



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND INFORMATION NETWORK (CHAIN)

Advocacy on Patient Safety with a focus on Substandard and Counterfeit medicines

REPORT

2017/2018



With support from Pfizer

Introduction

Patient safety continues to be a healthcare challenge worldwide. In Uganda the story is not different, patients continue to be harmed or loose lives in the process of receiving care due to falsified medicines and unsafe use of medicines, medical errors, self-medication, un safe injections , poor hand hygiene, Hospital Acquired Infections (HAIs) and Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs) among others.

Community Health And Information Network (CHAIN) received a grant of \$10,000 from Pfizer to implement activities aimed at addressing the above issues at community, national and International level.

The continued support from Pfizer has not only increased CHAIN's capacity to fight substandard and counterfeit medicines but has enabled CHAIN to be recognised as a point of reference on issues of patient safety and safe medicines. It has been nominated to participate in key processes/foras such as the taskforce for the patient safety survey in Uganda by MoH, nominated by IAPO to sit on the CIOMS working group on patient involvement in development and safe use of medicines, nominated by WHO to speak at the 2nd ministerial patient safety summit in Bonn, Germany in 2017.

2.0. Summary of activities

<p>2.1. High level Patient safety workshop CHAIN in partnership with Ministry of Health (MOH), Nottingham Trent University and the Human Rights and Peace Center Makerere University organized a one day workshop for key healthcare stakeholders including; academia, decision makers, service providers, healthcare professionals, supply chain organizations, regulators and patient leaders/organizations to discuss patient safety issues in Uganda .</p>	40 people attended
<p>2.2. A Community level Patient safety workshop was organized in partnership with Nottingham Trent University and attended by patient organizations, village health teams, journalists and medical workers to share knowledge and experiences on counterfeit medicines and work on patient safety</p>	50 people attended
<p>2.3. Patient leaders training organized in partnership with Uganda Alliance of patient organizations (UAPO) on patient safety issues including fighting counterfeit medicines. UAPO members from HIV/AIDS, epilepsy, hepatitis, mental health, diabetes sicklecell and cancer associations attended the training.</p>	30 patient leaders attended
<p>2.4. Engaging with key stakeholders CHAIN has engaged with key stakeholders including Ministry of Health (MoH), WHO, National Drug Authority (NDA), Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI), Infectious Disease Institute (IDI) on issues of safe medicines.</p>	
<p>2.5. Health workers engagement on safe medicines Meetings for healthworkers and village Health teams were organized at Komamboga healthcenter 111 and St. James C.O.U health center Masiriba in Kampala and Kiboga districts respectively. Issues discussed included safe use of medicines, antimicrobial</p>	20 health workers and 25 village teams participated

<p>resistance and waste disposal and how each stakeholder can play a role.</p>	
<p>2.5. Health literacy and Patient safety in schools</p> <p>CHAIN in partnership with medical Face International (MFI) conducted awareness sessions on safe medicines, hand hygiene and NCD risk factors such as unhealthy diets, alcoholism, physical inactivity through national health debates, music dance and drama, and experience sharing.</p>	<p>10,000 primary school children were reached</p>
<p>2.6. Head Teachers meetings were organized to raise awareness on Health literacy for behavioral change and disease prevention.</p>	<p>40 head teachers from schools in Kampala and Wakiso district attended</p>
<p>2.7. National Health Debates -CHAIN in partnership with Medical Face International (MFI), Makerere University college of health sciences, Ministry of Health and Kampala City Council Authority, organized a National health debate for primary school children. The debate focused on substandard and counterfeit medicines, hand and dental hygiene, drug abuse among others .Twenty (20) schools from Kampala, Mpigi, Wakiso and Mukono districts participated. Winners were awarded primary healthcare notice boards.</p>	<p>Over 600 children attended</p>
<p>2.8. Primary health care Notice Boards awarded</p> <p>The Board plays a big role in the pupils behavior change. It is a major source of information to the school community towards preventive health care. They are designed in such a way that attracts young people to read from them life changing materials developed by the children themselves.</p>	<p>5 notice boards awarded</p>
<p>2.9. International advocacy:</p> <p>Regina kamoga participated and spoke about Engaging patients' family and community for safer and higher quality care : Experiences from Uganda at the 2nd Global patient safety ministerial summit , 29-30 March 2017, Bonn, Germany.</p>	

