



Partners in Prevention



Regional Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 6, August 2015

Dear Partners, Welcome to the Sixth Issue of this newsletter. This is the first edition of the newsletter this year and we appreciate the feedback we have received from our partners.

1. News

a) *Child Trafficking*

UYDEL has partnered with the Integrated Response Against Child Trafficking Project (IRACT) in an effort to strengthen measures that raise national and regional consciousness and capacity to deal with child trafficking. We seek to reverse attitudes and practices that support this vice and extend direct service provision to the survivors. The project targets young people from the ages of 13-17 across Uganda.

- Integrated Response Against Child Trafficking (IRACT) 2015 Objectives:
- Increased awareness on child trafficking and relevant policies and legislation among communities, child survivors and duty bearers.
- Enhanced capacity of duty bearers to prevent and protect children against child trafficking.
- Strengthened advocacy and systems for prevention and protection against trafficking of children at local, national and regional levels.
- Built an evidence base with monitoring and evaluation systems that support evidence-based programming and learning among stakeholders.

In addition, UYDEL also works with the trafficking in persons (TIP), which refers to the recruitment or mobilization, transfer and acquisition of person(s) by improper means such as force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for either one or a combination of the following forms of exploitation:

- Sexual exploitation;
- Forced marriage;
- Child marriage;
- Forced labor;
- Harmful child labor;
- Use of a child in armed conflict;
- Use of a person in illegal activities;
- Debt bondage; slavery or practices similar to slavery or servitude;
- Human sacrifice, and the removal of organs or body parts for sale or for purposes of witchcraft, harmful rituals or practices’

According to available official records, Uganda serves mainly as a source and destination point for victims of trafficking in persons, at the internal and transnational levels. It is also a transit point for a few transnational victims. The country has registered high numbers of suspected victims since 2010, the highest having been registered in year 2013 (i.e. 16 in 2010; 49 in 2011; 103 in 2012; 837 in 2013 and 138 during Jan-Jun 2014.) However, there have been tremendous efforts in dealing with the problem as there is close partnership between government agencies and civil society organizations (CSO). One such partnership is Uganda Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons (UCATIP), which is headed by UYDEL.

Uganda Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons (UCATIP)

UCATIP was established in 2012 after the official inauguration of the National Task Force, steering and policy committees. The Ministry of Internal Affairs advised CSOs involved in counter human trafficking programs to organize themselves into a coalition from which representation would be drawn for the CTIP National Task Force. UCATIP seeks a society free from human trafficking through consultation, coordination, cooperation and advocacy.

UYDEL's work in the area of child trafficking

Identification, rehabilitation and reintegration:

For the past years, UYDEL has been handling cases of child trafficking - both internal and external - with funding from ECPAT France, United Nations Fund of Contemporary Forms of Slavery and Terre des Homme. In 2014, UYDEL handled 217 cases of child trafficking: 79 were males and 138 were females between the ages of 10-24 years; 4 of these were international cases. In 2015, UYDEL has so far handled 238 cases of child trafficking (106 boys and 132 girls.)



Social worker and Zombo District in west Nile Region probation officer in the field sensitizing community members about child trafficking

With the help of the local leaders, police, probation officers and other stake holders, UYDEL social workers have been in position to identify these young people from various districts of the country. These include Mityana, Kasese, Bundibugyo, Masaka, Wakiso, Iganga, Busia, Kamuli, Tororo. UYDEL has also supported with cross boarder cases from Tanzania, DRC and Kenya. Some of these young people have been reintegrated back to their communities and their families have been supported by an IGA in form of cash to boost their income-generating activities.



Social worker working with police to rescue child victims of trafficking

UYDEL has been in position to withdraw and rehabilitate 215 young people from their communities and has been in position to reintegrate 110 young people with their families.



