Enforcement of Patients and Health Workers’ Rights (EPHWOR)

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www.ephwor.org

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GLOBAL FUND FOR WOMEN
Champions for Equality.

EPHWOR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2019-2020
Acknowledgements

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- Global fund for Women
- Mbarara Skilling Youth Initiative
- National association of women Uganda
- Mbarara Corporate Club
- Girls not Brides
- Patients voice Network
- National coalition for human rights defenders
- Omprakash
- Coalition for health promotion and development (HEPS)
- Action group for Human Rights HIV/AIDS
- Progressive Health Partnership
- Medical legal Society of Uganda
- Health Equity and Policy Initiative
- Uganda Health Care Federation
- Women and Rural Development Network (WORUDET)
- Uganda National Health Consumers Organization (UNHCO)
About Us

Enforcement of Patients and Health Workers Rights’ (EPHWOR) was founded in 2017 duly registered with the NGO board and NGO forum with Reg NO. INDR13829939, Permit No.INDP000939NB.

The beneficiaries of EPHWOR include women and young girls, patients and health workers. EPHWOR activities are aligned towards the achievement of a society where women rights, patients’ rights and health workers rights and sexual and reproductive rights are not violated.

Vision

Having a society in which Social Justice and Quality health to all patients and women is realized and health workers empowered to deliver quality health services with a smile

Mission

Strategic research, advocacy and enforcement of Women, patients and Health Workers Rights.

Our goal

EPHWOR’s overall goal is “Health Equity for All”
Thematic Areas

Advocacy

SRH Rights of Women and Girls

Strategic Litigation

Economic Empowerment
Our Core Values

- Inclusion and non-discrimination
- Integrity and professional ethics
- Transparency and Accountability
- Social Responsibility
- Teamwork
- Innovation and Excellence
MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

2019-2020 in numbers

- 7 Districts
- 12 Stakeholder Engagements
- 14 Community Outreaches
- 8 Court sessions
SRH Rights of Girls and Women

EPHWOR outreaches in western Uganda

EPHWOR conducted over 14 outreaches in western Uganda to create awareness about women rights and the sexual reproductive health and rights of adolescent girl and young women. At the kick of the series of outreaches EPHWOR was welcomed by the Ibanda Woman Member of Parliament at the headquarters of Ibanda District were the team was able to meet with the district women leaders including women members of parliament, councilors and entrepreneur’s. This was done to create awareness in regards to sexual reproductive health and rights and also harness knowledge on how women can help each other develop to increase their power in decision making and policy/ advocacy. This was followed by trainings and community meetings in Rwanyamahembe, Keihangara and in Buhweju district. Family planning, SRHR and ending gender based violence were the backbone themes of the outreaches to reduce violence against women and empower them to fight for their rights.

EPHWOR medical camps

EPHWOR under the “Stand Tall against Women and Patents Rights Violations” project has been organizing and carrying medical camps to help in the creation of awareness about Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), family planning and promoting the End Violence Against Women campaigns. So far EPHWOR has organized three medical camps in Mbarara, Ibanda and Bushenyi districts. During these camps free medical checks up such as cervical/ breast cancer screening, HIV testing and counseling are carried out, free medical/dental and distribution of condoms to prevent the transmission of STDs and unwanted pregnancies.
Women's day celebrations 2020:
EPHWOR in March 2020 joined the world to celebrate the international women's day 2020 under the theme “Each for Equal”. At EPHWOR we believe “an equal world is an enabled world”, progress of a nation depends on the way mothers bring up their children, if mothers are educated, freed from injustices and violence the whole society will progress. During these celebrations EPHWOR organized a training in Mbarara with its main aim to create awareness on women rights and SRHR under the “Respect a Woman’s No campaign”.

EPHWOR sues Marie Stopes:
EPHWOR through its litigation team sued Marie Stopes on behalf of our clients, following the use of defectives condoms that were imported and distributed by Marie Stopes Uganda under a medical negligence case. This was contrary to the prescribe guidelines and the law of rolling out condoms in Uganda that imposes a responsibility to any individual or organization that imports drugs to ensure they are of good quality and safe for consumption by the public. The condoms were tested and confirmed by NDA and were proved defective which prompted the NDA to recall back the defective condoms. EPHWOR held a press conference into make known to the public its intention to sue Marie stapes and also create awareness about the defective condom batches.
World Aids day celebrations 2019

EPHWOR joined in the commemoration of World AIDS day 2019, we educated women and girls on preventive measures and also did HIV testing and counselling where over 286 women and girls were tested.

