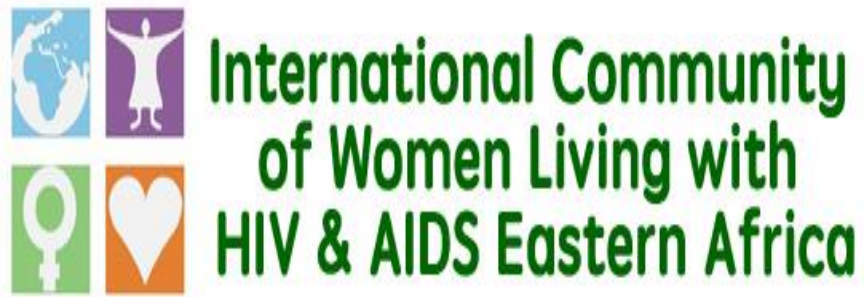


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Organization Name	International Community of Women Living with HIV eastern Africa (ICWEA)
Name of reporting Person	Kanyeihamba Robinah
Position	Volunteer
Date	21st/ 4/2016
Country	Uganda
Specific location/ Place of activity	Mukono District
Specific Meeting attended	International Women's day 2016

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Brief activity description

International Women's Day is a worldwide event that celebrates women's achievements – from the political to the social – while calling for gender equality. It has been observed since the early 1900s and is now recognized each year on March 8. In 1910, a woman called Clara Zetkin – leader of the 'women's office' for the Social Democratic Party in Germany – tabled the idea of an International Women's Day. She suggested that every country should celebrate women on one day every year to push for their demands and for that cause the international community of Women living with HIV Eastern Africa with the funding from Commonwealth Foundation took his opportunity to celebrate the day in Mukono District with the women living with HIV but also engaged the newly elected leaders in Mukono district in a dialogue were women living with HIV presented their needs and priorities that they felt that were very important to them as we are transiting from the MGDs to Sustainable development goals (SDGs). The 2016 theme is "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality". The idea is to accelerate the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) which was formally adopted by world leaders at a 2015 UN summit. It focuses on reducing poverty, hunger and disease, gender equality.

In Uganda this day was celebrated under the theme - Women's Economic Empowerment; A Vehicle for sustainable Development" and ICWEA commemorated it under theme "A Gender Equal Planet Starts with meaningful inclusion of Women Living with HIV in Decision Making in Mukono District Board room.



A Member of ICWEA in Mukono Presenting the needs and priorities of Women of living with HIV in as statement for International Women's Day

Objectives of the Activity

Increase the number of women living with HIV that participate in national advocacy foras; and convincingly articulate their needs and priorities on behalf of others.

Output /Deliverable (Include gender where applicable) share photographs and any other documentation were possible.

- ICWEA facilitated 39women living with HIV and 6 staff and 10 Policy Makers at the District,

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Sarah Makumbi of the Women Council (The third one sited on the second front row from left) graced the Women Day Celebrations organized by ICWEA and standing and sited are some of the women who attended the function.

Issues Arising: (include popular quotes, saying and voices from the members present

In the opening remarks made by the District Chairpersons he thanked the ICWEA team for the good work done in empowering WLHIV in Mukono District. Looking at Mukono specially the fishing communities where the HIV prevalence at 19%. He also stressed out the issue of poor policy implementation by the government that has lead to so many government programmes to collapse.

He also urged government to increase health sector budget to improve and address HIV prevention approaches.

He further added that there was need to address the issue of behavior change in adolescents in Mukono were the prevalence of HIV is getting higher every day in young girls and most of these girls are engaged in Karaoke dancing and selling sex.

He continued by saying that Women in Mukono face Gender Based Violence but they have not come out to say that their rights are being violated in any or other and among the issues that was causing this was do with poverty, Polygamy , HIV disclosure especially were partner tests first Among others.

Lastly he said the issue of Defilement, rape and Cross generational sex was hitting Mukono, however as the district they were planning to organize meeting and trainings at the sub county level to also empower women and the youth socially and economically.

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The District Vice Chairperson (Kiggundu Musa) addressing WLHIV during the Function

The District Community Development officer in her remarks thanked ICWEA for organizing the function and urged Women to get organized, form up an organization so that they can access and embrace government programmes like CDD which was available but women were not taking up this opportunity.

She further requested ICWEA to empower more women to be able go to districts and demand to know what the government programmes entails because they are missing out on all of things.

Challenges

As a district they are facing a lot challenges especially when implementing government programmes since they have to follow a lot of protocol for things to be approved thus leading to delay in implementation.

Sometimes Budgets are cut especially the funds allocated to the Health sector ie PHC fund for financial 2014/2015 and this affects health service delivery.

Recommendations:

Recommendations from the District Chairperson;

Government should in increase on the Budgets allocated to the district.

Government should also change in the way polices are being implemented.

Agreed way forward/specific action, by who and when:

The District Chairperson in closing remarks said that the district was planning to come up with the strategy of training Women and Youth in social, economic aspect.

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Appendix 1: Attendance list for world

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Appendix 2: ICWEA's World Tuberculosis Day Poster

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Appendix 3: ICWEA's International Women's day Statement 2016

Ensuring a gender - equal planet for women and girls living with HIV

March 8, 2016

Kampala:

The International Community of Women Living with HIV Eastern Africa (ICWEA) joins the rest of the world to celebrate the International Women's Day. On this day, we commit to breaking barriers to women's access to gender equality, dignity, fairness, and quality health care services and to pursue justice and inclusion.

As we commemorate this day, we celebrate the many achievements women and girls living with HIV have attained over the years. We celebrate the courage and determination aimed at improving the quality of life as well as securing the rights of women living with HIV.

