



**UNESO**

**UGANDA NETWORK OF SEX WORKER-LED  
ORGANISATIONS**

**ANNUAL REPORT -2021**

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.

FSWs- Female Sex Workers
MSWs- Male sex workers
MOH- Ministry of Health
UNESO - Uganda Network of sex worker led Organizations.
OSIEA- Open Society Initiative in Eastern Africa
OGERA - Organization for Gender Empowerment & Rights Advocacy
WONETHA - Women's Organization Network for Human Rights Advocacy
YRF - Youth on rock foundation
SIU - Scarlet Initiative Uganda
CCL - Crested Crane Lighters
UHRA- Uganda Harmonized Human rights Alliance.
FSWs- Female Sex Workers.
MSWs- Male Sex workers
VOCEG- Voice for Community Empowerment Gulu
MAHIPSO - Masaka KP HIV Prevention & Support Organization
RMU - RainBow Mirrors Uganda
LMEC - Lady Mermaids Empowerment center
MONU - Men of the Night Uganda Limited
TEU- Transgender Equality Uganda
WWM - Women with a Mission
JEEWAG - Justice and Empowerment for Women & Girls Foundation
HIV –Human Immune-deficiency Virus

## FOREWORD FROM CHAIPERSON



On behalf of UNESO Board of Directors (BOD), I thank God for the results attained in the year 2021. Besides the inconveniences brought about by the COVID -19 pandemic, we are excited to inform you those we never the less experienced great improvement on our programs implementation and efficiency. UNESO continued to make significant contributions towards the coordination of sexworker-led organizations in Uganda. UNESO has increased in membership through mapping and identifying many other sex worker led organizations/groups especially in hard to reach districts. UNESO has made great efforts to realize its long time desire of establishing and strengthening partnerships and collaborations with high level stakeholders and partners to influence policy decisions on issues that affect sex workers

both at district, national and international level.

Much of what was accomplished this year came as a result of the continuous support from our funders, partners and UNESO member organizations. We therefore extend our sincere gratitude to you all and to the management team for their technical support which has made UNESO stronger over time.

UNESO is still 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 coordinating the sex worker movement!

MS. BatteShamilah -UNESO chairperson

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'BatteShamilah', written over a light blue rectangular background.

## MESSAGE FROM NATIONAL COORDINATOR



This report summarizes UNESO progress in the 2nd year of implementing UNESO strategic plan 2020-2024 and the organizational mandate of coordinating the sex worker movement in Uganda.

Our priorities for the year were informed by the increasing attention to COVID 19 pandemic, though everyone bears the immediate impact of this unprecedented health crisis, the impact runs far deeper with the already marginalized communities including the sex workers' community. It's during the time that we have seen increased human rights violations among sex workers in all their diversity, including but not limited to sexual and gender base violence, increased social stigma and discrimination, financial breakdown, increased mental health challenges, limited access to HIV prevention services and Sexual reproductive health rights and services.

We may never forget to mention the passing of the sexual offences bill (SOB) by the 10TH parliament on 3rd May 2021. This was shocking and created tension especially among the key populations as it was sought to be a setback for the advocacy efforts

made towards promoting human rights of key populations and all achievements made especially in promoting HIV prevention and reducing the HIV prevalence among the key populations being rendered effortless after the passing of the bill. Although on 3rd August 2021, the Bill was formally rejected by the President, who suggested that the bill is unnecessary as all the offences it provides for are already provided for elsewhere. However, while the move to return the bill to parliament by the president is welcome, it is important to note that this does not necessarily mean that all is well and done; a lot of advocacy is still very much needed.

For UNESO, this situation gave us the capacity and momentum to improve in our advocacy policy work, put more focus on capacity development for UNESO and of member organizations/groups as well as prioritize the wellness of the sex worker leaders to foster a strong and resilient sex worker movement.

This progress would not have been possible without the support of, and contribution from UHAI, OSIEA, SIDA/CEHURD (JAS PROGRAMME), RED UMBRELLA, CREA, AIDSFOND (PITCH FLEX) UKPC, and other partners.

