



Shelter and
Settlements
Alternatives

Uganda Human
Settlements
Network

*Responses to HIV & AIDS; a case story
of Shelter and Settlements
Alternatives Uganda*

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About Shelter and Settlements Alternatives: Uganda Human Settlements Network

- ▶ **Our Vision**-*A nation with accessible, decent, affordable and sustainable human settlements for all*
- ▶ **Our Mission**-*To address issues and challenges affecting human settlements in Uganda through information sharing, networking and advocacy*

The Network's Key Priority areas of Concern

- ▶ Research
- ▶ Networking
- ▶ Lobbying & Advocacy
- ▶ Community mobilization
- ▶ Community empowerment, and capacity building

SSA:UHSNET carried out the first ever study on the link between HIV and AIDS and Housing in Uganda.

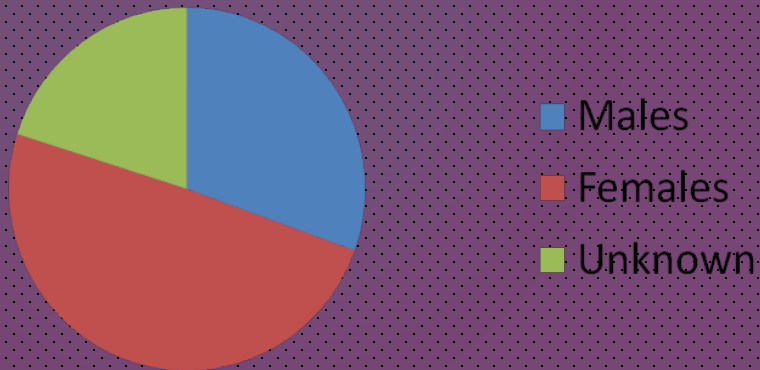
- ▶ Rampant evictions of people with HIV/AIDS due to Landlords fears.
- ▶ PLWHA lacked knowledge about where to seek legal recourse e.g. grabbing land of widows and Orphans or unlawful evictions
- ▶ Business owners affected by HIV were stigmatized by customers: e.g. a restaurant closed because the owner was HIV positive.
- ▶ PLWHA were unable to save for decent housing due to treatment expenses
- ▶ Accessing public toilets by those affected with HIV and AIDS was expensive and resulted into people using polythene and dumping them in gutters.
- ▶ Over crowding and inadequate ventilation posed health risks to PLWHA, susceptible to contracting opportunistic infections.
- ▶ Home based health care services were difficult because of floods, poor sanitation and waste disposal and general filthy environments.
- ▶ Storage of medication was also inadequate due to unhygienic conditions

SSA: UHSNET's study: Research on HIV and AIDS and its impact

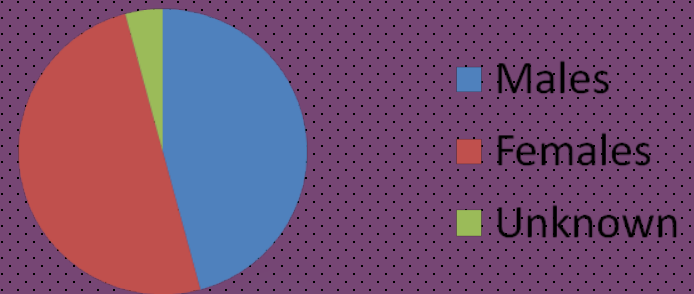
Findings revealed:

- ▶ negative behavior of the landlords towards the HIV positive tenants and the negative impact of this on their psychosocial wellbeing
- ▶ cultural factors that precipitate the vulnerability of a woman who is left helpless when property is grabbed from her after she loses her husband. She then finds herself in a slum.
- ▶ Research on impact of evictions on people living with HIV and AIDS:

Stress Impact from Evictions



Lowering of CD4 count due to evictions





SSA: UHSNET's HIV response/ implications:

*Reducing Transmission, Prevention, treatment,
care and support*

SSA: UHSNET's HIV response/ implications

- ▶ Provides support to 8 community groups that are affected by HIV and AIDS.
- ▶ Supporting positive living women with income generation activities, such as craft making, basket weaving and urban gardening



Interventions continued

- ▶ Community clean up exercises, SSA:UHSNET has improved waste disposal in informal settlements; making the dwelling places more habitable: an advantage to HIV &AIDS persons
- ▶ Conducting profiling exercises to ascertain the current status of HIV &AIDS affected communities to inform its interventions. (4communities mapped)



SSA: UHSNET's responses to HIV & AIDS

- ▶ HIV and AIDS Mainstreaming Trainings for member organizations. (Stigmatization and discrimination as topics).
- ▶ Developing National Guidelines for Evictions and resettlement in Uganda.



No	GROUP NAME	CONTACT NO
1	Makindye Youth Leje Skills	0753087154 Umar
2	Ayesiga Mukama	0754774109 Kisembo Elizabeth
3	Tutunza Development Association	0704805429 (Ymn)
4	KISEEYI III WOMEN'S GROUP	0783507352 OKOTH
5	KAMUKY KISEYI SAVING GROUP	0774603629 Kabwima Gladys
6	OUR GALIMA FIGHTS HIV/AIDS GROUP	0773374238 Nabakka Lydia 8075283674 CONSOLATA
7	OUR LADY OF CHARITY GROUP	0782629861, 0755107364, 0772, 835296

HIV and AIDS response cont'd

- ▶ In the Draft National Housing Policy, SSA:UHSNET advocated for the inclusion of the HIV and AIDS affected with issues of stigma and discrimination well stipulated.
- ▶ Training community paralegals and watchdogs for promotion of women's rights to property and housing, specifically aimed at addressing issues of property rights and discrimination among women, most of whom are PLWHA.

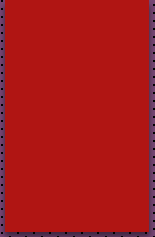


Lessons and Results

- ▶ Community mapping and enumeration is important for sustainable planning
- ▶ Continued advocacy yields actions: Inclusion of land for vulnerable communities in Uganda's National Land Policy of 2013; and housing development for PLWHA in National AIDS action plan
- ▶ Demonstration is the best evidence for advocacy: SSA: UHSNET is implementing a pilot project for construction of cooperative housing for a group of women affected by HIV & AIDS

Recommendations

- ▶ **Need for comprehensive services for PLWHA**
- ▶ **Need for poverty alleviation programmes as a prevention measure to fight spread of HIV in informal settlements**
- ▶ **Adoption of alternative and affordable housing options, in urban areas.**
- ▶ **legal and advocacy training programs that empower PLWHA and low income groups to protect their rights and interests**



We're learning to do it
right by recognizing that
housing is a strategy for
prevention and care of
HIV and AIDS

THANK YOU!
MWEBALE NYO!