Child victims of trafficking being reunited with their families

Challenges

However, there are some challenges encountered by the social workers while in the field, especially while dealing with international cases which are hard to follow up. Language is another barrier when a third party must be involved to translate; this breaks down the level of confidentiality. Another challenge is that some stakeholders are not aware of the crime and to where they should report, which makes reporting and referral of such cases difficult.

Way forward

There should be continuous mass sensitization about child trafficking to families, children/youths and other relevant stake holders in different communities.

Well-organized national referral systems of service delivery must be developed that involve government and CSOs. This will enable the mapping out of the available services currently offered by the various CSOs service providers, which will optimize service delivery.

Consistent engagement and consultation between government and CSOs are needed to promote effective management of the crime of TIP, transparent systems of accountability, and harmonized approaches to the management of the problem of TIP, (i.e. harmonized interpretations and data collection tools.)

b. Drug and alcohol abuse

President Museveni says that, “*alcohol kills young people’s innovativeness.*”

Commentary by Mr. Rogers Kasirye, UYDEL Executive Director

President Museveni said that alcohol kills young people's innovativeness. He also expressed concern over the alcohol use of young Ugandans. Museveni said that alcohol causes premature death to Ugandan youth - calling it slow suicide. He was quoted in one of the national newspaper the *Uganda Daily Monitor*, see link below¹. The president has been on spot on many times about the harmful effect of alcohol in the country. This is of great concern in Uganda which has one of the highest estimated per capita consumption of alcohol world-wide.

I want to agree with President basing on several studies and projects done in Uganda that alcohol consumption has reached unprecedented levels, especially among young people. The huge cost that comes with alcohol may be difficult to contain. President Museveni has cautioned the youth and the elderly in Bugwere sub-region against engaging in reckless sexual behavior and excessive alcohol consumption. Mr. Museveni was addressing hundreds of people who turned up for the Bugwere Transformation Initiative (BUTI) convocation on Saturday.

A dissection of the president's argument will show that alcohol is a precursor to self-control and impairs decision-making among young people when it comes to indulgence in sex. It increase chances of recklessness and leads one to compromise healthy lifestyles including putting on condoms and safe sex that goes with it. Chances are high for contracting STDs, HIV/AIDS, early pregnancy and early child bearing. Alcohol as a serious casual factor has been sidelined from the discussion, and I am happy the President has identified this issue.

The critical impact of an un-regulated alcohol environment in Uganda, how it impacts food production negatively, and how it increases poverty, domestic violence unemployment and other crimes in the country needs to be thoroughly examined. An alcohol-

regulated policy environment would provide a panacea for development and help citizens escape famine and other ills.

Regulation of alcohol in Uganda will come with a lot of dividends for the economy in terms of increased food production and unplanned diversion of food crops for alcohol production. We can argue that the benefits will supersede the supposedly earned alcohol revenue, which is eaten away in terms of substance abuse treatment, law enforcement cost and mental health and crime related problems. For the first time the Uganda government was able to increase taxation on Alcohol by 100% thresholds as one way to discourage drinking and make it a little bit difficult to buy, regulate the sales time and places, eliminate small packaging of alcohol products, and regulate density distribution beer selling shops (liquor stores) and places. There is now an increase in comments on the negative effects from senior leaders in the government.

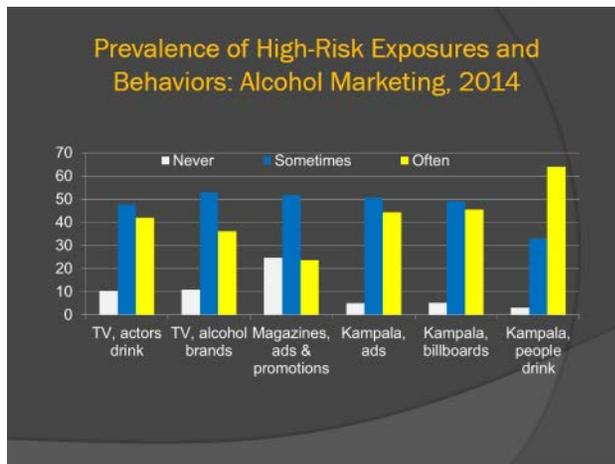
Turning to major food crops to make beer by the alcohol industry has started to interfere with food security in Uganda. Household heads are selling all their food to get money and end up using it to buy premier cheap beer and other local gins. Because husbands (and wives) are spending more time drinking alcohol, consumption is seriously affecting their contribution in terms of digging and planning for food production. Most of their productive time is spent drinking and then nursing hangovers. Alcohol consumption has been made so cheap and easy by way of small sachet packages (which fit into a shirt pocket).

