

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

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OUTLINE

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- 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.

Acknowledgements

The UVRI-IAVI HIV Vaccine Programme would like to thank

The Government of Uganda and
The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
for their generous support



IAVI gratefully acknowledges the generous support provided by the following major donors.*



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