

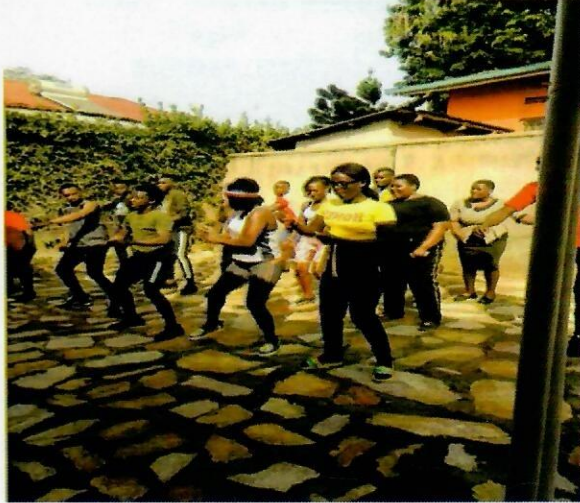


**UNESO**

**NETWORK OF KEY POPULATION SERVICE ORGANISATIONS LTD**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2019-2020**



### List of Acronyms.

AIDS	ACQUIRED IMMUNE SYNDROME
ARVS	ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY
ASWA	AFRICAN SEX WORKERS ALLIANCE
CEHURD	CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT
CSOs	CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS
HIV	HUMAN IMMUNE VIRUS
HRAPF	HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS AND PROMOTION FORUM
JAS PROGRAM RIGHTS	JOINT ADVOCACY FOR SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS
MAHIPSO	MASAKA KP HIV PREVENTION & SUPPORT ORGANIZATION
MWAPA	MALUKU WOMEN ASSOCIATION TO PREVENT HIV/AIDS
NSWP	GLOBAL NETWORK OF SEXWORKERS PROGRAMME.
PrEP	Pre-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS.
UNESO	NETWORK OF KEY POPULATION SERVICE ORGANISATION
WONETHA	WOMEN'S ORGANISATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY

## FOREWORD FROM CHAIRPERSON

I take this opportunity to thank the entire UNESO family, friends and partners for giving me the opportunity to serve in this great Network for sex workers in their different diversities.

In the year 2019-2020, we continued to do our very best in line with UNESO's mission and strategic goals that resulted into remarkable achievements as recorded during the year, details of which are in the subsequent pages of this report.

While you are reading this report, UNESO values your dedicated partnership and invites you to continue identifying with us especially in our endeavors towards creating a favorable environment that recognizes sex work as work and respects the human rights of sex workers.

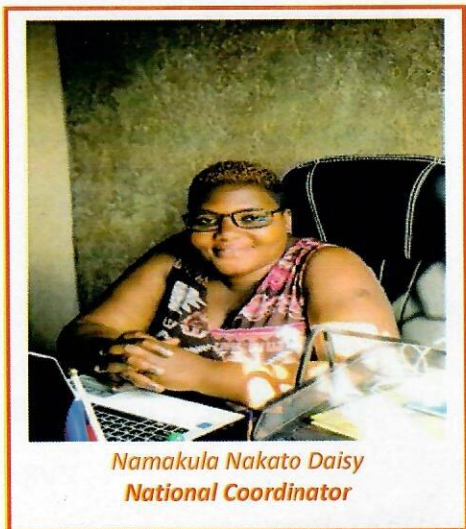
God bless UNESO and all of you!



MS. Batte Shamilah -UNESO chairperson

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Batte Shamilah', written over a faint, illegible background.

## MESSAGE FROM NATIONAL COORDINATOR



On behalf of the UNESO management team, I am delighted to share with you UNESO's 2019-2020 annual report—the first ever annual report since the inception of the network in 2015. This report highlights the notable achievements realised in the year towards ensuring building a strong, unified, well-coordinated sex worker movement in Uganda by empowering member organizations through advocacy and research to enable a free and safe environment for sex workers in all their diversities.

Much of what was accomplished this year came as a result of timely support received from our development partners, network members and stakeholder, therefore;

We are deeply indebted to our funders for their generous financial contributions coupled with technical support from OSIEA, RED -UMBRELLA, AIDSFOND, UHAI and SIDA through the JAS program. We are proud of

our partners and member networks for the continued support and cooperation for their existence have enabled us to realise the milestone shared in this report. Gratitude goes to our dear national steering committee members and management team for aligning all of UNESO's operations, from day to day activities through a strategic objective in order to achieve our Vision of: "A society to where sex work is recognised as work and respect for human rights of sex workers in their diversity prevails".

