



Community Health and Information Network (CHAIN)



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

www.chainproject.africa

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Message from the Executive Director



I am delighted to share with you our work for the year 2023. My passion and inspiration are derived from empowering the under-served grass roots' community members firstly in Uganda, and then the entire Africa, while working tirelessly with my incredible team that includes the Board of Directors, CHAIN ambassadors, staff and volunteers whose commitment and support cannot be over emphasized. I am also deeply grateful to our partners and donors who include among others; The Global Orphans Assistance Fund (GOAF), McUlsky Health

Force (MHF), Uganda Insurers Association(UIA), World Patient Alliance (WPA), Medical Access Uganda Limited (MAUL),Rotary club of Kiwenda and E-C Ntinda, Infectious Disease Institute (IDI),Melbourne Microfinance Initiative (MMI), Wide Spectrum, members of the Uganda Alliance of Patient Organisations (UAPO) , our Germany and Uganda sponsors for their continued support which has enabled us directly reach 5,914 beneficiaries.

At the forefront and most important, I acknowledge the patients, family and community members, who are our top most partners and beneficiaries of the solutions CHAIN offers. I also can't disregard the critical role of Village Health Teams as the first point of contact for health information. Iam also grateful to our remarkable local and global partners who create an enabling environment to make sure our patients and communities receive quality services, such as the Ministry of health, Wakiso district , Nansana Town council and Busukuma sub-county and health centre 111s leadership, partner schools, local political, religious and cultural leaders, among others.

My sincere gratitude is accorded to the success we achieved and through this report we define this success by elaborating the achievements and lessons learnt. Though we are so proud of the success in 2023, we feel we should do more by reaching the ever-increasing number of beneficiaries, especially by working together with our partners and also capitalising on the 2023 achievement.

I call upon everyone to join us as we work towards a society where vulnerable people can enjoy a high quality of life.

Thank you all for your continued support!

Regina M.N Kamoga- Executive Director
Community Health and Information Network

1. Introduction:

CHAIN is a fully registered (Reg No. INDR48652880ND) as a not-for-profit, Civil Society Organization founded in 1998 by a group of African professionals' resident in the United Kingdom and established in Uganda in 2004. CHAIN promotes the empowerment of people living with HIV/Aids, TB, Malaria and Non-communicable diseases. It has a national and global footprint and is comprised of an integrated network of Community-Based Caregivers including Patient Organizations, Health Care Professionals (HCPs), Community Health Workers (CHWs) ,local leaders and schools. While Working with these groups and organizations, CHAIN has been able to address barriers to access, utilization, and quality of health care services amongst the vulnerable communities in Uganda and contributed to global patient advocacy.

In this report, CHAIN presents the achievements and lessons learnt in 2023, while addressing the barriers to quality healthcare described above. The main outcome of our interventions was directly impacting 5,914 community beneficiaries who were empowered through CHAIN's programs. These were in line with CHAIN's mission of Empowering and providing prevention and support services to vulnerable communities affected by HIV, Malaria and Non Communicable Diseases to make informed decisions on their health, social and economic circumstances. They also directly contribute to the realization of the National health goals and aspirations as laid down in the National Health Sector Strategic Plan (2021/2025) as well as the Third National Development Plan (2024/2025). Key summary outcomes are outlined below;

- Impacted over 2,499 people, through the Health literacy and patient safety in schools and communities, enabling beneficiaries access tailor-made health information using innovative approaches including community outreaches, dialogues, debates, music dance and drama among others.
- Engagement and empowerment of Community owned resources including Village Health Teams, patient organisation leaders/patient advocates, local political, religious and cultural leaders. Over 135 beneficiaries were provided with economic empowerment sessions on income generating activities, such as Permaculture, soap making, financial literacy, rabbit keeping, among others.

- Reached over 823 people through access to quality care and support services, 695 people in Nangabo sub-county accessed quality healthcare services in a medical camp organised in partnership with Rocket Health Uganda. Services included general medical consultation, eye care checks, cancer diagnosis, etc.
- Engagement of patient, family engagement in patient safety through the World Patient Safety Day (WPSD 2023) events during which 1,049 community members were engaged and acquired knowledge, accessed free health care services, received information on management and prevention of communicable and noncommunicable diseases.
- Through the Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC), about 318 were reached. A total of 39 children were supported through school fees and psychosocial support, 30 OVCs and their guardians received clothes donated by friends in United Kingdom. 163 children received breakfast at school and 96 children acquired life skills during the holiday program sessions.

