



NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM CEHURD'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear colleagues, friends, partners and supporters of CEHURD,

I wish to send you compliments for the New year, 2022 on behalf of the Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD).

Allow me to congratulate you upon the milestones you realised as individuals, institutions and communities in the previous year, 2021. I thank you for the support and mutual collaboration you have accorded CEHURD in the past year and throughout the journey of 12 years of advancing social justice in health and human rights in Uganda and the African region.

Among our milestones at CEHURD last year, was the evidence-based stance on executive leadership transition which has seen the Founding Executive Director, Mr Mulumba, Moses hand over leadership to me as the new Executive Director of CEHURD. I am honoured by the confidence from the Trustees, Board of Directors, Management and the Staff Team of CEHURD to take forward the vision and mission of this vibrant indigenous organisation, which has set the mark through its work on advancing social justice in health and human rights for the most vulnerable communities.

While the new responsibility as Executive Director for CEHURD feels like a big challenge ahead of me, I know that we share our vision and mission with you all and look forward to collaborative efforts as we continue to pursue the cause for social justice in health. We have together achieved so much in the field of health, human rights and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and yet we still have a lot of work ahead of us. CEHURD's past work with you all already provides many opportunities which we need to innovatively tap into as we continue with the work ahead of us. **I therefore invite you to continue walking with CEHURD in this journey of ensuring the realisation of social justice in health for all. Our major task continues to be bringing forward those furthest behind in accessing health services.**

Having served CEHURD as the Deputy Executive Director in the last two years, and with more than 20 years of my career grounded in the realization of social justice in health and social welfare systems, I know that there are still many people who are not able to access quality health care for many different reasons.

I am convinced that health and social justice systems can be changed using the law and policy to eliminate the current inequities, inequalities and injustices. This requires us to continue being deliberate in addressing emerging and critical health and human rights issues; seizing advocacy opportunities; using evidence-based advocacy; a focus on realising systemic change, as well as impact at the community and individual level; building and sustaining a strong movement and coalitions for collective advocacy; resource mobilisation; managing change and adapting to the fast-changing operational environment.

All of us at CEHURD including the Management, Trustees and Board of Directors are committed to taking CEHURD into the next phase of its journey. **In this journey, we will carry with us lessons from the past and building onto the achievements and strong foundation established in the last 12 years.** This is possible with the support we have in you. We will embrace and work with the existing and new partnerships and collaborations. Internally, our new leadership will sustain, strengthen and work on robust internal systems and structures that will ensure institutional sustainability for CEHURD.

The leadership transition at CEHURD has also come with exciting changes in the institutional structure, more so at Senior Management Level. I will now take this opportunity to introduce to you CEHURD's Senior Management Team. **Our Deputy Executive Director**

for Programmes is Ms Nakibuuka Noor Musisi, a senior human rights lawyer who has served CEHURD in various capacities in the last 12 years, including as the of Director of Programmes in the immediate past. **Mr Gracias Atwiine is our Deputy Executive Director for Operations.** He has joined CEHURD with a background in humanities and human rights and brings with him 17 years of progressive work experience in community and humanitarian development with both international and local NGO sector. **Ms Naome Juliet Namusoke is our Director of Finance.** She is a qualified Accountant with ACCA and CPA Certification and with more than 15 years finance management experience and audit in NGOs. **Our Head of Human Resources is Ms Florence Matovu**, an accomplished expert in human resources with more than 20 years of experience in this field. This team will be supported by an **Executive Assistant, Ms Zaitun Nalukwago**, who has joined CEHURD with a background and work experience in Executive Communication, administration and support for NGOs.

Please also allow me to congratulate the entire CEHURD community for the establishment of the new African Centre of Excellence for Health, Human Rights and SRHR Advocacy – **Afya na Haki (Ahaki)** which was launched on the 4th November 2021. The semi- autonomous entity has been established with a mandate to foster and nurture Afrocentric leadership and innovation in health, human rights and SRHR advocacy, as well as focus on sustainability of this work as the institution. With **Mr Mulumba, Moses, the Founding and outgoing Executive Director of CEHURD** committed to the growing of this new entity as the Director General from January 2022, I have no doubt that the wealth of experiences, knowledge and lessons drawn from CEHURD's work over the last 12 years coupled with new research and innovations in health, human rights and SRHR will be harnessed further to impact on health and social welfare systems in Africa and globally.

I look forward to working with you all to create more impact at the systems and individual level in this new portfolio as Executive Director of CEHURD. The CEHURD Secretariat, together with the African Centre of Excellence for health, human rights and SRHR - Afya na Haki - are excited with these new developments and look forward to working with you in the new year to continue with advocacy work as well as research and advocacy capacity development.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year, 2022!

Thank you.

Fatia Kiyange,
Executive Director