

GLOBAL HEALTH NETWORK UGANDA

"Together we can attain health for all"



OVERVIEW

Global Health Network (Uganda) is excited to be launching an international office in the United States this year, with a mission of improving maternal and child health outcomes in developing countries. We will accomplish this mission through a commitment to community-based, holistic interventions, international partnerships, research and implementation of evidence-based practices.

Currently, GHN (U) is implementing activities in Northern Uganda, in the areas of maternal and child health, livelihoods, school health programming (sexual and reproductive health). So far, the organisation is partnering with 14 primary schools to facilitate School Health Clubs, initiated Village Savings and Loans Associations throughout Oyam District, and empowered women with new skills to generate more income for their families, supported over 3000 women to access maternal health services, reached 20,000 children with vitamin supplements.

We hope to expand our projects in terms of geography and scale. We would like to work in new regions, new countries, and with new partners. We would like to bring student volunteers, medical volunteers, and researchers to our project sites from around the world to contribute to our efforts. GHN (US) will serve as the global hub for all planning, fundraising, and coordinating efforts.

WHY WE EXIST

Globally, disease burdens are high in low income countries with more than 52% of mortality arising from communicable diseases, maternal causes, and conditions arising during pregnancy and childbirth, and nutritional deficiencies. This however, contributes to less than 7% of mortality in developed countries. Emerging challenges of non-communicable diseases contributes to over 70% of mortality globally. In terms of absolute number of deaths, however, 78% of global NCD deaths occurred in low- and middle-income countries¹

In Uganda, HIV, malaria, lower respiratory infections, meningitis and tuberculosis still are estimated to cause the highest numbers of years of life lost in Uganda. New and re-emerging conditions that cause minimal burden but are significant public health risks like polio, Hepatitis E & B, Ebola Virus Disease, Marburg, and the Nodding disease are also cropping up. Significant gains have been made in areas of maternal and child health; Maternal death still remains high at 360/ 100000 live births, under five mortality has reduced to 69/ 1000 live births and infant mortality has reduced to 45/ 1000 live births² however, a lot of work still needs to be done to achieve the recommended standards. Much as protein deficiency malnutrition has been addressed, malnutrition still remains the underlying cause in nearly 60% of infant deaths³.

¹ WHO, 2017, The Top 10 Causes of Death- Fact Sheet,

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs310/en/>

² Ministry of Health Uganda, 201Health sector development plan 2015/16-2019/20

³ Ministry of Health Uganda, Uganda Nutrition Action Plan (UNAP) 2011 – 2016

The above trends, calls for a collaborative, evidence based and integrated efforts by all stakeholders to implement innovative, community driven projects that addresses the underlying causes of public health challenges including poverty concerns, water sanitation and hygiene gaps, an social economic and social cultural impacts which culminates into situations of powerlessness and not respond strictly to the health challenges, if universal health coverage/ health for all is to be achieved.

ABOUT GLOBAL HEALTH NETWORK.

Back Ground

GHN is an indigenous Charity Non-governmental organization currently registered in Uganda and implementing activities in Oyam district Northern Uganda. It was initiated by a network of Ugandan scientists with a shared vision and goal, after a realization of the critical and strategic need for reshaping Primary Health Care approach in developing countries to best meet the most vulnerable population's health needs, more especially during a time when health systems are in crisis.

The Global Health Network (GHN) has its roots deep in the most vulnerable populations in Uganda and owes its genesis to many health networks and activists who have been concerned by the growing inequities in health over the last 25 years. The GHN calls for a revitalization of the principles of the Alma-Ata Declaration which promised Health for All by the year 2000 and complete revision of international and domestic policy that has shown to impact negatively on health status and systems.

GHN Vision

GHN envisions a society in which a healthy life is a reality; a society that appreciates, respects and celebrates all life and

diversity; a society that encourages and supports local talents and abilities; a society where the rights of people guide the policy and decisions that impact on our lives.

Mission Statement

To promote, protect and preserve the health of all Ugandans through good leadership, public, private partnership, innovation and concerted action in Primary Health Care and Reproductive Health.

Objectives of the GHNU (US)

1. Establish a physical office presence in the United States with staff members to help launch the international face of GHN which plans and facilitates international programs.
2. Create new partnerships with universities, civil society organizations, corporations, and government to help the promotion of the organization vision and mission
3. Support ongoing fundraising initiatives.

Broad Principles of GHN

The structure, roles and responsibilities of GHN are based on the following principles:

1. Active and intensive community participation in project identification prioritization, implementation and management
2. Community contribution to the development effort
3. Gender responsiveness
4. Transparency and accountability to reduce corruption
5. Re-enforcing community self-reliance and indigenous knowledge utilization

6. Non political interference
7. Targeted interventions
8. Evidence based practice
9. Public Private Partnerships
10. Utilizing existing institutions and strengthening the decentralization process

GHNU PROGRAMME.

