

Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL)

Progressive Report about Drug abuse prevention interventions in Uganda

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Introduction: Main activities of UYDEL

Alcohol, drug and substance abuse prevention and rehabilitation through seminars, sharing in conferences, advocacy, dissemination of IEC materials such as posters, stickers, t-shirts; HIV/AIDS prevention, child rights protection and awareness campaigns; prevention and rehabilitation of children engaged in child labour; Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health (HIV Counseling and Testing, treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, community mobile outreaches, music, dance and drama); HIV Prevention, care and support for street children and out of school young people; combating commercial sexual exploitation of children; vocational skills training and livelihood for young people and engagement in social research.

a) Research, lobbying and advocacy drug Prevention Interventions in Uganda

UYDEL compiled a study report titled “*The State of Alcohol, drug and substance abuse in Uganda, 2013*”. This report has been used as information evidence based tool during a lobbying and advocacy meeting engagements with policy makers and Members of Parliament to enact effective alcohol and drug laws in line with international drug conventions. UYDEL in conjunction with Uganda Alcohol Policy Alliance (UAPA) held a national public dialogue with them theme: Alcohol marketing strategies exposing children to alcohol; food shortage and harm to others at Hotel Triangle on 28th November 2013. The dialogue was attended by over 300 people who also expressed their displeasure on the way the alcohol industry is targeting children and called for restrictive measures to curb this vice.



Above L-R: Mr. Mutaawe Rogers making his key note presentation during the public dialogue while Mr. Kasirye engages with Members of Parliament in November, 2013.

b) Schools drug prevention education program

With support from the Eastern Africa Regional Youth Network (EARYN) under UNODC, UYDEL organized a music festival in Kampala code named Safari Katika Youth Initiative music festival. The festival theme was “Turn on Music: Turn off Drugs”. The purpose of the music festival was to disseminate positive messages about healthy lifestyles, counteract the misleading information and wrong perceptions spread by the media to youth about substance abuse; help to identify vulnerability conditions, increase awareness about the health impacts of illicit and prescription drug use; inform youth about the dangers of impaired driving, and raise awareness among youth and their families about treatment options and strategies for preventing drug use in their communities.

This event attracted 8 schools including, Pimbas secondary School(who emerged the victors) Excel Secondary School, Kawaala College School, Strive High School Kawaala(the second best) Makerere Modern Secondary School(host school) St. Johns High School Kazo, Central College Kawaala, and Bwaise Parents High School. All these schools participated in five items including a creative dance, Live Performance, Mime, Speech and Mic Check.

A total of 133 registered persons (62 male students and 54 female students; 13 patrons and 4 UYDEL staff) attended the show from the eight schools together with a host audience of about 150 students of Makerere Modern Secondary school attended the all round exciting music festival.



Above: Students of the winning school pausing for a group photo and students during their performances.

c) Rehabilitation, graduation and re-integration of young people with their families

UYDEL held a graduation ceremony of 670 young people on 28th March 2014 where they were given certificates of completion and resettlement kits to enable them start income generating activities. The young people attained life planning skills, counselling, psychosocial support, vocational skills training in catering, plumbing, tailoring, motor cycle repair, hairdressing, electronics, welding and metal fabrication. Some of the young people shared their testimonies with the guests showing how the rehabilitation program has benefitted them for the period of six to nine months they spent at the centre.



Above: Pictures of young people at graduation ceremony at Masooli center

See this newspaper link for more information:

<http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Reformed-sex-workers--drug-addicts-graduate/-/688334/2263290/-/1283m98/-/index.html>