

## **Programmatic Report**

**Project Title: Prevention, Withdraw and Rehabilitation of Commercial Sex Workers in Kampala District**

**Implementing Agency: Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL)**

**Submitted to: Uganda Health Marketing Group (UHMG)**

**Reporting Period 1st June 2009 to 30th July 2009**

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### **Introduction:**

The Prevention, Withdrawal and Rehabilitation project for Commercial Sex Workers is being implemented by UYDEL in Kawempe and Rubaga Division in Kampala District, Uganda where big slums that are characterized by high prevalence of CSW exist.

The project is aimed at raising awareness on HIV transmission, prevention and scaling up services for commercial sex workers; strengthening the community social protection networks to prevent, withdraw some of the sex workers from the trade and rehabilitate some of the commercial sex workers. The project also aims at empowering CSWs with safer alternative sources of income to reduce dependency on finances raised from commercial sex work which exposes them to HIV infection.

### **Achievements/ Accomplishments:**

#### **Objective 1: Support Vocational Skills Development among CSWs**

##### **Activity 1: Identification of CSWs for Vocational Skills Development**

With the support of the Project beneficiaries, community mobilizers, local leaders, Hotel Lodge and bar Owners, UYDEL staff and Volunteers were able to identify and mobilize a total of 84 CSWs (74 female and 10 male) living in the slum areas of Kawempe and Rubaga Division to acquire vocational skills training at the UYDEL centers in Nakulabye and Bwaise. Some of the beneficiaries have been provided with temporary accommodation at the UYDEL skills and retreat centre in Masooli as they undergo rehabilitation.

Many of the CSWs identified were using alcohol, drugs and substance abuse, engaging in commercial sex, some of the boys identified were acting as pimps. Many were victims of child labor, sexual harassment; trafficking and some were working in bars, hotels and dancing in karaoke groups. Some of the young CSWS were orphans who had lost one or both parents. Majority of the CSWs have children and are living by themselves. Some do not know the fathers of their children and for those that know the fathers have lost contact with the fathers or don't get any help from the fathers.



*Some of the project beneficiaries acquiring vocational skills training in hairdressing at the UYDEL drop-in centre in Nakulabye*

## **Activity 2:** Conducting of home visits to verify the information

This activity was aimed at verifying information provided by the project beneficiaries during identification; and understanding the environments in which the CSWs come from/ stay by interacting with their family members and guardians and sensitizing them about the HIV prevention care and support; and prepare/ plan for the resettlement/ reintegration of the CSWs benefiting from the project.

A total of 25 CSWs (all female) in Rubaga Division were visited.

It was observed during the home visits that majority of the CSWs' homes/ places of residences were in the slum areas, with limited sleeping space (one roomed/ two roomed houses) and yet some of the family sizes are too big for the available space (for example a family of 10 people was found to be living in a two roomed house). It was also noted that most of the homes visited had very poor sanitation, poor drainage systems, and poor or no toilet facilities.

It was also noted that, some of the CSWs were living alone with no relative or caregiver and fending for themselves. Though even those staying with their parents and guardians and caregivers were also fending for themselves because the parents were separated, some parents/ guardians/ caregivers, were jobless, some were earning very little income which could not allow them to provide for their families

and others the parents and guardians and caregivers had abandoned them. Some of the young people were staying with single mothers and others were staying with their employers.

### **Activity 3: Resettlement of CSWs**

This activity is planned to take place at the end of September and November 2009. All the necessary requirements for this activity to be successfully completed will be procured, prepared and stored at the UYDEL vocational skills and retreat centre.

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

### **Activity 1: Conduct community outreach programs**

With the support of local leaders, Parents, Peer Educators and the hotel/ lodge/ bar owners within the various villages/ communities of Kawempe Division, the UYDEL staff were able to mobilize a variety of people (both the young people and adults) to attend the 2 educative drama shows that were organized by the UYDEL drama groups in the communities of Bwaise II, Bukasa Zone and Bwaise III St. Francis Zone in Kawempe Division, on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July 2009 and 29<sup>th</sup> of July 2009 respectively.

The Community Educative drama shows were aimed at sensitizing and creating awareness in the communities on the dangers of engaging in commercial sex work and its contribution to the increases in the HIV prevalence and incidence rates in the communities. The items presented included, poems, skits, songs and traditional dances.

