



UKPC Core Team and Steering Committee Meeting Report

September 10, 2020

Introduction and Background

On Thursday, 10 September, Uganda Key Populations Consortium (UKPC) held a national meeting that attracted leaders from the Key Population communities under the consortium as well as partners. The meeting was aimed at bringing the consortium up to date with what the platform has been doing, planned activities as well as setting priorities for the consortium. The meeting was hosted by Sexual Minorities Uganda at the Hilton Garden Inn, Kamwokya Kampala.

Presentation on UKPC's progress update

Richard Lusimbo, the UKPC National Coordinator officially started off with a presentation on the progress update for the consortium. Richard's presentation specifically focused on giving the history of UKPC right from its inception/formation, the launch and the overview of the consortium's objectives.

"UKPC was formed on 19th July 2018 at Mulago Referral Hospital, Kampala to bring together representatives of Key Populations (KPs) to collectively define and advocate for issues of common concern including response to shrinking resources and space for key population-led organizations. The UKPC thus serves as an advocacy platform coordinating strategic action and supporting systems and structure strengthening for all members."- Richard



Richard making a presentation at the meeting

Richard went ahead to provide an update on the current core staff and current projects being implemented by UKPC. The projects presented included;

- **My Body Is Not a Democracy:** Implemented together with UGANET and UNYPA, and funded by ARASA.
- **Urgent Support to Address Security Needs Under COVID19 project** funded by Global Fund
- **Institutional Development support** funded by Frontline AIDS and Aidsfonds
- **Support by UHAI**

Presentation on Global Fund Processes and Proposal Writing

(Presented by Moses and Hajara both who are representatives of Key and Priority Populations to the CCM)

The presentation focused on sharing the areas of focus by the Global Fund these are;

- Mosquito net distribution
- HIV, TB and Malaria grant that was passed.
- The Board members renewal. CCM board members. Extend the current.
- COVID relief money. Community members were the biggest beneficiaries.

Global Fund Grantmaking Process.

The process is ongoing and civil society decided to have representatives. Richard is involved and the biggest target is to increase the funds to KPs. There is a reduction in the HIV infection rate among Key Populations. Call for unity to increase on Consortium initiatives.

Discussion and presentation about the Framework

Presented by Ashanut

Ashanut who was hired to do oversee the process went ahead to give details and goals of the framework which are;

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- *To coordinate and amplify the voices of key populations in Uganda on issues related to the right to health, and funding for effective health service delivery.*
 - *To mobilise and facilitate efficient and accountable use of resources that support interventions of KPs on HIV/AIDs, sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR), and other aspects of health rights.*
 - *To facilitate networking and coordination amongst its membership and between its members and key stakeholders.*
 - *To foster effective information sharing and communication on key issues of common concern.*
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Ashanut making a presentation on the framework at the meeting

Ashanut went ahead to share the values of the consortium as inspired by the framework. These are;

- ***Diversity:*** UKPC respects and values all individuals, and recognises that understanding and appreciating the diversity of KPs will result in more effective actions.
 - ***Empowerment:*** UKPC understands empowerment as the process of becoming stronger and more confident, especially in controlling one's life and claiming one's rights. Through its activities, the consortium seeks to contribute to the empowerment of KPs in all parts of Uganda.
 - ***Accountability:*** UKPC emphasises accountability at various levels including to its members, to its partners and for the effective use of all resources entrusted to the consortium.
 - ***Participation:*** UKPC values the participation of all its members, and believes in the importance of active, informed and voluntary involvement of people in decision-making and the life of their communities.
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Emerging issues from Ashanut's presentation

The biggest issue that was discussed was pertaining towards membership of the consortium which was being debated upon to be open to all interested parties or limited to KP networks. The final decision that was reached was that membership should be limited to KP networks. All other parts of the operation framework were agreed upon because

they captured the already existing values, mission and goals of the consortium. Ashanut is to also provide guidelines for the various meetings that the networks are to hold on both the regional and national levels.

Presentation on PEPFAR Processes and updates By Asia Russell

Russell mentioned that PEPFAR expressed the need for a national monitoring programme so as to watchdog the activities and services on HIV in Uganda in a bid to completely push HIV out of Uganda. There is a notable reduction in the HIV infection rate among Key Populations which shows the effectiveness of the various initiatives that the consortium is undertaking.

The Grant Making process is ongoing and civil society decided to have representatives. Richard Lusimbo, the consortium coordinator, is involved and the biggest target for the process is to increase the funds to KPs.



Asia presenting about the PEPFAR processes

Other issues discussed during the meeting.

- The Global Fund COVID relief.

Leaders in attendance gave reports on how the grant provided to the Key Populations, through the Global fund, to ensure their well-being during the COVID-19 Pandemic was spent. Community members were the main beneficiaries and they were given relief in the form of food among other necessities.

Setting priorities and recommendations

- It was agreed upon that UKPC should influence the activities of KPIF in their second year of operation and a KPIF Meeting was put into a plan with the leaders tasked to use the following pointers in arranged for it.

(i)What is to be the main agenda?

(ii)What are the success points?

(iii)What are the challenges?

(iv)Where have we failed?

(v)Where have our partners failed us?

- Regional quarterly consortium meetings.

It was agreed that the networks host quarterly meetings within the various regions (Northern, Eastern, Western and Central) with members taking turns at hosting. The deliberations from these gatherings are to be shared and discussed at the annual national consortium meeting.

- Steering committee membership.

The membership of the steering committee was expanded from being limited to the national level, to include members at the regional level. This is in a bid to widen the inclusivity and opinion base for consortium decision-making.

In his concluding remarks, Richard sent out a call for unity among network leaders and members so as to increase Consortium initiatives and achievements.