We are grateful for the support we continue to receive from UNESO members, district and national local government stakeholder's civil society organizations (CSOs) and local leaders.

We look forward to a year of further progress and closer collaboration and partnership for the betterment of the sex worker movement

## WHO WE ARE?

Network of key population service organizations 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

## STRATEGIC GOALS.

1. UNESO is a recognised and respected sex worker network, and the voice that advocates for human rights and labour rights of sex workers in Uganda.
2. UNESO is vibrant and united sex worker led movement for and by sex workers to uphold their dignity and promote and protect their human rights.
3. Advance the well being and wellness of its members.

## PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT.

This report will specifically give a highlight of UNESO's experiences over the year 2021, indicating interventions implemented, the challenges interfaced during the implementation lessons learned and recommendations.

### INTERVENTIONS AND SUCCESSES.

- Improved capacities of UNESO member organizations/sex worker led organizations/groups in various Key capacity areas including advocacy, leadership, organizational management, Sexual reproductive health and rights and among others.** UNESO being a membership organisation, focus is to pursue growth and development of UNESO's membership and Institutional strengthening of member organizations for a unified approach to rights and advocacy. Therefore ,to realize this, UNESO Trained 40 sex worker leaders in transformational leadership, Trained 40 sex worker leader's financial management and resource mobilisation, trained 15 sex worker leaders in advocacy and human rights, Trained 30 sex worker leaders in coalition building, networking and partnership, Trained 40 sex workers in Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) advocacy and movement building, Conducted capacity building training on PrEP uptake among 20 sex workers from Ruwenzori region.



2. **Increased policy advocacy to influence change in laws and policies, practices and attitudes that affects sex workers.** This has been achieved through continuous stakeholder engagements, awareness creation on issues that affects sex workers that need advocacy, and strengthening partnerships and collaborations aimed at creating supporting and building synergy on issues that promote and protect the rights 'of sex workers in all their diversity. Over the year, UNESO has conducted seven (7) stakeholder dialogue meetings targeting one hundred eighty five (185) stakeholders at both national and district level including health stakeholders, policy makers, influencers and enforcers, religious/cultural leaders, and teams at district local governments to discuss and strategise on how to promote human rights of sex workers, work to reduced HIV prevalence and promote access and uptake of SRHR services among sex workers. UNESO collaborated with Ministry of Health (MOH) to train 60 health workers from Rwenzori region on provision of friendly health care services among sex workers with the aim to influence attitude towards sex workers, improve PrEP and SRH uptake among sex workers.



**District entry Meeting on PrEP with DHO's from western region**



**SRHR Training of Health workers in Gulu**



**Stakeholders meeting on COVID 19 Kabale**



**Stakeholders meeting on COVID 19 Mubende**



UNESO has lifted its feet to learn and initiate engagements on relevant high-level platforms to lobby and advocate for rights of Uganda sex workers. Over the year UNESO has been participated in different high level meetings and workshops at National, regional and international level to represent the issues affecting sex workers. Key note is: *On behalf of sex worker led organisations and CSOs working with sex workers, UNESO submitted a Universal Periodic Review (UPR ) report on Human rights issues affecting sex workers in Uganda*

UNESO has been active in to engage and participate in national key decision making platforms for example participated in high level dialogue with member of parliament on SOB 2019, Participated in CSOs with parliamentary forum on quality health and HIV /AIDS meeting to identify health advocacy issues, Hosted at UNESO offices a team from parliamentary forum on quality health and HIV /AIDS led by Woman MP -HON JOSEPHINE BABUNGI of Bundibugyo district to discuss and strategies on how to protect sex workers against rampant SRH and HIV violations, and among others



**Hosted a Team from Parliamentary forum on Quality health and HIV/AIDS at UNESO offices**



**Dialogue Meeting focused on the impact and/ or the implications of the Sexual Offences Act 2021 between key populations and Members of Parliament.**



Uganda AIDS Commission and Ministry of Health satellite session for country leaders in HIV Prevention programming, Research and policy as part of the Annual Joint AIDS Review process for the year 2021



