

UGANDA NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY  
AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH  
ANTI-TOBACCO ACTIVITIES

## Population

- Uganda is a developing country
- One of the poorest 25 countries in the world
- 50% of the population is below 15 years of age
- 85% of the population is rural and agro-based

## Economy

- Uganda is landlocked
- The land is fertile and can grow a variety of crops
- One of the crops is tobacco
- It is grown mainly in Western and Northern Regions

## UNACOH

- Is a Public Health association founded in 1987.
- Has a membership of health and non-health professionals
- There are UNACOH branches in 21 districts.
- It has been supported by CPHA for over ten years

## UNACOH OBJECTIVES

- Health advocacy to decision makers
- Exchange of health information locally, nationally and internationally
- Promoting a positive health culture among the public
- Health research including operational research
- Implementing health projects

## Tobacco related activities

- Participation in the FCTC process by attending and contributing to most of the international meetings from 1996
- A booklet was written about facts that adolescents need to know about tobacco in 1999
- Public Health talks about tobacco were conducted in 320 primary and secondary school in 2002

### Tobacco related activities

- The themes for two consecutive Annual Scientific Conferences of 2004 and 2005 was the Effect of Lifestyle on health (including tobacco use)
- A workshop was organised for MPs and Ministers in May, 2005. The Chairperson of the Social Service Committee attended

### Tobacco related activities

- A paper analyzing students response to anti tobacco school talks was written and presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> World Conference of Tobacco or Health.
- Currently, a study entitled, "*A comparative study of KAP about the health, socioeconomic and environmental effects in tobacco and non tobacco growing districts in Western Uganda*" is on going.

### Activities Cont'd

- GTYS was conducted in Uganda in 2000 in Tobacco leaf growing areas. The percentage of male smokers is 23% and women at 3%. This has however changed over the years with areas like universities having higher rates.
- In 2003, the government passed the ban on smoking in public places with the minister of environment signing a statutory instrument to this effect. A year later, TEAN an NGO, conducted a response survey to the law which reported a 75% response rate in the areas surveyed around the city. There is however a lot to do on enforcement.

### Tobacco or Health Forum

- Created soon after the 1996 Ottawa workshop.
- Made of about 20 member organizations.
- It is housed and coordinated by the MoH Headquarters.
- Meetings are held fairly regularly.

### No political will

- The President praised BAT
- The Vice President who is a medical doctor and former Dean of the Makerere University Medical School, appeared in the media smoking a cigar.
- The previous Minister of Health has shares in BAT

### Tobacco or Health

- WNT Days are organised.
- Implementation of the Karen resolutions e.g meeting, Prime Minister over ratification.
- A proposal about tax increase on tobacco related products presented to finance Minister.
- Tobacco Policy is ready. It is to be reviewed next week.

## ToH continued

- UNACOH, TEAN and Straight Talk Foundation participated in the Quit and Win Competition in 2006.