



UGANDA PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS' NETWORK (UPDN)

2ND QUARTER PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT 2019



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Date ..2nd July 2019.....
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1.1 INTRODUCTION:

UGA-C-TASO is a Global Fund support to Uganda meant to support Uganda's response to HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis reduction strategy.

MARPI through TASO is a SSR of the same grant to implement clinical strategy in selected twenty (20) districts of Uganda.

Uganda Professional Drivers' Network was among seven (7) KP Led organisations that were selected to benefit from this grant for institutional strengthening so as to be able to carry efficient M&E functions and demand creation for services supported by Global Fund.

Part of the obligation of UPDN is to report on our other ongoing activities, since the grant is meant to support the institution carryout our other community beneficial activities.

The 3rd quarter 2019 (2nd quarter of the grant), experienced a slow start yet there were a great deal of activities to be implemented. Being the first year with the funding from TASO; it is upon the UPDN to complete the process of activities already started in second quarter and ensure that the ongoing activities are implemented in the next quarter as well.

During the quarter; activities such as out reaches, stakeholders meetings and field visits were ongoing and will continue through the 3rd quarter as well. It is expected that some of the ongoing activities such as our strategy development and outreaches will be continue taking place even in the 3rd quarter to pave ways for other engagement promises made during the different meetings.

1.2 PROJECT ACHEIVEMENTS:

Activity 1.1: Website design and upgrade

UPDN engaged the services of our IT service provider (Hismack Ltd) to design and host for the Network a seamless, dynamic and interactive website able to meet our future data needs. The website has been completed and is just awaiting the grand launch and link will be shared with all relevant stakeholders.

Activity 1.2: Data collection and analysis by M&E

UPDN planned to collect data from service delivery points serving truckers to be able to analyze and use the results to negotiate for improvement. We are still to engage partners like MARPI how we can obtain this data for analysis. We project to have this completed by December 2019, upon agreement with partners.

Activity1.3: Peer leaders meeting

Peer leader's meeting was attended by 06 peer leaders for the three HIV service delivery points of Natete, Mbuya and Namanve. The monthly peer leaders meeting was meant to share experiences and best practices on how to have fruitful engagement with the community. This has been so helpful to the peer leaders as they engage and pick out the best practices and it also works as a learning process to the peers.

Key in the discussions were concerns that the current free condoms are being rejected by the community, since the condoms easily break (bursts) and have bad smell and that most of the clients (truckers) referred get lost and also they requested for more support in terms of communication airtime to strengthen their referral mechanism.

The team combined reported to have distributed two thousand five hundred sixty seven (3951) condoms in a period of nine (9) months, and referred two hundred and twenty four (312) truckers to different facilities for further management.



UPDN E.D meeting selected peers to discuss challenges and generate way forward for smooth peer operation

Activity 1.4: Management meetings

During the quarter, 3 management and weekly staff meetings conducted. The monthly management meetings were conducted with the aim of addressing key decisions on quality and on the currently preparation for the 17th November World Day of remembrance on road traffic victims, while the weekly meetings are meant to update the management on the progress on preparation and accomplishments during the week. UPDN is one of the partners closely working with the government to commemorate the day with the theme '*life is not a car part*' meant to create awareness and advocacy to the government to come up with national post crash strategy to effectively support people affected by road traffic crashes

Activity 1.5: Demand Creation for HIV services

UPND conducted routine community meetings in Banda trailers park, Natete, Portbell and Mukono, and reached 299 (29 females and 270 Males). The main purpose for the demand creation event were to; increase access to information on available HIV support programs within Uganda for Truckers, improve access and utilization of referrals, increase uptake of available ART and other continuum of care, link the different truckers to driver's friendly service points and ensure that partners who are part network are known to the truckers. The truckers during the engagement sessions decried the limited information on service points and stigma among the truckers. They also demanded for directories to access other truckers' associations to improve linkages and information sharing

1.3 KEY CHALLENGES:

- Limited community knowledge on available HIV and STI support services and facilities offering the different services.
- There is a lot of transport needs that would require additional resources like vehicle and fuel to be able to reach this scattered community.
- Different facilities are still offering different service packages. There is need to harmonise and have Standard Operating Procedures to define minimum packages
- There is loss to referrals in that truckers are always moving; those referred during outreaches always get lost.

1.4 WAY FORWARD:

- UPDN is in the process of compiling service delivery points in Uganda for truckers with minimum packages for dissemination.
- We are approaching different partners to discuss possibility of them leveraging resources and supporting our transport needs gap.
- Upon documenting above, the report will support advocacy for minimum HIV service package for facilities serving truckers
- The issue of lost to referral; we are discussing with different stakeholders how we can refer clients across different partners in the region since truckers cross to other countries in the region. We are also engaging the community and partners on appropriate referral mechanism for truckers.

1.5 LESSON LEARNED:

- The community still has cultural superstitions about HIV such as; marijwana smokers do not get HIV, 'kachabali' does not spread HIV, after sex if you are circumcised and you wash immediately you cannot get HIV.
- Limited knowledge on available HIV service delivery points for Truckers in Uganda among the community.

1.6 PLANNED NEXT QUARTER ACTIVITIES

- Commemoration of the WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE
- Launch of a new project on earth skilling drivers in a consortium with SWRW funded by PSFU
- Engagement meetings with the truck drivers
- Upcoming Board meeting