The Global theme *Pledge for Parity* challenges us but also encourages and calls for increased advocacy for women living with HIV. This is needed to achieve the women and girls' ambitions, accelerate gender-balanced leadership, respect and value difference created by the HIV epidemic in all aspects of women's lives,

We also embrace the United Nations 2016 theme, *Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality* which calls for efforts to be directed towards attaining worldwide gender equality by 2030. This means that young women and girls receive equal treatment and are not discriminated against based on their gender. It means enjoying the same rights and opportunities across all sectors of society, including health, education economic participation and decision-making, and that our aspirations and needs are equally valued and favored.

The theme also asks governments to make and follow through with national commitments to address the challenges that are holding women and girls back from reaching their full potential. Both themes are in line with the sustainable Development Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

For us women and girls living with HIV, a gender equal planet means;

Access to comprehensive care and treatment: Over the three decades of the AIDS epidemic. Women continue to be the face of the epidemic. Globally, there are 16 million women aged 15 years and older living with HIV; 80% live in sub-Saharan Africa. And yet worldwide, about 60% of people living with HIV do not access antiretroviral therapy.

The fact that women account for more than half of the population of people living with HIV means, a high number of women and girls are not accessing ART, there is therefore need for our East African Governments and all those in high burden countries to increase health factor funding to meet the World Health Organization recommendation of a minimum of 50USD per person per year as expenditure on health to be able to meet these care and treatment needs.

Equal sexual and reproductive health and rights: A report disseminated last year by ICWEA titled *Violations of sexual and reproductive health rights of women living with HIV in clinical settings* found that women living within Uganda are forced and coerced in sterilization. Similar cases have been reported in Kenya and some women have sued the centres at which they were sterilized. Some women and girls living with HIV have been forced to abort.

Women living with HIV should enjoy their full sexual and reproductive Health rights. They should also be supported to make informed decisions about their reproductive health including; the number

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of children to have. Access to all comprehensive sexual reproductive health information will enable them to exercise these rights.

For equal sexual and reproductive health, women and girls should also speak out whenever their rights are being abused instead of suffering in silence.

Favourable policies, laws and legal environments: In many parts of the world, countries including those in the East African region, HIV laws or bills that criminalize people living with HIV have been developed. While there is no public health evidence that the criminalization of HIV is effective at ending the spread of HIV, there is glaring evidence that it has potential to up root decades of efforts to end the epidemic in the region.

The negative impacts of this are greater on women than their male counterparts. Some of the clauses in the HIV Laws infringe on the rights of women and girls living with HIV. Such laws fuel stigma and discrimination, discourage women from seeking diagnosis and treatment out of concern for their privacy or negative social repercussions and for fear of being caught up by the law. As this happens, HIV incidences will escalate.

There should therefore be amendment of HIV Laws that will undo the work done to end the epidemic. Laws and policies that disrespect the confidentiality of women and girls living with should be reviewed, recalled and abolished. Laws that take into account Sexual Reproductive Health Rights needs and priorities of women living with HIV should be adopted.

Meaningful inclusion in decision making at all levels: Our lived experiences as women living with HIV, have taught us that to attain gender inequality, women and girls living with HIV have to be at the forefront of decision making processes in issues that affect their lives. That is why ICWEA advocates for institutional and technical capacity building of women and girls living with HIV. This will enable them influence policies, programmes and budgets and put them in position to meaningfully participate in decision making at various levels, including district, national and international. Women's inclusion is the key to improved quality health service delivery for us. These issues are further prioritized in the ICWEA one year campaign; *A beat to end sexual reproductive health rights violations, HIV criminalization and widening of contraception choices and options for women living with HIV*

As we commemorate this day, we continue to stand with our members in the Republic of Burundi during this period of continued unrest. For women and girls living with HIV in Burundi, life is more complicated because in addition to the general challenges and problems faced as people living with HIV, they have to worry about their lives and what the next day will bring.

The community of women living with HIV calls upon our governments and policy makers to create an environment that will ensure gender equality, dignity, fairness and provision of quality health care services

ICWEA's International Women's Day activities are done with support from the Commonwealth Foundation under the project titled *Partnership with women living with HIV in improving health service delivery and accountably in 14 districts in Uganda.*

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Agenda;

Programme for Women's day in Mukono District		Responsible Person
9:00am	Arrival and Registration	ICWEA
9:15am	Prayers	Volunteer
9:30am	National Anthem , HIV Anthem	All
10:00am	Welcoming Remarks	District Chairperson
Health Break		
11:00am	Brief about ICWEA	ICWEA
11:30am	Women's Day Statement	ICWEA
12:00noon	Testimony or Success story	ICWEA member
1:00pm	Speeches	Newly elected leaders
1:30pm	Speech by the chief guest	Woman Member of Parliament
2.00	Closure of function and Departure/ Logistics	ICWEA

List of Participants

NAME	ORGANISATION	NUMBER	EMAIL
1.NGOBI SAMUEL	RED CROSS SOCIETY	0789907644	Stevenbits90@gmail.com
2.SARAH MAKUMBI	LOCAL COUNCIL	0772465015	Sarahmakumbi2014@gmail.com
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5.NABAKOZZA J.	ICW MUKONO		
6.NALUBWAMA JANE	ICW MUKONO		
7.NANYONJO ANNET	ICW MUKONO	0787367907	
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24.CHANDIRU BETTY	ICW		
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41.NAMUTEBI ALICE	MUKONO	0772319859	
42.NASSUNA FLORENCE	MUKONO	0775183572	
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