<p>3.0.Regional Level:</p> <p>Participated in an expert's group meeting on regional good manufacturing practices road map framework for the East African Community (EAC) in Nairobi Kenya.</p>	
<p>3.1. Community Outreaches</p> <p>-Sessions on medication safety and life style diseases were conducted in Kyanja and Manyangwa in Wakiso district during the Adventist annual gathering which attracts over 500 people. Participants were advised to seek early diagnosis from recognized healthcare facilities, take medicines as prescribed and buy only from NDA approved pharmacies and drug stores. Leaflets on medication safety were distributed.</p> <p>- CHAIN and Medical face conducted sessions with Naguru police barracks men and women to discuss safe medicines, sanitation and hygiene in their community.</p> <p>- CHAIN international volunteers participated in a medical camp in Kalangala Island and distributed leaflets on Safe medicines. The medical camp was attended by over 1000 people.</p>	Over 500 people
<p>3.2.CHAIN in partnership with UAPO organized a session on safe medicine facilitated by National Drug Authority during the patient solidarity day event; Regina also made presentation on safe medicines-community engagement/involvement.</p>	1611 people attended
<p>3.3. CHAIN preschool guardians were trained on safe medicines and use</p>	20
<p>3.4. Participated in a webinar organized by IFMA and IAPO and spoke about CHAIN's work on Fight Against</p>	

Falsified medicines	
3.5. Organised a number of events in primary and secondary schools to promote patient safety on issues of medication safety, counterfeit medicines, hand hygiene and NCD risk factors such as health diets, alcoholism, and physical inactivity. Different approaches were used including national health debates, music dance and drama, and experience sharing.	Over 10,000 primary school children were reached.
3.6. Media activities to raise awareness safe medicines ,hand hygiene and HAIs	8 media engagements
3.7. Materials on safe medicine and hand hygiene were printed and distributed in schools and general public	10,000

Below are the details of the activities;

Patient safety Workshops for key healthcare stakeholders and community

On the 6th and 7th of September 2018, two events focused on patient safety practice were organized by Ministry of Health (MOH), CHAIN, Nottingham Trent University and the Human Rights and Peace Center Makerere University, the events were hosted at ambient locations of the Infectious Disease Institute and the CHAIN head quarters in Kiwenda . The events were attended by the academia, decision makers, service providers, healthcare professionals, supply chain organizations, regulators and patient leaders/organizations and the patient safety advocates drawn from civil society organizations/patient organizations, village health teams, journalists and medical workers.



Dr. Joseph Okware- Commissioner Quality Assurance Department giving remarks at the patient safety meeting



Dr. Charles Olaro - Ag. DHS Clinical and Community Services, Dr. Ssendyona Martin- PMO QAID and Regina Kamoga sharing a light moment.

On the 6th of September 2018, 40 participants successfully dialogued on issues , challenges and solutions to the patient safety problems including aspects of medical errors, falsified medicines and adverse event reporting procedures while on the 7th of September 2018, 50 participants shared knowledge and experiences on patient safety additionally a team of patient safety advocates together with patient safety experts reviewed the ongoing patient safety community advocacy activities which were started in 2015, where they Identified achievements, best practices, challenges and also agreed on the ways forward. During the two days, the patient safety challenge was learnt about from an expert view and indeed, solutions to deal with the problem were also agreed upon.



Morgan Shimwell Lecturer Nottingham Trent University making a presentation on genuine and fake drugs

Health literacy and Patient safety in schools

CHAIN in partnership with medical Face International (MFI) an organization that brings together health professionals from various disciplines to carry out voluntary health/medical services for vulnerable people in the community Organised a number of events in schools to promote patient safety on issues of medication safety, counterfeit medicines , hand hygiene and NCD risk factors such as health diets, alcoholism, physical inactivity. Different approaches were used including national health debates, music dance and drama, and experience sharing. Over 10,000 primary school children were reached.



Health literacy in a rural school



CHAIN and MFI team arriving at Gayaza Junior school

Head Teachers meetings

To raise awareness on Health literacy for behavioral change and disease prevention was organized for 20 schools in Kampala and Wakiso district

Meetings with head teachers were held to sensitize and orient them on the above issues and to solicit their support for the behavioral change program. Thirty 30 headteachers participated in the meetings

National Health Debates



CHAIN in partnership with Medical Face International (MFI), Makerere University college of health sciences , Ministry of Health and Kampala City Council Authority. Organized a National health debate for primary school children. Over 600 children from 20 schools from Kampala, Mpigi, Wakiso and Mukono districts participated. The event was officiated by the State minister of Education Hon. Rosemary Seninde appreciated the innovation and called upon the children to embrace this opportunity .Imparting health knowledge through debates is one innovative way to improve health literacy among school going children. Through these debates, research skills as well as knowledge on disease prevention and management is imparted not only to the debaters but also the audience and the entire community that follow up the programme on media platforms.

The winners received primary healthcare notice boards which they use to post health information.



