national and the sub-national level. She is a board member of Uganda Heart institute, and a council member of the Institute of Hospice and Palliative care in Africa. She is the founder and a board Chair of Lweza Community Health Program. An organization that promotes health, human rights and the realization of SDGs through regular community sensitization and annual medical camp. She is an advocate of primary health care.

09.30 - 10.40am Mr Paul Mbaka, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Health Information, Ministry of Health, Uganda: Universal access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: Uganda's performance on key indicators



Mr Paul Mbaka is the Ass. Commissioner, Department of Health Information, at the Ugandan Ministry of Health. He is a Statistician, M&E Specialist, Researcher, Database and Software developer. He also has project Management skills.

Panel discussion in response to the presentation



Hon. Phiona Nyamutooro, National Youth Representative, Uganda Parliament. Hon. Phiona Nyamutooro is the Chairperson of the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Youth Affairs and National Female Youth Representative in the parliament of Uganda.



Ms Diana Tibesigwa, Regional Advocacy and Policy Manager, East and West Africa, AHF- Uganda Cares
Diana Tibesigwa is a seasoned Policy Advocacy specialist with over a decade of experience in driving influential advocacy strategies. She has worked with prominent organizations like DSW, CSBAG, FOWODE, World Vision International, Plan International and currently serves as the Advocacy and Policy Manager for AIDS Health Care Foundation in East and West Africa.
With a bachelor's degree in commerce, a postgraduate in Public Policy and Governance, and a master's degree in policy development and Analysis, Diana is known for her pioneering work in promoting gender and equity certificates, crafting alternative positions and approaches to health financing, and guiding local governments in developing Family Planning costed implementation plans. Her successful track record in policy influence has solidified her reputation as a prominent figure in the realm of high-level policy advocacy.



Ms Achieng Akumu, Africa Regional Director, Planned Parenthood Global

Ms Achieng Akumu is the Africa Regional Director at Planned Parenthood Global. Achieng is a legislative Attorney and international development practitioner for over the last three decades. She began her professional career as a Legislative Assistant to a New York Assemblyman. Upon completion of law school, she worked as Legislative Director for two US Congressmen in the House of Representatives. Thereafter, she moved to work for executive side of government serving with United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the State Department. Under USAID, as Senior Rule of Law and Governance Advisor, providing technical support to more than 47 countries in Africa, South East Asia, the MENA region, Eastern Europe, Latin America & the Caribbean. She also served as senior Legal and Security Governance Advisor to the US Ambassador to the African Union, based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. She has received many honors and awards, including Esteemed Meritorious Honor Awards from the U.S. government an honor in the civil service.



Mrs Teddy N. Chimulwa, National Programme Officer, Education for health and wellbeing, UNESCO project office in Uganda.

Teddy is a highly experienced social-behavioral scientist with a Master’s degree in Social Sector Planning and Management, boasting 22 years of expertise. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Social Sciences, a Post-graduate certificate in Child Protection, and numerous competence-based trainings. Her competencies range from leadership, policy development, program design, grants management, SBCC, community engagement, research, monitoring and evaluation, and capacity building for health and social services. Teddy’s technical and programmatic skills encompass HIV/SRH/GBV prevention, care, treatment, psychosocial support, and social protection at various levels. She has collaborated with AIDS development partners, ministries, civil society organizations, and grassroots communities across African countries. Teddy previously worked as a Program Officer for Adolescent HIV services at the Ministry of Health’s AIDS Control Program and currently serves as a National programme officer responsible for education for health and wellbeing at the UNESCO project office in Uganda.

Friday 29th September 2023

Plenary sessions

08.30 - 09.45am Covid-19 Pandemic: Lessons for Strengthening Uganda’s healthcare system



Dr Juliet E. Nakku, Executive Director, Butabika Hospital: Impact and lessons for mental health at the institutional level

Dr. Juliet E. Nakku is a Senior Consultant Psychiatrist and Executive Director of Butabika National Referral Hospital. She is also a lecturer for Makerere University College of Health Sciences’ Department of Psychiatry, heavily involved in training the future human resources for mental health for Uganda. In the same training line, she is involved in the management of mental health training school. She is a member of the governing council of the Butabika Nurses training school where she chairs the development subcommittee and before this, she served on the governing council of the Psychiatric Clinical Officers’ training school at Butabika for 6 years.

Dr. Juliet has been at the helm of service development at Butabika Hospital where she led the organisation and eventual start of private mental health services in a public psychiatric hospital which was unheard of previously. She has also been at the helm of developing Electroencephalography (EEG) services for Epilepsy at the hospital which were not available before.



Prof. Seggane Musisi, Consultant Psychiatrist, School of Medicine/CEO Entebbe Lakeside Hospital: Climate change and natural disasters

Prof Seggane Musisi MD, FRCP(C), is a Professor of Psychiatry and the former Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at Makerere University, College of Health Sciences and a Senior Consultant Psychiatrist at Mulago National Referral and Teaching Hospital and to the Uganda Ministry of Health. He received his medical training at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda and specialist post-graduate training in Psychiatry at the University of Toronto in Ontario, Canada where he worked as a psychiatrist for 20 years. He is a founding member of the African Pyscare Research Organization, APRO, a mental health NGO with the objectives of mental health research and consultation in Uganda and Africa in general to inform policy and practice. He is an active teacher and mentor to many in mental health in Uganda and Africa and is a member to many mental health Associations. He is active in the Movement for Global Mental Health especially regarding access to mental health care in post-conflict

populations and refugees affected by mass trauma in Africa. He was a senior consultant to the Peter C Alderman Foundation (PCAF) and a principal architect in establishing mental health clinics in post-conflict communities in Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and South Sudan. He has widely published and is a recipient and co-recipient of many grants and awards. He sits on the Technical Advisory Research Committee at Mbarara University of Science & Technology.

Caroline Tanga, young person: Impact on young people in reference to teenage pregnancy and lessons learned. Caroline is a passionate young person with a diploma in supplies and procurement management from Kampala International University. Her career objective is to find a challenging position to meet the competencies, capabilities, skills and experience. She is computer literate, good at interpersonal and communication skills. She is currently working with Socio-economic Data center as a data collector on the status of health service delivery in Busia District as well as youth Advocate on the Busia Youth Advocate Group under the power to you(th) program which aims at empowering Young people to have the power on decision making in all aspects of life



Dr Joseph Muvawala, Executive Director, National Planning Authority: Planning for health for all.

Dr. Joseph Muvawala is the Executive Director of the National Planning Authority a semi-autonomous Agency under the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, charged with developing integrated development plans for Uganda. Under this job, Joseph is tasked with managing and handling complex deliverables related to various sectors of the economy, including and not limited to sustainable financial and socio-economic development, evaluation of Government programmes and policies, development of the National Development Plans and monitoring their implementation, advising the Executive on economic policy direction for improved economic growth, among others.

He possesses profound experience in evaluation principles, standards, processes, and methodologies, including demonstrable understanding of state-of-the-art evaluation theories and practices. He has provided technical oversight of evaluation of Government programs

such as the Universal Primary Education (UPE), the Decentralization programme, Mid-term and End of Term evaluations of the National Development Plans (NDP I and NDP II), various Government projects, Country Strategy Papers, Donor Country Strategies, to mention but a few.



Dr Ramathan Ggoobi, Ministry of Planning, Finance & Economic Development: Financing options.

Ramathan Ggoobi is the Permanent Secretary/ Secretary to the Treasury, Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED). He has taught Economics at several universities particularly Makerere University Business School (MUBS), where he headed a think-tank – the MUBS Economic Forum. His research interests are in industrial policy, economic policy and political economy. Prior to taking over as PS/ST, Ramathan was a regular pundit in media on economic issues and wrote a weekly column, “Are you listening Mr. President” in the Sunrise Newspaper for 15 years. He has consulted with overseas Development Institute (ODI) UK; International Labour Organisation (ILO); Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES); Financial Sector Deepening Uganda (FSDU); Government of Uganda; Action Coalition for Development and Environment, and many others. He was a board Director at the Uganda Development Corporation (UDC); the government of Uganda’s investment arm and senior presidential Advisor on the National Economy.

09.45 - 10.45am Addressing the social determinants of health to realise Health for All: Reflecting on a multi-sectoral approach

Mr Ismael Mulindwa, Director, Basic Education, Ministry of Education & Sports

Mr Mondo Kyateeka, Commissioner for Youth and Children’s Affairs, Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development
A nation-wide recognized champion for youth SRHR issues, he is the commissioner for Youth and Children at the Ministry of Gender, Labor and social development



Dr Amon Ashaba Mwiine, Lecturer, School of Women and Gender Studies, Makerere University

Amon Ashaba Mwiine is a Lecturer in the School of Women and Gender Studies, Makerere University. He teaches on courses that include; Men Studies: Masculinities and Development; Gender and Sexuality and Feminist theory. His research interests are in Critical studies of men and Masculinity; ethnographic and narrative forms of qualitative research; gender and politics. Dr Mwiine holds a 2-year fellowship in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Makerere University (2019-2021), supported by Andrew W. Mellon foundation. His research project interrogates ways in which *feminist activism encounters notions on men and masculinities* and the implications these dialogic interactions have for critical feminist theory and practice.

Dr Mwiine is currently a facilitator of the Men’s Hubs, a sub-component of the KISH project in the School of Women and Gender Studies. In June 2019, Dr Mwiine was appointed a member of the Vice Chancellor’s Roster of 100. These are persons of high integrity, appointed by the

VC and trained by Gender Mainstreaming Directorate, Makerere University as a collective pool from whom to constitute temporal committees to investigate cases of sexual harassment. Recent research include: Negotiating patriarchy? Exploring the ambiguities of the narratives on “male champions” of gender equality in Uganda Parliament. *Agenda*. 33(1):108–116. He holds a PhD (Sociology) from Stellenbosch University, South Africa.



Dr Betty Kyadondo, Director, Family Health, National Population Council

Dr. Kyaddondo is a population and reproductive health expert, currently, the Director, Family Health at the National Population Council in Uganda. Betty is a medical doctor, demographer, and Colten Fellow of Oxford's Institute of Population Ageing and is spearheading Uganda's efforts towards harnessing the demographic dividend. Betty is also a researcher and a part time lecturer at Makerere University School of Public Health. Previously, Betty served as a Senior National Programme Officer for Uganda's UNFPA's Joint Programme on Population. She has coordinated development and implemented internationally-funded national and community-based projects supported by UNFPA, UNICEF, the World Bank, USAID, DFID, and PAI. Betty coordinated the medical team at the AIDS Information Centre.



Agnes Kirabo, Executive Director, Food Rights Alliance

Ms. Agnes Kirabo is the Executive Director of Food Rights Alliance (FRA). Agnes is a seasoned Food and Agriculture policy analyst with over 15 years of work experience of advancing policy, legal and practice reforms in Agriculture and Food Governance that promote and protect people's Right to Adequate Food and that uphold people's dignity. She has significantly contributed to agendas on Public Finance for Agriculture, Land and Water resource governance, seed security, biodiversity and farmers rights, Intellectual property rights in agriculture and food systems, trade and agriculture, access to supportive production services such as Agriculture Extension, Women and Youth in Agriculture and issues of food safety and Food governance.

Agnes Kirabo is serving several boards in the Civil Society sector. She is currently a Member of the SEATINI Board of Directors and the vice chairperson of the Board Directors Center for Health Human Rights and Development (CEHURD).



UGANDA NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH, HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT

Date: 26th - 29th September, 2023

Theme: **The right to Health: A vital component in achieving SDGs**



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH



CEHURD
social justice in health

Hosted by: Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uganda and Center for Health, Human Rights and Development.

MESTIL HOTEL KAMPALA-UGANDA



uchd.2023@cehurd.org
www.cehurd.org/uchd2023/

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS: Tuesday 26th September 2023

08.00 - 09.00am	Registration for pre-conference sessions/workshops
09.00 - 10.30am	Movement building for sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) in Uganda's context Planned Parenthood Global (PPG) [Bunyonyi main conference room] (Invite only)
10.30 - 11.00am	TEA BREAK
11.00 - 1.00pm	Workshops continued
01.00 - 2.00pm	LUNCH
03.00 - 07.00pm	20 years of health, policy and the law: Celebrating milestones and leadership CEHURD [Kyoga] (Invite only)
07.00 - 08.00pm	Reception (Invite only)

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME: 27th- 29th September 2023

WEDNESDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2023

07.30am	Registration	
PLENARY SESSION ONE & OPENING CEREMONY [BUNYONYI]		
Master of Ceremony: Andrew Kyamagero, Media Personality		
Chairs: Dr Charles Olaro, Director Curative Services, Ministry of Health; Ms Doris Akiidi, Uganda Law Reform Commission		
CONFERENCE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY		
08.30 – 08.45am	Welcome remarks	Dr Charles Olaro, Director Curative Services, Ministry of Health; Ms Fatia Kiyange, Executive Director, Center for Health, Human Rights & Development (CEHURD)
	About the conference	Prof. Fredrick Edward Makumbi, School of Public Health, Chair, Makerere University, Conference Scientific Committee
08.45 – 09.00am	Entertainment	Mildmay Uganda Youth Group
09.00 – 09.30am	Dr Charles Ayume, Chairperson, Uganda Parliamentary Committee on Health	Our health needs and how the health system can address them: Healthcare care beneficiaries panel discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Ruth Nabbose Kirabo (young person) ▪ Emmanuel Ntaborwa, Uganda National Association of the Deaf (needs of PWDs) ▪ Ms Maxensia Nakibuuka (multiple morbidities) ▪ Ms Rita Nampeera (maternal and child health)

