

**Our Mission**

... is to work for equal opportunities and active participation of PWDs into mainstream programmes and processes...

**Our Vision**

...Making Disability Visible....

**Our Objectives...**

...Mobilization of PWDs to form groups for collective action....

...Influence the formulation of disability inclusive legislation...

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

**UAC approves 1 400M**

**Media cam- 1 paigns**

**World AIDS 2 Day**

**IDD Celebra- 2 tions**

**African cam- 3 paign on**

**UNAD trust 3 funds**

**TASO Trains 4**

**APRM Report 4**

**MHU trains 5**

# NUDIPU NEWS

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## UAC Approves 400 millions to NUDIPU

The Uganda AIDS Commission has approved 400 millions UGX to support disability related activities aimed at mainstreaming Disability in national and local HIV/AIDS programmes. The Proposal-Reducing HIV infection through Sexual Transmission among PWDs-was submitted by NUDIPU to UAC under the Civil Society Fund call for proposals in December 2007.

The proposal was developed by the Disability Stake holder's HIV/AIDS committee (DSHAC)- a loose coalition of 11 Disabled People's Organization that include NUDIPU,UNAB,ESAU,NUWODU,BBA,NADBU,U SDC,UNAPD,DWNRO,MHU and ADD.

The disability fraternity intends to use the funds to promote awareness on HIV/AIDS and disability with specific focus on prevention of sexual transmission using Information, communication and education materials that are disability friendly.

The activities shall be implemented over a period of two years 2008-2010 in the districts of Soroti,Guu and Masaka.NUDIPU was among the 27 NGOs



*PWDs will be the main beneficiaries of this fund*

whose applications was approved. 275 NGOs applied for the fund. The decision to approve NUDIPU'S proposal was made on 8/2/08 during the partnership committee sitting at UAC boardroom. In attendance was the HIV Coordinator NUDIPU, Mr.Mwesigwa Martin Babu. We should unite in all our efforts towards empowering PWDs in Uganda and the struggle against HIV/AIDS. Congratulations.

## National HIV/AIDS media campaign launched

The media campaign is one of the major activity of the HIV/AIDS project and aims to promote the message that PWDs are both vulnerable and marginalized in relation to HIV/AIDS and there fore a call to action to reduce the general stigmatization of PWDs.

On 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007, the National HIV/AIDS Project media campaign was launched in Kampala at USDC gardens in kamwokya.

The main objective of the launch was to formally launch the media campaign in three districts and create awareness about the issues and needs of PWDs in relation to HIV/AIDS. Three media campaigns have already launched in Soroti on 13<sup>th</sup> Nov, Gulu on 15<sup>th</sup> Nov and Masaka on 27<sup>th</sup> Nov prior to the national media campaign launch in Kampala on November 30, 2007. >

## HIV/AIDS Media campaign launched



A cross section of Participants during the Media launch in Kampala

>There were over fifty (50) participants who took part in the national media campaign in Kampala. Sixteen (16) representatives from Disability people's organizations attended and Twenty six (26) reporters from different media houses attended the launch.

Mr. Jack Mirembe the assistant commissioner in charge of disability in the gender ministry gave a key note address too and called on Disability People's organizations to actively take part in HIV/AIDS programmes. The launch attracted many members of the press, DPOs and opinion leaders.

It is envisaged that these messages will rise awareness of HIV/AIDS as regards Disability issues and concern in the general public. The event was marked with listening to the aired series of spot messages about HIV/AIDS and PWDs related concerns.

The spot messages are running on voice of Teso, Mega FM and Radio Buddu, UBC and Super FM in Soroti, Gulu, Masaka and Kampala.

Persons with Disabilities face discrimination in accessing HIV/AIDS prevention and Treatment services

## World AIDS Day commemorated

NUDIPU HIV/AIDS project team joined Uganda and the rest of the world to commemorate the World aids day which took place on December 1, 2007 at Ggaba landing site.

