

INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCE

19th to 22nd March 2018

Kigali, Rwanda

Kigali Conference and Exhibition Village

Theme:

**PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
IN AFRICA**

**Conference Programme
and Book of Abstracts**



Acknowledgments:

This conference was heavily supported by the Austrian Development Cooperation through APPEAR (Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development).

UNICEF Rwanda sponsored the production of this Conference Programme and Book of Abstracts.

We are grateful to all our partner organisations and the many individuals whose support and contributions made this event a reality.

Edited by Helmut Spitzer & Stanley Kitimbo
March 2018

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Conference programme in a nutshell

DAY 1, Monday 19th March, 2018	
12.00 – 15.00	Registration
15.00 – 18.00	Official conference opening Cultural performance Welcome remarks and official opening Keynote speech by Prof Mathilde Mukantabana Cocktail party with Rwandan traditional dance
DAY 2, Tuesday 20th March, 2018	
07.00 – 08.30	Registration
08.30 – 10.00	Plenary session Address by Prof Vishanthie Sewpaul Keynote speech by Dr. Venkat Pulla
10.00 – 10.45	Tea break
10.45 – 12.15	Parallel sessions
12.15 – 13.30	Lunch
13.30 – 15.00	Parallel sessions
15.00 – 16.30	March on the streets of Kigali Joint walk of the international social work community to celebrate World Social Work Day and to make the power of social work visible
16.30 – 18.00	Gathering at Kigali Genocide Memorial
DAY 3, Wednesday 21st March, 2018	
08.30 – 09.30	Plenary session Keynote speech by Dr. Régine Uwibereyeho King
09.30 – 11.00	Parallel sessions
11.00 – 11.45	Tea break
11.45 – 12.45	Special sessions and workshops
12.45 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 15.00	Special sessions, workshops and poster presentations
15.15 – 16.45	Parallel sessions
17.00 – 18.00	ASSWA and IFSW meetings
18.00 – 19.00	Meeting of international students' associations
DAY 4, Thursday 22nd March, 2018	
09.00 – 10.00	Plenary session Cultural performance Voices from the grassroots – testimonies of “service users”
10.00 – 11.15	Parallel sessions
11.15 – 12.00	Tea break
12.00 – 13.15	Parallel sessions
13.15 – 14.30	Lunch
14.30 – 16.00	Parallel sessions
16.00 – 17.00	Closing ceremony Vote of thanks and official closing
18.00 – open end	Let's party Gala dinner with African music

Conference sub-themes

- 1. Social work ethics and legislation**
- 2. Social and environmental justice in a changing global environment**
- 3. Population dynamics, human rights, gender equality and social justice**
- 4. Poverty, unemployment, socio-economic inequalities and sustainable poverty eradication**
- 5. Social administration, policy processes and advocacy**
- 6. Social work linkages, networks and partnerships for development**
- 7. Indigenous and innovative social work models and approaches**
- 8. Social work with special groups: children, youths, the elderly, victims of conflict, violence and human trafficking, minority groups, and others**
- 9. Social work education: curricula, pedagogy, field practice, career pathways and research**
- 10. Social protection and social security systems: challenges and innovations**

Welcome messages

Welcome Message from the Vice Chancellor of the University of Rwanda



On behalf of the entire family of the University of Rwanda, I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome you to the International Social Work Conference that will take place from 19th to 22nd March 2018 in Kigali Conference and Exhibition Village (KCEV), Rwanda.

The University of Rwanda aspires to be a research-led institution with international recognition, and to contribute in coherent and collegial ways to the socio-economic transformation of Rwanda.

When the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program started in 1999 at the former National University of Rwanda (NUR), the goal was to develop the knowledge and skills required to promote human and community well-being. The program was part of the University's commitment to deal with the psychosocial effects of the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi including trauma, the increased number of vulnerable people, poverty, health, and other social problems.

It is my pleasure to commend the efforts and the partnership of higher learning institutions in East Africa and Austria, namely Makerere University, Uganda; University of Nairobi, Kenya; Institute of Social Work, Tanzania; University of Rwanda; Hope Africa University, Burundi; and Carinthia University of Applied Sciences, Austria. I also commend the Austrian Government through the Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development (APPEAR), for their joint effort in promoting social work education and practice in East Africa, and for organizing such a conference.

It is my hope that this conference will be an opportunity to showcase our University and to raise the roles of the social work profession in sustainable development.