09.30 – 09.45am	Dr Byakika Sarah, Commissioner, Planning, Policy & Finance, MoH	The state of Uganda's health care services and priorities for realising Universal Health Coverage (UHC)			
09.45 – 10.00am	Dr Yonas Tegegn, WHO Representative to Uganda	Opening Statement: WHO Guidance on the realisation of the Right to Health			
10.00 – 10.30am	Ms. Elsie G. Attafuah Resident Representative, UNDP Uganda	Keynote address: The Right to Health – A vital component in achieving SDGs by 2030			
	Dr Mulumba, Moses, Afya na Haki Institute	Respondent to the Keynote			
10.30 – 11.00am	Official Opening	Guest of Honour			
	Dr Jane Ruth Aceng Oceru, Minister of Health, Uganda	Special awards for contributions towards health care services in Uganda			
11.00 – 11.20am	TEA BREAK & GROUP PHOTO				
BREAK AWAY SESSIONS					
	TRACK 1 [Kyoga] <i>Health systems strengthening</i> Chairs: Dr Daniel Kyabayinze, Director, Public Health, MoH; Peter Eceru, CEHURD	TRACK 2 [Bunyonyi] <i>Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)</i> Chairs: Dr Jessica Nsungwa, Commissioner, Reproductive Health; Mr Akram Zziwa, CEHURD/C4GEE	TRACK 3 [Aswa] <i>Health, policy and the law</i> Chairs: Dr Charles Ayume, Chairperson, Parliamentary Committee on Health; Nakibuuka Noor Musisi, CEHURD	TRACK 4 [Kafu] <i>Mental health, harm reduction and wellness</i> Chairs: Dr Hafsa Sentongo Lukwata, Assistant Commissioner, NCDs and Mental Health, MoH; Mr Twaibu Wamala, Uganda Harm Reduction Network	TRACK 5 [Rwizi] <i>Multi-sectoral collaborations, strategic partnerships, coalitions and movements</i> Chairs: Josephine Lavoy, PPG; Angela Nakafeero, Commissioner, Women and Gender Affairs, Uganda Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
11.20 – 11.35am	A001 Facility readiness and health workers' preparedness to manage postpartum haemorrhage among public health facilities within greater Kampala Abdullahi Teituk Makerere University, College of Health Sciences, Dept of Obstetrics & Gynecology	B001 Teenage pregnancy: Rethinking policy and approaches for prevention and response Rita Aciro, Uganda Women's Network (UWONET)	C009 Advancing the Right to Health in Uganda: An assessment of the free healthcare policy Prossy Kiddu Namyalo et al, IHMPE, University of Toronto & Faculty of Social Sciences, Ndejje University	D006 Improving access to mental health services among People Living with HIV in the Rwenzori region of Western Uganda using the Common Elements Treatment Approach (CETA) Charles Mwanje, Jhpiego programme, MoH	E003 Decolonizing health in Uganda for health systems strengthening: Movement building and community participation as a tool Denis Joseph Bukonya, People's Health Movement Uganda
11.35 – 11.50am	A014 Meaningful youth participation in the improvement of youth friendly health services at the lower local government level Eric Okello/Timothy Oboth, Tororo District Advocacy Network/ Plan International	B005 Barriers and facilitators to contraceptive uptake among school drop outs in rural Gulu District Robert Kiiza, Gulu University	C11 Integrating psychological support services for mentally ill individuals into the justice delivery system/institutions. Stella Namiro, Legal Aid Service Providers Network (LASPNET)	D005 Empowering resilience: The StrongMinds IPT-G model's impact on the Batwa Indigenous Tribe in Uganda Sandra Abbo, StrongMinds Uganda	E008 Unlocking the barriers to SRHR service uptake among adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) through community health advocates and male engagement strategies in Kamuli District Charles Mudhumba, Holistic Initiative to Community Development (HOLD, Uganda)

11.50am – 12.05pm	A005 Empowering communities and enhancing governance: The LESA project's impact on local government performance in Koboko and Maracha Districts Christopher Ogwang, CEHURD	B007 Prevalence and factors associated with teenage pregnancies in in refugee settlements of Northern Uganda in the post COVID-19 era Donald Otika, Gulu University	C003 Impact assessment on HIV prevention/Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) and Gender Based Violence (GBV) service delivery following the enacted of anti-homosexuality legislation. A case study of the AIDS Information Centre (AIC), Kampala Pacificus Kwesiga, AIDS Information Centre	D010 Harm reduction in adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights: Why, when, how and to what outcomes? Dr Dan Kaye, Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Uganda (AUGO)	E004 Leveraging partnerships to sustainably grow the private sector market for HIV Self Testing (HIVST) in Uganda: A case for pharmacy channels Jude Oriokot, PSI Uganda
12.05 – 12:20pm	A013 Strengthening community accountability structures to ensure health service delivery at the grassroots level Linette du Toit, Uganda Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA Uganda)	B031 Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) needs of intersex persons in Uganda Dr Adrian Jjuuko, Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum	C005 Is nutrition prioritised in the advancement of the Right to Health in Uganda? Evidence from Uganda Health Sector Performance Reports Agnes Kirabo Lwampemula, Food Rights Alliance Uganda	D008 Improving mental health services in Uganda: Strategies for overcoming healthcare system burdens through enhanced access to mental health information among young people Don Zane Muwanguzi, Awesome Mind Speaks	B008 Advocacy Approaches towards Abortion: An analysis of Abortion cases in Africa Patrick Murungi, Women's Probono Initiative
12:20 – 01:00pm	Questions & discussion	Questions & discussion	Questions & discussion	Questions & discussion	Questions & discussion
01.00– 02.00pm	LUNCH & POSTER PRESENTATIONS				
WORKSHOPS					
02.00 – 03:30pm	Workshop 1 [Aswa] Moderator: Atim Hope, MEMPROW BW045 The role of culture and social norms in influencing access to SRH of adolescent girls and young women in Zombo district Mentoring and Empowerment Programme for Young Women (MEMPROW), Uganda	Workshop 2 [Kyoga] Moderators: Pamela Nahurira, CEHURD; Robert Ofitti, HEPS Uganda BW051 Advocacy initiatives for SRHR at the national and grassroots levels in Uganda CEHURD & JAS Programme Implementing Partners	Workshop 3 [Bunyonyi] Moderator: Teddy Nabwire, UNESCO BW058 Findings from key studies conducted and programme experiences in the areas of sexuality education and SRHR as well as mental health and psychosocial support United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Workshop 4 [Rwizi] Moderator: Rose Mutumba, Angels Center for Children with Special Needs DW007 The untold story of 'mercy killing' of disabled children in Uganda (documentary)	Workshop 5 [Kafu] Moderator: Dr Arthur Bagonza, Makerere University, College of Health Sciences, School of Public Health BW059 Assessing the Provision of Post-Abortion Care in Uganda: Public versus Private Sector
03.30 – 04.00pm	TEA BREAK & SNAPSHOT PRESENTATIONS				
WORKSHOPS					
04.00 – 05.30pm	Workshop 6 (Aswa) Moderators: Anne Lumbasi, CEHURD; Don Zane Muwanguzi, Awesome Mind Speaks DW012 Rapid assessment of harm reduction funding and investment in Uganda Uganda Harm Reduction Network (UHRN)	Workshop 2 (Kyoga) Moderator: AHF Uganda Cares BW052 Innovative financing strategies in attaining the SDG 3 Agenda	Workshop 3 (Bunyonyi) UNESCO Workshop continued	Workshop 7 (Rwizi) Moderator: Sheirat Namayanja, SRHR Alliance, Uganda BW053 A dive into universal access to SRHR information	Workshop 8 (Kafu) Moderator: Primah Kwagala, Women's Probono Initiative BW047 Reflections and learnings from abortion practices in pre-colonial Africa for contemporary Uganda

THURSDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER 2023

07.30	Registration				
SECOND PLENARY SESSION [BUNYONYI]					
Master of Ceremony: Peter Eceru, CEHURD					
Chairs: Hon. Nicholas Kamara, Health Committee of Ugandan Parliament; Ms Dorothy Amuron, CEHURD					
08.30 – 09.30am	<p>Why should Uganda care about social justice and human rights in the health care system?</p> <p><i>Dr Chrispus Muyora, Makerere University, School of Public Health (Moderator)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof. Ben Twinomugisha, School of Law, Makerere University Mr Bernard Oundo, President, Uganda Law Society Dr Charles Ayume, Member of Parliamentary Health Committee Ms Rose Kiwanuka Musoke, Retired Nurse/Community Based Public Health 			
09.30 – 10.40am	<p><i>Mr Paul Mbaka, Asst. Commissioner, Department of Health Information, Ministry of Health, Uganda</i></p>	<p>Universal access to Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights: Uganda's performance on key indicators</p>			
	<p>Panel discussion in response to the presentation</p> <p><i>Fatia Kiyange, CEHURD (Moderator)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Phiona Nyamuturo, National Youth Representative, Ugandan Parliament Ms Diana Tibesigwa, AHF-Uganda Cares Dr Aceng Akumu, Planned Parenthood Global Ms Teddy Nabwire, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Regional Office for Eastern Africa Mary Borgman, PERFOR Country Coordinator, U.S Embassy Kampala 			
10.40 – 11.00am	TEA BREAK AND NETWORKING				
BREAK AWAY SESSIONS					
	TRACK 1 [Kyoga]	TRACK 2 [Bunyonyi]	TRACK 3 [Aswa]	TRACK 4 [Kafu]	TRACK 5 [Rwizi]
	<p><i>Health systems strengthening</i></p> <p>Chairs: <i>Dr Ali Walimbwa, Principal Health Planner, MoH; Dr Fred Musoke Sebisubi, CEHURD</i></p>	<p><i>Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)</i></p> <p>Chairs: <i>Hon Margaret Ayebare, Member of Parliament, Health Committee; Dr Ben Kibirige, CSMMUA</i></p>	<p><i>Health, policy and the law</i></p> <p>Chairs: <i>Penelope Ssanyu, Femme Forte/CEHURD, CEHURD; Ibrahim Nsereko, Afya na Haki Institute</i></p>	<p><i>Mental health, harm reduction and wellness</i></p> <p>Chairs: <i>Agnes Kirabo, Food Right Alliance/CEHURD; Christopher Baguma, Afya na Haki Institute</i></p>	<p><i>Multi-sectoral collaborations, strategic partnerships, coalitions and movements</i></p> <p>Chairs: <i>Bakshi Asuman, PPG, African National SRHR Alliances; Ruth Awori, Uganda Network of Young People Living with HIV</i></p>
11.00 – 11.15am	<p>A006 Strengthening documentation of community referral and linkage mechanisms for improved health service access</p> <p>Robert John Offiti, Coalition for Health Promotion & Social Dev't (HEPS-Uganda)</p>	<p>B019 Uptake of modern family planning among postpartum women attending a postnatal clinic (PNC) in Busolwe Hospital, Butaleja District, Eastern Uganda</p> <p>Fred Mubbale, St Mary's Hospital, Lacor</p>	<p>C007 Meaningful youth participation in public policy influence for equitable access to sexual reproductive health services</p> <p>Eric Okello/ Timothy Oboth, Tororo District Youth Advocacy Network</p>	<p>D011 Empowering minds: Unleashing the potential of social media and the Internet for mental health awareness and education</p> <p>Dr Mutunga Godfrey, Beatrice Tierney Health Centre, Bumwalukani, Buduuda</p>	<p>E010 Empowering communities through multi-sectorial collaborations: Advancing sexual reproductive health, menstrual hygiene management, access to safe drinking water, sanitation and family planning in Uganda</p> <p>Wanyama Kennedy, Get Water Uganda</p>

11.15 – 11.30am	A017 Strengthening community structures to advance health rights among vulnerable populations: Utilizing the CHA model Edith Sifuna, CEHURD	B022 Perceptions and experiences of compassionate care among mothers at a National Referral Hospital in Uganda. Rubagumya Kenyonyozi, Mountains of the Moon University	C001 The role of policies in shaping HIV self-testing: Implementation in the private sector Jude Oriokot/ Deborah Kyamaggwa, PSI Uganda	D003 Mental Health: The sure silent disability of all in Uganda Andrew Mwiine Kagwa, Victus Legal Aid	E007 Using participatory approaches to co-create an intervention for improving access to health care for People with Disabilities in Luuka District, Uganda Silvesteri Sande, Medical Research Institute/UVRI/ School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Uganda Research Unit
11.30 – 11.45am	A011 Improving access to cervical cancer screening for Human Resources for Health in Kikuube District through re-organisation of schedules Dr. Aston Mucunguzi, Baylor College of Medicine and Children's Foundation	B009 Interventions to improve the quality of prevention, care and treatment of HIV/SRHR/GBV and advocacy among female sex workers in Gulu City/District Martha Akello, Voice of Community Empowerment	C002 Legal empowerment and social accountability (LESA): A proven model for overcoming the challenges of access to HIV/ TB prevention, treatment, care and support services: CEHURD's experience in the West Nile Region Peter Ijotre, CEHURD	D002 Effects of Covid-19 pandemic on alcohol consumption among the youth in Kampala, Uganda Amelia Margaret Namiro, Makerere University College of Health Sciences	E006 Tracking the progress and implications of the global financing facility (such as results-based financing) in Uganda's healthcare sector Prossy Kiddu Namyalo, IHMPE, University of Toronto & Faculty of Social Sciences, Ndejje University
11.45am – 12:00pm	A016 Engaging peer providers to find, link and ensure young people (ages 15-30) access SRH services Sheila Kasabiti, Reach A Hand Uganda	B010 Unveiling a hidden crisis: HIV risk factors and intervention strategies among youth living on the streets of Kampala, Uganda Sarah Akampurira, CEHURD	C010: Litigating maternal health rights in Uganda Esther Dhafa, CEHURD	B040 Strengthening communication and language access in SRH and mental health services for deaf persons in Uganda Timothy Egwelu/ Akoli Joseph, SignRight Uganda	E001 Catching Fire with the Women@40 Campaign Flavia Kyomukama, Action Group for Health, Human Rights & HIV/AIDS (AGHA)
12.00 – 12:15pm	A013 Outcome mapping and outcome harvesting: Feasible approaches to track results for advocacy projects and programmes Assumpta Nalukwago, CEHURD	B044 Promoting HIV-self testing kits and SRH products as a bundle with complementary benefits Deborah Kyamaggwa, PSI - Uganda	B020 Litigating sexual and reproductive health and rights in Africa: Reimagining a regional Africentric approach Nimrod Muhumuza, Afya na Haki	B030 Interrogating the influence of masculinities in the realisation of SRHR in Uganda. Noor Nakibuuka Muisi, CEHURD	B006 Prevalence and factors associated with teenage pregnancy in Sierra Leone: Evidence from a nationally representative Demographic and Health Survey from 2019. Lilian Nuwabaine, Agha Khan University
12:15 – 01:00pm	Questions & discussion	Questions & discussion	Questions & discussion	Questions & discussion	Questions & discussion