This is the year that saw us developing a 5-year strategic plan—the first strategic plan for UNESO aimed at responding to the realities of sex work movement in Uganda. In this regard UNESO secretariat has been able to implement activities set to five strategic goals within the strategic plan.

UNESO is committed to building a strong, unified, well-coordinated sex worker movement in Uganda by empowering member organizations through advocacy and research to enable a free and safe environment for sex workers in all their diversities.

We pledge to continue fighting and working towards realising a society to where sex work is recognised as work and respect for human rights of sex workers in their diversity prevails.

Together, we can make a difference.

By Namakula Nakato Daisy-  
UNESO, National Coordinator

## WHO WE ARE?

Network of key population service organisations LTD [UNESO] is an umbrella body for organizations led by sex workers for sex workers. Founded in a society that refuses to acknowledge sex work as work, and continues to discriminate and violate the human rights of sex workers.

UNESO is mandated to bring together sex work led organizations across Uganda to form a collective voice that will enable sex workers to advocate for their rights. It also exists to create safe spaces where sex workers can convene, discuss and find solutions to the unending challenges that they face within the communities in which they live and work.

UNESO exists to uphold the voices of sex workers in Uganda, and to coordinate and connect organizations that advocate for the rights of sex workers living and working in Uganda.

### **VISION.**

A society where recognition of sex work and respect for human rights of sex workers in all their diversity prevails

### **MISSION.**

To build a strong, unified, well-coordinated sex worker movement in Uganda by empowering member organizations through advocacy and research to enable a free and safe environment for sex workers in all their diversities.

### **VALUES.**

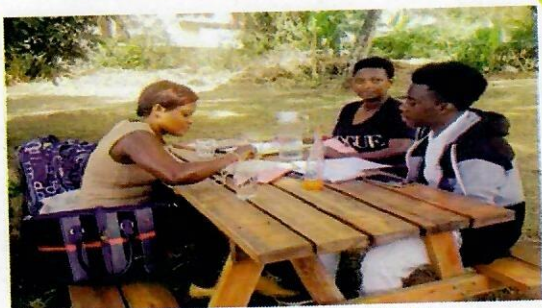
- ❖ Teamwork
- ❖ Integrity
- ❖ Inclusive
- ❖ Excellence

## PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT.

This section looks at interventions as per the strategic themes and activities by highlighting achievements, challenges, lessons learned and success stories.

**Strategic Goal 1: UNESCO is a recognized and respected partner, and the voice that advocates for human and labour rights of sex workers in Uganda.**

The interventions done under this strategic goal were geared towards improving Research, documentation and dissemination, Advocacy and dialogue, Increased rights awareness and External relations and strategic partnerships among the member networks and strengthen the capacity of the network itself



*UNESCO mapping Masaka district.*

**1.1 Mapping of sex worker organizations in Uganda.** A number of areas in Uganda remain distant and hard to reach thus creating barriers in accessing services targeted to sex workers. Many of the known and vibrant sex work led organisations are concentrated in the urban districts or central Uganda. Therefore, UNESCO embarked on the mapping exercise to identify sex work led organisations and sex work serving organisations in all the districts of Uganda. UNESCO has a target of reaching 15 districts annually while mapping sex work led organisation for improved coordination and upholding uniformed voice of sex workers in Uganda.

**1.2. Analyze laws affecting sex workers, looking for clauses that criminalize sex work and advocate for change.** UNESCO is an active member of the coalition to petitioning petty offences which is led by HRAFP. The network has also been closely following and working with HRAFP and other partners on the sexual offenses bill.



