

NETWORKING ACROSS COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARDS (CAB) FOR HIV PREVENTION RESEARCH IN UGANDA

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OUTLINE

- Background
- Network Goal
- Objectives
- Achievements
- Challenges
- Conclusion

BACKGROUND

- CABs exist to strengthen ties and interactions between researchers and communities.
- There are four CABs in Uganda linked to the following HIV prevention research organisations; UVRI- IAVI, MRC-UVRI , MUWRP, MUJHU, RHSP.
- The uniqueness & diversity of communities, CAB experiences propelled the need for cross-CAB exchange.

CAB NETWORK GOAL

To harmonise CAB structures in order to improve their operations and enhance coordination

OBJECTIVES

- To provide a forum for information gathering and sharing, for improved performance of CABs in Uganda
- To share perspectives, challenges, and skills arising out of CAB work
- To build CAB capacity through training and exchange
- To consolidate, where relevant, community mobilisation for HIV prevention research throughout the country

CAB NETWORK ACHIEVEMENTS

- Learning across CABs has been facilitated through skills training and exchange visits to address CAB needs.
- Joint messages have been developed regarding issues of common concern, promoting joint advocacy for HIV prevention research.

ACHIEVEMENTS CONT'D

- CAB Network in Uganda is part of the review process for the Good Participatory Practice guidelines developed by UNAIDS, AVAC.
- Lessons, skills, and experiences have been shared with other national level community structures, e.g. Gender Advisory Committee.

CHALLENGES

- Balancing the time between individual CABs and CAB network activities
- CAB network unable to raise funds outside the sponsoring institution
- Documenting cross-CAB activities for wider sharing

CONCLUSION

The CAB Network in Uganda has enhanced coordination, information, knowledge and skills sharing which have added value to key aspects of HIV prevention research.

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