**Meeting with Members of Parliament**

### 3. Improved advocacy and human rights awareness on issues affecting sex workers.

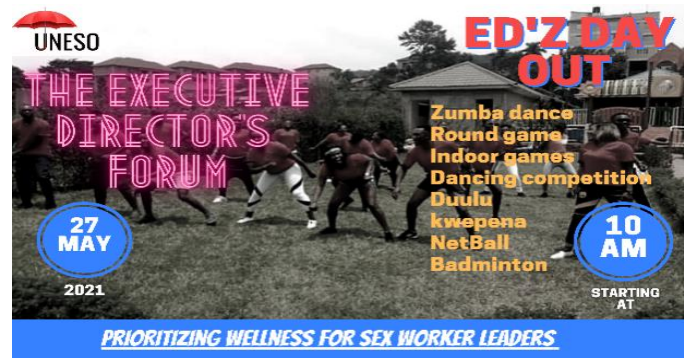
In order to contribute to realising the above goal, UNESO sensitised 100 sex workers about sexual offences bill (SOB) and other laws and their effects to the sex workers, Printed and disseminated educational messages on sexual offenses bill (SOB) which were; 2500 posters and 2000 stickers and 400 bracelets. Developed a policy brief on SOB and printed five hundred (500) booklets of SOB policy brief translated in Luganda, Runyakitara, Kiswahili, and LUO. Conducted five (5) regional consultative meetings on sexual offense bill (SOB) targeting one hundred ninety (190 ) sex workers. And to promote SRHR advocacy of sex workers, UNESO under the JAS programme produced and launched a documentary on experiences of sex workers in accessing SRHR and rights in Uganda. One hundred two (120) DVDs of the documentary were printed and disseminated



### 4. Improved well being and wellness of sex worker leaders.

In order to advance the wellness and wellbeing of its members, UNESO has worked to realize this goal through implementing interventions that encourage self care and collective healing among sex worker leaders. UNESO supported 171 sex worker leaders with relief food to sustain them through especially COVID 19 emergency situations. Some of the interventions that have been implemented to realize this were; Conducted quarterly EDs forums, Conducted a training of trainers among eight (8) LBQ sex workers on healing in solidarity to promote self care and

collective healing. UNESO established and installed a toll free helpline +256-0800111435 for provision of telephone psychosocial support to sex worker leaders. In collaboration with UKPC, UNESO supported eight (8) sex worker leaders who had been faced human right violations and forced to re-locate with accommodation fee.



## 5. Strengthening institutional capacity.

UNESO is a membership organization currently consisting of 33 sex worker led organizations/groups. Have conducted a sex worker led organization mapping exercise in fifty four (54) Districts, Last year -2020, UNESO held its first ever Annual General Meeting, a new board of directors was elected transitioning from the steering committee. To strengthen the internal system, new policies have been developed including Board of directors manual, Risk management policy, per diem policy, anti-fraud policy while the revised policies are human resource manual and financial manual, revised membership guidelines. And all these have been approved. Quarterly BOD of directors meetings have been held during the year to harness the strategic direction of the network. UNESO acquired a number of assets including one laptop, two (4) desktops, two (2) cabins, one internet router, Acquired a new but rented home/office, which is much bigger to provide space for member organizations to have their activities conducted from there. So far have hosted eight (8) activities of member organization.

To harness staff performance improvement, UNESO has encouraged mentorship amongst staff in order to share skills. Delegated staff to participate in capacity building sessions for example UNESO Annual Report 2021

five (5) staff were trained in Digital and security training by Defend Defender, One (1) staff and two (2) members trained on sex work and labor rights training by ASWA, one and five UNESO members participated in the sex workers alliance academy, two (2) staff trained as trainers of Healing in solidarity by feminist Republic –Urgent Action Fund, Three(3) staff participated in the training of advocacy champions by HRAPF,.....etc.

Have written and submitted 12 proposals to different donors out of which 6 have been won.



**Board of directors meeting at UNESO offices**



**Board of directors**



**Labor rights training by ASWA**



**3 UNESO staff took part in the advocacy training of champions organised by HRAPF**

## WORKS OF UNESO MEMBER ORGANISATIONS.

UNESO recognizes and greatly appreciates works of its members/sex worker –led organization in their different capacities/levels of contribution to ensure that the sex workers in all their diversities have access justice, enjoy and exercise their human rights.