CHAIN's primary partnerships for 2023 included; Ministry of Health, Global Orphans Assistance Fund(GOAF), MCULSKY Health Force (MHF), World Patient Alliance(WPA), Uganda Insurers Association (UIA), Medical Access Uganda Limited, Wide Spectrum, Pfizer, Infectious Disease Institute (IDI), Academy for Health Innovation Uganda, members of the Uganda Alliance of patients organizations, Nansana Municipal Council, primary healthcare level health centers and partners schools, Melbourne Microfinance Initiative (MMI)- Melbourne University, Rotary Club Kiwenda and E-C Club Ntinda.

2. Details of interventions in 2023:

The main interventions in 2023 included;

- a) Access to quality care and support services
- b) Health literacy and patient safety
- c) Support to Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC)
- d) Sustainable livelihood Initiatives
- e) Partnerships and Networks
- f) International and National webinars /meetings

a) Access to quality care and support services

In Uganda there is still low access to quality health care services especially for the last mile patient. The situation is made worse by low health literacy, low literacy, poverty, double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases. To address this challenge CHAIN partnered with several partners and provided services including health care through medical camps and outreaches in partnership with patient organisations; care coordination linking patients to quality health care and support services and over 823 people were reached. In the next section we elaborate the several activities conducted as part of this intervention:



Increasing access to health care services in partnership with Rocket Health Uganda.

CHAIN partnered with Rocket Health Uganda, to increase access to quality care and support services, through demand creation. The intervention impacted 695 community members from 41 villages (Majije, Kiwale, Nakwero, Wampewo, Kalerwe, Buntaba, Namungona, Nalya, Bweyogerere, Kasubi, Kabanyoro, Kito,

Kawuku, Kiwale, Nangabo, Makenke, Kijjabido, Seta, Kassangati, Magere, Kyankima, Bulamu, Manyangwa, Nabuttiti, Mukito, Lutete, Kiwale, Nalya, Kazinga, Gayaza, Kyetume, Namugongo, Kimwanyi, Ndazamuzade, Kikuma, Kabanyoro, Kazo, Kasambya, Kabubu, Ntinda, Kidabide) in Nangabo Subcounty in Wakiso District.

Priority setting workshop on effective use of medication in women across their life span(from adolescence to post menopause)

CHAIN in partnership with IDI organised the above workshop on 11th May 2023 at CHAIN offices in Kiwenda. It brought together 27 participants including; VHTs, patient organisations leaders, community based organisations, local and religious leaders. This workshop aimed at understanding understudied priorities regarding women's health and the use of medication across their lifespan and determining better collaboration measures for academic researchers to address the key priorities.

Issues identified

- Misinformation on the use of drugs and herbals
- Increased rates on NCDs like cancer, diabetes, lung illness which pose a threat to taking multiple drugs
- Lack of knowledge on safe and effective medicine use
- Poor adherence to drugs
- Differences in treatment response provided
- 90% of cervical cancer patients have HIV
- Lack of sex education among young girls

Recommendations:

- Disseminate information on the effective use of medication among women with disabilities, adolescent mothers, the elderly, and women in refugee camps, prisons and fishing communities.
- Conducting community engagements through community structures like VHTs, LCs and religious institutions.
- Registering community members for specific medical education
- Working through established groups
- Soliciting feedback research through VHTs



Ms. Massy Nakisozi, Founder and ED of Kawempe Home based Care making a presentation during the research prioritization workshop at CHAIN offices in Kiwenda

Community outreach with Stroke Foundation Uganda:

Delay in seeking early diagnosis and treatment is one of the issues that impacts patient positive outcomes. It is the reason CHAIN works with different patient organisations under the Uganda Alliance of Patient organisations to raise awareness about the diseases to provide people with the knowledge about the prevention and management of different diseases. Medication safety as a cross cutting issue is incorporated in the sessions.

