

Photo with Caption



## **Good Practice Case Study among MARPs in Uganda:**

**Implementing Organization:** Uganda youth Development Link (UYDEL)

**Title of program or activity by implementing organization:** Prevention, Withdrawal and Rehabilitation of Young Commercial Sex Workers in Kampala District

**Project length: (dates)** 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010

**Geographic reach:** (names of districts covered) Kampala District – (Kawempe and Rubaga Division)

**Estimated beneficiaries reached:** (estimated number of target audience name) 170 Commercial Sex workers within the age group of 15 to 30 years

### **1. Background/Problem statement (1 – 2 paragraphs)**

Although commercial sex work is illegal in Uganda, it is an old trade that is common in most urban and peri-urban areas and comes with a lot of challenges. Since interventions to address issues of commercial sex workers are still limited, there is need for designing interventions that will help decriminalize the practice and provide services to those affected to be safe from harassment, and increase their access to both health and social interventions. Stigmatization of sex workers does not help reduce the HIV prevalence and incidence but further pushes the practice into hiding and makes every intervention difficult as denial and exclusion increase. Therefore creating a safe cultural sensitive environment to improve health, livelihood and access to services through advocacy and life skills training among other interventions helps to increase the empowerment, prevention and the possibility for CSWs and their clients to make informed choices.

Therefore UYDEL proposed a one year project to UHMG to consolidate prevention, withdrawal and rehabilitation of 170 CSWs and to advocate for creation of a safe cultural sensitive environment that would empower the 170 identified sex workers with life skills and livelihood skills to enable them make informed choices. The Project was implemented in Kampala City with a particular focus on the Divisions of Kawempe, and Rubaga that are characterized by existence of the biggest urban and peri-urban slums with high prevalence of Commercial Sex Work.

### **2. Audience addressed**

The direct beneficiaries of the project withdrawn and rehabilitated were 170 Commercial Sex Workers with in the age group of 15 -30 years living in the hard to reach peri-urban areas of Kawempe and Rubaga Divisions in Kampala District.

The indirect beneficiaries of the project included community members like the local leaders, clients of the CSWs, parents, bar/ hotel and lodge owners among other. All these were reached with HIV prevention and Family Planning educational messages through

creating and promoting the development of HIV work place policies and educational community drama shows

### 3. Program objectives

Objective 1: Support vocational skills development among CSWs.

Objective 2: Strengthen the capacity of CSWs to provide HIV prevention messages

Objective 3: Promote the use of condoms among CSWs

### 4. Program strategies used (e.g., peer education, health service outreach, drama and film shows, etc. ....) and their purpose (how do these strategies help you reach your objectives?)

UYDEL used the following strategies to strengthen the interventions for the 170CSWs withdrawn, rehabilitated and resettled with their families/ guardians in the hard to reach street/ slum areas of Kampala District:

- a) Prevention: This strategy will promote friendly HIV prevention, care and support services at the drop in centers and community outreach posts. It will also aim at the reduction of multiple sexual partners, drug use, unwanted pregnancies and STDs/ STIs transmission among CSWs. This strategy will be supported by a strong behavior change communication component that will include film and drama shows. Additionally, at the drop in centers and outreach posts the commercial sex workers undergoing rehabilitation will be engaged in activities that promote positive leisure, recreation, sports and talent identification activities such as music dance and drama.
- b) Rehabilitation and withdrawal from the trade: Through this strategy, UYDEL will empower commercial sex workers with skills that will provide them with alternative sources of income. It is hoped that through the provision of the alternative sources of income, the CSWs will be lured to withdrawal from the sex trade. This would be further augmented by the provision of basic resettlement kits, start-up capital and IGAs that will enable the trained CSWs to practice the vocational skills they will have learnt.
- c) Peer-to-Peer Networking: The withdrawn commercial sex workers will be required to be participating in the prevention and withdrawal strategies at the same time increase the spread of information about services and opportunities available for CSWs at the drop-in centers and outreach posts. The peer educators (comprised of either victims or former victims of drug abuse, CSWs among others) will be trained in the District to act as peer educators, counselors, mobilize community members and fellow peers, distribute IEC materials, referral of colleagues to outposts and drop in centre for services. This strategy has been found to be very key in increasing CSWs' participation, information, promotion of positive peer pressure, provision of basic counseling and referral; strengthening mobile outreach activities at the drop in centers and outreach posts which act as a reception for assessment and provision of friendly support services.