This year's theme was "Accelerated leadership for prevention". Various Disability people's organizations like ESAU, MHU, UNAB, UNAPD, NUWODU, UPA-CLED, ADD and DWNRD attended the function among others. The venue was selected because of increased infection rates HIV/AIDS among the fishing commu-

nity as showed in recent studies. The day was marked with a procession and a series of performances from different HIV/AIDS organizations and well wishers.

The DSHAC-a coalition of DPOs came out in droves to highlight the plight of PWDs in accessing HIV/AIDS and SRH prevention and care services. We are hoping that our policy makers will include PWDs in all HIV/AIDS Programmes in Uganda.

## International Disability day Remembered.



A procession during the IDD Celebrations in Nebbi.

The disability movement in Uganda joined the rest of the world to celebrate the international day of the disabled on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2007. This year's celebrations were held in Nebbi. The celebrations were held to highlight and to promote an understanding of disability issues .

A number of activities were carried out to raise public awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities which included radio and television talk shows, press conferences, exhibitions, football and goal ball competitions, matching procession to mention but a few.

The event led to improvement in accessibility in most of the public buildings in the district like hotels, banks, district local government offices, hospitals and Nebbi police offices.>

## IDD Celebrations continued

>hospitals and Nebbi police offices. During the celebrations, the Chairperson NUDIPU raised a number of concerns particularly the non-implementation of laws to the President..

The President promised to meet MPs representing PWDs and other members of the disability fraternity to chart a way forward. A memorandum to be submitted to the President has already been prepared and the

delegation is expected to meet the President in March 2008. This is a very big opportunity in which all the issues of PWDs will officially be presented to the President for action.

Please send in your articles for the next enews letter by 30th march 2008 to irene-mirembe@yahoo.com or drop them at NUDIPU head office.Thanks

We would like to see a society that respects and recognizes the rights and contribution of persons with disabilities in the development of our country.

### WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES?

I was seated in a taxi when a passenger quarreled with the conductor because she was over charged.

The conductor was forced to refund the money but what surprised me were the comments he made while throwing the balance at her

*"abalema muyomba nyo, teri abasobola. Okimanyi nti orimulema, lwaki otambula nga toyina sente ezimala"*

*Literary meaning that people with disabilities are quarrelsome and nobody can manage you. You know that*

*you are disabled, why do you travel with little money.*

I asked myself whether being a disabled, you are supposed to pay more or you have no right to demand for your balance.

This reminded me of what I read in one of the articles submitted on BBC website "Do we have poor people to make the rich feel grateful or Do we have the rich people to make the poor people hopeful?" In the same way I am tempted to ask; Do we have the public that protects and promotes the rights

of persons with disabilities or a society that continue to marginalize and reduce PWDs to sub-humans? Do you see the disability before the person?

How much does it cost you to respect a person with disability? We should always be positive in looking at people; whether with a disability or not. People with disabilities are looked at as beggars and in many occasions are left on stages with the assumption that they have no transport.>

## Rights of Persons With Disabilities.

>Many disabled people are deprived of their rights as citizens and face discrimination from their families, community members and potential employers.

The 1995 constitution of the republic of Uganda article 35: (1) says "persons with disabilities have a right to respect and human dignity and the State and society shall take appropriate measures to ensure that they realise their full mental and physical potential". To what extent do our families and commu-

nities we live in promote the realization of potentials of persons with disabilities?

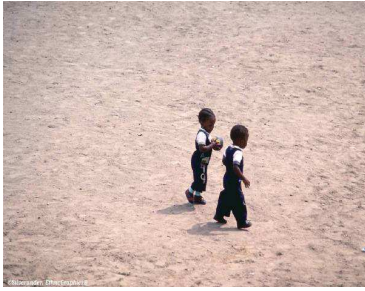
Many children are denied a chance to go to school by their parents because they are disabled. Some reach an extent of counting that they have 4 children and one disabled child. **Section 11 of the Children Statute** states that a Local Government Council shall keep a register of disabled children within its area of jurisdiction and

give assistance to them to enable them to become self-reliant. This is however not done.