Training Pharmacy Dispensers

EPHWOR has also carried out pharmacy dispenser training on the use of family planning services to ease their dispensing and advise their clients on SRH issues. This was done in the districts of Ibanda, Buhweju, Kiruhura Mbarara and Sheema where 10 pharmacy and 20 drug shop dispensers were covered.
Growing volunteer and village team networks
Over last year, EPHWOR has been able to grow its volunteer network and village team networks, in the different regions, we offer free volunteer trainings to individuals that are willing to serve with us to ensure that our role in ending violence against women is a joint action through the creation of different networks in different regions.

Strategic Litigation
The Birungi Annet case
Under the EPHWOR litigation team we are helping represent women in courts of law, under this case we are representing Birungi Annet a lady who was charged for seeking abortion related services from a health facility. EPHWOR secured bail for her after she was criminalized for Carrying out abortion.

**Kiconco Farida Case Vs Sheema**

EPHWOR has undertaken litigation against health practitioners who violate women’s rights and are negligent towards women, causing foreseeable injuries. This can be evidenced in the Kiconco Farida cases Vs Sheema municipality and Kabwohe Health center IV.

**Economic Empowerment**

EPHWOR in partnership with Mbarara skilling youth initiative has been able to train young girls and women in skills for self-reliance. We have trained 20 Women/Girls in Vocational skills like simple hair dressing, soap making, catering, yoghurt making and tailoring courses. This was done to help girls who have come out of
COVID-19 INTERVENTIONS

In observation of the guidelines and directives the following are EPHWOR’S COVID-19 responses carried out while observing the Standard Operating procedures;

Upholding the SRHR of the AGYW in the Wake of COVID-19

According to USAID, at least 64 percent of rural women in Uganda have experienced a problem accessing healthcare services. This situation was worsened by the lockdown that led to the suspension of both public and private transport. As transportation means were stripped away from these local women, many pregnant mothers have faced the wrath of the imposed lockdown in bid to contain the further spread of virus. As per the presidential guidelines, pregnant women were to seek permission from the RDC’s to use a car to the hospitals. This imposed more difficulty for the women as they have to walk to the RDC’s offices to seek permission then walk back home and use a car to get to hospital. The situation forced many to give birth from home and others to walk to hospitals in fear of being arrested in case they drive without a sticker or permission. This resulted into more risks as pregnant women were receiving substandard delivery services, many women lost their lives as a result of such conditions. Access to family planning and other drug refills became increasingly more difficult.

To combat these consequences EPHWOR came up with an intervention “Upholding Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) of Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) in the wake of COVID-19” with door to door services.

The project seeks to increase access to sexual reproductive health and rights services to the vulnerable adolescent girls and young women at their door steps (Homes). These services entail delivery of family planning services including contraceptives/condoms and other monthly drug refills like ARVs for
chronic illness to reduce on the gap created by the in access to healthcare and SRHR services. EPHWOR is working in partnership with Health Facilities where these young women were getting the services before the lock down and ensuring free delivery of these services to the intended recipients at their doorsteps by EPHWOR’s Medical team. With numbers of maternal death in Uganda surging from 12 to 70 per week in the wake of COVID-19 as per Ministry of Health report, this attributed to suspension of both private and public transport, EPHWOR is also engaged in transportation of pregnant women in rural areas to health centers for maternal and antenatal care. See video https://youtu.be/CxrFTB3Alz8

Food and supply distribution

Food is essential to all households, with the current lockdown most households have run out of jobs making it difficult to access food. EPHWOR through the district task force Mbarara donated and helped in the distribution of posho and matooke to marginalized vulnerable women and girls in Isingiro, Sheema, Rwampara, Mbarara, and Ibanda through identification of the affected, 10kgs of posho per household were given.
To carry out research and understand the different effects of COVID-19 on Adolescent Girls and Young Women. EPHWOR carried out a tweet chat to collect information on the different issues and ideas to counter the effects of COVID-19 on the access of Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights. This was through a Tweet Chat titled “SRHR of AGYW in the wake of COVID-19. It was moderated by Arineitwe Susan – EPHWOR’s Office Administrator.