ORGANIZATION/GROUP	FOCUS SW CATEGORY	Key output over the year2021	Operation coverage
WONETHA	FSW.	<p>6635 reached with at least more than 2 HIV prevention service; 5,521 tested for HIV; 892 enrolled and maintained on ART; 1470 enrolled and maintained on Prep; 112 taking up contraceptives and 305 taking up STI management. 1,339,567 pieces of condoms and 16,817 pieces of lubricants distributed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Provided 600 FSW within nutritional support</li> <li>-158 FSW were supported to take a covid-19 test</li> <li>-supported 20 FSW who got Covid-19 infection to access their treatment</li> <li>- Created awareness on COVID 19 through Media sensitization and distribution of IEC materials on covid-19 prevention among FSWs.</li> <li>-distribution of covid-19 protective gears to FSW including sanitizer (440) and masks (440).</li> <li>- Engaged 100 district leaders from the different districts. In the health stakeholder's meetings               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SRHR training 18FSWs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>-567 FSW were mobilized and accessed SRHR services</li> <li>190 FSW have been sensitized and are able to advocate for their rights and demand for services</li> <li>-56 FSW supported to get out of Prison when arrested.</li> <li>-Developed new Strategic plan.</li> </ul>	National

<p>OGERA</p>	<p>LBQ AND URBAN REFUGEES</p>	<p>-20 members sensitized on COVID-19 virus Prevention, Care and Treatment support dialogue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developed, distribute, and disseminate Up to date translated IEC materials COVID -19 related IEC sensitization materials to our members.</li> <li>- provided food relief to 55 of our most vulnerable members especially from the Urban Refugee community.</li> <li>- Equipped members with knowledge and skills in entrepreneurship small scale enterprises ideas.</li> <li>-Trained 30 members in Financial Literacy.</li> <li>-Development of a Joint Organizational Risk Management Plan.</li> <li>-Sensitized 50 to perpetrators and gatekeepers on the human rights of sex workers.</li> <li>-25 members were trained on Patient's Rights and Responsibilities.</li> <li>- Conducted 1 Gender Equality Training were we targeted 20 members.</li> <li>- involved 25 key law enforcers and Religious leaders in dialogue meeting.</li> <li>- Conducted 4 hotspot based Behavior change dialogues that enabled us reach out to 80 members living and operating in different hotspots.</li> <li>- Conducted a basic counseling training were we targeted 20 OGERA Peer Navigators.</li> <li>-conducted L.I.V.E.S First Aid training for Training of trainers were we targeted 20 Female Sex Workers.</li> <li>-3 Adherence Support Meetings involving 70 members Living with HIV.</li> <li>- Conduct two HIV treatment literacy trainings each targeting 60 participants.</li> <li>-provided nutrition support to our 40 members living with HIV.</li> <li>- conducted 1 HIV Care and Nutrition support training targeted 25 Members living with HIV.</li> <li>- Reached out to 120 of our members in integrated community outreach.</li> <li>- Conducted 1 refresher training of 20</li> </ul>	<p>KAMPALA, MUKONO AND WAKISO DISTRICTS</p>
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WERO	LBQT sex workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Provided with a wero package with contained (condoms, lubricants, food relief, and HIV testing kits).</li> <li>- economic empowerment scheme in 2021 with her beneficiaries some of these include; Mask making, bead making ,floor mats, braids making.</li> <li>- conducted a Research on modern slavery and its effect on LBQT sex workers in this present day.</li> <li>- hosted her beneficiaries for a Home away from home with a theme “Harm reduction that intended” to address the issues of drug abuse in regards to the law, society, safer drug use and create a transformed LBQT sex work society with ambassadors of change in drug use .</li> <li>-Mental health promotion, 3day residential slumber night at WERO mini shelter , where our beneficiaries could share their stories , play games , feel the serenity of a different environment ,and given psychosocial support.</li> <li>- Conducted Peer education training of 20 female sex workers.</li> <li>- engaged in a Focus group discussions with 4 health service providers from IAVI (International AIDs Vaccine Initiative)kasenyi.</li> <li>- established partnerships.</li> </ul>	kampala,wakis o,jinja,tororo
WWM		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- provide free legal aid services to 30 Female Sex Workers in Mbale and Tororo Districts.</li> <li>83 cases of human rights violations against Female Sex Workers were followed up. Out of the 83 cases, 77 were all completed and 6 case is pending</li> </ul>	Mbale, Tororo, Busia, Bugiri and Iganga