*UNESCO participating in an advocacy meeting*



*Printed and disseminated IEC materials*

**1.3. Developed and distributed 5,271 IEC materials including posters and brochures with PrEP services information among sex workers.**

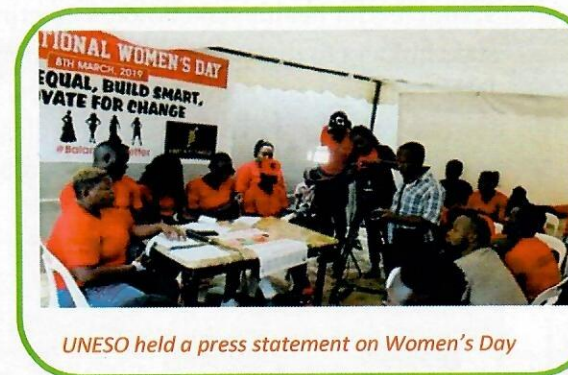


**1.4** UNESO in collaboration with CEHURD translated, printed and disseminated 1, 700 posters with COVID 19 prevention messages made by the government of Uganda and World Health Organisation into local languages for easy understanding. the messages are translated in different local languages that include; Luganda, Runyakitara, Kiswahili, LUO etc.

**1.5** UNESO with support from UHAI and AIDSFONDS documented human rights violation cases faced by sex workers during the COVI-19 national lockdown, launched and disseminated 135 copies of the violation booklets among members, partners and stakeholders for evidence-based advocacy and effective KP programming

**1.6.** Use of social media plat forms. UNESO has hands on use of various social media platforms to disseminate information, showcasing the work of sex workers and creating visibility for sex work movement. The network owns a face book account in the names of **UNESO** and a twitter account under **UnesoUganda**. More so UNESO is in the process of developing a website to the network.

**1.7.** Organize the celebration of International days. To uphold the voices of sex workers in Uganda, UNESO organised the celebration of INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY through conducting a press conference and mobilising communities for blood donation.



*UNESO held a press statement on Women's Day*



*UNESO participated in Match campaign to end violence*

**1.8.** Attend relevant high-level international meetings to lobby for rights of Uganda sex workers. Over the year UNESO has been represented in different meetings and workshops at regional and international level to represent the issues affecting sex workers and to lobby for the rights of sex workers. These activities were; UHAI strategic planning and thinking workshop, end violence against WOMEN -match campaign in Kisumu Kenya, OSIEA report validation meeting, USA- Baltimore (global to local, local to global conference organised by JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY), USA -WASHINGTON -FCAA summit philanthropy organised by funders concerned about AIDS presented on a panel discussion on the importance of directly funding key populations,

**1.9. District orientation/inception meeting.** A total of three district entry point /inceptions meetings were held in central, northern and eastern region of Uganda under the PrEP capacity building project supported by AIDS FOND -PITCH FLEX and JAS PROGRAM. the meetings were intended to scale up and promote sex worker's participation in the district planning processes for improved HIV service delivery among sex workers .it was also intended to contribute stigma reduction among stakeholders and sex workers to enable sex workers benefit from government health programs.



*Central region inception meeting*



*Northern region inception meeting*

**1.10. District health stakeholders meeting.** UNESO reached to one hundred thirty-eight (138) health stakeholders to discuss and find solutions to challenges in accessing health care services including HIV treatment and prevention services, SRHR services and among others. The dialogue meetings were intended to have revised strategies on improving health care service uptake among sex workers. District sharing meetings were held in the GULU, KAMPALA, BUSIA, MBALE districts of Uganda.



**1.11** Trained 58 health care providers in the provision of friendly PrEP services among sex workers. There has been existing information gap on PrEP use and administration among both health providers and service users. Therefore, the training was intended to bridge the PrEP Use among health care providers.



*Health workers meeting in Eastern region*



*Health workers meeting in Northern region*

**1.12.** Relationship building with partners and stakeholder. UNESO still enjoys the good working relation ship with partners like HRAPF, CEHURD and among others while stake holders includes Ministry of Health, Uganda AIDS COMMISION and District local government. The international and regional partners are ASWA, NSWP and others. The network looks forward to establishing and strengthening more partnership, networks and collaborations with like-minded organisations and agencies.



*Coalition meeting on Petty offences*



*National Coordinator taking part in the International meeting*

**Strategic Goal 2: UNESO is a vibrant and united sex worker led movement for and by sex workers to uphold their dignity, and to promote and protect their human rights.**

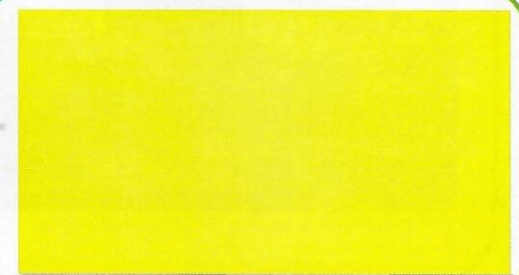
UNESO being a membership organisation, focus is put on strengthening member networks and its self for the betterment of the sex work movement through Pursue growth and development of UNESO's membership and Institutional strengthening of member organizations for a unified approach to rights and advocacy. The following was achieved in respect to the above strategic goal2.