From the chat, panelists raised a number of concerns which EPHWOR documented and shared with the Government of the Republic of Uganda and general public for action. The following observations were made:

- Increased difficulty in accessing SRHR
- Reduced access to clean safe sanitary material for the AGYW and hygienic environments to manage menstruation because they are not earning at the moment.
- Access to contraceptives during this period has become increasingly difficult which may result into unwanted pregnancies and less access to condoms higher risk to HIV.
- Currently we are already seeing maternal mortalities increase attributed to the suspension of both public and private transportation.
- COVID-19 has greatly affected the livelihood of the AGYW, as most of them have lost their jobs due to the lockdown
- The rates of domestic violence have greatly increased in Uganda, they ae sky rocketing. This does not come as a surprise since there has been a drastic change in the daily routine and many stressors like the uncertainty of the future especially financial difficulty. This has left many at the risk of the increasing violence.
- AGYW living with HIV have been left with limited access to health services due to movement restrictions amidst COVID-19.
Webinar patients’ rights in the wake of COVID-19

Right from the onset of the struggle to fight COVID-19, all countries were not prepared for the global pandemic, this led to the exposure of the existing challenges of the health sector. The government of Uganda was running focusing its efforts on the combating the spread of the virus while other existing challenges less attention recorded. This counts for the record of 317 COVID-19 cases with zero deaths yet deaths are being recorded in maternal health, malaria cases among other diseases. This unpreparedness witnessed the ill-treatment of COVID-19 suspected cases in quarantine centers as most individual’s claimed the conditions were dehumanizing.

The webinar was an eye opening session of the current situation pointing out maternal health challenges and the government responses, the effects of COVID-19 and recommendations. This webinar was hosted by Lanyero Sharon -EPHWOR’s Team Leader, attended by Ministry of health spokesperson Emmanuel Ainebyona and other government officials that laid forth the government responses and solutions to the current challenges. This meeting also saw the calling out of CSO’s, NGO’s and the government on ways to leverage the private sector in the fight against COVID-19.

Collaborating with our partners amidst COVID-19

As a response to COVID-19 EHWOPR under Patients Voice Network (PAVON) in collaboration with other organizations released a presser on COVID-19 detailing the situation giving recommendations to the government to avert the devastating effects on women, patients and healthy workers as a call to observe patients and health workers rights. The recommendations upon observation of the situation included:

- To exempt expectant mothers, chronic Patients with monthly refills and other terminally ill persons in need of emergency health care from seeking authorization from the RDCs. Alternatively, they can at most seek authorization from the nearest Local Councils.
- To allow Health Workers be able to reach their work station by way of using their Identity cards or their practicing certificates since the sticker has been found not to be effective.
- To portray a more balanced view of implementing the lock down and come up with strategies of implementation that are fair and just to all Patients and Health Workers.
- Uganda police to prevail over errant Police officers and punish them for individual actions meted out on the public in form of torture and inhumane degrading treatment.
- UPDF to prevail over errant Local Defense officers and put up a human rights abuse response Centre where such errant officers can be reported and handled.
- To guard against spreading false news that might cause panic to the population amidst the current crisis.
- To document all health rights violations and abuses meted out on the public by enforcement agencies such as LDUs.

**Media engagement:**

To address public of the prevailing conditions EPHWOR through its media platforms released informative messages on how they can protect themselves from the virus and also spread the news of intervention to ensure the continued access to sexual reproductive health and rights services especially the door to door services. Radio west and TV west were our point of engagement to create public awareness and sensitization about the services to be provided by EPHWOR during the global pandemics period. Our medical legal consultant was also hosted on TV West to discuss the SRHR of AGYW in the wake of COVID-19.
EPHWOR in Health and Policy

EPHWOR in promotion of health and patients’ rights was at the forefront of the formation of the Patients Voice Network (PAVON), a collaboration that joins different organizations dealing in patients’ rights to create a united forefront when demanding for policy change in the health sector.

EPHWOR has also been engaged in the drafting, popularizing and lobbying for the passing of the National Health Insurance scheme and the Patients’ Rights and Responsibility Bill.

