



Above: A group photo of participants of the Ugandan workshop

A Synthesized Workshop Report for stakeholders on Article 33 of the UN CRC In Kampala Uganda; Nairobi Kenya and Dar es Salaam Tanzania (20th to 23rd May 2013)

Workshop chair: *Mr. Rogers Kasirye, UYDEL*

Workshop Presenters: *Mr. Mutaawe Rogers; Ms. Anna Nabulya and Ms. Linda Nilsson*

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INTRODUCTION

These one-day sensitization workshops focused on creating awareness about Article 33 of the UN CRC and were implemented by Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL) with financial support from OAK Foundation. These workshops were attended by 41 people in Uganda, 50 people in Kenya and 31 people in Tanzania thus a total of 122 people were reached. Five major presentations and two feedback sessions were made on the following issues: The role of NGOs partners in domestication of the Article 33 (UN CRC); The work and role of the World Federation Against Drugs (WFAD); The relationship between drugs and commercial sexual exploitation of children; Evidence based interventions (Brief and Motivational Interviewing, and social work theories) ;Lessons learnt from the Application of the Prevention Smart Parents Model and new developments about the Prevention Hub and UNODC International Standards on Drug Use Prevention.

Objectives of the sensitization workshops:

1. Increase awareness and popularize Article 33 of the United Nations Convention of the Right of the Child (1989) among the NGO social workers, teachers and parents in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.
2. Train NGO social workers, teachers and parents on prevention of onset, identification, communication, and referral of children using narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances using Prevention Smart Parents model.
3. Induct NGO social workers, teachers and parents in evidence based interventions (Brief and Motivational Interviewing and Implementation science) that help young people deal with problems and commit to change.

Outcomes of the workshops

1. Strengthened UYDEL's capacity and competence as a resource centre and lead agency for drug prevention focused work in the East African region.
2. A drug free society promoted in supporting, expanding, monitoring and evaluating promising evidence based interventions.
3. A data base of more NGO actors, teachers and parents developed to promote referral, information, knowledge and skills sharing among NGO actors in the East African region.

These workshops identified the following key recommendations:

1. There is need to conduct further in depth training of NGO actors and practitioners in Brief and Motivational Interviewing skills for 5 days for partners to clearly understand and be able to apply the concepts.
2. The concept of Drug Courts should be studied and introduced in the East African region to give an option of intervention and treatment program to those convicted to non-violent drug offenders overseen by staff of a designated drug prevention agency.
3. Promote regular information sharing of new developments and best practices among partners in the region.

WORKSHOP FORMAT AND FEEDBACK SESSIONS

Mr. Rogers Kasirye, the Executive Director of UYDEL and the session chair welcomed participants, communicated agenda, and undertook climate setting, the background and the objectives of the workshop.

Summary of presentation 1: The role of partners in domestication of Article 33 of the UN CRC; (by Ms. Linda Nilsson, Project Manager; World Federation Against Drugs)

Ms. Linda set the stage by presenting about Article 33 of the UN CRC giving highlights as described in the book titled “ The Protection of children from Illicit Drugs- A minimum Human Rights Standard” written by Stephan Dahlgren and Roxana Stere. She highlighted that the UN CRC is the fulcrum of international children rights law and is one of the core human rights instrument with the highest ratification number of all instruments (193 out of 195 Member States). The UN CRC establishes minimum standards which must be upheld by State Parties. State Parties can go further than the Treaty stipulation in order to protect people, provide social rights but it cannot do less than the Treaty requires. This Article has been ignored and received less attention even from the world’s prominent child rights advocates.



Article 33 of the UN CRC States that “States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as defined in the relevant international treaties, and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances”.

Article 33 therefore Protects and prevents children from;

- Illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (protection)
- Participation in production of illicit drugs and psychotropic substances (prevention)
- Participation in trafficking of illicit drugs and psychotropic substances (prevention)

Ms. Linda also talked about the work and role of the World Federation Against Drugs (WFAD). She noted that the World Federation Against Drugs (WFAD) is a multilateral community of non-governmental organizations and individuals. Founded in 2009, the aim of WFAD is to work for a drug-free world. The work of WFAD is built on the principles of universal fellowship and basic human and democratic rights. WFAD believes that working for a drug-free world will promote peace, human development, democracy, tolerance, equality, freedom and justice. WFAD supports strategies that seek to reduce illegal drug use, drug courts, prevention programmes and early interventions, and the protection of Rights of the Child. She also talked about the basic principles of WFAD, the membership base of WFAD, Members' needs, WFAD activities, and membership benefits.