A total of 147 people (67 male and 80 female) attended the drama show at Bwaise II in Bukasa Zone and a total of 238 people (118 male and 120 female) attended the drama show at Bwaise III in St Francis Zone.

As a result of the drama shows in both areas, 15 CSWs (3 male and 12 female) came to the UYDEL outreach post to register for vocational skills training and other services like HCT and counseling.

### **Activity 2: Conduct weekly dialogues**

The weekly dialogues were done on a weekly basis at both Centers in Kawempe and Rubaga Division. Every Wednesday a weekly dialogue is conducted with the project beneficiaries at the UYDEL outreach post in Bwaise, St. Francis Zone and every Friday of the week a dialogue is conducted with the project beneficiaries at the UYDEL drop-in centre in Nakulabye. The weekly dialogues are group counseling sessions aimed at creating resilience and Behavioral change among the CSWs.

Among the topics discussed through debates, question and answer sessions and group discussions include: The risks of engaging in Commercial Sexual Work (something for something love); alcohol, drug

and substance abuse; Business skills; Hygiene; HIV/AIDS/ STIs; Abortion; Family planning; Menstruation; HIV Prevention and condom use; Positive living; Peer Counseling; coping and resilience; Nutrition; early marriages; risky behaviors and life skills among others. Sometimes the CSWs are asked to come up with topics of their choice for discussion, give testimonies, and come up with small skits showing real life situations of the topics to be discussed. Some of the motions for debate are generated from the questions asked by the children during discussions.

Some of the topics discussed for example Drug and Substance abuse, and Nutrition among others, are chosen based on the assessments done and reviews from the beneficiaries' profiles and one on one counseling sessions. Many of the CSWs have either suffered abuse or mistreatment by their employers spouses and parents mainly due to parents' use of excessive alcohol, some of the CSWs have confessed that at one point in their lifetime they have used alcohol and drugs and others have confessed that they have friends who are using alcohol and drugs.

The reference materials used to guide these sessions include: the psychosocial support manual developed by TPO and MGLSD; Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children handbook for Key stakeholders in the Community developed by UYDEL; Life skills Manual developed by UNICEF; and the Peer to Peer Handbook developed by UYDEL.

### **Activity 3: Peer Educator's Training**

This activity is planned to be done next month when the CSF funds for the 2nd quarter are disbursed

### **Activity 4: HCT outreaches**

In collaboration with the Kawaala Health Centre III & Kawempe Health Centre IV a total 2 HCT sessions were conducted on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 2009 at UYDEL drop –in centre in Nakulabye and on the 28th of July 2009 at the UYDEL outreach post in Bwaise.

A total of 30 CSWS (30 Female) attended the HCT session at the UYDEL drop –in centre in Nakulabye. All the 30 CSWs tested HIV Negative.

### **Objective 3: To promote condom use among CSWs**

#### **Activity 1: Orientation of bar/ lodge owners**

On the 29th of June 2009, a total of 13 key stakeholders (11 Male and 2 Female) were oriented about the project in Kawempe and Rubaga Divisions meeting. Among the participants were local leaders/ hotel/ lodge/ bar owners. The orientation meeting was held at Namirembe Resource centre. The meeting was aimed at: orienting the stakeholders about the CSW project and UYDEL activities in Kawempe and Rubaga Division; identification of the needs and factors behind the involvement of young

people in CSW; discuss the relationship between CSW, HIV/AIDS and alcohol, drug and substance abuse; and community mobilization of CSWs and referral to the UYDEL centres for services.

During the social mapping exercise, the stakeholders identified the following hot spots where commercial sex worker is done: Wandegeya- Biashara street, Katanga, Market place, Kimombasa, Jambula, Post office and Mulago III- Kifumbira in Kawempe; and Elliot bar, Password bar, Kasindigili – Zone 4, Newlife bar, Bristol bar, MM pub Kabuusu, Holiday hotel, Sunset, Jose Paul, Kibizi, Kiga Lane, E – Zone and Kaipini in Rubaga Division.



Some of the places where commercial sex work is done in Rubaga Division and a local leader presenting effects of engaging in CSW



A participant presenting at a stakeholder's meeting

On the 24th of July 2009, a bar/ hotel/ lodge and brothel owners' orientation meeting was held at Exotic Inn in Bwaise. The target area was Kawempe Division and a total of 19 people (8 Male and 11 Female) attended the meeting. The meeting was aimed at: orienting them about the CSW project in Kawempe Division; creating linkages for networking and referral of CSWs for services at the UYDEL centres; and to kick start the process of drafting the HIV work place policies.

