



UGANDA HARM REDUCTION NETWORK (UHRN)

“Our Lives begin to End the Day we Become Silent About things that Concerns Us”

A REPORT ON AN HCT ACTIVITY HELD IN KALERWE ON 26th JUNE 2014 TO COMMEMORATE THE INTERNATIONAL - DAY - AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING SUPPORTED BY UGANDA HARM REDUCTION (UHR) IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MARPI MULAGO UNDER THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

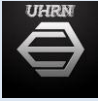
On the 26th June 2014 Uganda Harm Reduction in Partnership with Most at Risk Populations Initiative (MARPI Mulago) under the ministry of Health conducted an HCT activity to deliver integrated HIV counseling, testing and treatment services to the key population group of people who use drugs in Kalerwe Dhobi zone, kawempe division – Kampala City. The event was organized to commemorate the International – Day - Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The event was graced by a sensitisation session for drug users from Kalerwe Dhobi zone, kawempe division – Kampala City.

The objective of the HIV Testing and Counseling (HCT) activity was to deliver integrated HIV counseling, testing and treatment services to the key population group of people who use drugs in Kalerwe Dhobi zone, kawempe division – Kampala City. The activity was manned by Uganda Harm Reduction in partnership with MARPI Mulago under Ministry Of Health.

Uganda Harm Reduction’s Tushabe Janefer – the outreach coordinator and Lukwago Hamza - the Outreach worker kawempe Division mobilized over two hundred of UHR’s members (drugs users) in Kalerwe Dhobi zone, kawempe division – Kampala City with the support from MARPI Mulago working under the Ministry Of Health.

The Uganda Harm Reduction’s Outreach team managed to meet the local council team in Dhobi Zone Kalerwe to seek the Chairman’s permission and the venue for the event which Mr. Dirisa the chairman welcomed and accepted.

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A Health worker testing a Drug User



A Health worker from MARPI Mulago testing a Drug User

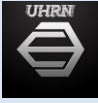


A Health worker from MARPI Mulago testing a Drug User

The HCT activity attracted over two hundred drug users (200) but only one hundred (100) were tested and given six cartons of Condoms due to limited HIV testing kits. Those who were not tested were referred to MARPI Mulago Hospital. The exercise was appreciated by many drug users. However, some asked for other testing's like cancer screening, syphilis, ghonorria, TB, Hepatitis and their treatment which were not on the program. These were referred.

Tushabe Janefer - UHR's Outreach coordinator demonstrated male condom use by use of hands because she did not have the male dido while trying to answer a question on how to use a condom from some drug users.

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UHR's Janefer Demonstrating condom use

Challenges:

There were no tents and enough seats for the event because members suffered a lot in staying in sunshine and even the doctors themselves also suffered in shifting tables and seats to find the shadow in the chairman's court yard.

Limited resources for mobilization and for hiring a venue

Limited HIV testing kits for testing the entire number of drug users who were mobilized by Uganda Harm Reduction.

Recommendations

We suggest that, psychosocial support services are still wanting especially among positive living drug users on treatment.

We also request MARPI Mulago to support more HCTs in other areas of the four divisions of Kampala, and Wakiso districts to meet the drug user's needs.

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MARPI Mulago should also add other equipments such as dido's for demonstrating condom use, tents and seats for the HCT program and more HIV testing kits for each of the event

GALLERY



Janefer with Drug Users after testing



Janefer with Drug Users after testing



Janefer with Drug Users after testing



Janefer with Drug Users after testing



MARPI health workers running the VCT

partnership with MARPI Mulago under the ministry of health

partnership with MARPI Mulago under the