Stroke is a major public health problem in Uganda, where it is one of the top five causes of adult death¹. Many people in Uganda do not have enough knowledge and perception of stroke, its symptoms, causes, and treatment. This can lead to delays in seeking medical attention, which can worsen the outcomes².

CHAIN in partnership with Stroke Foundation, conducted 4 community outreaches on stroke in Busukuma sub-county reaching 101 people. These sessions aimed at raising awareness on stroke prevention and management. Issues addressed included; risk factors, signs and symptoms, treatment and

¹[Number of Ugandans suffering from stroke increasing 2020- Dr. Bukenya \(independent. co. ug\)](#)

²[Stroke study to provide local data on risk factors in Uganda | LSHTM](#)

support for stroke patients, among others. Physiotherapy services were also provided to patients with back pains.

There were a lot of misconceptions about stroke in terms of its causes and treatment. Some associate it to witchcraft and resort to traditional alternatives which sometimes worsen their condition as well as exposing them to harmful practices. It is one of the reasons for seeking late diagnosis and treatment.

A session on medication safety was also conducted to raise awareness on the quality and safe use of medicines. The issues of substandard and counterfeit medicines were also discussed. The participants were provided with knowledge on proper use and storage of medicines. They were cautioned against self-medication, buying medicines from unlicensed drug outlets such as markets and hawkers. They expressed a lack of knowledge to differentiate between genuine and counterfeit medicines. They also noted that they do not get sufficient information and knowledge from health workers on the proper use of medicines. More awareness is required to raise awareness on substandard and counterfeit medicines and safe use of medicines.

Feedback from the community and Namulonge health Center 111 in Busukuma subcounty confirmed that there is an increasing number of people with stroke. This is made worse by lack of knowledge on the disease and access to quality and safe care. The participants were urged to always seek early diagnosis and treatment, participate actively and always seek for information on diseases affecting them in the community. They were also urged to make use of the community health workers.

Sharing experiences during the session

“I went to a health facility to buy tablets for pressure and diabetes and I have been taking the medicine but I do not know the names of the tablets (A 75 old man from Kiwenda narrated)”

“It is my first time to hear that 1x3 means taking medicines every 8 hours ! Whenever I bought medicine which is supposed to be taken 3 times , I could take in the morning 7.00am, afternoon 1.00pm and evening 6.00pm. (A fifty year old woman from Kiwenda explained)

b) Health literacy and patient safety

The need to promote Health literacy and patient safety is a key component of CHAIN's work. The key areas include; Hand hygiene, Medication safety, injection

safety, clinical trial safety, Hospital Acquired Infections, and Maternal and Child safety. It aims at engaging and empowering patients, families, and the communities at large to take control of their health, make informed decisions, and ensure their safety when navigating the healthcare system. CHAIN conducted several events including commemoration of the World Hand Hygiene Day 2023, World Patient safety Day 2023, workshops and trainings, community outreaches and dialogues in schools and community. Through this intervention, over 2,499 people were reached.

Community health Workers (CHWs)/ Village Health Teams (VHTs) capacity building Sessions on Malaria

In Uganda, the most common illnesses and infectious diseases affecting children under 5 years of age include; malaria³, pneumonia, sepsis, diarrhoea, HIV, tuberculosis, malnutrition⁴ and preterm birth complications.

CHAIN conducted two sessions on malaria and a total of 30 VHTs participated. The first session focused on identifying challenges faced by VHTs while addressing malaria in the community and equipping them with knowledge on malaria. Challenges identified include; lack of essential tools and commodities to perform their tasks, such as anti-malarial drugs, Poor community engagement, inadequate knowledge, insufficient or irregular training on malaria diagnosis, treatment, and referral among others.

The second session focused on VHTs experience with malaria prevention and management. Issues identified included; self-medication, improper use of mosquito nets, use of herbal medicines (Aloe Vera or Vernonia Amygdalina) which prevents them from seeking early diagnosis and treatment. The VHTs administer medicines such as Panadol, Coartem during home visits and respond to patient calls. However, they cited a challenge of inadequate knowledge on medicines they handle this was mainly due to limited opportunities for capacity building. There is an urgent need for regular trainings for VHTs to equip them with the necessary knowledge on malaria prevention, diagnosis and treatment of malaria as well as safe use of malaria drugs.