During the sharing of experiences session, the Participants commented that majority of the customers that come to there places carry their condoms. However it was also noted that there are customers who are shy and fear to ask for condoms at the reception hence the need to make sure that there is a box of condoms placed in every room so that whoever needs them can get them from the rooms. They also mentioned that some of the customers do not want to use the condoms because of the negotiations they had with the CSWs to have unprotected sex. It was also mentioned that some customers just tear the condoms but live them unused.

Participants agreed that if a work place policy is to be drafted, it should address the following issues: Proper and correct condom use, Being faithful to your partner, Abstinence and consistent condom use.



*Participant in the Hotel/ lodge/ bar/ brothel owner's meeting*

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 2009, an orientation meeting was held with Commercial Sex workers in Kawempe at the UYDEL outreach post in Bwaise. A total of 17 CSWs (all female) attended the meeting. The meeting was aimed at: orienting the CSWs about the CSWs' project; identifying community mobilizers and Peer Educators; and to create linkages for distribution and dissemination of condoms and other IEC materials.

During the sharing of experiences discussions, the participants talked about their operational areas in Kawempe and these included; Kimombasa, Jambula, Eden bar, St Francis Zone, Kawaala, Dobbie Zone in Kalerwe and Kisowera in Kawempe.

Among the recommendations made by the participants included; suggestions to take more than one vocational skill training to make them multi-skilled incase they fail to make it in one trade they can use the other; they wanted to act out and make a film about their lives in sex work, the problems and abuse

they are exposed to; and they requested for support towards sports with particular focus to football and netball and want UYDEL to provide them with sports uniforms and shoes.

### **Activity 2: Purchase condoms**

UYDEL is yet to contact UHMG for the disbursement of the condoms. This planned to take place in August

### **Success Story one:**

Namiga Caroline 16 years old stays with friends in Bwaise. She was referred to UYDEL by a local leader to acquire Vocational skills training in Hairdressing as a safer alternative to earn income for survival as opposed to commercial sex work. Caroline dropped out of school in Primary Six because her parents separated and no one was willing to pay her school dues. "I left home to start looking for a job, says Caroline. I got a job as a house girl and one day my employer raped me. I reported the case to the police but the police did not help me".

It was at this point in her life that Caroline met her friend in Kimombasa who lured her into commercial sex work to get some money for survival. Her friend introduced her to other friends in Kimombasa, Bwaise and these friends accepted Caroline to stay with them. In a one to one counseling session with a UYDEL staff, Caroline revealed that if provided with an alternative means of survival, she was willing to come out of commercial sex work. When asked what she wanted to do in future, Caroline said, "I want to open up salon and boutique on completing my training in Hairdressing".

### **Success Story two:**

Zalwango Aisha 23 years old stays with her child in Kazo. After the death of both her parents, her relatives rejected her and no one wanted to take care of her. "Life was hard in Semuto," says Aisha. So when a friend of mine suggested that we come to Kampala and engage in Prostitution to get some money I accepted", says Aisha.

In Kampala, we came to Kimombasa in Bwaise a place which is common for commercial sex work, Says Aisha. She became a prostitute but life got even harder because she was raped by some of the clients and sometimes, some of the clients refused to pay after they received a service.

Aisha managed to pay for her school fees up to Senior Three when she dropped out of school because she could not raise the money needed to pay the school dues. She then got a boyfriend who impregnated her. Her boyfriend was also leading a reckless life and had no job. One day he was arrested and imprisoned by the police. Aisha had nowhere to go for help and her only option was to go back into prostitution so that she could get money to look after herself and her baby.

On identification and assessment, Aisha told the UYDEL Social worker that if she is assisted to acquire vocational skills training in Electronics she is willing to come out of prostitution. Aisha says, " If I acquire skills training in Electronics, I believe I will be able to sustain myself and my baby but if I am not helped, I will go back into prostitution because it is the only survival skills I have right now."

Aisha was placed at the UYDEL Vocational Skills and Retreat Centre in Masooli to acquire vocational skills training in Electronics for a period of six months. She was provided with temporary accommodation at the centre and in addition to the above services she will also receive one to one counseling session on a regular basis and will be encouraged to participate and engage other recreational activities and behavioral change sessions while at the centre. Aisha left her baby with a friend for the six months she is going to be at the centre but is granted with permission on a weekly basis to go and visit her baby.