EPHWOR has also been engaged in writing of various article to create awareness of the current daring situation and also invoke law makers to take action the articles written include;

Publications

- National Drugs Authority has a duty to ensure we have safe, quality drugs. [https://observer.ug/viewpoint/63090-national-drug-authority-has-duty-to-ensure-we-have-safe-quality-drugs](https://observer.ug/viewpoint/63090-national-drug-authority-has-duty-to-ensure-we-have-safe-quality-drugs)

These among others were published in different newspapers ranging from the Observer, New Vision and daily Monitor.
EPHWOR COMMUNITY STORIES
Observing teenage Mothers realities through Anabel’s story:

Niweabine Anabella, a young girl that was defiled and pregnananted at the age of 16. The news of her pregnancy did not turn out well for her family, as she was chased away from home and her estranged boyfriend that had promised her love abandoning her too, leaving Anabella with no support.

She sought shelter at her auntie’s home until she gave birth, with things not working out either. She decided to fend for herself and look for a job. She moved to Kabwohe town but it was not easy to get a job with a child.

She decided to move to “Toninyira” (Ghetto).

She used her last bit of money to start cooking food for low class populations “Business is not good when you’re cooking for individuals who also don’t have money and you have a child’s responsibility, rent and other needs. Life is hard” she narrated. I blame all this on ignorance and men that lie to us and abandon us thereafter. Her life was yet to be changed when the EPHWOR team heard her story and decided to intervene and render as much help as they could. EPHWOR took this upon itself to help Anabella, improve her life and wellbeing through providing her material support, counselling and tailoring training at Mbarara Skilling Youth Initiative. EPHWOR team paid rent for her and tuition at the institute was also cleared. Right now she is midway finishing her four months course and believes that her life is changing for the best. She hopes that after her training, she will start her own business in sewing and kitenge (African Print) wear.

She wants to work hard to provide for her young daughter all that she needs and also take her to school. She appreciates EPHWOR for the tremendous work they have done in her life and wants her daughter to study and not go through what she has experienced. She advises girls to stay in school for they have a bright future ahead of them when they study and avoid boy girl relations at a tender age. Watch Annabel's story https://youtu.be/zkB8Q1UxYcM
EPHWOR did not only provide her training but also gave her hope that she can improve her life that it doesn’t have to stop on pregnancy. This was also done to show parents that a girl becoming pregnant doesn’t mean it is the end of her, she can also accomplish her goals after the baby is born for example go back to school or train in other skills. EPHWOR continues to pursue the case to ensure that the estranged perpetrator is brought to face justice.

The tales of criminalizing abortion, challenges in accessing Family Planning and illegal detention of AGYW by health facilities

Akatwijuka Annet case
Akatwijuka Annet a 36-year-old lady and her spouse had decided that they should stop giving birth and stay with the six children because the responsibilities of the family had grown. Before they knew it Annet was pregnant again and this was way out of their plans, so they decided to go to a health facility and seek for abortion related services. This did not go well as the health worker reported them to authorities and they were arrested. Abortion in Uganda is a crime that as it can earn you prison time.

When EPHWOR got to hear Annet’s story, our legal team intervened in the situation and got the couple released on bail, the case is ongoing. Annet is thankful for all the help EPHWOR has rendered to her for it brought back her to her children that were left without parents.

Birungi Annet story
When Uganda’s President Yoweri Museveni extended the nationwide lockdown to halt the spread of the coronavirus for 21 days in April, Birungi Joyce, a housewife in Kacerere, Bisya, in Uganda’s hilly district of Buhwenju, felt a boom of uncertainty. The birth control pills she takes by mouth every day to prevent pregnancy were finished. Birungi had thought that after the initial 14-day lockdown, she would travel - almost 30 kilometers from her home on a commercial motorcycle - to purchase more pills at her usual pharmacy, but alas, the lockdown was extended for three weeks. The only alternative she was left with was to abstain. But her husband was unwilling. "He would sometimes beat me for denying him sex," narrates Birungi. "But I persevered. This was better than conceiving. "Birungi, aged 35, says they have been struggling to fend for their five children and could not afford
to add on another. Indeterminate of what else to do, she sought advice from some women in her village who advised her to call officials of EPHWOR for help. The women had watched EPHWOR officials speaking on a local television about the door to door delivery services. Fortunately, they had noted down their telephone contacts. Eventually, Birungi called the organization. A day after her call, officials from EPHWOR drove to her village and gave her birth control pills to last her two months. Watch her story https://youtu.be/CxrfTB3Aiz8

The Story of Defective Life guard condoms

EPHWOR as an advocate of Reproductive Health services responded to the outcry of people who had used the impugned condoms and contracted STIs and unwanted pregnancies. Two suits one under Negligence and the other Public interest have been brought up against Mariestopes the importer of these defective condoms. Watch the video https://youtu.be/7Ut-iG_fTAo