³ <https://www.pmi.gov/>

⁴ [Child mortality \(under 5 years\) \(who.int\)](http://www.who.int)



Dr. Nathan facilitating the training for VHTs on Malaria

Systems Strengthening at primary healthcare level :Engaging Health workers to promote patient safety

CHAIN works with health workers in HC111s to improve quality and safe care at facility level. Support supervision are conducted once a month ; Dialogues with health workers were conducted to discuss patient safety issues including; proper hand hygiene, ensuring proper medicine administration and cleanliness at all points care ,availability of soap and running water.A total of 12 health workers were engaged and empowered .

Patient safety sessions with school children and teachers

Patient safety sessions were held in schools and community to raise awareness about patient engagement in patient safety and solicit views on how they should be engaged in their care.



School children being addressed on patients' rights and responsibilities

Focus Group Discussions on Patient Safety: Engaging patients ,family and community

CHAIN conducted patient safety sessions with the VHTs, teachers and members of the community during and after the WPSD to solicit views on issues impacting safe care. Issues identified included among others; limited collaboration between patients and health workers, poor attitudes of the health workers towards patients, poor communication skills of the health workers, poverty a barrier to seeking health care, medicine stock outs and insufficient number of health providers in health centers. Furthermore, suggestions to improve patient safety were highlighted including; Increasing doctor to patient relationship, health workers providing adequate and appropriate health information to patients, patient right to care, ensuring proper diagnosis of patients to avoid errors, health workers demonstrating empathy to patients as they receive their health care services, increase skilled health workers and providing patient centered health care, among others.



Patient safety discussions with teachers at Damalie Nabagereka Primary school in Busukuma subounty



Patient safety discussions with teachers at Buso Moslem Primary School in Busukuma sub-county

World Patient Safety Day (WPSD) 2023 : Engaging patients for patient safety; Elevating the patient voice

The world over commemorated the WHO annual event , a day that was endorsed by the WHA 72.6 resolution, to be commemorated on every 17thSeptember. CHAIN participated and made presentations in several events at the Global , national and community level including the ministry of health webinar, X space

and the national day celebrations in Mubende district in Uganda. CHAIN also participated and made a presentation about its work on engaging patients for patient safety at the WHO Global Patient Safety conference 2023 held in Geneva, Switzerland. It also led a community level event in partnership with Rotary Club of Kiwenda, E-C Ntinda, Ministry of Health, Nansana municipal council, Infectious Disease Institute (IDI), World Patient Alliance (WPA) and Uganda Alliance of Patients Organizations (UAPO) at Namulonge in Busukuma Sub- County Wakiso district in Uganda. The theme of WPSD 2023 was: ***Engaging Patients for Patient Safety*** and the slogan was; ***Elevate the voice of patients.***

The purpose of this event was to bring together patients, family, carers and other key healthcare stakeholders to share knowledge and experiences about patient safety and how patients can be more engaged to actively participate in their care. The event was combined with a medical camp and free healthcare services were offered to the community.

The event was officiated by Dr. Martin Ssendyona Ag. Commissioner Standard Compliance Accreditation and Patient Protection Department (SCAPP-D), Ministry of Health who reaffirmed the MoH commitment to ensure patients are involved and are safe when receiving care.

Several partners joined and supported the event through financial, service provision and in-kind support and these included; The Uganda Insurers Association (UIA) with its members Werinde Insurance brokers services Ltd, Liberty and Muno Mukabi Yinsuwa, Medical Access Uganda Limited (MAUL), Academy For Health Innovation Uganda, Eco-Pharm, Kampala Pharmaceutical Industry (KPI), Wide Spectrum, UMC- Victoria hospital, Ernest Cook UltraSound Research And Education Institute (ECUREI) Mental Health Uganda, Reproductive Health Uganda, KAYS DENTAL, Uganda Blood bank, St. Joseph's hospital Kiwenda, People's hospital Gayaza, Rocket Health and Sumz snacks. The members of the Uganda Alliance of patients organisations whose role of engaging, empowering and supporting patients to prevent, manage and care for their conditions were prominently present, these included the Epilepsy Support Association of Uganda (ESAU), Uganda Women's Cancer Support Organization (UWOCASO), Sickle Cell Association Uganda (SAU) and Stroke Foundation Uganda. The community working partners and schools included, Community Health Advocates, Village Health Teams, Eagles Youth Development Initiative (EYDI), Brac, Uganda Cancer Society and Arthritis Association, Buso Muslim Primary School, Busukuma college, St Bruno secondary school and St. Kizito Nabitale Primary School, Outspan primary school and Destiny Infant School.