State minister for primary Education Hon. Rosemary Seninde (middle) officiated at the National health Debate



Strategic Partnerships- Patient Safety Research partnership

Prof. John Tingle , Regina kamoga held meetings with state minister for primary healthcare to discuss patient safety policy and research and how MoH can work together with patient organizations.

Meetings were also held with the Infectious Disease Institute (IDI) to discuss research on patient safety and how we can all work together.



CHAIN Patient safety partners: Dr. Mohammed Lamorde-IDI, Kay Seden -IDI, Prof. John Tingle and Linda Gibson- Nottingham Trent University and Regina Kamoga-CHAIN discussing patient safety research at IDI headquarters in Kampala

Engaging health workers on issues of patient safety and safe medicines

CHAIN organized trainings for healthworkers and village Health teams at Komamboga healthcenter 111 and St. James C.O.U health center Masiriba, in Kampala and Kiboga districts respectively. Issues discussed included safe use of medicines, antimicrobial resistance and waste disposal and how each one had a role to play.

It was noted with concern that in Uganda, decisions by HCPs to prescribe antibiotics to patients are often based on unconfirmed diagnosis .And as a result inappropriate prescribing, dispensing and over use and misuse of antibiotics was on the increase, increasing the risk of adverse drug reactions (ADRs) and antibiotic resistance.

Health care workers were cautioned and requested to adopt behaviors that can prevent antibiotic resistant bacteria getting into patients among which was hand hygiene. The HCPs and VHTs were requested to educate the patients about the issue. Including practicing good hygiene, develop a hand washing culture, not demanding for antibiotics, a common practice for patients and this is mainly because they are not aware of the

dangers associated with the practice. They were also cautioned against self medication and should let the doctor or pharmacist prescribe an antibiotic appropriate for the infection and should always take antibiotics as prescribed by the doctor or pharmacist, and don't skip or stop them even if they start to feel better.

The VHT also raised the following issues as being very common in the community as these included; self medication, sharing of medicine, keeping it for future use and use of herbal medicines concurrently with conventional medicine. They were advised to continuously educate the community about the dangers of doing that .The VHTs requested for more support in terms of empowerment to enable them deliver correct information. The issue of drug- drug interactions was also highlighted particularly among people on ART .HCP were advised to record full drug history from Patients. Poor waste disposal was also discussed and ways of improving it.



Health workers session and village health teams facilitated by Regina Kamoga - CHAIN and Prof. John Tingle(NTU).



Hand Hygiene for young children to trigger behavior change at an early age.



CHAIN preschool guardians

A one day training was organized for CHAIN preschool guardians on safe medicines, hygiene and sanitation at Ladd Children's center in Kiwenda .The training was facilitated by Nathan Muyinda of EDCO and Regina Kamoga. The participants had very low awareness of safe use of medicines, fake medicines and where to report if they had any issues to do with medicines. They also had very limited knowledge on how to take their medication, they said they did not get proper education on use of medicines. They also acknowledged self medication and sharing medicines. They did not know the dangerous associated with this practice. Importance of hand washing, balanced diet and physical activity was emphasized.

Participants were advised to always ask the prescriber/dispenser all they need to know. , take medicines as prescribed and buy only from approved sources, Leaflets on medication safety were distributed.



Dr. Jeanne Muhindo official from NDA making a presentation on safe medicines during Patient Solidarity Day which was attended by over 1600 people

5.0. International level advocacy

Participation in the 2nd Global patient safety ministerial summit WHO, 29-30 March 2017, Bonn, Germany. Regina made a presentation on Engaging patients family and community for safer and higher quality care Experiences from Uganda.



From Left: Prof. John Tingle (NTU), Hon. Joyce Moriku State minister for primary healthcare (Uganda), Regina Kamoga – CHAIN, Dr. Jackson Amone, Commissioner Clinical Services- MoH, Uganda at the 2nd Global ministerial summit in Bonn, Germany.

Regional level

Participated in an expert's group meeting on regional good manufacturing practices road map framework for the East African Community (EAC) in Nairobi Kenya.

Conclusion

It is everyone's responsibility to make a contribution towards advocating and fighting fake medicines. Patients need to be protected because when things go wrong they suffer harm.

Thank you for Pfizer for your support and enabling us to reach the vulnerable people

PICTORIAL



(From left: Isabelle Moulon- EMA, Regina Kamoga –CHAIN, Dr.Rago Lembit-CIOMS,Nikos Dede -EATG at the CIOMS working group on Patient involvement in the development and safe use of medicines



Regina Kamoga making a presentation at the 2nd Global Ministerial Patient safety summit 2017, Bonn, Germany



Participants who attended the high level patient safety workshop



Participants who attended the community level patient safety workshop