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conducted 2 consultative meetings with Female Sex Workers on issues of Access to Justice in Mbale and Tororo Districts.</li> <li>- conducted Two (2) consultative meetings with 40 FSWs on issues of Access to Justice in Mbale and Tororo Districts.</li> <li>- two (2) consultative meeting were conducted in Mbale and Tororo Districts with 40 FSWs.</li> <li>- distributed Nutritional Support to 30 FSWs in Mbale and Tororo Districts.</li> </ul>	
MONU	Male,PWUID sex workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-40 members were reached with food relief in 8 districts</li> <li>3,343 key populations were reached with Covid-19 vaccination.</li> <li>-34 members received group mental health therapy</li> <li>-175 male sex workers tested for HIV as well as received counseling.</li> <li>124 male sex workers were screened and 46 received treatment for STIs.</li> <li>- A 5-year strategy plan was developed</li> <li>Safety and security policy was development</li> <li>-13 members were trained in digital security.</li> <li>- strengthened our relationship with LGBT and sex worker organizations as well as well wishers</li> </ul>	Kampala, Wakiso, Mukono, Jinja, Mbale, Masaka, Busia, Mbarara,Iganga,Gulu and Arua



JEEWAG	FSWs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Reached over 196 sex workers, of those reached, 15 Sex workers were living with HIV, 110 SWs were on PrEP drugs, and the rest had some illnesses.</li> <li>-Over 60 FWs received sanitary towels for their hygiene since it was hard for them to afford during COVID tough times.</li> <li>-Over 3,637 masks were distributed to SWs during the pandemic as a way of protecting our members from the Virus</li> <li>-5 cases were documented. We documented few cases because of lack of funding received to undertake the thematic area.</li> <li>-Over 30 sex workers and young women were liked to safe abortion services.</li> <li>-Through the online and TV sessions over 10,000 people across the country were reached and enlightened about the sex workers health rights.</li> <li>- Over 60 FWs were reached with SRH knowledge in Mukono district.</li> <li>-60 FSW were educated on how to use a condom.</li> <li>-195AGYWs were put on HIV Prevention services such as PrEP.</li> <li>-280Clients of SWs were reached and enrolled on HIV Prevention packages (PrEP).</li> <li>-186 Female sex workers were reached and enrolled on HIV Prevention packages (PrEP).</li> <li>-61PWIDswereenrolled on HIV Prevention packages (PrEP).</li> <li>-37TGs were enrolled on HIV Prevention packages (PrEP).</li> <li>-Over 48,945 condoms were distributed to FSWs.</li> <li>-144 new HIV cases were identified among target KPs during the year 2021.</li> <li>-Over759 drug refills were delivered for both ART and PrEP clients.</li> </ul>	Mukono, Buikwe, Kampala, and Wakiso
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<p>Transgender Equality Uganda (TEU)</p>	<p>Trans women workers. – sex</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-30 members of TEU trained on safety and security and their knowledge on how to deal with law enforcement agencies.</li> <li>- facilitated peer educators to continue reaching out to community members and offer sexual and reproductive health services and deliver PREP and ART treatment to the clients.</li> <li>- A total of 14 transgender women were trained in dance so as to be better prepared for occasions that would bring about visibility not only for the organization but also the individuals in the talents that they possess.</li> <li>- TEU has documented cases of GBV victims among trans women.</li> <li>-30 transgender empowered with knowledge on their SRH rights, feminism and activism.</li> <li>-30 Transgender women trained on SRHR issues.</li> <li>- Published a mental health tool kit for Transgender persons to tackle issues of mental health.</li> <li>-conducted Zumba, meditation and yoga to help address these issues within the 30 transgenders.</li> <li>- UnderKPIF, TEU has had to implement activities liketesting, treatment and referral of individuals that need HIV/AIDS related services.</li> <li>-60 trans persons within the organization have at one time been empowered to be more independent so as to cope along with daily life struggles and challenges faced.</li> <li>-strengthened partnership with SMUG,ICWEA,RELLA foundation</li> </ul>	<p>KAMPALA,WAKISO,MUKONO,LI RA,ARUA,GULU</p>
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HOPE FOCUS UGANDA	Male sex workers	<p>-Food relief distribution among members.</p> <p>- Conducted vocational training with 20 members on how to operate a sewing machine</p> <p>- Trained local leaders in kayunga and wakiso about human rights</p> <p>- equipped MSWs with proper family planning skills.</p> <p>- Entered partnerships with Reproductive health Uganda, Human rights awareness and promotion forum, Uganda network for sex work led organizations, African sex workers alliance, most at risk populations, OGERA Uganda.</p>	wakiso
Youth on rock foundation(YRF)	Male, Transwomen sex workers.	<p>Over 300 MSW community members and affiliated clusters sensitized through IEC material distribution and our social media platforms.</p> <p>Over 1,256 PPEs (face masks, hand sanitizers and gloves) distributed.</p> <p>-82 vulnerable members were supported with COVID-19 relief funds.</p> <p>-124 members were educated on the benefits of COVID 19 vaccination,.</p> <p>-supported 97 members to access their 1 dose of covid 19 vaccination while 49 are now fully vaccinated.</p> <p>-Documentary was produced and circulated widely on our social media platforms and received over 1000 views, like and comments.</p> <p>-Worked with local and international partners to ensure their charges are dropped and all 23 men are released from Kitalya prison.</p>	Kampala, Wakiso, Mukono, Buikwe, Kayunga, Luwero, Mityana, Mubende, FortPortal, Kasese, Kabale, Ntungamo, Mbarara, Masaka, Mpigi

