



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE COMEI

STRATEGIC PLAN 2020 -2024



Overview

Community Empowerment Initiative (COMEI) is a legally registered non-governmental organization with a mandate to operate at national level. The organization was founded in 2007 by a small group of professionals out of the passion to sensitize the community in Kabale district following the high death rate due to HIV/AIDS in the community. The organization has over 10 years' experience in the health sector mainly implementing HIV/TB interventions working with different partners and in collaboration with local governments and community volunteers in different areas of operation. The organization also has experience in service delivery and accountability interventions in the roads sector and health.

COMEI has a board of Directors which is the policy making body and a secretariat headed by an Executive Director whose role is to oversee the day to day operations of the organization as well as coordination of all project activities as well as reporting to different stakeholders.

Goal: To promote positive social change, better health and development.

Vision: The vision of COMEI is a transformed, rights based society where all people including vulnerable groups are able to participate in the development process and live healthy prosperous lives in a quality environment.

Mission: The Mission of COMEI is to be a leading NGO in strengthening community capacity to advocate for their rights, better services, social justice and inclusive development.

Organizational Objectives:

The main goal of COMEI is to promote positive social change, better health and development.

The organization works to contribute to community capacity building to demand for their rights and good governance to ensure better participation and access to services.

COMEI works to promote reproductive health and better health especially in prevention of HIV in the community targeting vulnerable groups and most at risk populations and prevention of gender based violence.

The organization works to promote socio-economic status of vulnerable groups such as poor and vulnerable children living with HIV most of who are also orphaned.

COMEI works to network with like-minded people at local, national and international.

COMEI works to build the capacity of the organization through improvement of its policies, procedures, skills of its human resource and governance processes to make it more efficient and effective in implementing its mandate.

The organization works in collaboration with district local governments especially the departments of health services and community services, different community groups and community volunteers and peer leaders in implementation of its activities. Data collected through COMEI work and other partners especially in HIV prevention interventions contribute to district and national targets.

Core Values

- Integrity and accountability – Our guiding principle is honesty, responsibility, moral and ethical conduct not only for COMEI staff but the general public
- Gender sensitivity, Equity and Justice – We provide equal opportunities and promote inclusion for all. We are committed to gender equality, which is a principle of human rights that seeks to ensure that access to, and enjoyment of rights, responsibilities and opportunities is not affected by gender.
- Innovativeness – We value being creative and using new ideas and techniques
- Openness and team work – Our organizational culture values open communication and encourages constructive two-way dialogue and working together
- Fairness and Respect for others especially the poor and vulnerable – We apply tolerance and mutual respect for others. We appreciate the circumstances of vulnerable and marginalized people and serving them is our priority.

Current Activities:

- HIV prevention activities targeting partners and children of newly identified HIV cases mainly Key and priority populations (KPs) in three districts of Ntungamo, Rukiga and Kabale working in collaboration with partners, local governments mainly the department of Health services and community volunteers.
- TB contact tracing and screening of close family members of active TB clients in the community and initiating TB positive cases, into care.
- Follow up of lost HIV clients to ensure they return into care, receive viral load screening services, and are virally suppressed.
- Working with health facilities to provide cervical cancer screening to women in reproductive age including all HIV positive mothers

- Provision of psychosocial support to survivors of Gender based violence who seek health services and ensuring they access health care services and other services like police, legal services, counselling etc.
- Screening HIV positive mothers for viral load and screening their HIV exposed infants for PCR
- Provision of psycho-social support to people living with HIV to promote adherence to their treatment (ART), retention in care and viral suppression
- Psychosocial support and mentoring of vulnerable and needy children living with HIV linked to another project for educational support.
- Capacity building of the staff and board of directors to enable COMEI to implement her mandate more efficiently.

What we want to achieve?

To contribute to increased HIV prevention impact in the community to enable identification of new HIV and TB cases, access to other HIV prevention services to all especially the most at risk populations mainly sex workers.

COMEI will contribute to increased community empowerment to be able to engage duty bearers and take action against environmental degradation

The organization will work towards good governance, improved participation of citizens to be able to engage duty bears and demand for their rights, improved public service delivery, as well as create greater impact in systems strengthening.

In pursuit of the above goal, COMEI will work towards contributing to the following indicators in the next 5 years:

- ❖ Increased advocacy and empowerment of the community to participate and influence service delivery and accountability in public institutions like health facilities or roads department in local government
- ❖ Increased advocacy for stronger and more efficient systems in public institutions such as health facilities to be able deliver better services to the community
- ❖ Increased access and uptake of health services by community members especially vulnerable groups mothers, adolescents, people living with HIV and those who do not know their HIV status
- ❖ Increase advocacy for most at risk populations especially female sex workers (key and priority populations) to access HIV prevention services especially in selected hot spots
- ❖ Increased number of GBV clients accessing health services and other services
- ❖ Increased numbers of projects in the sector of environment being implemented in the community to mitigate environmental degradation

How shall we deliver results?

Strengthen engagement with stakeholders – Build stronger relationships with implementing partners, donor agencies, district local government, community volunteers and the community in general. This will be done through building and strengthening public relations, partnerships and actively participating in partner and government programs and activities.

Strengthen COMEI systems and processes – The organization will improve existing policies and institutional systems to improve efficiency, enable growth and enable COMEI deliver more results. COMEI will endeavor to create a culture and structure that will ensure sustainability and continuity as well as gender sensitivity.

Increase COMEI revenue base – This will be through development of a resource mobilization strategy with different strategic interventions to raise funds and other resources for COMEI including diversification of COMEI partners and donors, enhancing COMEI visibility, increasing membership contributions, organizing fundraising events for the organization and setting up income generation ventures for the organization.

Build stronger alliances for advocacy - COMEI will join other organizations, networks, coalitions and form partnerships for a stronger voice in advocacy and making linkages for support of COMEI activities.

Create greater impact at community level – This will be done through strengthening and initiation of new community based interventions especially those touching people's lives such as environmental protection, water, hygiene and sanitation. There will be an increased capacity building of community volunteers to be able to create awareness among citizens about issues of concern like health, monitor service delivery and accountability in public institutions, collect data and enhance referral of citizens for services. This will give COMEI a presence at community level as well as enhance ownership and sustainability of funded activities.

Diversify communication channels- This will be done through more focused brochures, radio and TV talk shows, a COMEI magazine, a web-site, and communication about COMEI through other organizations, coalitions and networks as well as faith-based organizations to ensure more effective information sharing. COMEI will strengthen communication with government structures and officials especially in districts of operation.

Strengthen COMEI visibility – This will be done through development of a website that will provide adequate information to interested parties both local and international. The organization signpost should be more clear and visible.

COMEI Intervention areas

These are based on the needs of the community and they include:

- Human rights promotion by empowering the community to demand and engage duty bearers for accountability and action for better services as well as prevention of gender based violence
- Health promotion especially HIV/TB prevention, cervical cancer screening in the community working in collaboration with local governments mainly the department of health services
- Advocacy for improved service delivery and accountability in the health sector and the roads sector in selected areas
- Advocacy for education for poor, vulnerable children living with HIV and linking them to educational opportunities and partnerships with OVC agencies like the Peace Centre Uganda.
- The environment with a special focus on environment protection, soil management, waste management, tree planting

If you require more information or have any inquiries regarding your specific requirements please fill out the form below. Our team will gladly be of assistance.

For more information, please contact:

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