**2.1 UNESO trained 58 sex worker leaders on PrEP with the aim of improving PrEP uptake among sex workers to reduce HIV transmission with the overall goal of contributing to HIV prevalence reduction in Uganda.**



*Sex Worker training on PrEP*

**2.2 Conducted advocacy training for its members targeting 15 sex worker leaders to equip them with advocacy knowledge and skills to help them demand for their own rights.**



**2.3 Conducted transformational leadership targeting 35 sex workers with that main aim of building the capacity of sex worker leader to manage their own sex work led organisation with effective leadership.**

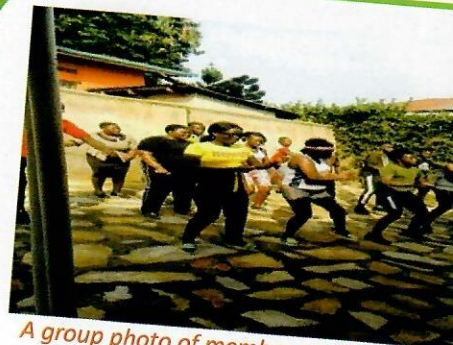


**2.4** Conducted resource mobilisation and financial management training targeting 35 sex worker leaders. the training was intended to equip se workers with knowledge and skills for resource mobilisation and managing donor funds.

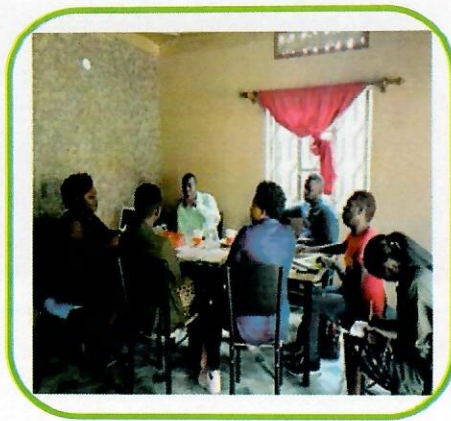


**2.5** Sensitised 44 sex workers on SRHR in the district of BUSIA and GULU. the activities were intended to promoting access to SRHR services among sex workers through the JAS programme.

**2.6 .** Strategic visioning and planning workshop. The workshop was inspired by the development of the first ever and new strategic plan for UNESO. The development of the UNESO strategic plan 2020-2024 was spear headed by representatives from the 26-member organizations from various regions who were led by the Chairperson of the current Steering Committee and the National Network Coordinator whose inputs were invaluable to the process while the strategic plan responded to gaps in sex work movement coordination



*A group photo of member organizations during the strategic visioning*



**2.7** Steering committee meetings. Quarterly steering committee meetings are held to give direction to the sex work network organisation.

Resource mobilisation. Through the guidance of the national steering committee, the management team has extended much efforts in resource fundraising through writing and submitting funding proposals to different donors who support the work of sex workers. Example of proposal submitted are UHAI, AIDSFOND, FRONTLINE AIDS, OUTRIGHT, WPHF, ARASA, URGENT ACTION FUND-Africa, UKAID/DFPI and others

**2.8** Reviewed existing organizational policies and the constitution. The steering committee together with the management team has reviewed the human resource and financial manual for the network and the manual/policies have been re-approved by the steering committee.

**2.9** Documentation of activities and programs. In accordance to the UNESO strategic plan 2020-2024, the network keeps track of every step/stage of network progress, every staff member prepares monthly progress reports of their key priorities and activities undertaken, which then build up on the Executive Directors quarterly, bi annual and annual reports.

**2.10** UNESO Putting in place mechanism for proper functioning of UNESO steering committee. UNESO has Seven steering committee members who are also representatives and executive directors of sex work led organisations as follows.