01.00 -02.00pm	LUNCH & POSTER PRESENTATIONS				
WORKSHOPS					
02.00 – 03.30pm	Workshop 1 [Bunyonyi] Moderators: Rosaline Achola, MoH; Precious Mutoru, PSI BW054 Institutionalizing self-care for SRHR in Uganda Ministry of Health, Uganda; PSI & CEHURD	Workshop 2 [Awsa] Moderator: Seth Nimwesiga & Esther Dhafa, CEHURD BW055 What does gender justice look like for the most vulnerable communities in Uganda? Experiences and lessons from the Generation-Gender Project CEHURD, FIDA, RAHU & Sonke Gender Justice	Workshop 3 [Kafu] Moderators: Ibrahim Nsereko, Ahaki; Geoffrey Opio Atim, Health and Human Rights Champion and Activist CW006 A review of national and regional public health legislation, and its suitability in addressing public health emergencies Afya na Haki Institute	Workshop 4 [Rwizi] Moderator: Claire Atukunda, FRA EW011 Harnessing the multi-sectoral approach and dismantling silos to nutrition planning and implementation in Uganda Food Rights Alliance, Uganda (FRA)	Kyoga (preparations for fundraising dinner)
03.30 – 04.00pm	TEA BREAK & SNAPSHOT PRESENTATIONS				
WORKSHOPS					
04.00 – 05.30pm	Workshop 5 [Aswa] Moderator: HEPS – Uganda, Dr Denis Kibira, DUMAIC AW022 Essential medicines and commodities: persistent challenges in Uganda's Supply Chain System	Workshop 6 [Bunyonyi] Moderator: Mr Semakula Henry, Ministry of Education & Sports BW056 Teenage pregnancy and abortion in Kamuli, Mayuge, and Wakiso Districts in Uganda: A retrospective study CEHURD/PPG Mbarara/University of Science and Technology (MUST), Uganda	Workshop 7 [Rwizi] Moderators: Okenge Francis, UNYPA BW049 Improving HIV outcomes, empowering young individuals, fostering partnerships, and reducing stigma associated with HIV Peter Mweru, Mbale Network of Young People Living with HIV/AIDS (MNYPA)	Workshop 8 [Kafu] Moderators: Kyomya Macklene, AWAC, Solome Nakaweesi - Kimbugwe, CSMMUA champion BW057 Collective advocacy and voicing on health, human rights and SRH: Reflecting on the Maputo Protocol Coalition to Stop Maternal Mortality Due to Unsafe Abortion (CSMMUA)	
07:00 – 10:00pm	Fundraising Dinner to support legal aid services for children who experience sexual violence and its effects [Kyoga]				

FRIDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2023

07.30am	Registration				
THIRD PLENARY SESSION [BUNYONYI]					
Master of Ceremony: Emmanuel Ainebyoona, Ministry of Health					
Chairs: Dr Kyobe Henry, Incident Commander, Ministry of Health; Mr Solomon Serwanija, African Institute for Investigative Journalism (AIJ)					
08.30 – 09.45am	Covid -19 Pandemic: Lessons for strengthening Uganda's health care system Panel discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr Juliet E. Nakku, Executive Director, Butabika Hospital (impact and lessons for mental health at the institutional level) ▪ Prof. Seggane Musisi, Consultant Psychiatrist, School of Medicine/CEO Entebbe Lakeside Hospital (climate change and natural disasters) ▪ Caroline Tanga, Young person (impact on young people in reference to teenage pregnancy and lessons learned) ▪ Dr Joseph Muvawala, Executive Director, National Planning Authority (planning for Health for All) ▪ Dr Ramathan Ggoobi, Ministry of Planning, Finance & Economic Development, Uganda (Financing options) 			

<p>09.45 – 10.45am</p>	<p>Addressing the social determinants of health to realise Health for All: Reflecting on a multi-sectoral approach</p> <p><i>Panel discussion moderated by Dr Amon Mwine, Makerere University, School of Women and Gender Studies</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Ismael Mulindwa, Director, Basic Education, Ministry of Education & Sports</i> ▪ <i>Mondo Kyateeka, Commissioner for Youth and Children’s Affairs, Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development</i> ▪ <i>Dr Sarah Ssali, Dean, Makerere University, School of Women and Gender Studies</i> ▪ <i>Dr Betty Kyadondo, Executive Director, Family Health, National Population Council</i> ▪ <i>Agnes Kirabo, Director, Food Rights Alliance</i> 			
<p>10.45 – 11.00am</p>	<p>TEA BREAK AND NETWORKING</p>				
<p>BREAK AWAY SESSIONS</p>					
	<p>TRACK 1 [Kafu]</p> <p><i>Health systems strengthening</i></p> <p><i>Chairs: Esther Nasikye, PATH; Dr Peter Waiswa, MUKSPH, Deborah Iyebu, Welt Hunger Hilfe</i></p>	<p>TRACK 2 [Bunyonyi]</p> <p><i>Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)</i></p> <p><i>Chairs: James Tumusiime, Reach A Hand Uganda; Mariana Kayaga, CEHURD</i></p>	<p>TRACK 2 [Rwizi]</p> <p><i>Health, policy and the law</i></p> <p><i>Chairs: Dr Dan Kaye, AUGO; Dr Robert Mutumba, MoH</i></p>	<p>TRACK 4 [Aswa]</p> <p><i>Mental health, harm reduction and wellness</i></p> <p><i>Chairs: Anne Lumbasi, CEHURD; Ashah Mwanga, Islamic Women’s Initiative for Justice, Law & Peace (IWILAP)</i></p>	<p>TRACK 5 [Kyoga]</p> <p><i>Multi-sectoral collaborations, strategic partnerships, coalitions and movements</i></p> <p><i>Chairs: Jean-Marie Nkurunziza, SONKE Gender Justice; Namukuza Olga, SRHR Alliance</i></p>
<p>11.00 – 11.15am</p>	<p>A009 Increasing Universal Health Coverage for adolescent SRHR through telehealth innovations</p> <p><i>Patience Kabuga Nalukenge, Reach A Hand Uganda</i></p>	<p>B013 The role of youth leaders in eliminating stigma and discrimination against young people living with HIV in Kitgum & Pader: Drawing community-based lessons from Uganda’s Response to HIV/AIDS Reduction Strategy</p> <p><i>Sarah Akampurira, CEHURD</i></p>	<p>B050 Accelerating the uptake of sexual reproductive health services among persons living with disability using disability-inclusive outreach approaches.</p> <p><i>Silas Gogo, Reproductive Health Uganda</i></p>	<p>B035 Exploring the impact of gender and social norms on adolescent SRHR among out-of-school boys and girls in Uganda</p> <p><i>Isaac Arinaitwe, Restless Development Uganda</i></p>	<p>B036 The negative impact of social-cultural norms in the realisation of SRHR</p> <p><i>Irene Janet Achen, Global Forum for Development Uganda.</i></p>
<p>11.15 – 11.30am</p>	<p>A012 Community engagement: A pre-requisite for achieving a healthy population</p> <p><i>Pamela Nahurira Kalema, CEHURD</i></p>	<p>B011 Using the community scorecard approach to monitor the quality of HIV/ SRHR services in Uganda</p> <p><i>Leah Alupo, National Forum of PLHIV/AIDS Networks, Uganda (NAFOPHANU)</i></p>	<p>B032 Perspectives of the norm setters on the National Comprehensive Sexuality Education Framework (NCSEF) and its implication for access to and utilization of sexual and reproductive health services and rights for adolescent girls and young women: CEHURD’s Experience in Arua district.</p> <p><i>Peter Ijotre, CEHURD</i></p>	<p>B038 Breaking barriers, embracing choices and empowering Women Who Use Drugs (WWUDs) with SRHR in Eastern Uganda</p> <p><i>Betty Balisalamu, Women With a Mission</i></p>	<p>B023 Enhancing survivor well-being: The interlink between GBV and SRHR in Uganda’s health facilities</p> <p><i>Judith Nakalembe, CEHURD</i></p>

11.30 – 11.45am	A019 – Patients safety in public health facilities: Still a grey area John Jessy Nandesa, Community Health Advocates of Wakiso District	B003 Promoting media advocacy communication campaigns to improve SRHR information access for SDG attainment in Uganda Wilson Okaka, Kyambogo University	B042 Findings from a study on barriers to community support for school-based Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) Robert Ocaya, Action 4 Health Uganda	B025 Increasing the capacity of women and girls to prevent and respond to sexual gender-based violence Norah Olivia Nammiro, Community Health Advocates Association of Buikwe District	B043 The role of men in enhancing post-partum family planning uptake in private sector facilities within Uganda’s Kampala Metropolitan Area Baker Lukwago, Population Services International
11.45am – 12:00pm	B004 City and district SRHR technical committees Bridget Nsimenta, Harm Reduction & Reproductive Health Initiative, Mbarara	B018 Knowledge and perception on sexual reproductive health and rights among women of reproductive age in Pabbo Sub-County, Amuru District, Northern Uganda Fred Mubbale, St Mary’s Hospital, Lacor	B015 Shattering the Silence: Unveiling the devastating consequences of unsafe abortion: An urgent call for Comprehensive Guidelines through a ground breaking Randomized Controlled Trial in Uganda Blair Kizza, Usawa Health Initiative Uganda	B026 Effects of SRHR violations against sex workers in Uganda Noame Mujuni, Network of Key Population Service Organisations (UNESO)	B033 Increasing demand for permanent contraception among limiters; A case study of Busoga Region, Eastern Uganda Noeline Nabayego, Population Services International Uganda
12.00 – 12:15pm	B017 Improving lighting for childbirth in Uganda through the Solar Suitcase Innovation Feza Kabasweka Green, We Care Solar	B029 Harnessing positive cultural norms and religious teachings to promote SRHR for girls and women in Uganda: A path to empowerment and health equity Seth Nimwesiga, CEHURD	A014 Bridging the Gap: Empowering Senior Women, Men and Village Health Teams for Comprehensive Sexual Reproductive Health Education among Adolescents Partners in Transformation (PICOT)	B028 Sexual violence and associated factors among women of reproductive age in Rwanda: a 2020 nationwide cross-sectional survey Lilian Nuwabaine, Agha Khan University	B021 Contributions towards reducing maternal mortality in Busia District in Eastern Uganda Peter Mutowana, Society Empowerment Network (SENET)
12:15 – 01:00pm	Questions & discussion	Questions & discussion	Questions & discussion	Questions & discussion	Questions & discussion
01.00 - 02.30pm	CONFERENCE CLOSING CEREMONY [BUNYONYI] Chairs: Hon Samuel Opio Acuti, Vice Chair, Ugandan Parliamentary Committee on Health; Hon Flavia Kabahenda, Ugandan Parliamentary Committee on Gender, Labour and Social Development				
01.00 – 01.30pm	Emmanuel Ainebyona, PRO, Ministry of Health; Peter Eceru, CEHURD	The Kampala Declaration on Health, Human Rights & Development			
01.30 – 02.00pm	Nakibuuka Noor Musisi, CEHURD	Conference summary and emerging priorities			
02:00 – 02:30pm	Closing Remarks by the Conference co-chair persons				
02:30pm	LUNCH & DEPARTURE				

ORAL PRESENTATIONS: BREAK-AWAY SESSIONS

Wednesday 27th September 2023

TRACK 1: Health Systems Strengthening

11.20-11.35am

A001: FACILITY READINESS AND HEALTH WORKERS' PREPAREDNESS TO MANAGE POSTPARTUM HAEMORRHAGE AMONG PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES WITHIN GREATER KAMPALA

Authors: Abdullahi Teituk, Annette Keesiga, Sam Ononge - Makerere University College of Health Sciences, Dep't of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Globally, postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) is the leading cause of maternal deaths. In Uganda, PPH accounts for 34% of all institutional maternal deaths reviewed. This cross-sectional study aims to determine the level of facility readiness and health workers' preparedness to manage postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) among public comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care (CEmONC) in 14 public facilities within greater Kampala. Recommendations from interviews with 191 health workers address gaps in human resources, medicines and supplies, equipment, and provider competence in PPH management to promote a reduction in maternal mortality and morbidity resulting from PPH.

11:35- 11:50am

A014: MEANINGFUL YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF YOUTH-FRIENDLY HEALTH SERVICES AT THE LOWER LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL

Authors: Eric Okello, Timothy Oboth - Tororo District Advocacy Network/ Plan International

With 78% of Uganda's population aged 30 and below, the Ministry of Health has made adolescent and youth-friendly services a priority to tackle the numerous health challenges impacting service quality and the overall health status of the country. With the aim of enhancing youth-friendly health services at local government facilities, the Tororo District Youth Advocacy Network (TYDAN) engaged a range of community stakeholders to assess challenges, devise solutions, and implement actions using the Young Citizen's Scorecard (YCSC). Positive outcomes included dedicated days for youth at health facilities, increased budget allocations for youth-focused services, and improved community-facility relationships. The lessons learned underscore the effectiveness of engaging young people in collectively addressing their own health needs and highlight the value of youth-led innovations, such as YCSC, in fostering meaningful participation in health service provision.

11:50-12:05pm

A005: EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES AND ENHANCING GOVERNANCE: THE LESA PROJECT'S IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE IN KOBOKO AND MARACHA DISTRICTS

Authors: Christopher Ogwang, Frank Ategeka, Jacqueline Twemanye, Mwaka Isaac Okello - Center for Health Human Rights and Development (CEHURD)

The Legal Empowerment and Social Accountability (LESA) Methodology has been used in the newly formed districts of Koboko and Maracha (from the Greater Arua region) to address limited civic awareness which has resulted in poor service delivery and decreased local governance participation. Women and youth have been particularly vulnerable due to limited civic awareness, lack of channels for engaging leaders on service delivery, and high unemployment, making them susceptible to political manipulation and violence. Lessons and recommendations from this project demonstrate the impacts of legal empowerment (LE) through community scorecards, community monitoring and dialogue to enhance public sector reforms in addressing demand-oriented aspects of public service delivery, monitoring, and accountability.

12:05-12:29pm

A013: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY STRUCTURES TO ENSURE HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY AT THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL

Authors: Joyce Kirunga, Linette du Toit - Uganda Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA-Uganda)

Through FIDA-Uganda's work in 20 districts across Uganda, critical health service issues, such as the availability of medicines and health supplies, have been addressed through grassroots women's coalitions to hold local and district-level leaders accountable. FIDA-Uganda's Legal Empowerment (LE) approach empowers women to leverage the law for social justice and build confidence and skills to engage with accountability platforms, resulting in substantial enhancements in health service delivery, as exemplified in Gulu and Napak. The goal of the initiative is to empower women at the grassroots level as advocates to address gaps in service delivery and foster grassroots collaboration to hold local governance accountable for the delivery of gender-responsive health services, that can be scaled across Uganda.

Track 2: Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR)

11:20-11:35am

B001: TEENAGE PREGNANCY: RETHINKING POLICY AND APPROACHES FOR PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Authors: Rita Aciro - Uganda Women's Network, Amref Health Africa in Uganda, Trac FM, Reach A Hand Uganda

Teenage pregnancy in Uganda increases poverty, disrupts education, and perpetuates gender inequality. High rates of teen mothers have been a contributing factor to increased school dropouts and limited economic prospects, with health risks that strain healthcare resources. The aim of this study was to generate evidence to support of advocacy efforts in teenage pregnancy prevention and the reintegration of teenage mothers in schools. Data was collected through live radio talk shows and SMS polls which gathered 44,200 responses to four poll questions in a powerful feedback loop between citizens, including those living in remote communities and their leaders. This presentation will showcase the results and lessons derived from these findings towards realistic and actionable solutions.