Imbibing excess ethanol (up to 40 percent ethanol): many young people now are found drunk in villages and small trading centers into wee hours of the morning. Bars and places start selling alcohol as early as 8am, yet this early morning time could be translated into food production time. Generally food production has gone down since most of it has been left to women; more young people are caught stealing food because did not take advantage of the rains when they came to plant food for themselves.

A project currently undertaken by the UYDEL and Georgia State University (GSU) 2013-2015 in urban slums of Kampala has yielded

¹ http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Museveni-warns-youth-on-alcohol/-/688334/2713504/-/sb416e/-/index.html?_scoop_post=48d651a0-f8e2-11e4-e80a-842b2b775358&_scoop_topic=3296145#_scoop_post=48d651a0-f8e2-11e4-e80a-842b2b775358&_scoop_topic=3296145

an unfavorable report on alcohol consumption and high levels of alcohol exposure among the youth. As illustrated in the table below,



exposure to alcohol advertising and ownership of alcohol promotional items increases the risk of alcohol use among adolescents (Hurtz et al., 2007). What has been noted is that out of 1134 youth interviewed 50% drink more than 2 times per week and 72% drink alcohol with their friends. The study report also indicated that 56% of youth never used a condom and 46% report sex with 3 or more partners; 17% had been raped.

Long term solution or short term solutions

The president argued that,

“We need to battle this serious problem and measures have to be taken. The youth must be informed of the dangers that alcohol can cause. The youth should not shorten their lives by taking too much alcohol and engaging in prostitution....Most energetic youth spent their time on alcohol all the time and eventually it leaves their cheeks and mouth completely swollen because of too much liquor. This is not good because it is slow suicide.”

The solutions provided by the president largely dwell around individual levels, mainly education and awareness. This is a good method but it has been found to be ineffective and a long term impact is almost absent. The taxation measure recently passed in

national budget is one of the greatest tool government can use to clamp to limit on excess drinking.

Addressing structural factors especially individual levels are good; but we need to tackle alcohol problem by challenging factors at interpersonal and neighborhood levels addressing social and sexual networks and those that make drinking in Uganda permissible. Monica Swahn a professor from GSU noted in the Kampala Youth Survey Report that high-risk youth living in the slums of Kampala report a high prevalence of HIV and HIV-related sexual risk practices as well as sexual victimization. Alcohol use, specifically drunkenness and use of alcohol prior to engaging in sexual activity, appears to be significant correlates of positive HIV status.

It is clear that these vulnerable youth are in need of additional services and guidance to ameliorate their adverse childhood experiences, current health risk behaviors and disparate living context. Findings from focus groups by GSU indicates that youth are aware of high levels of alcohol use and associated risks. However, youth do not appear to link alcohol use and risk for HIV.

There is an urgent need to address policy issues, as well as the formal and informal production and marketing of alcohol. For Uganda, this urgently requires:

A quick review and revision of the Alcohol law enacted in 1965. Suggestion and good practices exist in the region.

Setting up an alcohol policy and address issues of marketing, packaging, selling points and times.

An endowment fund from the extra 5% taxation from alcohol to support prevention education, research, treatment and rehabilitation programs.

