

HEALTH CONCERN INITIATIVE

PROFILE



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Background

Health Concern Initiative (HCI) is a civil society organisation incorporated as a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) registered in April 2017 under Reg. No 13.176. Among other objectives, the organisation seeks partnerships with government, local and international organizations, learning institutions, individuals and the private sector in furtherance of her mission and vision. The organization emphasizes among other programs, Sexual reproductive Health, Non communicable diseases, Research and advocacy, women and youth empowerment and community based healthcare.

The organisation's head offices are located at Nansana East 2A in Nansana Municipality Wakiso district in the Republic of Uganda.

Historical Background

HCI was started in a humble way in 2016 as a small district organization. It was founded and started by Dr. Nyanzi Shafic from Mulago Hospital who realized the need to extend health services closer to the local communities and strengthen people's voluntary initiatives in Wakiso district to fight the devastating effects of infectious and non-infectious diseases being specific with Cancers and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights. Through improving the primary health care systems, the founder also found it necessary to tackle issues of health as well as reducing the poverty levels and the widespread suffering and deteriorating living conditions of the people.

Health Concern Initiative has since 2016 grown from a mere community organization whose membership composed of largely village health workers to an autonomous indigenous NGO at a National level. In 2017 it extended its services to all parts of Wakiso District and was registered with the district authorities and today we are mandated to operate countrywide.

HCI works with individuals, families, communities, government local councils and international partners like Work For Life to promote health community development in order to reduce disability, illiteracy, poverty and social injustices. To date the organization has secured membership in different networks like Youth Advocacy and Development Network (YADNET formerly KYADNET) and is engaged with various CBOs like Lufula Youth Development Group and Biyinzika Women Group through which HCI enhances youth empowerment and inclusion in various aspects of life. HCI is a result oriented organization that works to maintain team work, innovation, professionalism, competence, integrity, transparency, accountability and partnership.

In furtherance of her objectives, Health Concern Initiative has accelerated community awareness on various infections in Wakiso district through both on-site and outreach activities. The cervical cancer awareness project has seen the organisation taking the lead in free and voluntary screening for women aged 25 - 65, advocacy for mass HPV vaccination of non sexually exposed adolescent girls aged 9 - 13 while encouraging safe male circumcision of all boys and men as a preventive measure that may reduce occurrence of sexually transmitted infections including HIV, HPV, HEPATITIS B etc.

Our Vision

To aid communities realize the existence of various infections around them and promote every person's right free from illnesses.

Our Mission

To create immune communities and promote every person's right to proper and affordable

medical services through mass awareness, sensitization, early diagnosis, monitoring as well as eradication of possible causes.

Core Values

Competence

Health concern initiative has a reliable staff that believes in team work and self drive required for timely service delivery.

Integrity

Health Concern Initiative is an organization that puts internal and external trustworthiness and transparency at the fore of what we do.

Innovation

Our executive team is highly creative and productive.

Professionalism

Care is the core reason for our very existence, and professionalism is the driving force and heart of what we are known for as Health Concern Initiative.

Our objectives include;

1. To assist people realize their right to proper medical services regardless of age, gender, socio-economic status, origin and religion.
2. To enhance proper sensitization about the cause, spread, effect and prevention of different illnesses.
3. To extend proper and affordable health services to people in various communities.
4. To encourage the culture of visiting health centers frequently to find out one's health status other than when one falls severely sick.
5. To improve the relationship between people and medical facilities in their communities.
6. To promote good hygiene, water and sanitation and other activities that promote good health in communities.
7. To manage and prevent childhood illnesses.
8. To provide clean and comfortable days for menstruating girls and women all year round.
9. To provide psychosocial services to the youths through counseling and guidance and life planning skills training.

10. To empower youths through market driven entrepreneurship skills training, appropriate technology and producer value addition.
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13. To create mass awareness concerning several infections around the people in their communities.

ACHIEVEMENTS

For the past three (3) years the organization has embarked on various activities and some organization's objectives been achieved as shown below;

YEAR	ACTIVITY	ACHIEVEMENT
2017	Cervical cancer screening	Out of 12000 women and girls targeted in this project so far the organization has managed to screen 4100.
	HIV/ AIDS voluntary testing and counseling.	So far more than 3000 people have been tested and the positive cases have been forwarded to the relevant partners for management.
	Membership	HCI gained membership to the Wakiso District NGO forum and our membership stands to date.
2018	Youth friendly corner	The organization created a youth friendly corner where youths access services that improve their livelihoods and health. Such include SRHR learning materials, condoms, family planning services, contraceptives, counseling and guidance.
2019	Physical activity project	The organization initiated this project and campaign and reached to 3 schools out of the five (5) projected.
	Partnerships	HCI acquired partnerships with organizations and these include; Path For Health Uganda, Lufula Youth Development Group, Work For Life, Biyinzika Women Group and Youth Power Uganda.
	Membership	HCI became a member of the Kampala Youth Advocacy and Development Network.
	Safe male circumcision	The organization initiated the safe male circumcision campaign and this will go on for as long as funds are available.
	Entrepreneurial skills training	Through the partnership with Work For Life, HCI initiated entrepreneurial skills training and 72 young girls and women attended the training and out those 68 passed the training and graduated.
2020	Internship	The organization initiated its first internship and received a group of 10 students from Makerere Institute of Technology. This internship lasted for 2 months.
	Mental Illnesses and Disorders Project	This project was launched at the beginning of the year and its campaign began amidst Corona Virus outbreak.
	Diabetes and Hypertension campaign	HCI began an on-site testing testing and management of diabetes and hypertension. This is one of the activities within its NCDs Project.