11:35-11:50am

B005: BARRIERS AND FACTORS TO CONTRACEPTIVE UPTAKE AMONG SCHOOL DROPOUTS IN RURAL GULU DISTRICT

Author: Kiiza Robert - Gulu University

This aim of this study was to assess barriers to modern contraceptive methods uptake among adolescent school dropouts in rural areas in Gulu District. The cross-sectional descriptive study employed quantitative techniques and involved 385 adolescent school dropouts (aged 13-19) through random sampling. Findings showed a considerable lack of modern contraceptive use among rural adolescent school dropouts, below the national average (9.4%). Systemic and legal barriers deter young people from seeking sexual and reproductive health services, putting them at risk of early pregnancies, child marriages, and maternal health issues, and hindering their economic progress. Recommendations include the need to strengthen awareness and access to safe contraceptives for this vulnerable population by removing legal barriers, involving parents, establishing peer support groups, and integrating contraceptive services into routine healthcare programmes.

11:50-12:05pm

B007: PREVALENCE AND FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH TEENAGE PREGNANCIES IN REFUGEE SETTLEMENTS OF NORTHERN UGANDA IN THE POST COVID-19 ERA

Authors: Donald Otika, George Odongo - Gulu University

Refugee settlements in the West Nile region of Uganda have experienced a peak in teenage pregnancies in the post-COVID-19 era, with trends of first antenatal care visits reflecting a spike in teenage pregnancies in the region. Data on contraceptive uptake is deficient, suggesting limited access and unmet needs. We carried out a cross-sectional descriptive study, using quantitative techniques among 384 teenage girls in 4 randomly selected refugee settlements in Northern Uganda. Findings showed the burden of teenage pregnancy within these refugee settlements surpassed both the global and national averages, accompanied by evident gaps in meeting contraceptive needs. Lessons and recommendations highlight the urgency to address prevailing disparities and implement targeted interventions to mitigate challenges associated with teenage pregnancy in the refugee context.

12:05-12:20pm

B031: SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR) NEEDS OF INTERSEX PERSONS IN UGANDA

Author: Dr Adrian Jjuuko - Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF)

Intersex is an umbrella term that describes differences in sex characteristics that do not fit the typically binary idea of male or female. HRAPF conducted a qualitative study to understand the SRHR needs and experiences of intersex persons in accessing sexual reproductive health rights in Uganda. The study included 24 in-depth interviews involving 16 intersex individuals and 8 parents of intersex children. These interviews were supplemented by a desk review, 5 key informant interviews with civil society organisations and healthcare providers, and one group discussion with intersex persons. The findings revealed that intersex persons encounter difficulties accessing information due to legal and cultural barriers. Additionally, access to HIV screening, testing, and other services tailored to intersex characteristics remains challenging. Recommendations emphasise the recognition of intersex persons' SRHR needs and urges various stakeholders to play their part in combatting stigma to ensure their protection.

Track 3: Health, Policy and the law

11:20-11:35am

C009: ADVANCING THE RIGHT TO HEALTH IN UGANDA: AN ASSESSMENT OF THE FREE HEALTHCARE POLICY

Authors: Prossy Kiddu Namyalo, Prof Beverley Essue, Prof Ssengooba Freddie, Prof Lisa Forman - IHMPE, University of Toronto; Faculty of Social Sciences, Ndejje University

This study investigated Uganda's free healthcare policy in the context of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) as a means to fulfil the right to health, aligning with Sustainable Development Goal 3.8, and WHO's recognition of UHC as a "practical expression of the right to health". There is a dearth of empirical evidence on free health service provision and the progression of the right to health in Uganda, which this study aims to address. Using a mixed-methods design, we employ the Outcome, Policy Effect, Resources, and Assessment (OPERA) framework to guide data collection and analysis. This pioneering study sheds light on potential barriers to compliance. The mixed method approach allows for a comprehensive assessment of results and conduct obligations.

11:35-11:50am

C011: INTEGRATING PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT SERVICES FOR MENTALLY ILL PERSONS INTO THE JUSTICE DELIVERY SYSTEM /INSTITUTIONS

Author: *Stella Namiiro - Legal Aid Service Providers Network (LASPNET)*

The Mental Health Act of 2018 emphasises respect, dignity, privacy, and non-discrimination for mentally ill persons. Even so, mentally ill persons in Uganda continue to face glaring challenges which undermine their rights. Research, particularly within the justice sector, indicates that individuals with mental illness are often detained or remanded rather than being transferred to mental health institutions for treatment. Further, experiences from Legal Aid Service Providers (LASP) have shown that police stations have no mental health practitioners stationed to examine suspects presumed to be mentally ill. In 2020, LASPNET together with CORDAID implemented a project focused on the integration of mental health psychosocial services into Legal Aid Service Provision. Lessons drawn from this initiative emphasise the critical role that Legal Aid Service Providers (LASPs) play in responding to the legal needs of this client population.

11:50-12:05pm

C003: IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON HIV PREVENTION/ SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (SRH) /GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) SERVICE DELIVERY FOLLOWING THE ENACTED ANTI HOMOSEXUALITY LEGISLATION. A CASE STUDY OF THE AIDS INFORMATION CENTER (AIC), KAMPALA

Authors: *Kwesiga Pacificus, Sairo Halima - Aids Information Centre Uganda*

With the advocacy objective of transparent inclusion of marginalised groups into Uganda's health system to achieve zero new HIV infections by 2030, this study aimed to assess the major barriers in access to HIV/SRH/GBV services by MSM and Transgender (TG) individuals. Having observed a 98% decline in health-services uptake by MSM/ TG, the Aids Information Centre employed a mixed-methods approach to gather data from 20 affected MSM/TG individuals, 35 healthcare providers, and 10 peers to assess and reveal lived experiences and barriers to service uptake. The study's findings and recommendations highlight evidence-based and rights-affirming strategies to bridge the gap in access to HIV prevention, SRH, and GBV services for MSM/TG communities affected by Uganda's anti-homosexuality legislation to ensure equitable healthcare for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

12:05-12:20pm

C005: IS NUTRITION PRIORITISED IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE RIGHT TO HEALTH IN UGANDA? EVIDENCE FROM UGANDA HEALTH SECTOR PERFORMANCE REPORTS

Authors: *Agnes Kirabo Lwampemula, Claire Atukunda, Margaret Nabukenya, Freda Orochi Laura - Food Rights Alliance*

Globally, nutrition is recognised as the single most important determinant of health and essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Despite Uganda's focus on nutrition in health policies, malnutrition rates have escalated, with 23% of children under 5 suffering from stunting and 32% being anemic (UBOS, 2020). Obesity rates have also increased among both children (3%) and adults (10%) (UNAP 2020/21-24/25). A desk review of Health Sector Performance Reports for FY 2020/21-2021/22 revealed that nutrition lacks prioritisation in budget allocation, implementation, and reporting within the health sector, although it is pivotal to attaining better health outcomes and fulfilling the objectives of the HSSP 2020/21 - 2024/25. Recommendations emphasise the importance of increased public investments in nutrition to achieve SDGs 2 and 3 and ensure no one is left behind in advancing the right to health.

11.20-11-35am

D006: IMPROVING ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AMONG PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV IN THE RWENZORI REGION OF WESTERN UGANDA USING THE COMMON ELEMENTS TREATMENT APPROACH (CETA)

Authors: Charles Mwanje, Milly Banura, D. Thomson Ngabirano, Dr Hafsa Lukwata – Jhpiego, Ministry of Health

Jhpiego, working with the Ministry of Health and John Hopkins University, used the Common Elements Treatment Approach (CETA) model to scale up the integration of mental health services in HIV clinics within three high-volume health facilities in the Rwenzori region. The programme selected, trained, mentored, and supported 35 health workers to provide psychoeducation, screening, group mental health services (for mild conditions) and individualized psychotherapy (for moderate and acute conditions) in routine HIV care and management. Findings showed HIV-positive individuals have complex mental health needs that can be addressed as part of their ongoing clinical care and HIV management. With appropriate training and mentorship, non-mental health professionals can bridge the human resource gap in the provision of mental health services.

11:35- 11:50am

D005: EMPOWERING RESILIENCE: THE STRONG MINDS IPT-G MODEL'S IMPACT ON THE BATWA INDIGENOUS TRIBE IN UGANDA

Authors: Sandra Abbo, Maurice Sekatawa, Immaculate Agedo, Bosco Otulo - StrongMinds Uganda

The Batwa, an indigenous tribe residing in Southwest Uganda, have long endured the devastating effects of poverty, marginalisation, and mental health challenges. The StrongMinds IPT-G model was applied within the Batwa indigenous community, in partnership with InPact. Methodologies involved forming gender-specific groups led by trained mental health practitioners to address depression and anxiety through structured sessions that focused on enhancing interpersonal skills, emotional regulation, communication, and problem-solving. Positive outcomes resulted in broader impacts, such as increased confidence, leadership skills, and engagement in income-generating activities. Recommendations include expanding the model, investing in cultural adaptation and local capacity, fostering collaboration with local NGOs and policymakers, and continuing efforts to reduce mental health stigma.

11:50-12:05pm

D010: HARM REDUCTION IN ADOLESCENT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS: WHY, WHEN, HOW AND TO WHAT OUTCOMES?

Authors: Dan K. Kaye, Othman Kakaire - Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Uganda

This presentation explores the use of harm reduction (HR) strategies in promoting sexual and reproductive health (SRH) among vulnerable adolescents. HR strategies are important measures to improve sexual and reproductive health in at-risk populations, including sexually active adolescents, injection drug users, street children and sex workers. While widely practised, there is a need to analyse whether and to which extent strategies of HR could have beneficial or harmful effects on SRH, for general and at-risk populations. Recommendations focus on lessening the harms associated with ill-health and leveraging HR strategies to empower adolescents to access services with the aim of ultimately reducing morbidity and mortality among adolescents.

B034 UGANDA'S ADVANCEMENT ON INDICATORS FOR SRHR, PERSISTENT CHALLENGES, AND SOLUTIONS IN SOCIAL AND CULTURAL NORMS

Author: *Edith Nabula Lukoma - Alive Medical Services*

Addressing SRHR involves combatting harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation, which violate human rights and jeopardise the health and future of young girls. This presentation addresses challenges to societal norms, cultural beliefs, and discriminatory attitudes that often restrict access to essential SRS. This presentation addresses the major concerns around gender inequality, stigmatisation and criminalisation of certain aspects of SRHR, such as abortion, that hinder progress in safeguarding these rights for all. The negative impacts of early and forced child marriages, especially in rural areas, will also be addressed.

12:05-12:20pm

D008: IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN UGANDA: STRATEGIES FOR OVERCOMING HEALTHCARE SYSTEM BURDEN THROUGH ENHANCED ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

Authors: *Don Zane Muwanguzi, Lynnet Murungi, Esther Nakyanzi - Awesome Mind Speaks*

Mental health educational campaigns, workshops, and community involvement play a vital role in fostering resilience, coping skills, and self-care practices among young people in Uganda. This presentation highlights the need for increased access to accurate and accessible mental health information among young people. By addressing comprehensive strategies that would focus on the involvement of young people in driving positive mental health change, the healthcare system can work towards providing patient-centred care, addressing the complex interplay of mental health, infectious and non-communicable diseases.

Track 5: Multi-sectoral Collaborations, Strategic Partnerships, coalitions and Movements

11:20-11:35am

E003: DECOLONIZING HEALTH IN UGANDA FOR HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING: MOVEMENT BUILDING AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AS A TOOL

Author: *Denis Joseph Bukenya - People's Health Movement Uganda*

The People's Health Movement Uganda captured complex and historical narratives of movement building, drawing inspiration from the Alma Ata Declaration on Primary Health Care's 'Health for All' (1978) and a campaign to decolonize health. With the aim of health systems strengthening through encouraged community participation, the perspectives of health activists who are part of the PHM are examined. Approaches were informed by social movement theory and literature on community participation in health activism as a pathway for social change. Lessons highlight the constraints of the neoliberal socio-political and economic conditions that cause rise to social and health inequity and emphasise the need for grassroot civil society mobilisation to positively impact health policies.

11:35-11:50am

E008: UNLOCKING THE BARRIERS TO SRHR SERVICE UPTAKE AMONG ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN (AGYW) THROUGH COMMUNITY HEALTH ADVOCATES AND MALE ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES IN KAMULI DISTRICT

Author: *Charles Mudhumba - Holistic Initiative to Community Development (HOLD Uganda)*

In Uganda, adolescents face a particularly high rate of unwanted pregnancy, reaching 43.9% (UBOS, 2016b). Despite government efforts and NGO interventions, there is an unmet need for SRH services and contraceptives among AGYW particularly in Kamuli District, where teenage pregnancy rates have been especially high (30% DHIS2). This project trained peer female community health advocates focusing on peer SRHR advocacy among AGYW, including commercial sex workers, linking them to SRHR service points and service follow-up. The project further trained youth and adult males as promoters of SRHR and advocates to protect AGYW from SRH rights abuses.

11:50-12:05pm

E004: LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS TO SUSTAINABLY GROW THE PRIVATE SECTOR MARKET FOR HIV SELF-TESTING (HIVST) IN UGANDA: A CASE FOR PHARMACY CHANNELS

Author: *Jude Orikot - Population Services International (Uganda)*

Uganda rolled out HIV Self-Testing (HIVST) in the private sector in 2020. However, unlike the systematic and regulated public sector, readiness in the private sector to address the complexities of market demand, supply, user support mechanisms, and provider capacity still needed systematic and coordinated efforts. In 2021, the Strengthening HIV Self Testing in the Private Sector (SHIPS) Project partnered with the MoH to establish an advisory board consisting of members from various organizations, including representatives from MoH, the National Drug Authority (NDA), distributors of approved HIVST kits, pharmacy representatives and other implementing partners. Evidence from the partnership has been used to support Uganda in developing its first road map for HIVST implementation in the private sector and has been critical to build partnerships that can subsidise the kits, save resources while delivering results, and promote ownership and collaboration.

12:05-12:20pm

B008: ADVOCACY APPROACHES TOWARDS ABORTION: AN ANALYSIS OF ABORTION CASES IN AFRICA

Author: *Murungi Patrick, Women's Probono Initiative*

Abortion continues to be a contentious issue across the globe. In Uganda, it is restricted by law despite unsafe abortion remaining the leading cause of maternal deaths in the country. Abortion remains one of the most contentious issues mired by political, social, cultural, and religious contestations.

Research was done with the main purpose of making available a case digest reference resource on abortion in Africa for the legal fraternity of lawyers and the bench. There are very few cases on abortion from the courts of record in Africa. These are drawn from South Africa, Kenya, Rwanda and Malawi. The cases articulate critical issues, including the status of the fetus in law vis-à-vis women's human rights; the meaning of health, the bundle of reproductive health rights, the child best interest, adolescent right to give informed consent, state's obligations to prevent maternal mortality due to unsafe abortion, and the anchoring of abortion within the discourse of democratic constitutionalism and social justice debate. This resource is a reference primarily anchored in the gender justice and feminism framework to address the issues of bodily integrity and the inherent dignity of the human person.