A total of **1,049 people** participated in the event and these included patient organisations, Civil society /Community Based Organizations, healthcare service providers, Research institutions, insurance providers, school children with their teachers and guardians, religious, traditional, political leaders, health workers, village health teams, institutions of learning and the community at large. The services provided included; patient education about patient safety, prevention and management of diseases such as arthritis, mental health ,cancer, sickle cell, stroke, HIV, Epilepsy; Breast and cervical cancer screening; HIV Testing, Covid 19 vaccination, physiotherapy services, Condom distribution, dental services, eye care including screening, treatment and distribution of free eye glasses , blood donation services, child immunization, general consultation and checkup including; blood pressure, blood sugar and weight.

Patients did not only receive free medical services but also acquired knowledge on patient safety and how they can be engaged in their care as partners. The roles of key stakeholders were emphasized . Healthcare partners and professionals also committed to increase collaboration with patients/organisations. Detailed report can be accessed on www.chainproject.africa



WPSD event at Namulonge playground Busukuma sub-county

World Hand Hygiene Day (WHHD) in schools and community:

The day is observed on 5th May every year as a major global effort led by the World Health Organization (WHO). It aims at highlighting the importance of achieving effective hand hygiene and infection prevention and control (IPC)

measures at the point of care. According to WHO Hand hygiene saves millions of lives every year when performed at the right moments and in the right way during health care delivery. Clean care protects both patients and health workers.

The theme WHHD 2023; Together we can accelerate action to prevent infections and antimicrobial resistance in healthcare and build a culture of safety and quality in which hand hygiene improvement is given priority

Uganda being one of the countries with a poor hand washing culture, its incumbent on CHAIN to sensitize communities on proper hand hygiene to reduce infections and has done this for over 10 years. According to Uganda Bureau of Statistics, 2020, In Wakiso, 63% of households accessed basic hand washing facilities but only 18% of the households reported to wash their hands with soap before eating and 26% after using toilet, while in Kiboga, 46% of households had access to basic hand washing facilities, but only 12% households reported to wash their hands with soap before eating and 26% after using toilet.

Every year CHAIN joins the rest of the world and through its **Start Early In Life Initiative (SEILI)** conducts several events in schools and community to raise awareness about hand hygiene . SEILI has manifold benefits such as instilling health habits in children at an early age. This approach is based on proven evidence that children learn faster, easily adopt to new practices and can be great change agents and ambassadors at households and community level. Activities were conducted in 4 schools in Busukuma subcounty , Wakiso District namely ; Damalie Nabagereka, Nabitato, Namulonge and Buso Moslem primary schools. This is done using innovative approaches such as debates, poems, music dance and drama. A total of 686, 23 teachers and 240 guardians were reached. Children, their teacher and parents/ guardians acquired knowledge on proper hand hygiene.



Damalie Nabagereka Primary school-Busukuma Subcounty during a play on washing hands frequently to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases like COVID-19, Cholera, etc



St. Kizito Nabitale Primary school-Busukuma Subcounty demonstrating their learned skills on the steps of hand washing



Pupils of St. Damalie Nabagereka P/S emphasizing hand washing in the community

c) Support to Orphans and Vulnerable children

The OVC programme which started in 2006 is supported by the Global Orphans Assistance Fund (GOAF), MCULSKY Health Force (MHF), Wide Spectrum, Germany sponsors, United Kingdom (UK) and Uganda Individual sponsors . Over 20,000 children have benefited from the programme since its inception with support including; education, healthcare services, food and psychosocial support. However, of recent the number of children on the programme has continued to drop due to a number of reasons such as school drop outs, particularly of the girl child due to early pregnancy and menstrual hygiene challenges among others. The COVID 19 effects, economic crisis have also impacted the programme. On the other hand, the number of children who are in need of support keep increasing hence the urgent need to address the identified issues as well as diversifying funding sources for the programme.