LUFULA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT GROUP

As a registered group, Lufula Youth Development Group has accelerated in skills development with the help of Health Concern Initiative. And being a member of Youth Advocacy and Development Network, Health Concern Initiative (HCI) has developed into an outstanding organization in youth support, advocacy, SRHR and NCDs. HCI has helped Lufula youth group to master in the making and manufacturing of shoes, liquid soap, belts, crafts and other items while maintaining good health, good living conditions, good livelihoods and styles.

Lufula Youth Development Group (LYDG) is a Community Based Group (CBO) that was incepted in July 2015 and registered with Registration No. CD KAW/ 17/067. It was started by a group of 26 young and energetic youths with a sound mind who were working in the abattoir. These youths identified poverty, diseases and ignorance as the top most problems affecting them in both urban and rural settings. The Group is located at Nsooba Kalerwe on Gayaza Road, Kawempe Division in Kampala District. The Group has impacted several youths in Kawempe Division and currently has a membership of 70 registered members and several other unregistered beneficiaries of the Group. Today LYDG has a group of 250 members under skilling and a group of 30 members under the bursary program and this number is expected to rise should funds be available.

The Group has been funded through member contributions, membership subscriptions and support from Health Concern Initiative while services are offered voluntarily until last year 2019 when the group received a funding from the government under the Youth Livelihood Program (YLP). And also the sale of products made by the group earns it some amount that is substantial to manage the day today activities as they intensify lobbying for funds to expand and push the group forward.

Currently the group is engaged in activities like;

- Shoe making
- Liquid soap making
- Candle making
- Belt making
- Crafts making
- Tailoring
- Counter book making

BIYINZIKA WOMEN GROUP

Biyinzika women's group is a Community Based Organization registered under the Directorate of Community Based Services with Reg. No. WCBO/20/4938. It was started in 2018 by a young man who saw the need to bring together young girls and their mothers to see how they can better their lives. It initially comprised of young women with a common characteristic and goal of creating jobs for themselves, empower other girls and women in the community and help their husbands improve on their living standards.

The group comprised of twenty five (25) young girls and women who were jobless, school dropouts, widows and single parents. They thought of how they can better their lives and their communities as well and what came into their mind was forming a village savings and loans association. Today the group is registered and with a membership of 25 young women and with more than 85 beneficiaries.

With the help of Health Concern Initiative (a member of Youth Advocacy and Development Network), the members have been trained and advised on how to leave a healthy life and other life skills. Biyinzika women's group engages members in activities that can transform the wellbeing of mankind through decision making in a particular approach and also trains girls and women especially those at the different skills to make their lives better. At the moment the group engages in the following activities;

- Liquid soap making
- Counter book making
- Craft shoe making
- Community sensitization
- Saving

FUTURE PROSPECTS.

Health Concern Initiative aspires to be the leading organization in NCD management, SRHR advocates as well as the leaders in community health and development. In the next five (5) years HCI is expected to have offices and branches throughout the country, all these will be achieved through the intensified efforts in service delivery and lobbying.

Through emphasizing networking and collaborations, we hope to see HCI expanding its visibility to at least 80% of the districts in Uganda. We expect to see an increase in youth engagement and inclusion in decision. This is one of those ideologies that lead to an uplift of the youths lives world and we intend to impact at least 65% of the total number of youths in Uganda.

Through the skills development and entrepreneurship programme, we wish to create at least 10000 jobs for the youths and women, we intend to achieve this through intensifying our cooperation with CBOs and partnerships. Through continued organization of health camps we wish to reach out to almost 25,000 women directly in the remote communities, these today have been challenged with a problem of service delivery where they hustle to get the basic primary health care services. Women give birth along road sides and others die in labour while giving birth just because of remoteness of their homes and narrow linkages between their homes and health centres.

- Should funds be available, we wish to establish a well quipped health centre for all categories of people.
- We want to improve the youth friendly corner from a mere youth center to a well established youth recreation center with services friendly to any youth.
- We expect to see a reduced prevalence of Non Communicable Diseases in our communities.
- We expect to expand our operations from a national level to worldwide international level.