This presentation is therefore to show how abortion has been litigated in the context of other countries, what lessons can be drawn and how the judiciary can learn from it. Main lessons relate to the strategy that is adopted by most litigants which is to front victims of defilement as a way to appeal to the bench.

Thursday, 28th September 2023

Track 1: Health systems strengthening

11:00-11:15am

A006: STRENGTHENING DOCUMENTATION OF COMMUNITY REFERRAL AND LINKAGE MECHANISMS FOR IMPROVED HEALTH SERVICE ACCESS

Authors: *Robert John Offiti, Charles Twesige - Coalition for Health Promotion and Social Development (HEPS-Uganda)*

HEPS-Uganda has identified an urgent need for training village health teams (VHTs) as part of the Community Action for Integrated Demand and Uptake of Services (CAIDUS) project. In collaboration with health assistants, 60 active VHTs were identified from five sub-counties of Apac District. The VHTs were oriented on the importance of community referral and linkage mechanisms with facility health workers. Quantitative results from the VHTs community outreach are presented. Lessons underscore the need for ongoing VHT training in using the Ministry of Health's HMIS VHT 001 tools and in filing referral forms at health facilities, which in turn also validate VHTs contributions to the community referral mechanism.

11:15-11:30am

A017: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY STRUCTURES TO ADVANCE HEALTH RIGHTS AMONG VULNERABLE POPULATIONS: UTILIZING THE CHA MODEL

Authors: *Edith Sifuna, Francis Serunjogi, Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD)*

Rural and vulnerable urban communities often face limited access to quality healthcare, leading to poor health outcomes. These communities comprise diverse groups, including youth, fishing communities, sex workers, urban slum dwellers, the elderly, individuals living with HIV and AIDS, and those with disabilities, among others - each requiring specialised healthcare services tailored to their unique needs. Community Health Advocates (CHAs) play an important role in promoting preventive health behaviors within these communities in implementing strategies in Primary Health Care, community mobilisation, awareness campaigns, data collection, and advocacy (among other interventions). Lessons reflect the value of CHAs being from the communities they serve as they easily understand and resonate with local concerns and can effectively mobilise, sensitize, implement and monitor impact using cost-effective methods.

11:30-11:45am

A011: IMPROVING ACCESS TO CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING FOR HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH IN KIKUUBE DISTRICT THROUGH RE-ORGANISATION OF SCHEDULES

Authors: *Dr Aston Mucunguzi, Dr. Andrew Ndawula, Glorious Nyamukiza - Baylor College of Medicine and Children's Foundation*

Uganda's Ministry of Health (MoH) recommends cervical screening for HIV-positive women (WLHIV) every three years for timely treatment. In early January 2023, data showed that 13 lower-level Health Centers (HCs) in Kikuube district had screened only 6 out of the expected 24 WLHIV. To address this gap, Baylor Uganda collaborated with midwives at 13 better-staffed HCIIIIs, implementing an Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system to manage appointments and send screening reminders. Off-duty midwives conducted the screenings with outcomes monitored weekly. Results showed a significant increase in clients screened from 0 in week 1 to 24 by week 4. This presentation will show how synchronised scheduling has proven vital to address low staffing levels for cervical cancer screenings in the district.

11: 45- 12:00pm

A016: ENGAGING PEER PROVIDERS TO FIND, LINK AND ENSURE YOUNG PEOPLE (AGES 15-30) ACCESS SRH SERVICES

Author: *Sheila Kasabiiti, Benson Muhindo, Stella Mudondo, Reach A Hand Uganda*

As a youth-centred community health partner, Reach a Hand Uganda (RAHU) complemented the work of MoH, and implemented a peer provider model to promote SRH among young Ugandans. In this model, 40 peer providers were trained and attached to 18 health facilities, where they worked to strengthen the health system. Additionally, peer providers implemented community activities jointly with 36 trained health workers to bolster AYSRH services. Through effective training and integration into the healthcare system, peer providers can significantly enhance the uptake of SRH services among young people, ensuring that these services are both youth-friendly and gender-sensitive.

12:00- 12:15pm

A013: OUTCOME MAPPING AND OUTCOME HARVESTING: FEASIBLE APPROACHES TO TRACK RESULTS FOR ADVOCACY PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

Authors: *Assumpta Nalukwago, Frank Ategeka – Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD)*

Advocacy work is carried out in multi-layered environment, where most of the time it is difficult to predict and apply linear approach to track the desired results. Planning and designing an M&E system that tracks both desired and unintended results in line with the advocacy goal is important. This provides a basis to assess progress towards the advocacy goal of the intervention. This presentation will highlight some methods and approaches for measuring results of advocacy work, using experiences and lessons from CEHURD.

11:00-11:15am

B019: UPTAKE OF MODERN FAMILY PLANNING AMONG POSTPARTUM WOMEN ATTENDING A POSTNATAL CLINIC (PNC) IN BUSOLWE HOSPITAL, BUTALEJA DISTRICT, EASTERN UGANDA

Authors: Fred Mubbale, Nelly Atim, Ann Grace Auma, Raymond Otim - St Mary's Hospital Lacor

Family planning (FP) is key to preventing the social, economic and health consequences resulting from unintended pregnancies. The Government of Uganda has implemented FP interventions, but community uptake still remains low with a high unmet need. In Butaleja District, the prevalence of modern FP uptake was not known. This quantitative cross-sectional study aimed to assess the factors associated with modern family planning uptake among 361 postpartum mothers attending the Postnatal Clinic in Busolwe Hospital in the district. Data findings and lessons address local context and factors associated with modern family planning uptake as well as perceived FP barriers.

11:15-11:30 am

B022: PERCEPTIONS AND EXPERIENCES OF COMPASSIONATE CARE AMONG MOTHERS AT A NATIONAL REFERRAL HOSPITAL IN UGANDA.

Authors: Rubagumya Kenyonyozi, Dr. Nalwadda Gorrette - Mountains of the Moon University

The coverage of comprehensive maternal care in Uganda is currently at a mere 10.7%, leaving a significant portion of expectant mothers without access to necessary services and quality care, and placing them at risk of maternity-related complications (Sserwanja et al., 2022). This study explores perceptions of compassionate care as reported by mothers at a National Referral Hospital in Uganda. Employing an exploratory descriptive qualitative design, in-depth interviews were conducted with 12 participating mothers who were in the immediate postnatal care phase, awaiting discharge. The study's findings shed light on the preferences of mothers regarding compassionate care during labour and delivery, emphasising the need for respect for both the mother, caretaker and their religious and cultural beliefs and practices for optimal outcomes.

11:30-11:45am

B009: INTERVENTIONS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF PREVENTION, CARE AND TREATMENT OF HIV/SRHR/GBV AND ADVOCACY AMONG FEMALE SEX WORKERS IN GULU CITY/DISTRICT

Authors: Akello Martha, Aber Lydia Tracy, Komakech Daniel Okot - Voice of Community Empowerment

HIV still remains a challenge in Uganda especially among FSWs with a high prevalence of 31.3%, compared to the national HIV prevalence of 6.2%. In Gulu District, the Voice of Community Empowerment in collaboration with various implementing partners, has been working to reduce the high prevalence of HIV among FSWs from 14% to approximately 12% by the year 2024. Since 2021, the project has reached over 500 FSWs with 162 FSWs enrolled in PrEP for HIV protection. Recommendations include perceived barriers to reporting SGBV cases and strategies to reduce the high HIV prevalence among Female Sex Workers (FSWs) in Gulu City/District.

11:45- 12:00pm

B010: UNVEILING A HIDDEN CRISIS: HIV RISK FACTORS AND INTERVENTION STRATEGIES AMONG YOUTH LIVING ON THE STREETS OF KAMPALA, UGANDA

Authors: Akampurira Sarah, Namugaanyi Ann Grace - Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD)

Street life coupled with sexual abuse continues to put youth living on the streets in Kampala at risk of early pregnancies, contracting HIV, and other related health challenges. Understanding the needs and challenges they face is essential. Observational research was conducted on the Kampala streets in Wandegeya, Kampala Road and Katwe slum area in 2023, with the aim of uncovering the realities faced by youth living on the streets regarding HIV and SRH. Findings reflected alarming rates of sexual abuse, including instances of unprotected sex, rape, child exploitation for monetary gain, and increased susceptibility to contracting various STIs, including HIV/AIDS. There is a need for the Ministry of Health and development partners to prioritise interventions that address street realities if we are to contribute to HIV prevention and embrace the SDGs- 2030 Agenda "Leave no one behind".

12:00- 12:15pm

B044: PROMOTING HIV SELF-TESTING KITS AND SRH PRODUCTS AS A BUNDLE WITH COMPLEMENTARY BENEFITS

Authors: *Deborah Kyamagwa, Jude Oriokot, Denis Chemonges, Baker Lukwago - Population Services International*

In Uganda, stigma and uncertainty regarding post-test support services have been barriers to HIV testing among certain population groups. PSI implemented a strategy from June 2022 to May 2023 to reduce stigma and increase HIV self-testing (HIVST) uptake at pharmacies by bundling HIVST kits with other SRH and self-care products. This was accomplished by bundling HIVST kits with other self-care and SRH products like condoms, emergency contraceptives, oral contraceptives, and lubricants. The bundling approach, actively promoted through IEC materials, awareness campaigns, discounts, and digital marketing, represents a comprehensive prevention strategy aimed at enhancing testing accessibility while simultaneously reducing stigma associated with obtaining individual products. The lessons drawn and recommendations made emphasize the effectiveness of this combined prevention strategy in promoting status-neutral testing and highlight the advantages of bundling, including stigma reduction, price subsidies, and strategic displays to generate awareness and demand for bundled products.

Track 3: Health, policy and the law

11:00-11:15am

C007: MEANINGFUL YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC POLICY INFLUENCE FOR EQUITABLE ACCESS TO SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

Authors: *Okello Eric, Oboth Timothy - Tororo District Youth Advocacy Network (TDYAN)*

Uganda's demographic landscape is predominantly youthful, with young people constituting approximately 55% of the total population. Addressing the healthcare needs of this demographic is imperative for overall healthcare quality in the country. However, many young individuals continue to shun healthcare facilities due to concerns such as inadequate privacy, limited service offerings, and unfavorable attitudes from healthcare providers. This initiative actively engaged young people in health policy planning. As a result, adolescent priorities in SRH have been prioritized through a 30% Primary Health Care budget vote. Lessons presented address increased funding allocations at the district level through initiatives such as the Young Citizens Scorecards and CSO policy position papers to develop collective actions in the planning and budgeting process.

11:15-11:30am

C001: THE ROLE OF POLICIES IN SHAPING HIV SELF-TESTING: IMPLEMENTATION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Authors: *Jude Oriokot, Geoffrey Taasi, Fosca Tumushabe, Deborah Kyamaggwa - Population Services International Uganda*

With Uganda's aim of 95% of people living with HIV/AIDS to know their status by 2030, the MoH's strategic approach has involved the introduction of HIV self-testing kits (HIVST) across the country. However, the National Drug Authority (NDA) policies and procedures did not offer specific guidance on the selling of HIVST kits through e-commerce, drug shops, supermarkets, sale of HIVST kits at physical activations, and bundling of related products. This hindered the demand for and supply of HIVST kits through these channels. Outcomes from PSI's collaboration with the NDA and MoH will be presented in regard to adapting policies, procedures and guidance on the selling of HIVST kits for increased demand and access to HIVST.

11:30-11:45am

C002: LEGAL EMPOWERMENT AND SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY (LESA): A PROVEN MODEL FOR OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGES OF ACCESS TO HIV/TB PREVENTION, TREATMENT, CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES. CEHURD'S EXPERIENCE IN THE WEST NILE REGION

Authors: *Ijotre Peter, Sserujonji Francis, Eceru Peter, Akampurira Sarah - Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD)*

Uganda has made significant progress in the control and management of the HIV epidemic as a result of implementing a range of behavioral, biomedical and structural interventions. Even so, stigma and discrimination remain barriers for vulnerable populations to engage with HIV/TB services. In 2021, CEHURD with support from the Global Fund, initiated a project to overcome challenges of access to stigma-free services in the West Nile. Through the LESA model, community-based organisations were mapped and CHAs were oriented on basic advocacy skills and legal frameworks. Over 1,500 community members were reached with key messages on HIV/TB prevention, care and treatment as well as gender, legal and human rights services. Lessons show how LESA promotes meaningful community participation, transparency and informed decision-making in overcoming HIV/TB-related stigma and discrimination, violence against vulnerable populations and gender inequality.

11: 45- 12:00pm

C010: LITIGATING MATERNAL HUMAN RIGHTS IN UGANDA

Authors: *Ruth Ajalo, Esther Dhafa, Center for Health and Human Rights Development (CEHURD)*

This presentation sheds light on the importance of Strategic Litigation (SL) in advancing the implementation of international and regional commitments concerning maternal health and SRHR in Uganda. In 2011, CEHURD and other entities filed Constitutional Petition No. 16 of 2011 against the Attorney General, challenging the Government's failure to adequately provide basic maternal health services and commodities in public health facilities, which violated the right to health, women's rights, the right to life, and freedom from cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment. This legal action was prompted by the tragic deaths of two mothers at Arua Referral Hospital and Mityana District Hospital. Petition 16 played a critical role in strengthening CEHURD's relationship with the Ministry of Health and served as a tool for advocating for increased budget allocation to the health sub-programme. Lessons will explore the synergy between Strategic Litigation and conventional advocacy approaches in realising commitments for improved maternal health services.

12:00- 12:15pm

B020: LITIGATING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS IN AFRICA: REIMAGINING A REGIONAL AFRICENTRIC APPROACH

Authors: *Maria Birungi Kakinda, Moses Mulumba, Nimrod Muhumuza - Afya na Haki Institute*

This presentation examines how to forge a regional Afrocentric approach towards SRHR and to move away from a Western conceptualization steeped in privacy. Of the 54 African countries, 42 States are parties to the Maputo Protocol and are therefore bound to provide SRHR services, including abortion and post-abortion care. A desk review was conducted on available literature on the right to health and SRHR generally, and abortion in particular to identify patterns and inform those most in need of these services: women, girls, and other stakeholders. Discussion on SRHR services and policies emphasise access to safe and legal abortion premised on recognised African philosophies such as Ubuntu that advance justice.

Track 4: Mental Health, harm reduction and wellness

11:00-11:15am

D011: EMPOWERING MINDS: UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE INTERNET FOR MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

Authors: *Dr. Mutunga Godfrey - Beatrice Tierney Health Centre, Bumwalukani, Bududa*

In response to the pressing mental health challenges in Uganda, this transformative project harnessed the power of the internet and social media platforms to conduct mental health talks, spread awareness, and establish a supportive virtual community. Through tailored content strategies on various social media platforms, in collaboration with mental health professionals and influencers, live sessions and webinars for real-time interaction spurred meaningful audience engagement to a broad range of audiences. This approach fostered inclusivity in mental health conversations and create a virtual space where individuals could find support, access resources, and engage in meaningful conversations to strengthen their mental well-being.