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An average of 15 young community members accessed SRHR services and referrals for FP from our DIC per month.</li> <li>-20 community members on average per quarter were invited for mental health awareness sessions.</li> <li>-91 new HIV cases identified and referred for care.</li> <li>-174 most predisposed community members enrolled on PrEP.</li> <li>- An average of 12 done monthly at our DIC and in the community for clients.</li> <li>- Over 500 HIVST kits, 16,000 condoms 2,000 lubricants distributed per year.</li> <li>- Over 52 peers trained from all the 15 different districts of our operation.</li> <li>-Trained 2 more staff members as qualified community paralegals</li> </ul>	
SOROTI WOMEN HEALTH SUPPORT INITIATIVE(SWHI)	FSWs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-368 people benefited from mask distribution.</li> <li>-We distributed relief food to 55 sex worker with their children. This is because we didn't have enough resources to cater for a large number of beneficiaries</li> <li>-We distributed 200sanitary pads to sex workers</li> <li>-We managed to conduct HCT services to the adolescence during the lock down and even when the complete lock down was eased.</li> <li>-We counseled the families who were at the verge of breaking due to the causes of the lock down</li> <li>-23 sex workers were trained on crafts on shoe making.</li> <li>-15 women and girls were trained on sanitary pads Making.</li> <li>-20 women and girls were trained on cake making.</li> </ul>	Soroti, Anuria, Katakwi, Ngora, Serere, Kaberemaido, Kapelebyong, Bukedea

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Research on Gender Based Violence on women most especially on key population.</li> <li>-Held Community sensitization and dialogue meetings with key stakeholders.</li> <li>- HCT was carried out integrating Condom distribution, Linkage and referral, providing Family planning services.</li> </ul>	
Voice of Community Empowerment-Gulu	FSWs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Carried out follow ups for our clients who were not able to live in the city of Gulu due to financial constraints and lack of customers and made sure that those who were on drugs adhered?</li> <li>-Collaborated with District officials and made sure that the SWS received the food relieve</li> <li>-6 SWs were trained with sewing skills.</li> <li>- We carried out community sensitization and awareness campaigns on human rights and the danger of Gender Based Violence.</li> <li>- Guidance and counseling</li> <li>-Follow ups on lost to follow.</li> <li>-Mobilized SWs to go and access health services like Cervical cancer screening ,HIV testing services, which are freely given to them</li> </ul>	Gulu City
KUCHU SHINERS.	Trans and sex MSM workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-450 LGBT persons vaccinated in partnership with wakiso and kakiri health center III</li> <li>-With support from trans network we managed to acquire poultry for commercial purpose.</li> <li>-Supporting in access to comprehensive HIV healthcare among members</li> </ul>	Wakiso