A national alcohol board/commission funded by the alcohol endowment fund to assist nationally and at districts in regulation of alcohol. This will limit exposure; address alcohol marketing and overall lack of a national policy to address the huge problem posed by alcohol in Uganda.

c) *For the Health of It: Early Education on Alcoholism and Addiction*

Alcohol is the number one drug of choice for young people in Uganda, and is more likely to kill young people than all illegal drugs combined.

[Alcohol use by young people](#) is extremely dangerous both to themselves and to society, and is directly associated with traffic fatalities, violence, suicide, educational failure, alcohol overdose, unsafe sex and other problem behaviors, even for those who may never develop a [dependence or addiction](#).

Reducing underage drinking is critical to securing a healthy future for young people in Uganda and requires a [cooperative effort](#) from parents, schools, community organizations, business leaders, government agencies, the entertainment industry, alcohol manufacturers/retailers and young people themselves.

Using different strategies, UYDEL is increasing public awareness and encouraging local communities to focus on alcoholism and alcohol-related issues.

Through a team of 40 peer educators spread out in the different schools and communities, many young people have been equipped with knowledge and skills to help them say no to alcohol.

Richard, a peer educator, narrates “It’s quite surprising... you would think that they wouldn’t listen, but they did!”

The youth want to receive advice and support from professionals who have some understanding of their experiences and who know how to communicate with them and “speak their language”.

School is a setting with a lot of risky behaviours given that students come from different areas and cultures, alcohol has been identified as one of the biggest challenges for many school teachers and administrators, Teacher from different secondary school in Busukuuma ,Nangabo and Nabweru counties in Wakiso district in a one day training at Masoolicentre were oriented teachers about their roles in controlling alcohol use among students and the best practices of prevention of underage alcohol consumption all aimed at creating a safe and an alcohol free environment where young people are motivated to learn and improve on their performance.

With teachers on board, weekly school visits are conducted in ten secondary schools in Nangabo, Busukuuma and Nabweru sub counties. Through the school visits, social workers from UYDEL hold group and individual sessions with the students to help them understand the impact of alcohol use and the associated problems.

Thanks go to IOGT for supporting this initiative. However, more community awareness about alcohol and its associated harm is still needed because alcohol does not only affect one person, but the entire community.

“Sober is cool, stay away from alcohol”

d) Sensitizing of parents and law enforcement makers about socio-economic reintegration

UYDEL held awareness meeting with parents, bars, lodges, hotels and brothel owners about socio-economic reintegration. Topics included ways to strengthen parenting skills as well as information about existing labor laws in Uganda.



Participants pose for a group photo after bar, lodge, hotel and brothel owners meeting.

e) Child Participation in Advocacy

As UYDEL’s aim is to empower disadvantaged young people so that they can be useful citizens in Uganda, UYDEL has encouraged young people’s participation in various activities and celebrations such as World Day Against Child Labor, commemorations in Hoima, and International Day of the African Child celebrations in Kayunga and Mukono.



UYDEL young people participate and appeal to everyone to take action to end child Marriages in Hoima during the WDACL





Young people at Mukono Youth Centre during the Day of African Child celebrations

f) UYDEL Social Work Internship Program

Perspectives of an International Intern

Contribution by Allyson Fritz, Masters in Social Work Candidate at University of California, Berkeley, School of Social Welfare



UYDEL is engaged in many different service domains and serves large numbers of young people who are dealing with a variety of challenges. While the work they do in child trafficking, child labor, HIV/AIDS prevention and drug and alcohol abuse is often highlighted, one thing that I think is not talked about enough is their investment in building the capacity of future social workers in Uganda.

Currently, UYDEL is hosting 20 interns from various universities across Uganda. These students are studying for their bachelor's degree in areas that include social work, social administration, and development studies. I too am studying to be a social worker, so I appreciate how critical the internship experience is. It helps ensure

that graduating social workers have the confidence and skills to successfully carry out the work they choose to do. Unlike the majority of the interns here, though, I am not from Uganda. I came to intern with UYDEL for two months as I am studying for my Masters in Social Work degree in the United States. I am one of a handful of international interns who have the privilege to be working alongside the Ugandan interns and social workers employed by UYDEL. It has been a very valuable experience to compare social work in the United States to social work in Uganda, as well as compare social work education between the two countries.