**2.10.1** Steering committee members.



*Batte Shamila- UNESO Chairperson*



*Karungi Beyoncé*



*Morgan Kanyike*



*Yiga Peter*



*Sanyu Hajara Batte*

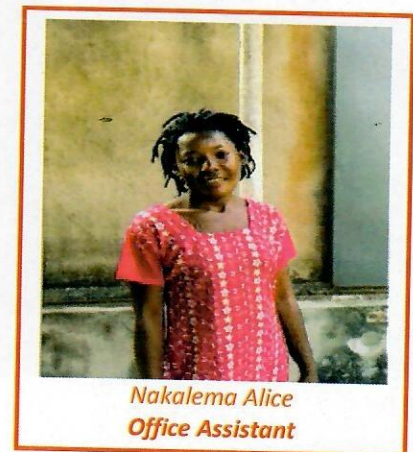
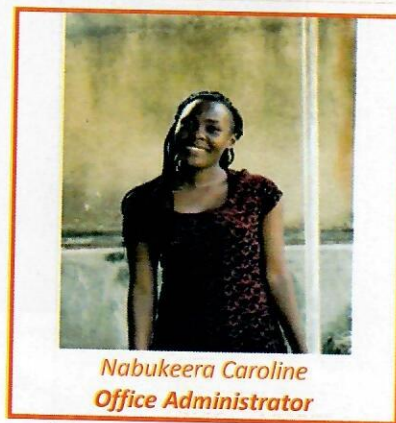
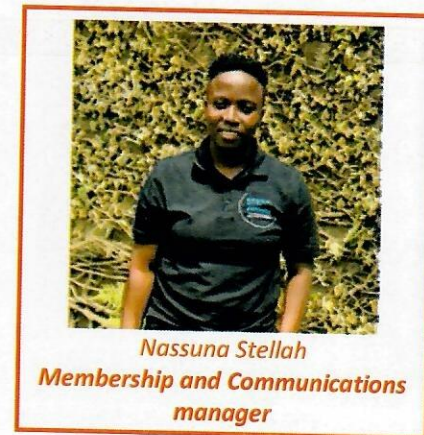
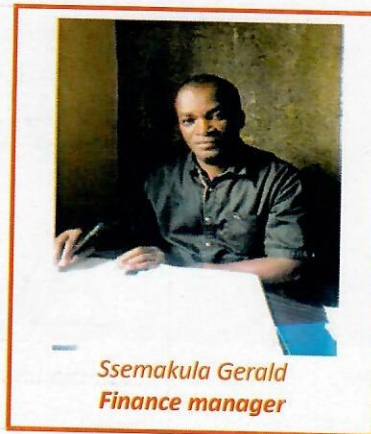
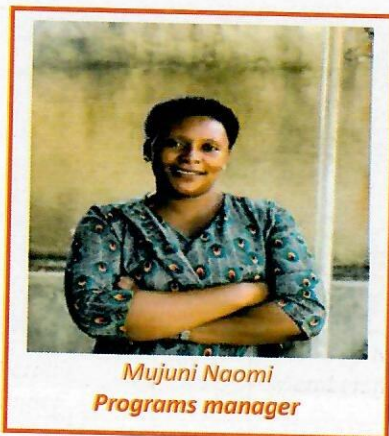
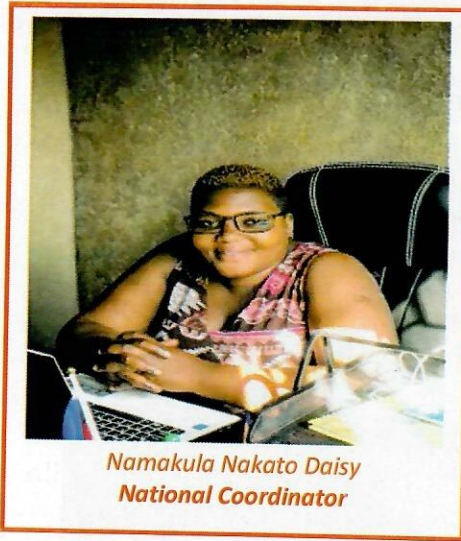


*Namakula Nakato Daisy*

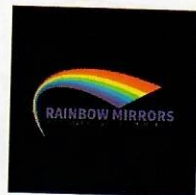


*Natukunda Diana*

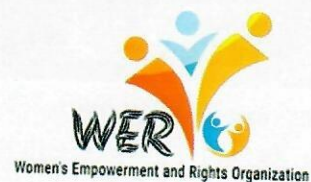
**2.10.2 Strengthening management of UNESO.** UNESO currently has 6 staff.