Codra Musimenta: The Lucky One!



Amidst her senior six vacation, as she eagerly awaited the chance to join university, everything changed! Codra's sponsor Kaago Sempa Mukiibi passed on leaving her and a mother who is a sicklecell patient in

a state of confusion. But thanks to the incredible support of CHAIN and GOAF, Codra found a lifeline. She was able to attain her dream of joining university. She is now a first year student of a three year course in Bachelors of Education at Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda! Setting off on a new and exciting chapter in life!

Holiday break activities

Every year three holiday break sessions are organized to provide children with an opportunity to learn new skills, interact with each other, share experiences and engage in exciting and inspiring activities. These include among others financial literacy training, letter writing to sponsors, art and craft making, games and sports. Health talks are also conducted on issues of sexual reproductive health, dangers of early pregnancies, drug abuse, hand hygiene, injection and medication safety.



Children involved in Art & Crafts; Pompom making

Feeding a child in school

Learning on an empty stomach for a little one is not something to write home about! Yet this is a reality for many school going children in many schools in Uganda. A survey CHAIN conducted in 2022, revealed that 90% of the children did not have breakfast at home before going to school nor did they have lunch at school which affected school attendance and academic performance. CHAIN working with its partners and friends including, Wide Spectrum, MCULSKY Health Force (MHF), friends in UK (Christine Muyizzi) supported the feeding of children in Buso Muslim primary school which led to increase in school enrolment from 163 to 189 in 6 months! School attendance also improved as the children looked forward to going to have a meal!

Josephine Nalutaya- EXCELS in her Primary leaving Exams

Despite facing numerous challenges, she never lost hope. Josephine worked hard at school and home where she assisted her mother to vend maize after school. Her determination and resilience paid off as she emerged the best in her school scoring 7 aggregates in her Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE). She has joined a senior secondary school.



Josephine and her brother going out to sell maize



Josephine at school in primary level



Children on the OVC programme at home



d) Sustainable livelihood Initiatives

Through sustainable livelihood initiatives, CHAIN empowers vulnerable populations including OVCs and their guardians, women, youth to improve their quality of life and economic well-being. A number of activities were organised and these included; Soap making, financial literacy and rabbit keeping refresher trainings. Life skills trainings were also organized during the holiday break including; craft making. Over 135 people benefited.

Gaining skills in Soap making and Financial literacy

CHAIN in partnership with the Rotary Club of Kiwenda conducted an economic empowerment session for orphans, their guardians, teachers and village health teams. These skills enable them start income generating initiatives to get an income.

e) Partnerships and networks

Partnerships and networks facilitate collaboration among key stakeholders, leveraging of resources and foster innovation through exchange of knowledge and experiences to increase impact in communities as evidenced in the joint activities with partners which enabled CHAIN achieve its objectives.

Engaging with key stakeholders

CHAIN worked with several partners including among others; Ministry of health to increase awareness on the newly launched community health strategy in the community; IDI to identify research priorities with regard to medication use and women's health in Uganda; Melbourne Micro finance initiatives for CHAIN beneficiaries; Pfizer capacity building program to co-create the Patient Advocacy Leadership Collective (PALC).

Ministry of Health National Community Health strategy orientation workshop

CHAIN worked in partnership with MoH to organise a workshop to create awareness on the newly launched National Community Health Strategy (NCHS) aimed at improving access to Primary Health Care and also to promote preventive, curative and rehabilitative services through a multi sectoral approach by empowering communities, among Village Health Teams, patient safety advocates, political and religious leaders, community based organisations leaders . The session was facilitated by Mr. Edward Basenge, Programme officer and Ms.

Nampurira from MoH. Twenty two (22) people attended the workshop and gained knowledge on the 7 strategic directions of the NCHS and how they can be more involved with the community Health department.