11:15-11:30am

D003: MENTAL HEALTH: THE SILENT DISABILITY OF ALL IN UGANDA

Authors: *Mwiine Andrew Kaggwa, Nabayego Racheal Regina, Bwambale Dan David - Victus Legal Aid*

Across Africa, more than 116 million people were already estimated to be living with mental health conditions pre-pandemic. In Uganda, the estimated incidence of mental illness is 35% and 15% require treatment. Uganda is ranked sixth in Africa in rates of depressive disorder (4.6%) while 2.9% live with anxiety disorder. About 5.1 are female and 3.6 are male. Despite the ongoing interventions, inadequate financing for mental health continues to be the biggest limitation. This has negatively impacted efforts to expand Africa's mental health workforce. Currently, the ratio is two mental health workers for every 100,000 people, the majority of whom are psychiatric nurses. These scarce resources are concentrated at large psychiatric institutions in urban areas, people at community and primary health care levels are left critically underserved.

In Uganda there is need for funding interventions that will propagate mental health activities at community level including but not limited to schools, locally organized groups, organizations, and institutions with primary health care levels being the focus. This presentation will highlight some innovative solutions and recommendations.

11:30-11:45am

D002: EFFECT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION AMONG THE YOUTH IN KAMPALA, UGANDA

Author: *Amelia Margaret Namiiro - Makerere University, College of Health Sciences*

Harmful usage of alcohol is responsible for 5.1% of the global burden of disease. According to the WHO 2023 report, it is estimated that Uganda currently consumes 12.2 liters of alcohol per person annually. The COVID-19 pandemic came in unexpectedly and resulted in a number of measures to curb the disease which resulted in social and economic changes.

Prior to COVID-19 pandemic, Uganda ranked among the top and the leading alcohol consumer in Africa and East Africa respectively. With the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns arose unforeseeable public and mental health challenges, resulting from sudden unemployment, closure of recreation facilities, and restrictions in transportation which jointly led to increased loneliness, relationship failures and inability to access health care services at will. These new unfamiliar trends in lifestyle led to life stressors that affected individual in a diversity of ways.

This study was motivated by the urgent need to document the attributable health and socio-economic risks of changes in alcohol consumption following the advent of COVID 19 pandemic. A cross-sectional study conducted among youth in residing in the five divisions of Kampala, Uganda. We included youth aged 18 to 35 years who consented to participate in the study using stratified random sampling. Data collection was performed using a questionnaire adapted from the AUDIT-C of the World Health Organization. Results of the study and recommendations will be shared.

11:45- 12:00pm

B040: STRENGTHENING COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE ACCESS IN SRH AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR DEAF PERSONS IN UGANDA

Authors: *Egwelu Timothy, Akoli Joseph, Resty Nakawesi - Sign Right Uganda*

Deaf individuals in Uganda, comprising 3.4% of the population, encounter substantial challenges in accessing SRH and mental health services. Limited communication options and language barriers prevent effective communication between healthcare providers and the deaf community leading to inadequate care and information. Sign Right Uganda has collaborated with local stakeholders and organisations to create a deaf-friendly infrastructure for services in healthcare facilities. This includes the provision of visual aids, accessible signage, ensuring the presence of qualified sign language interpreters, training, capacity building and technology integration to promote inclusive practices in the delivery of SRH and mental health services to deaf persons in Uganda.

12:00- 12:15pm

E030: INTERROGATING THE INFLUENCE OF MASCULINITIES IN THE REALISATION OF SRHR IN UGANDA

Authors: Nakibuuka Noor Musisi, Ogwang Christopher, Serunjogi Francis, Kiyange Fatia - Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD)

This study aims to investigate the impact of varying expressions of masculinity on the realisation of SRHR in Uganda. The study's conceptual scope included a historical examination of some of the socio-cultural and religious contexts to uncover the complex formations of masculinities. Specifically, how men's gendered identities are constructed, enacted, legitimised and how these (diverse masculinities) influence SRHR across five regions: West Nile, Eastern, Ankole, Lango, and Acholi - each characterised by distinct cultural patterns. The findings and recommendations address entrenched cultural constructs and myths that hinder women's and men's uptake of SRHR services at the community level.

Track 5: Multi-sectoral collaborations, strategic partnerships, coalitions and movements

11:00-11:15 am

E010: EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH MULTI-SECTORIAL COLLABORATIONS: ADVANCING SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT, ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER, SANITATION AND FAMILY PLANNING IN UGANDA

Author: Kennedy Wanyama - Get Water Uganda

Get Water Uganda serves 20,069 direct household beneficiaries and over 1,166 pupils in Busia and Namayingo, Eastern Uganda. The project offers these communities services that have resulted in healthier living conditions and reduced waterborne diseases. These have included: safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene promotion, economic empowerment, climate change mitigation, and SRH and family planning. Through a participatory approach, the organisation has engaged stakeholders through collaborative workshops, meetings and grassroots engagement. By increasing access to family planning information, Get Water Uganda has observed a surge in family planning uptake, leading to improved maternal and child health outcomes.

11:15-11:30am

E007: USING PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES TO CO-CREATE AN INTERVENTION FOR IMPROVING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN LUUKA DISTRICT, UGANDA

Authors: Sande Slivesteri, Femke Bannink Mbazzi, Tracey Smythe, Hannah Kuper

Organisations: Medical Research Council, Uganda Virus Research Institute, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Uganda Research Unit, Department of Global Health and Development, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London UK, International Centre for Evidence in Disability, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London UK.

Approximately 12% of persons in Luuka district have various disabilities, including physical, visual, hearing, sensory, cognitive, and multiple other impairments. To improve healthcare access for persons with disabilities in this community, the Missing Billion study co-created community groups using the Participatory Learning and Action for Disability (PLA-D) intervention. Lessons address how this approach fosters community involvement, dignity, ownership, enhanced social accountability and trust. It also increases the likelihood of designing targeted tailored interventions that address specific needs and challenges, while considering community resources and partnerships. Outcomes and recommendations underscore the importance of stakeholder participation, which guided the development of a PLA-D facilitator training manual as well as an HCWs' training manual on disability-inclusive healthcare.

11:30-11:45am

E006: TRACKING THE PROGRESS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE GLOBAL FINANCING FACILITY (SUCH AS RESULTS-BASED FINANCING) IN UGANDA'S HEALTHCARE SECTOR

Authors: *Dr Moses Mulumba; Prossy Kiddu Namyalo, Dr. Fred K. Muhumuza, Prof Robert K. Basaza - IHMPE, University of Toronto & Faculty of Social Sciences, Ndejje University*

In 2016, Uganda was selected to participate in the Global Financing Facility (GFF), which is a partnership that supports the Government of Uganda in identifying priorities in the health sector, advocating for increased investment, achieving effective use of existing funds, and targeting resources to achieve greater coverage of high-impact interventions. Using the human rights framework (AAAQ), a case study research design was employed to conduct an in-depth focus on the processes and implementation of Results-Based Financing (RBF) as part of the Uganda Reproductive, Maternal, and Child Health Services Improvement Project (URMCHIP). Results and lessons associated with impacts on Uganda's health system financing will be presented.

11: 45- 12:00pm

E001: CATCHING FIRE WITH THE WOMEN@40 CAMPAIGN

Authors: *Flavia Kyomukama, Beatrice Were, Nsubuga Lydia, Aisha Nakitto - Action Group for Health & Human Rights & AIDS (AGHA)*

This initiative focuses on reigniting the leadership role of Women Living with HIV (WLHIV) in Uganda to address reported increases in stigma and violence, including defilement, rape, early and forced marriage, sexual exploitation, harassment and trafficking. This initiative is part of consortium of 10 national networks of WLHIV working to build a resilient and vibrant leadership of WLHIV as indispensable actors in the national HIV response. The Consortium leverages stories of lived experience as a foundation for action in HIV prevention among AGYW through social mobilisation and social behavioural change (SBC) to address SRHR challenges. Lessons and recommendations emphasise the importance of scaling up intergenerational dialogue, HIV disclosure, and investments in community systems.

12:00-12:15pm

B006: PREVALENCE AND FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH TEENAGE PREGNANCY IN SIERRA LEONE: EVIDENCE FROM A NATIONALLY REPRESENTATIVE DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY OF 2019

Authors: *Lilian Nuwabaine, Quraish Sserwanja, Kassim Kamara, Milton W Musaba - Aga Khan University*

Sierra Leone is not only ranked among the countries with the worst maternal and child health indicators globally, but it is also among the ten countries with the highest rates of teenage pregnancy in the world. There is a need for urgent critical analysis of this challenge and its associated factors, to support the country's efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.1. This study analysed the 2019 Sierra Leone Demographic and Health Survey (SLDHS) to determine the prevalence and factors associated with teenage pregnancy in the country; findings and lessons will be presented.

Friday 29th September 2023

Track 1: Health systems strengthening

11:00-11:15am

A009: INCREASING UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE FOR ADOLESCENT SRHR THROUGH TELEHEALTH INNOVATIONS

Authors: *Patience Kabuga Nalukenge, Sheila Kasabiiti, Mark Kayizzi - Reach A Hand Uganda*

Telehealth plays a crucial role in enhancing access to services and information for Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (AYSRRH). The SAUTIplus E-referral is an electronic card-based referral and information management system which operates through a peer-to-peer model to identify SRHR community needs and refer young people to local health facilities for targeted services. The system shares and stores information, facilitates inquiries, and connects users to an inbuilt referral directory while ensuring confidentiality. This presentation will provide data on referral rates as an outcome of this platform. Recommendations address telehealth innovations in healthcare provision, especially in light of lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic.

11:15-11:30am

A012: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: A PRE-REQUISITE FOR ACHIEVING A HEALTHY POPULATION

Author: Pamela Nahurira Kalema, Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD)

When there is a lack of community involvement in planning processes, this can lead to low uptake of services and misallocation of resources. This project engaged a participatory community-based health planning process in order to achieve set health outcomes. Methodologies included: community dialogues, capacity building of rights holders, research on issues affecting the uptake of services, and engagement of policymakers as advocates, among others. The involvement of community stakeholders such as CHAs and VHAs in planning and implementation is key for ownership and sustainability to inform SRHR advocacy. Lessons also address the involvement of community leadership including cultural and religious leaders, especially when it comes to matters concerning primary health care.

11:30-11:45am

A019: PATIENTS SAFETY IN PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES: STILL A GREY AREA

Author: John Jessy Nandesa, Community Health Advocates of Wakiso District

Safety in public health facilities is still an area that calls for improvement. Often times communities/ patients are on the receiving end, they are not consulted or involved in patient safety matters and thus leave everything to the health workers. The patients' charter, section 1: Patient Rights states; Right to safety and security: The patient has the right to safety and security to the extent that the practices and installations of the health facility do no harm. A research carried out with health workers at Kira HC IV in September 2021, provides insights into the critical safety issues, elements of community participation, and the implementation of guidelines to ensure safety in health facilities. The research highlights the significance of prioritizing patients' health and safety in healthcare facilities. By addressing issues such as staffing gaps, proper waste management and the provision of uniforms with name tags for health workers, the health facility can create a safer working environment for healthcare workers and improve patients' safety through reducing the risk of cross-infection. Government of Uganda needs to address Staffing Shortages in public health facilities by lifting the ban on recruitment for the health sector to address shortage; Community members should be empowered not only to know their responsibilities and rights as speculated in laws of Uganda but also to boldly advocate for themselves; Establishment of proper waste management in health facilities should be prioritized. The presenter will share insights regarding health and safety issues of both healthcare providers and patients in public health facilities in Uganda based on the research results..

11:45-12:00am

B004: CITY AND DISTRICT SRHR TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

Authors: Nsimenta Bridget, Abaho Chrispaul - Harm Reduction and Reproductive Health Initiative (HRRHI)

The establishment of youth-friendly corners at public health centres in Mbarara City has created safe spaces and entry points for young people to access SRHR services. With this aim, a SRHR Technical Committee was established in Mbarara City with support from HRRHI and CEHURD to advocate and back the provision of youth-friendly SRHR services at public health centres in the city. Methodologies and outcomes highlight driving factors in the process, including the identification of clear technical roles, work plans and annual budget allocations to drive increased youth access to SRHR services at public facilities.

12:00-12:15am

B017: IMPROVING LIGHTING FOR CHILDBIRTH IN UGANDA THROUGH THE SOLAR SUITCASE INNOVATION

Authors: Feza Kabasweka Greene, Dr. Ambrose K. Muhwezi, Phionah Abaho Bruce - We Care Solar

Health workers require good lighting to monitor the progression of labour, manage emergency complications and provide timely life-saving care. We Care Solar's innovative solar electric systems—Solar Suitcases—replace candles and kerosene lanterns with bright, efficient LED lights in rural maternity facilities to improve safety in labour and delivery. To date, 2,303 Solar Suitcases have been installed in rural health facilities in Uganda and more than 600,000 deliveries have occurred in facilities equipped with Solar Suitcases. The Light Every Birth initiative is building a global community aligned with these beliefs: every woman has the right to safe childbirth and every health centre is entitled to clean, reliable electricity.

11:00-11:15am

B013: THE ROLE OF YOUTH LEADERS IN ELIMINATING STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV IN KITGUM & PADER: DRAWING COMMUNITY-BASED LESSONS FROM UGANDA'S RESPONSE TO THE HIV/AIDS REDUCTION STRATEGY

Authors: Akampurira Sarah, Nakalembe Judith - Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD)

Stigma and discrimination among young people living with HIV negatively affects HIV prevention, retention in care, and treatment adherence. In Kitgum and Pader Districts 78 youth leaders were trained in information related to HIV-related stigma, discrimination and its impact on the uptake of HIV services among young people. This presentation will address the importance of supporting youth leaders as key stakeholders in developing creative, youth-friendly messaging. It also addresses training teachers and community health workers on ways to cope with HIV in schools and other community settings, increasing support for YPLHIV.

11:15-11:30am

B011: USING THE COMMUNITY SCORE CARD APPROACH TO MONITOR QUALITY OF HIV/SRHR SERVICES IN UGANDA

Authors: Leah Alupo, Stella Kentutsi, Joselyne Mbawadde, James Lule - National Forum of People Living with HIV/AIDS Networks Uganda

The Community Score Card (CSC) is a participatory community-based monitoring and evaluation tool that enables citizens and beneficiaries to assess the quality of services they receive in health, education, water and transport for evidence-based advocacy. This study followed the thematic areas of the National Strategic Plan for HIV Prevention, Care & Treatment, social support and systems strengthening such as staffing, equipment and utilities for HIV/SRHR and other integrated services. Key informant interviews and focus group discussions were conducted with People Living with HIV, health workers, village health teams, community and local councilors and district local government officials for consensus scoring.