<p>MAHIPSO- Masaka KP HIV Prevention &amp; Support Organization</p>	<p>Rural Trans sex workers &amp; Trans PWUID</p>	<p>Nutritional Support Preventive gear Procurement of bikes for the peers Production of IEC Materials Mental health meetings Crisis management training for staff YETU Fellowship Celebrating Transgender day of remembrance through sports with our partners in Mbarara. Celebration of Women's day Celebrating Activists that have done advocacy through the: "What about us campaign." PrEP and ART campaigns Engagements with local, district leaders and city leaders. Engagements and creation of new partnerships. 16 days of activism World AIDS Day Mental Health club Adherence club Counseling World Mental Health day celebration The Feminist Change makers Fellowship</p>	<p>Masaka Kalungu Bukomansimbi Lyantonde Lwengo Kyotera Sembabule Rakai Kalangala Gomba and Butambala</p>
<p><b>Lady Mermaid Empowerment Centre (LMEC)</b></p>	<p>FSW</p>	<p>-Improved adherence among Sex Workers on ART and PrEP during the lockdown-<b>216</b> Sex Workers received food and nutrition support Kits, <b>172</b> Sex Workers have been reached by riders through Ride to 95 95 95 -168 sex workers empowered to economically recover from COVID-19 financial crisis. -167 HIV Positive Sex Workers identified and linked to care for enrolment on ART.</p>	<p>Kampala, Wakiso, Jinja, Iganga, Mukono, Mityana</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-543 HIV Negative Sex Workers enrolled on PrEP drugs.</li> <li>-10 Community SRH groups for SWs established in Kampala.</li> <li>-Established and facilitated 5 SGBV survivors clubs in Kampala.</li> <li>- Facilitated 15 KP leaders with emergency support including medical, psychosocial support and evacuation.</li> </ul>		
SCARLET UGANDA	INITIATIVE	Male workers	sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 50 Male Sex Workers received money for COVID 19 relief.</li> <li>- Airtime and Data offered to 23 peer leaders to make follow ups and phone counseling.</li> <li>- 15 Sport Bikes given to peer leaders to help in doing the peer educator roles and responsibilities.</li> <li>- 23 Back Bags given to peer leaders.</li> <li>-2000 posters p Covid19 Information Materials printed and disseminated</li> <li>-Conducted virtual training on safety and protection against covid 19 pandemic among 50 sex workers.</li> <li>- Mapping Exercise for Male Sex Workers in 20 districts.</li> <li>- Two Days Advocacy Training for 10 male sex workers.</li> <li>-1500 cartons of condoms distributed.</li> <li>- Developed the first strategic plan for SIU.</li> </ul>	KAMPALA WAKISO MUKONO BUIKWE JINJA MBALE IGANGA MASAKA KYOTERA RAKAI MBARARA NTUNGAMO KABALE KISORO RUKUNGIRI BUSHENYI IBANDA LYANTONDE MPIGI NAKASONGOLA FORTPORTAL MUBENDE LUWERO

## CHALLENGES.

1. *UNESCO is gravely concerned about the increased insecurity of human rights defenders. There is significant increased human rights violations are reported.*
2. *The attack and break in of the offices of sex workers has continued to be a major concern to the sex worker community .For example a break in the offices of Women with a mission (WWM)*
3. *The COVID 19 lock down and its associated effects still causes negative impacts on the well being and wellness of sex workers and sex worker led organisations. The pandemic has disempowered sex workers both socially and economically*
4. *The digital development and use have become very vital, as much of the work and engagements have gone virtual, but there is still limited capacity among especially rural based sex workers to use and adopt the new normal of working virtual due to varying factors.*
5. *There is still limited funding for sex worker led organisations. Most of the sex worker led organisations have no access to funds*
6. *There is still limited funding for sex worker led organisations. Most of the sex worker led organisations are underfunded, something which compromise their need to fulfil the mandates and serve the sex work community.*