The story of Caroline Nassaka, a mother who was detained for three months due to failure to pay medical bills

Caroline Nassaka, a mother who lost her unborn child during a surgical operation has been in detention for more than three months after she failed to clear a medical bill of Shs 2.2 million. Nassaka was admitted at Nsambya hospital on March 24, 2020, after developing pregnancy-related complications. During the operation, she lost her baby and after four days of treatment, her bill had accumulated to Shs 3,932,300 as of March 27, 2020, when she was due for discharge. See her story https://observer.ug/news/headlines/65538-nsambya-detrains-for-3-months-mother-who-lost-baby-over-unpaid-bills

EPHWOR has written to the minister of health arguing that health facilities are not gazette places for detention by law. EPHWOR is in final stages of instituting a public interest case on violation of patients’ rights through illegal detention at health facilities that has affected Health seeking behaviour by pregnant mothers.

Institutional development and capacity building

Under institutional development and capacity building we would like to build an institution that is resilient enough to challenge the ever changing operational context. EPHWOR is focused on employing three themes management priorities each specifying the outputs and outcomes as committed to under the strategic plan. These priorities are;
• Strengthened Human Resources and Staff Wellness
• Maintain Robust Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Financial Systems
• Strategic Resource Mobilization and management
• Strengthened Communications and Media Engagements
• Quality Assurance and Risk Management

Staff capacity building:
EPHWOR has concentrated on building staff capacities internally but also ensuring that staff are exposed to regional and global engagements as part of building their capacities. We have participated in various national conferences. Internally, EPHWOR staff capacities have continued to be grown in purposeful staff trainings and staff meetings to evaluate the staff competencies and areas of improvement.

The staff meetings are purposely set to take stock of what we planned to but also prioritize key issues and goals. It is during these staff meetings and trainings that we develop work plans and identify partners to engage with during the year. Opportunities are provided to staff to get to learn more about the institution and the approaches it uses. Staff capacities were built in human rights approach and community participation among others.

Mentorship programme
EPHWOR has continued to nurture its staff capacity through a mentorship programme. We have found that these are crucial sessions that allow staff to grow in various fields that may not specifically be work related but which potentially affect staff performance. Staff are grouped and assigned mentors and assessments done during the Yearly meeting.

Strengthening internal systems and control measures
EPHWOR concentrated on building its systems. The institution has worked towards ensuring that systems like the accounting system, management information and a case tracking system are built and utilized by staff. The management information system is not yet fully utilized as staff is still undergoing capacity development but we are happy to report that the other two are fully functioning.
Human resource

We have continued to develop and grow our human resource. In August 2019, EPHWOR advertised and hired an office administrator a full time employee at the institution. We also managed to add out our volunteer numbers 18 new recruits.

Quality assurance and control measures

EPHWOR has a fully functional quality assurance department. EPHWOR found it necessary to have internal control measures as part of ensuring that it works differently and mitigates risks. The recommendations from various reviews are what EPHWOR bases on to ensure compliance and quality output.

Communications and Media Engagement

EPHWOR to improve its media presence hired a communications officers overlook the development of content for sharing across our media platforms.

Coalition building

Movement building

EPHWOR pushed for the formation of the Patients Voice Network (PAVON) an alliance that bring together organizations that advocate for patients’ rights. This was formally legalized in February 2020 with a total number of eight organizations including, EPHWOR, Uganda National Health Consumers Organization (UNHCO), Coalition for Health Promotion and Development (HEPS), Action group for Human Rights HIV and AIDS (AGHA Uganda), Progressive Health Partnership (PHP), Medical legal society of Uganda (UMELES), Health Equity and Policy initiative (HEAPI) and Uganda Health Care Federation. Together we have worked to create a strong forefront in the protection of patients’ rights through leveraging the government and the health sector to promote patients’ rights. Together we have had press releases and organized a webinar through which we managed to invite government officials to tackle patients’ issues.