The Ugandan interns at UYDEL are getting hands-on experience in what it is like to work for a local NGO that serves vulnerable youth. They are learning how to conduct assessments, write case studies, lead group counseling sessions, and carry out follow-up interviews with graduates. Everything that a UYDEL social worker does, they have the opportunity to do as well (including everyone's favorite part: the paperwork.)

As an international intern who does not speak Luganda, my learning experience has been less focused on direct service with beneficiaries and more on program implementation and evaluation. This is the concentration of my program in the U.S. and it is what I am deeply interested in: learning how social service organizations carry out

their mission, implement programs, and ensure that their services are meeting the needs defined by the beneficiaries themselves. I am eager to see what techniques and strategies are used by UYDEL that could enhance service provision in the United States. My eight short weeks here are flying by, but I am extremely grateful for all that UYDEL has taught me. And I think that UYDEL is doing a great

service to Ugandan students as well. By offering internship placements to social work students, they are providing work experience that will prepare them to confidently and competently tackle the social problems that have driven them to enter this important field of work.

g) UYDEL Successful Story from Linkup Project

Empowerment of female sex workers through access to safe sex supplies

Condoms and lubricants were in short supply and free condoms not available for sex workers and fisher folks in isolated areas like Koome Island. This increased their vulnerability to STIs including HIV infection combined with unmet need of SRH/HIV/AIDS services. However, with Support from Community Health Alliance Uganda (CHAU) under the link up project, UYDEL has been able to distribute and promote male and female condoms, and water-based Lubricants to sex workers which apparently has been a major motivation factor for female sex workers to embrace safer sexual practices. Female sex workers at Koome Island and in brothels reported high rates of lubricant use with male and female condoms *“Since we sex workers keep on having penetrative sex with irregular multiple partners both vaginally and anally, learning to use condoms properly, and using them consistently with a lubricant has been a major motivation for us in adopting safer sex. Lubricants have practically helped us to moisten our sexual organs making it comfortable for us during intercourse. This has reduced the friction which put extra strain on the condom, pain and bruises we get when having sex while the vagina is dry. In fact we do not have to wait to be given lubricants since now we evidently know how they look like and the comfort it gives with a condom”.*



Sex workers posing with condoms at koome islands

Promotion of integrated SRHR / HIV education and services has been done through weekly community outreaches , targeted dialogues, peer to peer led approaches that have significantly addressed preventable risks including condom breakage, leakage, and slippage during sex, putting on two condoms, covering the testicles/balls with a condom. These education sessions increased the knowledge and skills of female sex workers on proper condom and lubricant usage in prevention of unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections (STIs)

Response from sex workers on Link up intervention has been inspiring, empowering, and demonstrating a significant impact in the lives of key young populations not withstanding that sex workers have been key stakeholders and have had the right to decide where, when and whether they get tested, receive services or not. UYDEL has learnt that community-peer led approaches, supportive leadership

including HIV. UYDEL provided condom dispensers in sex work hot spots and are functional – these too boosted condom supply in their places like Bars, brothels, lodge and their other establishments. Sex workers utilized other services including; HIV counseling and testing, family planning, pregnant tests and STI treatment, cervical cancer screening and enrollment on ART through referrals all provided in a respectful and confidential manner.

and management of adequate supplies and commodities is key in creating demand and utilization of services among key young populations.



HCT services being utilized by sex worker on the left and a fisher folk on the right at Koome Island

Upcoming Events

Alcohol Launch on Thursday 3rd 2015

Regional meeting sharing on Alcohol experience in East Africa organized by IOGT 20th-23rd

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