## LESSONS LEARNED

- Stakeholder engagement has the magic power to influence change in attitude towards sex workers and can easily influence policing and programming at national level.
- Building synergies is very important as it makes work easier, encourages learning from one another, strengthens collaboration and enhances greater impact of the implemented joint activities.
- UNESCO learnt that there is need to build capacity of the sex worker led organizations, to adopt virtual engagements to enable continuity of interventions. This was observed during the time of lockdown due to COVID 19 where there was restriction in movement and physical meetings. UNESCO had most of the work stalled including that of other projects. Even for the few virtual engagements organized, the members of district networks had challenges of using the platforms. UNESCO learnt that they must build capacities for both staff and the networks to adopt virtual engagements like meetings to enable UNESCO have regular updates on the work in the districts.



## RECOMMENDATIONS/ WAYFOWARD.

1. Intensify documentation and publication of human rights violations against sex workers.
2. Focus to enhance physical and digital safety and security of sex workers through continuous security and safety trainings and intense advocacy on human rights promotion.
3. Need to initiate and lead a campaign to promoting the local emergency response fund to sex workers who are faced with human rights violations and response effects of COVID 19 pandemic against sex workers.
4. Strengthen the digital capacity of sex worker leaders to support and promote meaningful engagement and participation in relevant virtual spaces.
5. There is need for funding of sex worker led organisations to support in addressing the vital aspects of their work and issues of sex workers.

UNESO BOARD OF DIRECTORS.



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UNESO PARTNERS.



UNESO DONORS -2021



## FINANCES.

### SUMMARISED DONOR REPORT 2020/2021 :

Donor	Granted/Secured amount-( Local Currency) for the Period JULY 2020 TO 30TH JUNE 2021	Project Funded	% of total secured amount
CREA	20,143,950	Virtual meeting for organisation heads and Celebration of International day to end Violence among sex workers	3.5%
CEHURD/SIDA	137,774,007	Joint Advocacy on SRHR	23.8%
UAF	12,805,500	Covid 19 support (first wave) -	2.2%
FRONTLINE	6,896,420	Covid 19 support (first wave) - Sanitiser and IEC materials	1.2%
REACT	22,300,000	Covid 19 support (first wave) Accomodation, Nutrition support and Tollfree line	3.9%
ASWA	14,017,450	Post SWA academy	2.4%
PITCHFLEX	41,855,310	PrEP sensitisation Western region	7.2%
RED UNBRELLA	70,720,000	Institution Support, Transformational leadership training, Mapping exercise Fundraising and Financial management training	12.2%
OSIEA	144,201,450	Institution Support, Transformational leadership training, Mapping exercise Fundraising and Financial management training	25.0%
UHAI	36,050,000	Opportunity grant- Towards sex workers movement building.	6.2%
UHAI	33,276,000	S.O.B Response.	5.7%
CEHURD/OSIEA	28,637,900	Covid-19 (first wave) - emergency response	4.9%
DEFEND DEFENDERS	10,620,000	Institutional Support In Kind- New Lenovo desk top Computers (2 complete sets)	1.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>579,297,987</b>		

<b>2021/2022 SUMMARISED ANNUAL BUDGET.</b>	
<b><u>INSTITUTION SUPPORT</u></b>	
Institutional Support - Purchase of Asset	35,000,000
Institutional Support - Administration Costs	140,000,000
Institutional Support Salaries	227,500,000
<b><u>PROGRAMING</u></b>	-
Advocacy activities and emergencies	70,000,000
HIV interventions	35,000,000
Mental Health and Psycho-social Support	122,500,000
SRHR Campaign	122,500,000
Movement building, Networking and Capacity building of Member organizations	280,000,000
<b>Total Annual Budget</b>	<b>1,032,500,000</b>