Engaging in celebrating our partners’ success:

EPHWOR joined Smile Medical services in the celebrations of their 5th anniversary, our team leader Ms. Sharon Lanyero graced the celebrations at one of the Smile pharmacies branches. The celebrations were also graced EPHWOR’s Respect a Woman’s “No” campaign.
EPHWOR at the NEPTIL Health thematic meeting

EPHWOR medical legal officer represented EPHWOR at the 1st NEPTIL Health thematic meeting 2020. This meeting brought to life the need for massive awareness about the “the rights to health” with mental health coming up as a critical and urgent issue. We come to see pregnant women and girls that are mentally unstable either pregnant or carrying a child, this shows the level of sexual violence and vulnerability of the mentally unstable community faces because they cannot defend themselves neither report such crimes due to their mental incompetence. As a women rights advocacy group we condemn search acts as we are vigilant to create awareness against the abuse of the mentally unstable populations.

The launch of the African Women Leaders Network Chapter:

EPHWOR with its partners commenced launched the African Women Leaders network Uganda Chapter, theme observance “Ugandan women widening their space in leadership” for a world with zero violence against women and girls with increased opportunities and inclusion. EPHWOR was represented by our team Leader Sharon Lanyero.

EPHWOR at “The Patient” book signing

EPHWOR was represented at “The Patient” book signing” a book that details the medical/ health sector of Uganda throughout the decades. It entails the sacrifices, genius and greed in Ugandans health care systems. It harnesses the multiple stories about the Ugandans and their broken system to deliver a powerful message on the urgent need for reform. Supporting such initiative and creating collaborations is key to EPHWOR to ensure that the voices of the unheard are heard through writings, research and reports on the existing broken systems that deny Ugandans their rights especially for the marginalized adolescent girls and young women.
ACHIEVEMENTS

EPHWOR has registered numerous and measurable achievements in all our areas of focus as summarized below;

- we managed to carry out over 14 community outreaches in the western Uganda including the EPHWOR medical camps, SRHR training, family planning Campaigns
- trained over 138 adolescent girls and young women in different skills including hair dressing, tailoring, catering, and shoe making among others in partnership with Mbarara training Youth Initiative
- lobbied policy makers on progressive Patients’ Rights and Responsibility Bill, National Health Insurance Scheme and Sexuality Education Framework
- collaborating and networking with regional and international CSOs to strategize, share ideas in advancing SRHR especially among the adolescent girls and young women. This would also be used as a tool to inform research and advocacy, community empowerment and strategic planning and push for the Patients’ Rights and Responsibility Bill, National Health Insurance Scheme and Sexuality Education Framework and Ministry of Health guidelines that were recalled.
- We filed a case in the High Court of Uganda against Marie stopes for procuring and distributing defective condoms in representation of our clients that attained damages due to the use of the defective condoms.
- We secured bail for Birungi Annet and her husband who were jailed for seeking abortion related services from a health care worker.
- We managed to develop a human resource workbook detailing all the responsibilities and guidelines for our employees and volunteers to ensure proper representation and good quality output.
- we managed to maintain and attain a human resource base that has kept EPHWOR growing from one level to another as our scale of operation increases, relevant and innovative in our kind of work.
- we have managed to build trust and relationships with the communities we serve through our different activities and continued communication and feedback with the communities building a community based approach.

Challenges and lessons learnt

Challenges

We also faced some challenges here and there during the implementations of some of the activities as follows;

- One of the biggest challenge presented during the grant year was the outbreak of the global pandemic 2019 that led to the halting of most activities that involved meeting of people in one place and also as per the guidelines and lock down imposed.
- There were no appearances made by the judges due to transfers in some of the cases that came up for hearing thereby leading to adjournments.
○ Faced a challenge of hostility from parties who did not want to accept service in cases filed against them.
○ EPHWOR experienced corruption of the public officials like the police during the prosecution and enforcement of SRHR, whereby they take money from perpetrators of crimes like rape and defilement.
○ EPHWOR has also experienced unwillingness of the government to amend some laws and policies that reflect on SRHR such as the Patients’ Rights and responsibility bill and the national health insurance scheme bill that were recalled.

Lessons Learnt

○ We learnt that there is a lot of ignorance among the public on human rights and their application especially the SRHR among the adolescent girl and young women. Many people are unsure on how to identify a human rights violation and how to seek redress in case of a violation. This makes us a relevant institution in this country.
○ The media is a relevant tool that ought to be utilized to pass on information because even in undesirable situations the media is the only communication medium.
○ We should partner and collaborate with regional professional alliances working on health and human rights issues.
○ We learnt that there is a need to do refresher trainings for staff to ensure that the organization strategies and focus are reengineered in the minds of our staff to ensure continued steady progress.
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