Substance abuse problems in Uganda
A hidden problem
Vital issues
My role in the country
UYDEL work
National vital statistics

- HIV/AIDS is still a problem in Uganda and prevalence was estimated at 6.4% in 2005.

- 50% of 31 million of population are under 15 years.

- In 2004 Uganda was No. in alcohol consumption in the world according to WHO.

- Human development index 143rd position. Dire need and on drip.
Children under 18 years constitute 57.4% of Uganda’s 31 million people.

Of Uganda’s 31 percent under the poverty threshold, 62% are children.

Number of orphans 2.43 million in 2010.

HIV prevalence in Uganda is 6.5%.

75% of Ugandans live in poor quality houses, lack basic utilities such as water and sanitation.

Overall literacy rate among males of 76% compared to females at 63%.

High fertility rate of 6.9% per woman has resulted into a high population growth rate of 3.2 percent.
Extent and Cost of Drug Abuse

Alcohol is number one
Sedatives, cannabis,
Inhalants Opiates, synthetic
narcotic analgesics and
Hallucinogens.

Increasing lack of discipline in
a number of urban youth,
vioence, poverty, crime,
accidents
Increased Use

Police reported that in 2009, 2,274 arrests made compared to 2,542 in 2008.

In 2008-9 over 54 Ugandans had been arrested outside and 38 convicted to death in China.

Other from various countries from India, Kenyans Nigerian, Pakistanis and Tanzanians in Uganda.

Increase is attributed to unemployment, social upheavals, family disruptions, drop-outs from school.

Increased production and trafficking, availability of the drug. Inadequate laws and weak border controls.
Association with poverty, road accidents and HIV/AIDS

- The 5th major cause of poverty in Uganda.
- Road accidents have tripled in the last 5 years and mostly affected young people.
- Unprotected and high risk sexual behavior and teenage pregnancies are associated with HIV/AIDS.
- Food shortage/famine because young people spend more time drinking, less time in the fields.
- Domestic violence increases and compromises power relations in homes.
Responses to drug abuse

• Uganda does not have an effective law, though one has been on the shelves since 2005.
• The National Drug Authority Act 2000 is weak and comprehensive.
• NGO with limited capacity operates in major urban centers and impact difficult to measure.
• Active NGOs have been UYDEL, Serenity a decline in NGOs due to limited funding,
• Drug education is incorporated in schools.
Treatment and Rehabilitation

- 12 specialized facilities.
- 25% mental cases is due to drug abuse.
- Different levels of facilitation, border porous unmanned and manpower affect joint fight in the East African region.
- Networking among NGOs is steal weak, Work to reduce alcohol and drug abuse is supported by IOGT-NTO and Mentor Foundation.
UN Conventions

**UN Conventions on Narcotics**


Narcotics enforcement is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and treatment is under Health.

Uganda is now known as a producer, consumer and transit country for drug trafficking.
Khat, which is not currently under international control, continues to be cultivated in Uganda.
Although khat consumption is associated with health risks and may have detrimental social consequences, the prohibition of khat is yet to be effected.
Banned by US and In Europe.
Need to carry out 1<sup>st</sup> Accurate assessment of prevalence rates
Training of staff in the region
Advocacy for Strengthening National Drug control
Support NGOs efforts to increase prevention
Programs targeting young people
Dissemination of good practices and Information.
Factors escalating the use of alcohol

- High alcohol content
- Packing small
- Cheap
- Advertising
- Poor law enforcement
- (place, time and age)
Develop alternatives like music/sports
Involve parents and communities
Increase Awareness on drug abuse
Thank You
Reference

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