Summary of presentation 2: The relationship between drugs & CSEC, challenges and lessons learnt (by Mr. Mutaawe Rogers, Senior Program Manager, UYDEL)



Mr. Mutaawe's presentation showed the relationship between drugs and commercial sexual exploitation of children and mainly highlighted that drug abuse is a serious problem among children engaged in commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC). CSEC is highly linked and fuelled further the use of drugs and alcohol and the use of drugs has also been compounded by the spread of HIV/AIDS. He noted that young people are mainly using tobacco/cannabis – pipes, shisa, smoking cigarettes, drinking alcohol and

chewing khat/mairungi. He described the reasons why girls and boys use drugs; the risk and protective factors for drug use; lessons learnt in dealing with drug use among young people engaged in commercial sexual exploitation. He observed that comprehensive drug prevention programmes should focus on dissemination of information about the dangers of drugs; education in communities based on life skills; Family and parenting skills training; Workplace prevention programmes; promoting Alternative activities (sports, drama, music etc.); vocational training and income-generation support; Media campaigns; and screening and brief interventions.

Summary of presentation 3: NGO Accountability mechanisms (by Adelaine Williams, PhD)



In her presentation, she highlighted why NGO accountability is important which is reflected in mainly three reasons of rapid growth, attraction of more funds and the powerful voice. In accountability, there is usually an actor with the responsibility to do something and an actor to hold the other to account. She defined accountability as how you ensure and demonstrate responsibility and this is done by asking four questions; who is accountable, to whom?, for what? and how? She emphasized the need for a stakeholder analysis when undertaking accountability and she defined upward accountability as pertaining to ‘donors, funders, boards of

trustees and host governments, ensuring that INGOs deliver value for money and targets. She also defined downward accountability as a state of interacting and mutually learning with beneficiaries and it is an integral part of a rights-based approach to development. Horizontal accountability was defined as pertaining to ‘peers and fellow professionals in terms of meeting shared values and standards to uphold the standards and reputation of the sector’. Therefore in a nutshell, accountability is not only about accounting for donor funds, but also about making progress towards an organisation’s mission and ensuring that mission reflects accountability to communities or clients’.

DISCUSSION AND FEEDBACK SESSION 1

In this session, participants presented their view on the presentations made and asked questions that were dully responded to by the presenters.

Comments from the presentations

1. Participants expressed commitment and willingness to become members of WFAD to benefit from the resources and expertise available globally.
2. Participants noted that they would promote and sensitize other partners about Article 33 of UN CRC and also establish whether this article has been domesticated in their respective countries or else undertake advocacy initiatives with government to have such laws in place.
3. In Kenya, NACADA is being established as an Act of Parliament and will have the mandate to initiate relevant policies.
4. In all the work undertaken by NGOs, they should remember that they are accountable to all stakeholders at all levels.

5. There is a tendency for people not to address mental health issues yet these also affect the wellbeing of children.

Summary of presentation 4: Evidence based interventions and CSEC (Brief and Motivational Interviewing by Mr. Kasirye Rogers, Executive Director, UYDEL)



Mr. Rogers Kasirye discussed the definitions, characteristics/nature of evidence based prevention programmes to address drug abuse among young people. He noted that such initiatives should be based on sound planning and should be tested and evaluated. Other characteristics to consider are; potential for broad reach, uses innovative methods, has potential to contribute to dissemination of drug abuse messages, improves implementation knowledge base, creation of specific dissemination products and dissemination to high risk target populations.

He shared about the concept of Motivational Interviewing in which he described it as a brief counseling style/strategy based on the spirit of using patient's perspective towards the resolution of ambivalence and towards positive change. The Counselor help clients explore their ambivalence and possibility for change, NOT to ensure change; and motivated clients solve their own barriers. He also described the principles of motivational interviewing as Develop discrepancy (behavior vs values); Express empathy (it's difficult to quit); Avoid argumentation (accept their views); Roll with resistance (it's your decision) and Support self-efficacy (help set goals).