Children with disabilities continue to be marginalized and hidden in homes. It is our duty as community leaders to ensure that children with disabilities are given the necessary support to attain education.

Another area of concern is accessibility to public buildings, information and communication technologies. Many buildings have no provision for wheel chair users. Therefore improving accessibility to our buildings is not only for the benefit of people with disabilities but for the entire population

## UNAD Trains members in HIV/AIDS Issues



Uganda National Association of the Deaf (UNAD) entered into partnership with NUDIPU to implement an HIV/AIDS program for the deaf in the districts of Masaka, Gulu, and Soroti.

**PWDs are at a high risk when it comes to HIV/AIDS.**

The trust fund worthy over Four millions were released to UNAD to implement this programme. The trainings were meant to enhance easy access to HIV/AIDS services by the Deaf community by making the relevant HI/AIDS literature available to them .

The human rights of the Deaf people to health services including access to HIV/AIDS information cannot be fully promoted and re-

spected if the issue of Sign language is ignored, in light of this situation UNAD received the trust fund to train its members in various HIV/AIDS issues. Over 60 deaf people were trained in the districts of Soroti, Gulu and Masaka

After the various trainings more Deaf people now accessing VCT services as the result of the NUDIPU trust fund.

This has gone to uplifting the status of the deaf people in Uganda. In order to achieve the objectives of the National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS, PWDs should not be ignored.

**There is need to include legislation on family law, promote gender budgeting and support youth empowerment**

## The APRM Country report launched

Having carried out the country self-assessment through extensive consultations, NUDIPU Capacity building project launched its findings in February at NUDIPU head office. Findings show that among the vulnerable groups, PWDs have a strong movement (NUDIPU) in order to have a unified voice to tackle the im-

balances in society. NUDIPU has made great strides in bringing disability on the national agenda.

Although there are tremendous efforts and changes in the area of disability development, there are no national indicators for measuring success and no studies have been carried out to see

if these changes have improved the quality of life of PWDs and how disabled people are benefiting from the policies and institutional measures.

The Executive Director NUDIPU said that such findings will go to a greater strength to improve PWDs policies.

## African Campaign on HIV/AIDS and Disability on.

The second meeting on The Africa Campaign on Disability and HIV/AIDS is on, here in Kampala Uganda. NUDIPU will host this event in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Development. Handicap International and the African Decade are the main organizers of is event

slotted for March 11-14 2008. A national Organizing committee has already been formed, The theme of this event is **Making Access for All a reality.** The main objective of this meeting is to gain insight into progress made by the different countries on the continent with regard to disability and HIV

efforts.

The campaign was birthed in Kenya during the UNAIDS Global coalition on women and HIV/AIDS 2004. The first meeting took place in Cape Town South Africa.



**PWDs during FGD in Gulu**

## TASO Offers training to PWDs in HIV/AIDS Related issues.

In our fight against HIV/AIDS epidemic, policy makers, implementers and all major actors in the area of HIV/AIDS in Uganda have failed to appreciate Persons With Disabilities (PWDs).

This means therefore that the impact and implications of the HIV/AIDS epidemic among the disabled people may not have been well represented in the general prevalence situation of Uganda.

NUDIPU enlisted TASO a leading HIV/AIDS service provider to establish a partnership for assisting PWDs and decreasing their vulner-

ability in areas of HIV/AIDS and sexual reproductive health.

TASO offered trainings to PWDS in areas of how best to mainstream PWDs in accessing HIV/AIDS/SRH Services and mitigate the effects of HIV/AIDS among the PWDS.

A training needs assessment among the PWDs was carried out in the Maska, Gulu and Soroti by TASO and a report was made.

Among the various findings, it was discovered that PWDs were at significant risk of becoming HIV infected. The risk factors were associated with poverty, lack of

education, risk of Violence and rape and lack of legal protection.

It was also discovered that Women with Disability compared with both non-disabled and men with disability are less likely to be educated, more likely to be unemployed and more likely to live in a series of unstable relationships.