The organization is currently implementing 4 projects in Oyam district. The projects are running up to 2020 where an evaluation will be conducted to determine performance and guide decision making towards possibility of renewal.

The key programs include;

Maternal and child Health Project

The goal of the project is to contribute to the reduction of neonatal, child and maternal morbidity and mortality in Oyam district of Uganda through increased use of key maternal and infant /child services and practices by 2020. To achieve the above, the project addresses the following objectives.

- Increased access to maternal and child health services among rural communities in Oyam district
- Increased access to accurate and quality family planning information and services
- Communities empowered to create demand for MCH

The strategies to achieve the above include; outreaches both immunization and integrated with support from health facilities, health education, and capacity building of service providers including VHTs and health workers, behaviour change communication, working with community groups.

Some of the pregnant Mothers who are Beneficiaries of our
Mama kit support

The project targets include; Women of child bearing age, pregnant women and Children under 5 years.

GHNU has strengthened outreaches and follow up for MCH services which greatly improved access to the needed care for mothers and children reaching 5000 women with maternal services, including family planning, 11,000 children with immunization services, and 21,000 children accessed vitamin A and deworming tablets.

Sanitation and Hygiene



The sanitation and hygiene project aims at contributing to increase knowledge and strategies for improved community sanitation and hygiene behavior to 90% of catchment sub-counties. In the sanitation project, the organization carries out sanitation promotion activities including home visits, health education and currently we are carrying out CLTS activities in selected sub counties.

The project targets the general population of catchment sub counties and so far has supported the development of two hygiene and sanitation bi- laws and reached over 3000 households for sanitation mobilization.

School Health Program



Triggering the CLTS in Adigo Parish in Loro Sub County.

The goal is to conduct school health program to reach out to young people in schools for improved physical and sexual health outcomes

The specific objectives include;

- Improved access to school based health services within schools
- Healthy attitudes and healthy behaviors developed by school going children
- Improved community participation in SHP

The school health program targets in school adolescence and we intend to reach 23 primary schools. The major strategies are health education on reproductive health including menstrual health management, life skills, health services provision, physical health promotion, community participation, BCC. The school health program has so far supported 15,000 pupils to access Life skills and sexual and reproductive health education while working with 14 primary schools.

Livelihoods project



One of the School Health Session at one of the Primary school we work with.

The goal of the project is to empower communities to alleviate poverty and reduce vulnerabilities. With an overall objective of initiating and supporting livelihoods activities to address poverty concerns that underlie the cause of high infant child and maternal mortality and mobility in Oyam. This is done while focusing on the following results areas;

- Improved the socio-economic status of women within the rural communities
- Improved household food security and nutrition within the rural communities
- Increased knowledge and improved attitudes on Health and Maternal and child Health

To achieve the above, the project works through Women Health Groups where VSLAs are established, enterprise development of facilitated, trainings are conducted on agriculture for the market, seeds are distributed and the groups are trained on various topics including life skills, maternal and child health issues, business management and enterprise building, group management

This project targets women of child bearing age, male involvement is encouraged and VHTs support the groups. We intend to establish 21 groups within the 5 years. So far the project has established 11 groups reaching 2000 through skilling, livelihood support, training and capacity building.

GHNU STAFF INCHARGE LIVELIHOOD HANDING OVER THE SAVING MATERIALS TO ATOP WOMEN HEALTH GROUP



Training one of the Group on VSLA and Group dynamics.



STRATEGIC DIRECTION

GHN strategic direction in the next five years is to support the delivery of quality, cost effective services using innovative technologies and approaches in following Key program areas;

Key program area 1: Integrated Health Services

Key program area 2: Sustainable Livelihood

Key program area 3: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (Environmental Health)

Key program area 4: Research and Innovations

Key program area 5: Institutional capacity building and development.

The above program areas specifically in Uganda will address the following strategic objectives;

1. To increase access to integrated health care promotion, prevention and treatment services for children, women and men in focus communities by 25% by 2022
2. To reduce poverty and empower communities through improving livelihoods and food security for children, women and other targeted persons in the focus communities by 25% by 2022
3. To increase access to and use of safe water, sanitation and hygiene services in health facilities, schools and communities by 25% by 2020.
4. To strengthen research, knowledge management and innovations to enhance evidence based approach to programming.
5. To strengthen organizational capacity to effectively and efficiently govern, lead and manage the country program.

Syracuse University students digging the Foundation for the Re-usable sanitary pads

Opening of the international office in USA is to leverage on GHN international presence. This will provide opportunity for the organization to reach out and support development in various developing countries in need.

In addition the US office will provide a hub for fund raising for programs, provide program support to ensure that the organization standards are at par with the international standards of services delivery, thus strengthening organization ability to compete for the limited funds available for projects globally.

The offices will support linkages for capacity building on a global scale. This will be in a bid to develop the capacity of students and fellows to respond to global health challenges in a dynamic way which produces sustainable results. This is because the key to achieving universal health coverage/ health for all, is availability of human resources with ability to develop strategies to respond to the global health challenge.