Mr. Kasirye also discussed the importance of using brief interventions especially CAGE and AUDIT when dealing with drug users to help identify the level at which the counselor may intervene. CAGE is comprised of four (4) questions namely; 1) Have you ever felt you should Cut down on your drinking? 2) Have people Annoyed you by criticizing your drinking? 3) Have you ever felt bad or Guilty about your drinking? 4) Have you had an Eye opener first thing in the morning to get rid of a hangover? The AUDIT has 10 questions which also help assess the level of addiction or dependence of clients and these are good tools for NGO workers to use before doing any interventions on clients.



Above: A group photo of participants at the Kenya workshop

Summary of presentation 5: The Prevention Smart Parents model (By Anna Nabulya, Deputy Executive Director, UYDEL)



Ms. Anna Nabulya presented UYDEL experience in adopting and implementing the Prevention Smart Parents drug abuse prevention model. This involved working with parents to provide information and skills to parents on how to communicate to children about drugs with the aim of delaying onset and supporting children who are already using drugs and substances. She also discussed the 10-chapter prevention smart manual that was developed and adopted to the Ugandan context to facilitate this process of engaging parents, called, the Prevention Smart Parents Manual.

She noted that PSP is a Prevention Programme and an Early intervention which educates about drugs and their dangers. It involves working with parents, families, communities, and schools among others to cause change and it helps improve communication among Parents and their children - How to talk with your child or teen about drug use. Stakeholders are able to understand why some young people use drugs with a focus on assessing risks and building Protective Assets. The PSP also highlights steps to take if your child is already experimenting drug use but is also a culturally sensitive model which takes into consideration using internet, and social media.

Summary of presentation 6: New Developments in the East African region by Mr. Kasirye Rogers, Executive Director, UYDEL

Mr. Kasirye highlighted that UNODC had developed International Standards on Drug Use Prevention which summarize the currently available scientific evidence, describing interventions and policies that have been found to result in positive prevention outcomes and their characteristics. These Standards identify the major components and features of an effective national drug prevention system and these Standards are intended to guide policy makers to develop programmes, policies and systems that are truly effective investment in the future of children, youth, families and communities. These Standards were developed with consultations from Mentor International, EMCDDA, CCSA, CICAD, NIDA, and WHO which had previously developed standards and guidelines on various aspects of drug prevention.

He also mentioned that Mentor International has developed a Prevention Hub to act as a focal point for sharing research, policy and best practice. The Prevention Hub builds networks and supports the global drug prevention community. Therefore the Prevention Hub provides an online meeting place for all who are interested in drug prevention and here partners will share learning from the field, provide support, facilitate networks and provide professional development and training. Participants were urged to sign up at preventionhub.org to receive free fortnightly Prevention Updates.



Above: A group photo of participants at the Tanzania workshop

DISCUSSION AND FEEDBACK SESSION 2

In this session, participants presented their view on the presentations made.

Comments from the presentations

1. Participants noted that brief interventions (CAGE and AUDIT) are good tools to apply because they do not require a lot of skill and time to administer them to clients. The information gathered provides a starting point for counseling sessions to take place.
2. The Prevention Hub and UNODC International Standards on Drug Use Prevention are important resources for drug prevention in the region.

REMARKS FROM THE CHIEF GUESTS

In Uganda, Mr. Mondo Kyateka the Assistant Commissioner for Youths in the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development thanked UYDEL for the efforts it has done in helping the young people. He further revealed that that Uganda's biggest population are children and young people and they are the main abusers of drugs. He noted that 57% of children in Uganda are 18 years and below and 21.6% of the young people are 18 to 30 years. He also said that most crimes committed in Uganda are as a result of drug and substance consumption. He advised that structures and frame works should be established to work upon population growth in Uganda. He further mentioned that the private public partnership policy of the government should be used to be able to address the different problems in the country. He further acknowledged that the Ministry of Gender Labor and Social Development should work closely with the police to ensure that Article 33 is domesticated in the Children's Act.

In Kenya, Mr. Chege Gatheru from the Ministry of Gender and Youths intimated that government is committed to protecting children from drug use by drafting relevant laws but also noted that the country needs to draft policies that deter expulsion of workers found to be taking drugs. He said that his Ministry is responsible for drug and substance abuse prevention issues and would work hand in hand with other civil society organisations in drafting

In Tanzania, Mr. Eric Guga from the Tanzania Child Rights Forum called for more dialogue and discussion about Article 33 if stakeholders are to establish tangible results. It's high time that each of the partners present thought about interventions to domesticate the convention in whole.