Recommendations were made to enhance the PWDS level of knowledge of HIV/AIDS to adequate levels and disability organizations should widen and deepen the network and programmes targeting the PWDs with public private and civil societies.

*In 1996, 5 members of parliament representing PWDs were elected. This marked a beginning of a serious struggle to influence laws and policies in favour of PWDs*

## NUDIPU CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

The National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda on 14th November 2007 marked 20 years of her existence. The organization which started from a humble beginning has grown to be nationally and internationally recognized as an advocacy organization for the rights of persons with disabilities. The rationale of forming NUDIPU was to have a unified voice for people with disabilities in Uganda and to embark on a systematic struggle to free persons with disabilities from

bondage that reduced them to sub-humans.

### Key milestones

- **November 14th 1987 NUDIPU was formally launched at a meeting/seminar of 17 associations of PWDs with various disabilities that gathered at Mbarara-Tukole Invalids' school.**
- **In 1994, NUDIPU lobbied successfully to have a representative of PWDs in the Constituency Assembly. The Late Eliphazi Mazima played a key role in the promulgation of the**

**1995 constitution of the republic of Uganda. The Constitution of Uganda recognizes the rights of PWDs and clearly guarantees the parliament of Uganda to enact laws aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. NUDIPU is now recognized in various legislative instruments or Acts of parliament.**

*More key milestones will be in the next issue.*

## Mental Health Uganda trains its members

Ms. Rita (not real name) from Mukasa has been living with HIV/AIDS for some time now; She is also with from mental illness and has been facing many challenges in her young life.

Mental Health Uganda an indigenous Non Government Organization of people with and survivors of mental health of

mental illness, got a trust fund from NUDIPU HIV/AIDS Project worth 6 millions to improve the management, knowledge and awareness on HIV/AIDS among mental health workers and persons with mental illness in Uganda. Ms Rita was among the 160 beneficiaries who attended the training workshops facilitated by TASO. She shared her real life story with the rest

of the participants and encouraged them to go for voluntary counseling and Testing (VCT). This she offered will help them manage their lives better than staying in the dark." After I went for VCT from TASO, I learned to live positively and am happy". Rita said.



### **Laughter is a medicine, so have one.**

By Florence N.Mukasa.

An un employed Deaf man read in the Newspaper about several job openings with a company. He went into the main office of the company; he wrote something on a piece of paper and gave it to the secretary.

The secretary shook her head and sent him to the person above her. After reading the paper ,that person also referred him to someone at a higher level.

The director after reading the paper wrote “No, I want to keep my job”. What the Deaf person had written on the piece of paper was “I want your job” instead of “I want a job”

### **LET US HAVE A LAUGH BUT IT IS THE TRUTH.**

#### **The forgotten tribe**

**By Florence N. Mukasa.**

**DEAF:** I see people who suffer from a certain disease, some-time I see them in pictures but I cannot understand what it is all about. All the same it seems to be very deadly disease. I wish someone would explain it to me.

**BLIND:** I have heard all the information about AIDS but how can I know who has it! Even when I stick to using condoms how shall I know the good ones? I hear some are expired; also some people are so bad they can tear it so he/she gives you the virus. My being blind bars me from knowing anything.

**PHYSICALLY HANDCAP:** I think I have suffered most. I have been denied the right to go where I want nothing to facilitate my movement but worst of all I have been raped because I cant defend myself.

## **Upcoming Events at NUDIPU.**

- The Mid Term Review for the HIV/AIDS project is on this February to March 2008
- The African Campaign on HIV/AIDS and Disability is on this March 2008.
- ABILIS Documentary filming is on.
- Monthly Press briefing are starting this Month of February.
- The Information Strategie for NUDIPU will be internally launch this March 2008.BDS conference slated for 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> April 2008 at Sports View Hotel in Kampala . with the theme: ***The Business Development Support Model – An Alternative***

***Strategy for training and Employment of People with Disabilities; Learning, Implications and scaling up.***