Mr. Basenge Edward (MoH) presenting during the orientation on the National Community Health Strategy at CHAIN offices

CHAIN collaboration with Melbourne Microfinance Initiatives (MMI)

In efforts to sustain the CHAIN OVC programme, it worked with Melbourne Microfinance Initiatives to develop a programme aimed at enabling low-income households fund the education of children and increase knowledge on financial literacy to enable them live an improved quality life. MMI conducted research into education models and case studies that CHAIN can utilize to deliver financial literacy training in Uganda. This research will be used to develop training materials that are appropriate to the community.

f) International and national webinars / meetings

International and National physical meetings

International / National physical meetings	Role
Ministry of Health Workshop for the Development of the national Quality of Care operation (QOC) Plan FY 2023/2024 held on 3 rd -4 th April, 2023 Jinja, Uganda	Consolidating and improving already existing Interventions on National Quality Improvement Framework and Strategic Plan (NQIF & SP) objectives to develop the National

	QOC plan 2023/2024
AMR Stewardship Knowledge perception and practices among dispensers in community dispensing settings - Stakeholder Engagement on 5 th June 2023.	Gained Knowledge on AMR and provided input to the AMR discussion.
The 2 nd Lung Science And Health Symposium, Theme; Occupational Lung Health: Protecting our while we work ,on 5th June 2023 in Kampala.	Gained knowledge on occupational lung health and research findings on TB, COPD, Asthma, Lung cancer, COVID-19 and other epidemics.
Country-level training and policy engagement in Uganda on antimicrobial resistance at Hotel Africana, Wampewo Avenue on 5th and Tuesday 6th June 2023, organised by St George's University of London - Infection and Immunity Research Institute	Contributed in the Co-development of Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) and Anti-Microbial Use (AMU) policies for Uganda
Dissemination workshop on Health Systems Strengthening through person-centred care- 4th September 2023 at Mildmay organised by African Palliative care Association	Gained knowledge and contributed to the discussion on person centered healthcare
NDA pharmacovigilance Communication Workshop, 18 th - 22 nd September,2023 Entebbe, Uganda	Contributed to the development of the strategic communication strategy for pharmacovigilance in Uganda to ensure safety use of drugs in the community
Awareness about Epilepsy and a medical camp organised by Epilepsy Support Association Uganda (ESAU)-a member of the Uganda Alliance of Patient Organisations at at Nansana on 3 rd October 2023	Gained knowledge on Epilepsy
Pfizer Global Patient Advocacy: Leadership forum, 16 th -18 th October ,2023 Berlin, Germany	Member of the Global Patient Advocacy Group
1st WPA Asia Pacific regional meeting, 4 th - 6 th November 2023 at Dubai, UAE.	Moderator session on Asia Road map Panelist Patient safety session

International and National Webinars / Virtual meetings

International and national webinars	Role
WPA Patient Advocacy Leadership Collective (PALC) Webinar on 30-Jan-2024,	Speaker
The patient advocated incubator-the 4th masterclass panel discussion on “Social Media -Everyone has it but are they using it” on 30th March 2023	Participant
ISQua & WPA Joint Workshop: Person-Centred Care Systems: From Theory to Practice ,20th April 2023	Participant
ASA online global seminar on 8 th May 2023	Presented on CHAIN’s work in Uganda
Patient For Patient Safety (PFPS) Advisory Group (AG) meeting 22 nd June 2023	Advisory Group (AG)member
1st WPA African Patient Region Steering Committee Meeting on 6 th July 2023	Organised in partnership with WPA
WPA workshop on patient safety diagnostic error on 18 July 2023	Participant
Global Health EDCTP3 - Stakeholders' Group: Introduction Meeting, 23 rd August 2023	Stakeholder group member
WPA Webinar: What is a Clinical Trial and Why Should I be Involved? 5 th September 2023	Participant
World Patient safety day webinar at WHO headquarters, Kampala 7 th September 2023	Panelist
WPA Webinar on Patient Engagement in Patient Safety Around the World, 20 th September 2023	Panelist
EDCTP3 forum- stakeholder group meeting on 7th November 2023	Member of stakeholder group
IQVIA patient Organisation summit on the role of patient organisations to accelerate innovative data research to better serve their patient communities on 17th November 2023	Participant
Understanding and Addressing Over diagnosis in Medicine on 19 th November 2023 in Saudi Arabia	Participant
WHO Global Patient Safety Collaborative webinar: Systems Thinking for Patient Safety, 23 November 2023	Participant
WHO webinar: Systems Thinking for Patient Safety, 23th November 2023	Participant
WPA and International Council of Nurses(ICN) webinar Centered Care and Patient Engagement, 1 st December	Panelist