**2.10.3** UNESO is a membership organisation that focus on mapping and identifying sex work led organisation for purposes of creating a vibrant and sex work led movement. Therefore, the network has a membership of 23 sex work led organisations spread across the country as shown below.



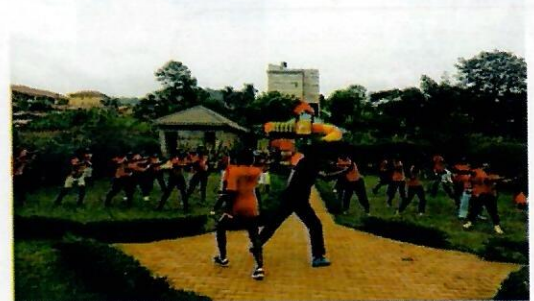
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## Strategic Goal 3: Advance the wellbeing and wellness of its members

This strategic goal aims at supporting the leaders' wellbeing. Providing psychosocial or emotional support, promoting physical fitness and more so improving the livelihoods of sex workers and sex worker leaders in their diversity

**3.1** UNESO conducted a creative space workshop that brought together 42 sex worker leaders to which the Zumba dance was launched. The wellbeing of sex worker leaders is very much important because it helps to reduce stress, burn outs at work place, fatigue and more importantly also improves one's health.



*Sex worker leaders enjoying Zumba dance*

**3.2** UNESO conducted monthly Executive Directors' forum (ED's FORUM) that aimed at bringing together sex worker leaders to have some luxuries times off from work to where they share their life experiences as well as providing psychosocial support to each other.



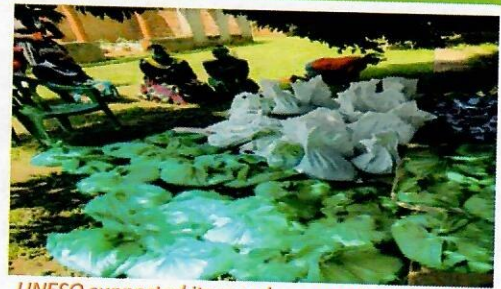
### 3,3 COVID 19 emergency response.

**3.3.1** UNESO Provided emergency relief to sex workers in response to COVID 19 effects through network member organisations. As emergency times calls for emergence response or action, therefore due to the outcry of the sex workers in this situation of COVID 19, UNESO emerged to support its member organisations through giving relief food and other essential needs to sex workers through member organisations who played the major role of identifying and mobilising individual sex workers for support. UNESO supported a total of 495 sex workers in 17 districts of Uganda with distribution of 3,180 kgs of beans, 2,175 kgs of maize flour, 2,055 kgs of rice, 2,055kgs of rice and 2,055kgs of sugar.

While the sanitary items were 480 packs of sanitary pads, 315 bars of soap and 300 bottles of sanitiser. The supported districts included Masaka, Mutukula, Kabarole, Iganga, Busia, Lira, Gulu, Mbale, Hoima ,Mubende, Kampala, Wakiso, Mukono, Mbarara, Buikwe, Soroti, Malaba.



UNESO supported its member organizations  
Mbarara district



UNESO supported its member organization in Lira  
district



**3.3.2** UNESO supported 60 sex work leaders with airtime for coordination, making follows and provision of psychosocial support through telephone calls to their peers or sex workers who are faced with emotional ad health challenges. To improve the wellbeing of sex workers,

**3.3.3** Also, UNESO facilitated eighteen (18) peer leaders /sex work leaders with transport and allowance to be able to distribute HIV treatment drugs and HIV prevention commodities to sex workers faced with a challenge of accessing HIV services due to limited transportation. This was intended to improve ART and PrEP adherence and retention into care and support among sex workers.

3.3.4 UNESCO produced and distributed two thousand two hundred fifty (2,250) re-usable face masks to prevent COVID 19 transmission among sex workers.