11:30-11:45am

B003: PROMOTING MEDIA ADVOCACY COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGNS TO IMPROVE SRHR INFORMATION ACCESS FOR SDG ATTAINMENT IN UGANDA

Author: Wilson Okaka, Wilberforce Okongo - Kyambogo University

Although Uganda has several family planning policies and initiatives to prevent or control early teenage pregnancies, the country is still ranked among the top in teenage early pregnancies in Africa and globally due to information gaps. This presentation addresses the significance of media advocacy communication campaigns to improve information access to address unwanted teenage pregnancies through SRHR. The paper addresses media advocacy communication campaigns that employ effective health communication models, multimedia channels, and audience participation in message design, research, and key evaluation processes. Recommendations highlight the role of the media to inform, educate, entertain, and engage society on SRHRs to achieve national SDG3 progress.

11:45-12:00pm

B018: KNOWLEDGE AND PERCEPTION ON SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS AMONG WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE IN PABBO SUB-COUNTY, AMURU DISTRICT, NORTHERN UGANDA

Authors: Rebacca Amongin, Fred Mubbale, Raymond Otim, Jimmy Opio - St Mary's Hospital Lacor

Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) represent a universal aspect involving individuals' rights to make choices about their sexual activity and reproduction. However, SRHR awareness and perceptions remain limited and underestimated in rural areas like Pabbo Sub County, Amuru district, particularly after nearly two decades of civil wars. In this region, violations of SRHR have been prominent, marked by cases of unwanted pregnancies, forced abortions, and gender-based violence. Therefore, this study aimed to explore the knowledge and perceptions of SRHR among women of reproductive age (14-49 years) in this community. Findings revealed

inadequate knowledge and poor perceptions regarding SRHR and underscores the significance of addressing mindset and perception barriers to enhance access to SRHR services and ultimately improve health outcomes.

12:00-12:15am

B029: HARNESSING POSITIVE CULTURAL NORMS AND RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS TO PROMOTE SRHR FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN IN UGANDA: A PATH TO EMPOWERMENT AND HEALTH EQUITY

Author: *Seth Nimwesiga, Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD)*

In Uganda, like many other societies, religious and cultural norms have often hindered the full enjoyment of SRHR for girls and women. This presentation explores how positive aspects of cultural norms and religious biblical teachings can be harnessed to empower women, uphold their bodily autonomy, and promote access to safe abortion and comprehensive SRHR. Research methodologies employed a qualitative approach involving a literature review and case studies. Lessons address how Cultural and religious values can serve as powerful tools for promoting SRHR if interpreted in a way that respects individual autonomy, dignity, and equality. Fostering dialogue and understanding between stakeholders can create opportunities for positive change.

Track 3: Health policy and the law

11:00-11:15am

B050: ACCELERATING THE UPTAKE OF SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES AMONG PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITY USING DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE OUTREACH APPROACHES.

Author: *Silas Gogo - Reproductive Health Uganda*

In Uganda, where 12.4% of the population lives with some form of disability, the Bukedi Region accounts for a significant portion of this group. A descriptive cross-sectional quantitative study in the Bukedi region aimed to assess the impact of disability-inclusive outreach to address the unmet need for SRHR services among 318 participants. Findings established an increase in their demand for services, and a significant reduction in discrimination faced by PLWDs seeking SRHR services. The study underscores the importance of PLWDs' involvement in outreach efforts.

11:15-11:30am

B032: PERSPECTIVES OF THE NORM SETTERS ON THE NATIONAL COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION FRAMEWORK (NCSEF) AND ITS IMPLICATION FOR ACCESS TO AND UTILIZATION OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES AND RIGHTS FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN: CEHURD'S EXPERIENCE IN ARUA DISTRICT.

Authors: *Ijotre Peter, Sserujonji Francis - Centre for Health, Human Rights and Development*

The lack of a national framework for sexuality education in schools has led to disparities in access to SRHR information and services, particularly in regions like West Nile and Arua districts. A project initiated by CEHURD in 2022 engaged district-based religious and cultural leaders (norm setters) in dialogue meetings to discuss contentious issues in the National Comprehensive Sexuality Education Framework (NCSEF) and gather a range of perspectives. Participating religious leaders included parish priests, catechists, curates and lay executives for the Catholic denomination; reverends, khadi, imams and sheiks from the Moslem fraternity; pastors from the Seventh Day Adventists and Pentecostal denominations. Lessons shed light on the value of engaging norm setters in the beliefs and practices around sexuality that shape the SRHR of adolescent girls and young women.

11:30-11:45am

B042: FINDINGS FROM A STUDY ON BARRIERS TO COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL-BASED COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION (SBCSE)

Author: Robert Ocaya - Action 4 Health Uganda

Religious and cultural contexts inform how Uganda addresses several SRHR issues that affect young people, including access to contraception, condom use, SBCSE, and abortion. For instance, the current National Framework for Sexuality Education (NSEF) mostly focusses on abstinence, yet evidence shows that many young people are sexually active. Given these factors, it is essential to understand the reasons why SBCSE does not have widespread community support. This study employed a qualitative literature review. Inclusion criteria included peer-reviewed journals, materials from websites of the Government of Uganda, UN agencies, INGOs, and reports from national and local NGOs, blogs, and newspapers. Key lessons from this analysis will be presented.

11:45-12:00am

B015: SHATTERING THE SILENCE: UNVEILING THE DEVASTATING CONSEQUENCES OF UNSAFE ABORTION: AN URGENT CALL FOR COMPREHENSIVE GUIDELINES THROUGH A GROUNDBREAKING RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL IN UGANDA

Authors: Kizza Blair, Kaweesi Henry - Usawa Health Initiative Uganda (UHIU)

In Uganda, the lack of comprehensive guidelines on safe medical abortion practices exacerbates the problem, leading to a rise in complications and unnecessary suffering. This study aims to address this issue through a groundbreaking randomized controlled trial encompassing a diverse sample of women seeking abortion services across various regions of Uganda. A total of 250 participants were randomly assigned to two groups: an intervention group that received evidence-based counselling on safe medical abortion procedures, and a control group that received standard care without additional guidance. Data collection occurred over a six-month period, comprising pre-intervention, post-intervention, and follow-up assessments. The findings of this randomized controlled trial emphasize the critical necessity for the MoH to develop and implement comprehensive guidelines on safe medical abortion practices.

12:00-12:15am

A024: BRIDGING THE GAP: EMPOWERING SENIOR WOMEN, MEN AND VILLAGE HEALTH TEAMS FOR COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH EDUCATION AMONG ADOLESCENTS

Author: Boniface – Partners In Community Transformation (PICOT)

Track 4: Mental Health, Harm Reduction and Wellness

11:00-11:15am

B035: EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF GENDER AND SOCIAL NORMS ON ADOLESCENT SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS OF OUT OF SCHOOL ADOLESCENT BOYS AND GIRLS IN UGANDA

Authors: Isaac Arinaitwe - Restless Development

Social norms are a critical barrier to access to SRH services among out-of-school girls and boys in our communities. Conventional approaches to improving adolescent sexual and reproductive health (SRH) have focused on changing individual behavior, with little emphasis on addressing existing social norms which are a key contributor impeding adolescents from enjoying their SRHR in Uganda. This abstract presents findings of a study by Restless Development to explore the impact of social norms on ASRHR for out-of-school girls and boys in Uganda.

11:15-11:30am

B038: BREAKING BARRIERS, EMBRACING CHOICES AND EMPOWERING WOMEN WHO USE DRUGS (WWUDS) WITH SRHR IN EASTERN UGANDA

Authors: *Betty Balisalamu, Hope Nalumansi, Olivia Twijukye - Women With A Mission (WWM)*

Women Who Use Drugs (WWUDS) face various challenges related to sexual and reproductive health, including unintended pregnancies and abortions, limited access to appropriate ante- and post-natal care, and difficulties accessing ART and STIs treatment. Many encounter misinformation from service providers, and some have even experienced forced or coerced sterilisation or abortion. All these factors act as significant barriers to WWUDS accessing and realizing their SRHR. This initiative integrates innovative SRHR/HIV information services with harm reduction strategies in a comprehensive approach.

11:30-11:45am

B025: INCREASING THE CAPACITY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO SEXUAL GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Author: *Namiiro Olivia Norah, Community Health Advocates Association of Buikwe District [CHAABD]*

In Buikwe district, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) is fueled by gender inequality and remains a significant issue, particularly in rural and hard-to-reach areas. The aim of this initiative is to ensure that SGBV survivors can have timely and nondiscriminatory access to medical, psychosocial, legal and material assistance, as well as confidentiality and a safe space. Methodologies included a multifaceted approach, which included education and awareness campaigns, established safe spaces and support services, training for service providers to address multiple forms of violence; media engagement through radio talk shows on SGBV laws, policies and redress mechanisms; and empowered grassroots community action groups equipped for fast response and referral of cases of violence.

11:45-12:00pm

B026: EFFECTS OF SRHR VIOLATIONS AGAINST SEX WORKERS IN UGANDA

Authors: *Namakula Nakato Daisy, Mujuni Naomi, Nassuna Stella - Network of Key Population Service Organizations (UNESO)*

Sex workers in Uganda continue to experience a number of adverse sexual reproductive health violation outcomes, despite deliberate focus on HIV prevention in the national response. This baseline assessment aimed to generate evidence on sexual reproductive health and rights issues affecting sex workers in Uganda. The assessment was conducted utilising a cross-sectional study from primary information collected between July and November 2022. Data collection was carried out at the national level and sub-national level in 14 districts across the country. Findings will be presented and lessons for advocacy and intervention designs that address unfavorable laws and policies that limit sex workers from accessing health services.

12:00-12:15pm

B028: SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ASSOCIATED FACTORS AMONG WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE IN RWANDA: A 2020 NATIONWIDE CROSS-SECTIONAL SURVEY

Authors: *Lilian Nuwabaine, Joseph Kawuki, Earnest Amwiine, John Baptist Asimwe - Aga Khan University*

Sexual violence against women in Rwanda has been barely explored, with existing few studies focusing on pregnant women and female sex workers. With this dearth of literature, there are gaps in the development of practical interventions to address this public health issue. This study aimed to determine the prevalence of sexual violence and its associated factors among women of reproductive age in Rwanda. Researchers used secondary data from 1,700 participants selected using multistage stratified sampling through the 2020 Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey. Findings showed that sexual violence is still a major health challenge in Rwanda, and several socio-demographic contributing factors will be presented.

11:00 -11:15am

B036: THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF SOCIAL-CULTURAL NORMS IN THE REALISATION OF SRHR

Authors: *Achen Irene Janet, Namaganda Hope, Morris Chris Ongom - Global Forum for Development (GLOFORD) Uganda*

The utilisation of SRHR services in Lira district and Lira city in Northern Uganda remains alarmingly low, with a rate of less than 42%. The aim of this initiative is to reduce the negative impact of harmful religious and cultural norms on the rate of utilization of SRHR services. Methodologies included inter-generational dialogues through in-depth discussions between youth, community representatives, cultural and religious leaders; radio talk shows, media briefs, community-based dialogues, and community panel hearings to increase leader accountability for their commitments towards improving SRHR services.

11:15 -11:30am

B023: ENHANCING SURVIVOR WELL-BEING: THE INTERLINK BETWEEN GBV AND SRHR IN UGANDA'S HEALTH FACILITIES

Authors: *Nakalembe Judith, Akampurira Sarah, Serunjogi Francis - Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD)*

The intersection of SRHR with GBV services in health facilities is crucial due to the high incidence of GBV rates in communities. Survivors often lack comprehensive care, face stigma, and miss preventive opportunities. A mixed-methods approach was employed to assess gaps in interlinking SGBV and SRHR in health facilities across 9 districts in Uganda. Findings and lessons will emphasise evidence from implemented GBV prevention and response projects to defragment services and inform policy reforms for cohesive and balanced survivor support.

11:30-11:45am

B043: THE ROLE OF MEN IN ENHANCING POST-PARTUM FAMILY PLANNING UPTAKE IN PRIVATE SECTOR FACILITIES WITHIN THE KAMPALA METROPOLITAN AREA

Authors: *Baker Lukwago, May Namukwaya, Flavia Kabasuga, Peter Buyungo - Population Services International, Uganda*

This project aimed to strengthen the capacity of 40 affiliated facilities in the Kampala metropolitan area for delivering quality post-partum family planning (PPFP) services, using a human-centered design approach to develop demand-creation. In January 2023, Male Action Groups (MAGS) were established as a pilot to raise awareness and encourage male involvement in supporting their breastfeeding and pregnant partners during delivery and PPFP. Men expressed a strong desire to be involved in decisions regarding their partners' well-being and emphasised their role in family planning.

11:45-12:00am

B033: INCREASING DEMAND FOR PERMANENT CONTRACEPTION AMONG LIMITERS: A CASE STUDY OF BUSOGA REGION, EASTERN UGANDA

Authors: *Nabayego Noeline, Deborah Kyamagwa, Grace Nakazzi, Dennis Chemonges - Population Services International, Uganda*

Busoga region has a high total fertility rate of 6.1 compared to the national average of 5.4; it also has a low contraceptive prevalence rate of 28.6%. This low prevalence of modern contraceptive use is deeply rooted in myths and misconceptions. To address the barriers to uptake of permanent contraception methods, PSIU identified and trained 160 interpersonal communication agents to deliver key messaging on permanent contraceptive methods and promote client referrals for services. Health assistants held private dialogues with men and women privately, and shared IEC materials as well as vasectomy videos. Users shared testimonies with listeners during radio talk shows to address concerns and demystify misconceptions about permanent contraception methods.

12:00-12:15pm

B021: CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS REDUCING MATERNAL MORTALITY IN BUSIA DISTRICT

Author: Mutowana Peter - Society Empowerment Network (SENET)

In Busia District, women are unable to make safe reproductive health choices because of the disempowering social, economic, political and cultural environments for safe abortion care services in the district. The Busia District Health Performance Report from October to December 2021, shows that more than 4 in 10 pregnancies (43%) are unplanned. Working closely with the private health facilities, SENET identified 40 community champions and held VCAT trainings on the need to fight against unsafe abortions. Key strategies included two community dialogues with law enforcement team in the municipality to come up with solutions to curb the increasing rates of maternal mortality due to unsafe abortions. Lessons highlight the importance of these referral and linkage systems.

WORKSHOPS

WEDNESDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2023

TRACK 1: HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

02:00-03:30pm

BW045: THE ROLE OF CULTURE AND SOCIAL NORMS IN INFLUENCING ACCESS TO SRH OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN IN ZOMBO DISTRICT.

