

From the Editor

We have concluded the first quarter of the year and this could mean so many things, but mainly the fact that the year is closing in at a high pace. I believe we are achieving more by the day and by the half of the year, a lot will be evident for the efforts made.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Strategic Litigation team, not just for having the staff of the quarter; but for writing close to five articles all lined up for publication at different forums, kudos SL team and keep it up, equally Donny Silus wrote his first piece for the news.

Please look out for these publications and enjoy reading. To the rest of the team, write down that idea, and let us showcase the good work and knowledge.

Megan-Communications Officer

ENGAGING PARTNERS TO LEVERAGE HEALTH FINANCING



In June 2016, the country's 2016/2017 financial budget will be read. Prior to this, a number of civil society organisations and influential partners in the process are convening at different forums to ensure key issues are addressed in terms of priority funding. It is for that reason that CEHURD along with a team representing Civil Society Organisations under the Coalition of Budget Advocacy met on 23rd March 2016,

to further build on an ongoing review and discussion regarding health financing. Ms. Susan Najjuko, a senior economist from the Ministry of Health took the members through a review of the second health sector financing strategy (2015-2025) by the government, to enlighten them on the current status of health financing as planned for 2015-2025; so as to strategically frame advocacy to impact on the areas with gaps, reflecting on the proposed funding. This plan is meant to enable equitable, efficient and sustainable mobilization of adequate resources for essential health services, establish and roll out a Social Health Protection system and reach 30% of the people in Uganda by 2025, while further strengthening strategic purchasing mechanisms, that ensure the attainment of equitable and efficient resource allocation and delivery of quality services by 2025 among other issues. The meeting opened debate for critiquing the plan vis-a-vis the current situation in the country.

BUILDING SKILLS FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH ADVOCATES



As a strong arm in the community, Community Health Advocates have helped CEHURD extend services in the communities as direct linkages between the organisation and communities it serves. This arm which greatly creates a tie between the work that the organisation does to grass root/community level, is comprised of volunteers who take up the health advocacy role and identify issues in communities that the organisation picks

However, without skills and certain knowledge on advocacy, the work done by these advocates may be limited in terms of efficiency and effectiveness and it is for that reason that CEHURD has constantly taken them through different trainings and capacity building sessions, including the just concluded training on the standard and guidelines, that the health advocates need further orientation about in order to support the community and equally pass on the knowledge. The one day training held on 22nd March 2015, aimed at building capacities of the Community Health Advocates in communicating abortion related work, in preparation for the implementation of the Standards and Guidelines at community level. The training, by design, was participatory and engaged the health advocates to equally share views on the knowledge being shared through: playing skits on maternal deaths and unsafe abortion, and capturing voices from communities regarding the plight of unsafe abortions. An assessment of their knowledge about the issue was made before and after the training to evaluate its impact thanks to the Monitoring and Evaluation arm of CEHURD.

TWEET UP WITH REACH A HAND UGANDA



Social media advocacy is one of the ways the team at CEHURD is leveraging issues of health rights, through the efficient use of platforms like Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and the like. It is upon that basis that CEHURD

partnered with Reach A Hand Uganda to hype the discussion on Maternal Health and the successful efforts made by CEHURD, to ensure that maternal health issues have been addressed and given priority in Uganda and East Africa. In what they termed as a "tweet up" on Maternal Health with a trending hash tag #MaternalHealthUG, the two vibrant organisations took to social media to give their followers highlights surrounding the issue and how they can get on board to ensure no woman dies, as a result of avoidable circumstances while in labour.

The event that was hosted at the CEHURD offices in Ntinda lasted half a day and the teams from the two organisations shared ideas on how to continue the discussions online picking from the success of the days' event.

HOW TO WRITE YOUR FIRST SUCCESS STORY

- **Have a heading/title which is clear and captivating**
- **Give a definition of the problem of the issue**
- **Show how the problem is being addressed or was addressed**
- **Talk about who was involved in the strategy and how**
- **Be accompanied with a good photo that clearly communicates to the issue**
- **Be free of jargon(complicated words)**
- **Be free from acronyms(short forms and abbreviations)**
- **Have quotes and citations**
- **Have short sentences**
- **At least not less than a page and not more than 11/12 pages**

Other events as they will and have happened;

- **Commemorating International Health Day (April 7th)**
- **Staff of the quarter (January - March 2016) Ms. Veronica Nakityo**
- **Wishing all the birthday babies of the months (March-April) merry Celebrations.**

HAPPY NEW MONTH!