## 3.0 ACHIEVEMENTS.

1. by the network SIDA and RED-UMBRELLA.
2. Active participation of the secretariat in member and partner engagements like REact training by FRONTLINE AIDS, M&E training by CEHURD, paralegal training by HRAPF and all member engagements to where UNESCO have been invited.
3. Increased staffing. UNESCO has recruited two more staff in the position of programs manager and security guard.
4. Strengthened work relationship/collaboration with Ministry of Health. The network was privileged to collaborate and work with the MOH in the implementation of the PrEP capacity building project to where the MOH experts were the lead facilitators for the PrEP capacity building sessions while pioneering the use of the PrEP training manual developed by the ministry of Health Uganda.

## 3.1 CHALLENGES.

1. Structures for sex work are still weak especially in rural areas. This greatly affect the ability to coordinate sex workers especially in rural and hard to reach districts.
2. Existence of the legal unfavourable environment which encourage violation of sex workers and sex workers' rights.
3. Stigma and discrimination of sex workers in the community and health settings is still rampant as it hinders effective accessibility of social and health services among sex workers.
4. The outbreak of the COVID 19 pandemic and its effects was a big blow to lives of sex workers and sex workers led organisations.
5. Limited fund to support in reaching out to all network members with nutrition support and other The network successfully developed her strategic plan which created a sense of direction to strengthen the network and its members. The 5-year strategic plan was developed to guide operations at the secretariat and among member organisations.
5. There has been intensified resource mobilisation. the network brought in resources from UHAI, AIDS FOND, OSIEA, JAS programme necessities especially during this COVID 19 pandemic situation.

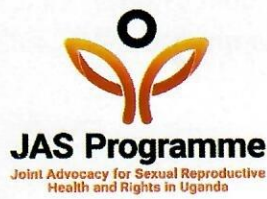
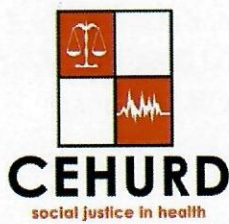
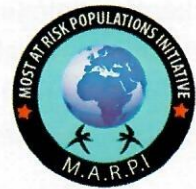
#### 4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS/ WAYFORD

1. To intensify resource mobilisation to be able to support network members in all situations.
2. Development of a disaster preparedness strategy/plan for the network and network members to help in times of responding to sex work needs in times of emergency.
3. Strategic partnership to facilitate a reduction in stigma and discrimination against sex workers in communities and health settings.
4. Strengthening rural sex work structures for effective sex work coordination.

#### CONCLUSION.

UNESO is and will always be most grateful to its donors, partners, stakeholders, network members, steering committee members and staff. through this partnership and cooperation, UNESO has been able to achieve all that it has. UNESO is more committed to strengthen the existing partnerships while working to building a strong, unified, well-coordinated sex worker movement in Uganda by empowering member organizations through advocacy and research to enable a free and safe environment for sex workers in all their diversities

# UNESO PARTNERS.



# UNESO funders/donors.



# UNESO FINANCIAL ANNUAL REPORT

Donor	Period	Granted- Foreign currency	Granted local currency	Secured- Foreign currency	Secured - local currency	Project funded	% of total Secured amount(local currency)
AMPLIFIED CHANGE	2018	\$5,842.857	20,450,000	\$5,842.857	20,450,000	a) Institutional Support:- Contributing to Salaries, rent and administration Costs b) Creative space: Having health and wellness among sex worker leaders. c) International Women's Day celebration	3.3%
OSIEA	2018/2019	\$26,330.69	94,790,487	\$26,330.69	94,790,487	a) Institutional Support:- Contributing to Salaries, rent and administration Costs b) Mapping exercise to identify new groups.	15.36%
						a) Districts Planning Meetings; orienting	

PITCFLEX-	2019/2020	€ 29,790.7	128,900,000.	€ 23,832.56	96,287,730	<p>stakeholders about the project. in 4 regions of Uganda</p> <p>b) 2 days residential workshop on PrEP for sex workers leaders in 4 regions of Uganda</p> <p>c) 2 days residential workshop on PrEP for Health workers leaders in 4 regions of Uganda</p> <p>d) Printing of MOH approved PrEP IEC materials.</p> <p>e) Stakeholders dialogue meetings</p> <p>f) Travel costs</p>	15.6%
OSIEA	2020/2021	\$80,000	280,000,000	\$40,000	146,398,425	<p>a) Institutional Support:- Contributing to Salaries, rent and administration Costs</p> <p>b) Annual General Meeting (AGM)</p> <p>c) Mapping Exercise 15 districts</p>	23.73%