Session Chair: Atim Hope, Mentoring and Empowerment Programme for Young Women (MEMPROW)

Speakers: Dr Hilda Tadia; Immaculate Mukasa (MEMPROW)

Cultural norms continue to play a significant role in influencing access to SRHR services in Uganda. This workshop will explore the underlying factors that influence attitudes and behaviors regarding the use of SRHR services among Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) and how these social norms inhibit adolescent girls from accessing the available SRHR services in their communities. The session will include discussions on advocating for new practices and policy reforms to challenge existing negative cultural and social practices to avert early marriages and unwanted pregnancies among young girls while improving their agency and capacity to make informed sexual and reproductive health goals. The workshop aims to empower duty bearers to take proactive measures in addressing negative cultural practices that limit young people from accessing SRHR services, drawing inspiration from success stories from the West Nile region presented to the audience.

04:00-05:30pm

DRUG USE AND HARM REDUCTION

Session Chairs: Anne Lumbasi, CEHURD; Don Zane Muwanguzi, Awesome Mind Speaks

Speakers: Twaibu Wamala, Executive Director, Uganda Harm Reduction Network (UHRN); Joanita Kiwanuka Nakiwala, Voice Life Health Organisation

During the workshop, a report on the outcomes of a rapid assessment of harm reduction funding and investment in Uganda will be presented. The session will target various stakeholders, including the Parliamentary Health Committees, MOH AIDS Control Programme, MoGSD, JLOS, drug regulatory bodies (NDA, JMS), development partners, donors, implementation partners, AGYW, key populations, faith-based organisations, researchers, academia, media, and private sector representatives. Drug use disorders in young people will also be discussed.

TRACK 2 SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS

02:00-03:30pm

BW051: ADVOCACY INITIATIVES FOR SRHR AT THE NATIONAL AND GRASSROOTS LEVELS IN UGANDA

Session Chairs: Pamela Nahurira, CEHURD

Speakers: Robert Ofiti-HEPS Uganda, Abaho Chrispaul- HRRHI, Assumpta Nalukwago-CEHURD, Stephene Ssekiziyivu

This workshop will focus on sharing joint advocacy for SRHR initiatives through a 4-year program implemented by CEHURD and its partners in 14 districts in Uganda. During the session, speakers will share the achievements, impact, and key lessons learned. Partners will also share their experiences of implementation at the community, district, and national levels.

04:00-05:30pm

BW052: UNLOCKING SUSTAINABLE HEALTH FINANCING: ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS SDGS

Session Chair: Mr. Owen Mitchel Bamulangeyo-AIDS Health Care Foundation Uganda Cares.

Speakers: Mr. Peter Eceru – CEHURD, Dr Olaro Charles – MOH, Anthony Mutema – AHF Uganda Cares, A Local government representative, Diana Tibesigwa-AHF Uganda Cares.

This workshop session will delve into the vital role of health financing as a cornerstone for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a specific emphasis on HIV financing in Uganda. Despite significant progress, Uganda continues to grapple with the HIV epidemic, and ensuring adequate and sustainable funding is essential for achieving SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

TRACK 3 HEALTH, POLICY AND THE LAW

02:00-05:30pm

BW058: FINDINGS FROM KEY STUDIES CONDUCTED AND PROGRAMME EXPERIENCES IN THE AREAS OF SEXUALITY EDUCATION AND SRHR AS WELL AS MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Session Chair: Mrs Teddy Nabwire Chimulwa, UNESCO

Speakers: Dr. Patricia Machawira -UNESCO; Eastern and Southern Africa Teddy, Rosemary Nasaba - UNESCO, Mr. Ochira John Pakony- MOES, Mr. Mulindwa Ismail-MOES

The workshop draws upon findings from two studies conducted in Uganda: one on “Attitudes, Perceptions, and Experiences Regarding Sexuality Education in Schools and Communities” and another on “The Status of Young People’s Access to Sexuality Education and SRH Services in Tertiary Education Institutions.” The session incorporates testimonials from beneficiaries, including teachers and students, offering insights into the implementation progress of sexuality education in Uganda. Valuable lessons from Makerere University’s Jinja campus and the experiences of Peer Educators will be shared with the audience.

TRACK 4: MENTAL HEALTH, HARM REDUCTION AND WELLNESS

2:00-3:30pm

DW007: THE UNTOLD STORY OF 'MERCY KILLING' OF DISABLED CHILDREN IN UGANDA (DOCUMENTARY)

Session Chair: *Rose Nambooze, Angels Center for Children with Special Needs*

Speakers: *Hon Shakira Kakungulu Nacwa, Lawyer*

The workshop sheds light on the situation of children with disabilities in Uganda and the role of policy. During the workshop, case studies of mercy killings in Uganda and parents' confessions will be shared through a documentary. The session will also highlight the efforts of Angel's Center in providing hope to children with disabilities and share success stories. Participant learning objectives will include the following topics: understanding the causes of mercy killings of children with disabilities in Uganda, policies for safeguarding and protecting children with disabilities, legal measures and penalties for the abuse of children with disabilities; the role of CSOs in advocating for the rights and protection of children. Discussions will address recommendations regarding the future of disabilities in Uganda.

4:00-5:30pm

BW053: A DIVE INTO UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO SRHR INFORMATION

Session Chair: *Sheirat Namayanja, SRHR Alliance, Uganda*

During this session, the audience will gain insight into how young people perceive access to SRHR information through the help of online platforms. Participants will learn about the challenges young people encounter in accessing this information and discover potential solutions to enhance universal access to SRHR information, regardless of background, age, gender, or other compounding factors.

TRACK 5: MULTI-SECTORAL COLLABORATIONS, STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS, COALITIONS AND MOVEMENTS

2:00-3:30pm

BW059: ASSESSING THE PROVISION OF POST ABORTION CARE IN UGANDA: PUBLIC VERSUS PRIVATE SECTOR

Session Chair: *Esther Dhafa, Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD)*

Speaker: *Dr Arthur Bagonza, Makerere University, College of Health Sciences, School of Public Health*

The workshop will focus on disseminating results of an extensive study, spanning over three years (July 2019 to June 2020) which sheds light on how the utilization of public and private health facilities for post-abortion care (PAC) healthcare has changed among different groups. The study focuses on PAC for women experiencing gender-based violence (GBV). Healthcare workers, health and human rights advocates, policy makers, legislators and development partners are invited to attend this workshop. Members of the Coalition to Stop Maternal Mortality due to Unsafe Abortion (CSMMUA) are also encouraged to attend as the study has important evidence which supports the work of the coalition.

By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

- i) Understand the trends of PAC seeking behaviour among adolescents and young/older women before, during and after the Covid-19 time.
- ii) Discuss research evidence on the dynamic nature of healthcare preferences among different age groups, particularly in the realm of post-abortion care amid the backdrop of gender-based violence.
- iii) Explore the relationship and interconnection between PAC, GBV and post-abortion family planning.
- iv) Reflect on policy interventions needed to ensure equitable and quality PAC across different healthcare settings.

04:00-05:30pm

BW047: REFLECTIONS AND LEARNINGS FROM ABORTION PRACTICES IN PRE-COLONIAL AFRICA FOR CONTEMPORARY UGANDA

Session Chair: Primah Kwagala, Women's Probono Initiative

Speakers: Rose Wakikona, Women's Link Worldwide

This thought-provoking session will explore the historical perspective on abortion in precolonial Africa and its relevance to present-day Uganda. The goal will be to deepen our understanding of the topic, challenge existing narratives, and stimulate meaningful discussions that can positively contribute to the ongoing discourse on abortion in our society. By the end of the session, participants will be able to identify and analyse the underlying reasons behind precolonial abortion practices, explore the social, cultural, and economic factors that influenced attitudes towards abortion, examine the role of women's agency and decision-making in precolonial abortion practices, and discuss the societal support structures and mechanisms put in place to protect women's reproductive rights.

THURSDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2023

TRACK 1: HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

02:00-03:30pm

BW054: Institutionalizing self-care for SRHR in Uganda

Session Chairs: Precious Mutoru- Population Services International

Speakers: Rosaline Achola-MOH, Annah Kukundakwe- CEHURD

The workshop will provide an opportunity to popularise the concept of self-care among stakeholders, create buy-in, and solicit commitments and resources to enable the full realisation of the institutionalization of self-care. Participants will reflect on Uganda's journey towards the institutionalisation of self-care, key milestones, challenges, and lessons. By the end of the workshop, the audience will gain insights into sharing the benefits of self-care with communities, the healthcare system, and individuals as a cornerstone towards achieving Universal Health Coverage.

04:00-05:30pm

AW022: ESSENTIAL MEDICINES AND COMMODITIES: PERSISTENT CHALLENGES IN UGANDA'S SUPPLY CHAIN SYSTEM

Session Chair: Kenneth Mwehonge-HEPS Uganda

Speakers: Dr Dennis Kibira-DUMAC

TRACK 2 SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS

02:00-03:30pm

BW055: WHAT DOES GENDER JUSTICE LOOK LIKE FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN UGANDA? EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS FROM THE GENERATION-GENDER PROJECT

Session Chairs: Dhafa Esther, Nimwesiga Seth, CEHURD

Speakers: Jean Marie Nkurunziza- Sonke Gender Justice, Mark Christian Kayizzi - Reach A Hand Uganda, Abishiag Wabwire- FIDA Uganda, Sebabi Bashir- Community Health Advocate Iganga, Amuron Dorothy- CEHURD

This workshop will focus on creating awareness of Gender Transformative Approaches (GTA) in promoting gender justice. Topics to be discussed include approaches and issues related to gender, providing recommendations for enhancing and promoting gender justice. The session will emphasize attitude and mindset change as a means to create gender justice and a GBV-free society. By the end of the session, participants will have gained knowledge

and awareness of the impact of negative cultural and religious perceptions, norms, harmful practices, and laws that contribute to gender inequality within societies to realize a transformed society, and how these strategies can be effectively curbed to promote gender justice.

04:00-05:30pm

BW056: TEENAGE PREGNANCY AND ABORTION IN KAMULI, MAYUGE AND WAKISO DISTRICTS IN UGANDA: A RETROSPECTIVE RESEARCH

Session Chair: *Mr Semakula Henry, Ministry of Education & Sports*

Speakers: *Viola Nilah Nyakato-MUST*

TRACK 3 HEALTH, POLICY AND THE LAW

02:00- 03:30pm

CW006: A REVIEW OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH LEGISLATION, AND ITS SUITABILITY IN ADDRESSING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

Session Chair: *Ibrahim Nsereko, Ahaki; Geoffrey Opio Atim, Health and Human Rights Champion and Activist*

Speakers: *Prof Ben Twinomugisha, Dr Daniel Kyabayinze, Jssica O Oga, Dr Charles Ayume, Martha Isabella Achan*

04:00-05:30pm

BW049: IMPROVING HIV OUTCOMES, EMPOWERMENT YOUNG INDIVIDUALS, FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS AND REDUCING STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH HIV

Session Chair: *Okenge Francis, Mbale Network of Young People Living with HIV/AIDS-MNYPA*

Speakers: *Mweru Peter, Mbale Network of Young People Living with HIV/AIDS-MNYPA*

The session will highlight the impactful efforts of the MNYPA Youth Hub and its collaborative partnerships in advancing youth-friendly HIV services in Uganda. The goal is to underscore the significance of these services in improving HIV outcomes, empowering young individuals, cultivating partnerships, and reducing the stigma associated with HIV.

TRACK 4: MENTAL HEALTH, HARM REDUCTION AND WELLNESS

02:00-03:30pm

AW023: HARNESSING THE MULTI-SECTORAL APPROACH AND DISMANTLING SILOS TO NUTRITION PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION IN UGANDA

Session Chair: *Claire Atukunda, Food Rights Alliance*

Speakers: *Commissioner Alex Bambona, Julia Kamara, Dr. Joweria Nambooze, Dr. Patrick Twesigye, Commissioner Samalie Namukose*

This workshop's discussion will be hinged on the status of the nexus between food, nutrition, and health in Uganda as well as how best the multistakeholder approach to nutrition can be harnessed to improve planning and implementation of nutrition interventions at all levels. The dialogue will provide a strategic space for stakeholders to identify game-changing solutions towards improving coordination in nutrition planning and implementation at all levels for improved nutrition outcomes and advancement of the right to health.

04:00-05:30pm

BW057: COLLECTIVE ADVOCACY AND SPEAKING OUT ON HEALTH, HUMAN RIGHTS AND SRHR

Session Chair: *Kyomya Macklean, Executive Director- AWAC*

Speakers: *Joy Asasira- SIRC, Dhafa Esther-CEHURD, Moses Super Charger-HIV activist, Ms. Noor Nakibuuka –CEHURD, Ms. Norah Kyagera - Uganda Health Youth Forum, Oscar Muhoozi- Dynamic Doctors (Coalition to Stop Maternal Mortality due to Unsafe Abortion – CSMMUA)*

The workshop is convened with an understanding that the advocacy landscape for SRHR issues in Uganda is evolving, and collective advocacy has been and remains critical for the success achieved so far. This session will build upon the milestones realised through the collective advocacy efforts of CSMMUA members over the past decade, drawing lessons learned and strategies needed for impactful SRHR advocacy in the changing environment. Specifically, the Coalition to Stop Maternal Mortality due to Unsafe Abortion has harnessed the power of collective advocacy to prevent maternal deaths from Unsafe Abortion in Uganda. During the session, participants will share milestones, challenges, and existing opportunities for collective advocacy in a dynamic environment. They will also exchange experiences and discuss how to leverage these experiences to build a stronger network and movement at both the national and subnational levels. We anticipate that this discussion will result in a collective strategy that harnesses the strengths within these networks and coalitions to drive impactful advocacy.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS (27TH-29TH SEPTEMBER 2023) 08:30AM – 05:30PM

A002: Hesitancy in Covid-19 Vaccine Uptake in Uganda: Understanding Community Perceptions, **Ms. Maria Birungi, Afya na Haki (Ahaki)**

A018: Increased Community Systems Strengthening and Resourcing for Enhanced Civil Society Participation and Advocacy, **Ms. Kyomukama Flavia, Action Group for Health, Human Rights and HIV/AIDS (AGHA)**

A020: The Role of Community Radio in Enhancing Effective Community Participation in Quality Primary Health Care Information Services in Uganda, **Prof. Wilson Truman Okaka, Kyambogo University**

B002: State of Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights of Young People in Uganda, **Ms. Stella Oyungroth Mentoring and Empowerment Programme for Young Women (Memprow)**

B039: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Uganda, **Ms. Nabukeera Doreen, Movement of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (MOWHA)**

D004: Thesis and Dissertation on Mental Health, Harm Reduction and Wellness, **Ms. Joy Nyamutoro, Hearts of Gold**

D012: The Key Role of Contextualizing Local Social Practices in Project Ownership and Sustainability. A Case Study in Vulnerable Communities in Northern Uganda, **Dr. Primrose Nakazibwe, Ndejje University**



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