- d) Advocacy and Lobby: This strategy will aim at raising awareness among policy makers and key community stakeholders like the local leaders, law enforcement officers, hotel lodge, brothel, video and bar owners to strengthen laws and create bi- laws and workplace policies in bars and lodges to minimize gender base violence( both sexual and physical) and promotion of condom use
- e) Networking and referral: UYDEL will network with the following partners to achieve the project goal and objectives

Partner	Area of collaboration
UHMG/ AFFORD	Technical Supervision and Financial Support
Good life Clinics	Referral for STI/STD treatment, FP, HCT and other medical care and support
Kawempe and Kawaala Health centre IV and III	Referral for STI/STD treatment, FP, HCT and other medical care and support
Mulago hospital IDC clinic	Treatment for HIV positive young people

- f) Formation of Commercial Sex Workers' Support Groups: The objective of forming these Support Groups is to involve the communities in UYDEL activities, strengthen the community social protection networks and to have effective behavioral change among the 170 withdrawn CSWs. UYDEL has realized that there is need to form Support Groups in each of the project areas to reach more CSWs with messages about the project. These Support Groups, shall mainly act as referral systems in the community, they also help in community mobilization and sensitization about HIV/AIDS and other risky behaviors. The Support Groups shall be equipped with skills on how to create good- friendly relationships with their fellow CSWs and how to generate income in order to help each other have a bright future. These Support Groups will also act as a link between UYDEL and the community and they will also monitor and give feedback to UYDEL on the progress of the activities in the community and what gaps that need immediate attention. These groups shall also help the project to be owned by the community since we work hand in hand with them to effect behavioral change among the CSWs.

5. **Activities and results** (Don't forget to describe how results were monitored and measured)

Activities

Objective 1: Support vocational skills development among CSWs.

- Placement of 170 CSWs for Vocational skills training
- Resettlement and reintegration of the 170 CSWs back into the community
- Follow the resettled CSWs to assess their progress
- Provide IGA support and start-up capital to the CSWs

Objective 2: Strengthen the capacity of CSWs to provide HIV prevention messages

- Conduct community outreach programs through use of community educative drama shows to sensitize and create awareness on HIV prevention ,care and support, FP planning
- Train 30 peer educators

- Conduct weekly Educational talks on FP and HIV prevention with the CSWs and their families
- Promotion of FP/HCT/STI treatment and diagnosis for the CSWs

Objective 3: Promote the use of condoms among CSWs

- Provision of Condoms and other FP methods to the CSWs
- Orientation of bar/ lodge owners on
- Hold a bar/ lodge/hotel/ brothel owners' meeting to finalize the HIV workplace policies

### **Outputs/ results**

- A total of 170 CSWs were trained in vocational skills and resettled and reintegrated back into the communities with their families and friends after the training and rehabilitation program.
- A total of 300 CSWs and their customers (friends) were provided with referrals for HCT, STIs diagnosis and treatment, Family planning and other medical conditions.
- A total of 30 peer educators were trained and as a result 300 CSWs were reached through peer to peer education
- A total of 30 bar/ lodges/brothel owners were oriented about the importance of having HIV/AIDS workplace policies
- A total of 100,000 condoms were distributed
- A total of 170 moon beads were distributed.

### **6. Main lessons learned (including challenges)**

The use of former and the current CSWs as Peer mobilizers and the involvement of the Hotel/Lodge and bar owners and the local leaders eases mobilization of the CSWs. And helps improve and accelerates referral and linkage of the CSWs to services and information at the UYDEL centres. The Peer Educators strategy increases community involvement and participation in project implementation, mapping of priority areas, decision making and eases the monitoring, follow up, resettlement and reintegration of the rehabilitated CSWs back into the community.

Majority of the CSWs benefiting from the project are faced with multiple problems as many are single parents coming from impoverished families with no or limited means of survival other than engaging in sex work for survival. Hence the use of the vocational skills training and Income generation strategies ensures that they are able to earn a descent income to meet their needs and those of their vulnerable children without exposing themselves and their families to HIV infection.

### **7. Opportunities for the future**

Withdrawal and rehabilitation of another 100 CSWs in Kampala District

#### ***Program focal persons: (contact, e-mail, and phone)***

Name: Rogers Kasirye Telephone No: +256-0772-470190

Email: [kasiryer@yahoo.com](mailto:kasiryer@yahoo.com)

Name: Anna Nabulya Telephone No: +256- 0776-700555

Email: [nkanna.kavuma@gmail.com](mailto:nkanna.kavuma@gmail.com)

Or: [annaxk@yahoo.com](mailto:annaxk@yahoo.com)