						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d) Leadership Training</li> <li>e) Resource mobilization and financial management</li> <li>f) Advocacy training</li> <li>g) Commemoration International Day to End Violence against sex workers.</li> </ul>	
RED UMBRELLA	2020/2021	€ 40,000	160,000,000	€24,000	97,680,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Institutional Support:- Contributing to Salaries, rent and administration Costs</li> <li>b) Transformational leadership training</li> <li>c) Fundraising and financial management training</li> <li>d) Mapping exercise 15 districts</li> <li>e) Office security.</li> </ul>	15.83%
						<p><u>Covid-19 emergency support in 5 districts: Mbarara, Kabarole, Lira, Soroti, Mbale supportin</u></p>	

UHAI	2020	\$6,109.59	23,095,800	\$6,110	23,095,800	<u>g 100 sex workers.</u> a) Nutrition support (food relief) to sex workers b) Contribution to accommodation for sex workers c) Sanitary items support d) Airtime and data for coordination. e) Support towards Collection and distribution of HIV treatment drugs. f) Evidence documentation of violation cases against sex workers.	3.74%
AIDS FONDS	2020	€ 9,673.75	31,299,300	€ 9,673.75	31,299,300	<u>Covid-19 emergency response in 7 districts (Gulu, Busia, Malaba, Mutukula, Kampala, Wakiso &amp;</u>	

						<u>supporting 300 sex workers.</u> a) Nutrition support (food relief) to sex workers in five districts. b) Sanitary items support c) Airtime and data to organization heads. d) Support towards collection and distribution of HIV treatment drugs. e) Evidence documentation of violation cases against sex workers. f) Printing and dissemination of the COVID-19 Preventive messages.	5.07%
CREA	2020		9,200,550		9,200,550	a) Virtual meeting for sex worker leaders to strategize on institution sustainability during lock down	1.49%

ASWA	2020	\$5,980.	19,900,475	\$2,990.	9,900,475	a) Virtual meeting and physical meetings for to maintain the cohesion of sex	1.61%
CEHURD/SIDA- (JAS PROJECT)	2020/2021	SEK 239,537	91,250,157	SEK 99,667	37,968,004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Institutional Support:- Contributing to Salaries, rent and administration Costs</li> <li>b) Increasing awareness on SRHR among sex workers</li> <li>c) Advocacy and movement building training on SRHR</li> <li>d) Training of 20 health workers on SRHR</li> <li>e) Dialogue meeting of 20 participants between health workers and sex workers</li> <li>f) IEC materials / documentary DVD printing</li> <li>g) Information management system support</li> <li>h) Documentation of challenge</li> </ul>	6.15%

						s faced by sex workers in accessing SRHR services-visual documentary	
DETENDER'S PROTECTION INITIATIVE	2020		2,950,000		2,950,000	a) Institutional support given in kind of a new Dell desk top computer and a laptop second hand. Valuation is by management at market value.	0.48%
FRONTLINES	2020	\$2000	6,896,420	\$2000	6,896,420	<u>Covid-19 emergency response in 3 districts (Hoima, Iganga &amp; Mukono); supporting 60 sex workers.</u> a) Nutrition support (food relief) to sex workers in five districts. b) Sanitary items support c) Monetary support to organization heads for data and airtime	1.12%

URGENT ACTION FUND	2020	€1500	6,348,000	€1500	6,348,000	<u>Covid-19 emergency response in 3 districts (Mubende, Iganga &amp; Buikwe) ; supporting 75 sex workers</u> a) Sanitary items support. b) Printing and dissemination of the COVID-19 Preventive messages.	1.03%
CEHURD/OSIEA	2020	\$7,846	28,638,570	\$7,846	28,638,570	<u>Covid-19 emergency response in 3 districts (Kabale, Nakasongola &amp; Busia) ; supporting 171 sex workers</u> a) Nutrition support (food relief) to sex workers in five districts. b) Covid-19	4.64%

						stakeholder's sensitization meeting. c) Administration cost contribution.	
UKPC	2020		5,000,000		5,000,000	a) React project-documentation of human violations	0.81%
UKPC	2020	15,000,000	15,000,000			a) Accommodation support	
TOTAL			943,719,759		616,903,761		

Note: 65.4% of the donations granted has been secured and implementation of related activities is ongoing or completed.



**UNESO**

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