2023	
Global Health EDCTP3 - Stakeholders' Group Meeting, 7 th December 2023	Stakeholder group member
Capacity building on tax compliance and statutory obligations 14 th December 2023	Participant
Pfizer meeting on Internal Patient Advocacy Community of practice	Guest Speaker and presented about CHAIN's work and Patient Advocacy landscape in Africa
International Rotary Fellowship of Healthcare Professionals on 21 st December 2023	Participant

3. Planned Interventions for 2024/2025:

CHAIN will continue to implementing their core programmes as highlighted in the report. Below we highlight some of the interventions for 2024/2025.

Intervention	Activities
Establishing a one stop community resource center in Kiwenda to bridge critical gaps in the community by providing essential IT and other skills trainings and disseminating trusted up-to-date information on health prevention and management.	Offer knowledge and skills in IT and other identified needs.
	Installing rocket ovens to offer women baking skills to enable them to earn an income.
	Providing tailoring skills to young girls and women in the community to enable them to gain skills.
	Developing and disseminating appropriate health education materials through various channels including; community dialogues, posters, fliers, radio programs and social media to support health behaviour change strategies.
	Conducting health education sessions for community members including; screenings, nutrition counseling
	Information on prevention and management of communicable and non communicable diseases
	Organising health literacy trainings for health workers to enable them provide appropriate support and resources to patients.

Addressing Maternal mortality among youth and women in the reproductive age groups of ages 15 to 49 years	Organising Community education and awareness programs through community outreaches and dialogues for youth and women (15-49 years). These include: raising awareness about maternal health practices on safe motherhood, etc.
	Developing community skits (music, dance and drama) to raise awareness on maternal health, practices on safe motherhood, birth preparedness, danger signs during pregnancy and childbirth.
	Building partnerships with key stakeholders (government, civil society organizations, private sector) to improve maternal health outcomes.
	Organising meetings for men to raise awareness on their role in maternal and child health issues like Prevention of Mother To Child Transmission (PMTCT).
	Organising community dialogues and awareness campaigns to promote HIV testing and health seeking behaviors for pregnant women as opposed to seeking treatment from non-medical services.
	Awareness on sexual reproductive health and early pregnancies
	Conducting empowerment programs for skilling women to make mama kits and other Income Generating Activities (IGAs)
Increasing awareness, education and empowerment for antimicrobial use.	Organising sensitization meetings/community outreaches on responsible antibiotic use.
	Organising dialogues with Community owned resources (cultural, religious, political & teachers)
	Conducting radio talk shows on appropriate use of antibiotics and the dangers of misuse.
	Organising trainings for health workers, Drug shop owners, dispensers and Community Health Workers on prescribing and dispensing practices.
	Participate in partners and government line ministry meeting on AMR
Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children	Organising fundraising events to support children in school
	conducting financial literacy trainings to equip them with knowledge and enable them live an improved quality life

Pictorial



Ms. Nampurira from Ministry of Health-making a presentation during the orientation on community health strategy



VHTs during the training on preventing and managing malaria in



Pupils of Namulonae P/S during the hand washing puzzle exercise



Buso Moslem Primary school children presenting a session on tippy tap construction during the WHHD Commemorations



Buso preschool children presenting a poem on washing hands to control diseases like cholera and diarrhea



CHAIN representative addressing pupils of Damalie Nabagereka P/S on hand hygiene



St. Damalie Nabagereka children during a play on hand hygiene



Parents enjoying presentations on hand-hygiene by their children at Buso Moslem P/S



Dr. Martin Ssendyona Ass. Commissioner, Standards Compliance Accreditation and patient Protection ,Ministry of health(in the Middle) with Village Health Teams at the WPSD event



Dr. Martin Ssendyona, MoH (in the middle) with the Incharge of Namulonge HC111, officials from UIA



Dr. Hassan Zimula, Medical officer, Nansana Municipal Council giving a speech during the WPSD event



Celebrating WPSD at Busukuma C.O.U P/S



Empowering communities through a training on soap making and finance literacy



Participants who attended the research prioritization workshop at CHAIN offices-Kiwenda

Special thanks to our partners and sponsors

- Germany sponsors
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