Role of pharmacists in HIV/AIDS in Uganda

Lars Rönnbäck
Chairman/President
Pharmacists without Borders Sweden

A4 - Finding the humanitarian face of pharmacy
FIP World Congress Seoul 2017
Pharmacists without Borders – FuG – Sweden
Pharmaciers sans frontières

Our vision

Everybody's right to good pharmaceutical treatment.
FuG Sweden-partners for the Uganda projects

• **Forum Syd** – Swedish international development cooperation organisation, working with human and civil rights.

• **Racobao** - Rural Action Community Based Organization – Uganda.
Cooperating partners in Sweden
FuG projects in Uganda
FuG in Uganda 2007 - 2017
Before the start of the projects...

- **In 2003:**
  - HIV clinic in Kampala
  - No effective anti-retroviral treatment (ART) available
  - Lack of medicines for opportunistic infections.
- **ART available nationally since 2004**
- **Lyantonde 2005:**
  - Medicines available at hospital but patients not requesting them
- **Pre-study 2005:**
  - Need of more knowledge about ART
Project focus

• Strengthening community structures for sustained ART (Antiretroviral treatment) provision in resource limited settings
• Increase access and adherence to ART among PLHIV (People living with HIV)
• Lyantonde and Sembabule provinces in central Uganda
HIV and AIDS - Uganda

- 1.5 million PLHIV
- 7.1% of adults ages 15 – 49
- 1.4 million adults aged 15 and over
- 790,000 women aged 15 and over
- 96,000 children aged 0 – 14
- 28,000 deaths due to AIDS
- 660,000 orphans due to AIDS aged 0 – 17

Figures from 2015
Lyantonde district and town
Eva Solly on the Transafrican highway in Lyantonde town
Back ground information to FuG Projects in Uganda

- Maria Swartling
  - In 2006 - 6 months internship to prepare her masters thesis
  - experienced the reality of people infected and affected with HIV/AIDS
- Maria has been deputy chairman FuG and project leader for our projects
Project interventions
2007-2015

Goals:
1. Increased knowledge about ART
2. Increased adherence to ART
3. Increased access to ART

“Training of trainers”
Training of village volunteers
Treatment supporters
Training of health care staff
Networks, lobbying
Replicating the model
Project interventions
2007-2015

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- Treatment supporters
- Training of village volunteers
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Transportation...
Project interventions
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- Training of village volunteers
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"Training of trainers"
Training of health care staff
Networks and lobbying
Antiretrovirals
Some results and achievements

• Three health centers - accredited as static ART sites.
• Uptake to care - 1,350 in 2012, 5,467 in 2014 and 6,495 by December 2015.
• Retention to care - increased to 92% by December 2015, way above the 80% national average.
• Treatment supporters contributed to monitoring of PLHIV in their homes.
• The networks of PLHIV improved their own visibility in the societies and their capacity to present their needs.
In summary...

"... the most important results was increased security in the usage of medicines through treatment supporters and better knowledge. Access to ART increased over time by more Health Care Centers becoming accredited..."
Spreading the model

- Replication in Sembabule
- AIDS 2016, Durban, South Africa

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY STRUCTURES FOR SUSTAINED ART PROVISION IN RESOURCE LIMITED SETTINGS.

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1 Rural Action Community Based Organization, Kampala, Uganda,
   2 Pharmacists without Borders Sweden, Uppsala, Sweden
THE SEMBABULE PROJECT

• Produced a documentary on best practices for marketing the approach and partners involved in the project.
• The documentary was aired on the national television as planned.
• National policy - rolled out nationally.
Pre-studies April 2017

• FuG implemented three pre-studies for new projects in Uganda and Rwanda
Lyantonde District Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>100654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District HIV Prevalence (ANC weighted)</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV Prevalence in Lyantonde Town Council</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated # of PLHIV</td>
<td>11374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated # of HIV+ Children &lt;15 Years</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated # of HIV+ 15 – 49 Years</td>
<td>5232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected # of HIV+ Pregnancies</td>
<td>569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected # of HIV+ Adolescents (10 – 19 Years)</td>
<td>524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List all known key populations and any estimates of size, HIV prevalence</td>
<td>CSW= 19% in Lyantonde TC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Orphans and Vulnerable Children</td>
<td>10300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected Number of TB Cases</td>
<td>302</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

June 2017
The coming projects...

- Satisfactory health services - HIV testing, counselling and adherence to treatment, for adolescents (ages 10-19) in selected sub counties of Lyantonde district by end of 2020
- Increased male involvement in HIV testing and care in Lyantonde District by 2020.
- Knowledge transfer and exchange of experiences between OCE in Uganda and ANSP+ in Rwanda with special focus on the truck drivers and sex workers.
Lyantonde 2017

Outside Lyantonde Hospital

Gertrude Nansamba
In Lyantonde hospital

WE TAKE OUR DRUGS AND THAT'S WHY WE ARE HAPPY!!
Welcome to support FuG

- Farmaceuteur utan Gränser (FuG) – www.fug.se
- Farmaceutkompis - www.farmaceutkompis.se
- Forum Syd – www.forumsyd.se
- E-Mail; info@fug.se

Thank You for Your attention!