I look forward to welcoming you all at the University of Rwanda and wish a fruitful trip to this conference. Rwanda is a beautiful country and I hope you find time to explore something of the culture and traditions of this place.

Professor Philip Cotton

Vice Chancellor, University of Rwanda

Welcome remarks from the Regional Coordinator, CRISOWO



On behalf of the PROSOWO team (project on the promotion of professional social work in East Africa), I take the pleasure to welcome you to this very unique conference on social work and sustainable development, taking place right in the heart of Africa, Rwanda – the Land of a Thousand Hills. Rwanda epitomises the resilience of individuals and communities, gracefully shaking off the ashes of the 1994 genocide to transform into one of the fastest growing and cohesive economies in Africa.

The conference is organised under the auspices of the newly established East Africa Centre for Research and Innovation in Social Work (CRISOWO). CRISOWO is an initiative of 6 schools of social work in East Africa and Austria, namely Makerere University, Uganda; University of Nairobi, Kenya; Institute of Social Work, Tanzania; University of Rwanda; Hope Africa University, Burundi; and Carinthia University of Applied Sciences in Austria. The Centre is a culmination of a long-standing partnership between these schools of social work, spanning over 8 years. In 2010, the consortium

of institutions embarked on a project to strengthen and promote professional social work within the East African Community. The project addressed a number of interrelated elements including research and dissemination, curriculum review and development, capacity building, advocacy, and networking (www.appear.at/prosowo).

When we launched the first conference on ‘Professional Social Work in East Africa: Towards Poverty Reduction and Social Development’ in Kampala, Uganda, in 2014, part of our objective was to raise the profile of social work in the region by showcasing its contribution to social development, poverty reduction and gender equality; and also to celebrate the achievements of our joint academic partnership through the PROSOWO project (Promotion of Professional Social Work in East Africa).

In conceptualizing this conference, we hoped to move forward the discourse to the potential and actual contribution of social work towards sustainable development and poverty reduction in Africa. The social and physical environment and the ecosystem are sources of needs as well as challenging situations for individuals, groups and communities. The discussion on the role of social work can no longer afford to ignore the critical aspect of sustainable development. A number of interrelated themes will be addressed during this conference ranging from social and environmental justice to population dynamics, poverty, unemployment and inequality, to social work with diverse vulnerable groups. Other themes include social protection, social work education, ethics, and indigenous and innovative social work models. We are confident that each participant will be mutually enriched through the proceedings of the conference.

We thank each one of you for taking off time, effort and resources to participate in the conference. It would not happen without you. We are especially grateful to our esteemed keynote speakers, Her Excellence, Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana, Dr. Venkat Pulla, and Dr. Régine Uwibereyeho King.

We are indebted to the University of Rwanda for accepting to host the conference. We also thank our various partners, staff and volunteers who have worked hard towards the realization of this yet another milestone.

In a special way, we wish to express our immense appreciation to the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) that has since 2010 supported our efforts to promote professional social work in East Africa to more effectively contribute towards sustainable development. ADC through the Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development (APPEAR) provided the bulk of the funding for this conference.

We hope that besides the formal conference sessions, you will take off time to enjoy the beauty and hospitality of the Land of a Thousand Hills.

Dr. Janestic Twikirize
Regional Coordinator, CRISOWO

Welcome message from the Chair of the Local Organizing Committee



It is our honour and pleasure to welcome you to participate in this International Social Work Conference. The conference is unique and coincides with World Social Work Day which is a symbol demonstrating the invaluable role of the social work profession in development. The conference will bring together participants from diverse backgrounds: academicians, researchers, policy makers, social work practitioners, service users, and students, international and local NGOs and Civil Society Organizations, as well as development partners. Hence, it provides a unique opportunity to share different experiences, knowledge and skills.

The conference is jointly organized by a consortium of 6 schools of social work; 5 from East Africa (Makerere University-Uganda, University of Nairobi-Kenya, Institute of Social Work-Tanzania, University of Rwanda, Hope

Africa University-Burundi) and 1 from Austria-Carinthia University of Applied Sciences under the umbrella of the recently launched East Africa Centre for Research and Innovation in Social Work (www.crisowo.org).

Since 2011, this consortium has been jointly implementing a project to strengthen professional social work in East Africa in order for social workers to more effectively contribute to social development, poverty reduction and the realization of global development goals (www.appear.at/prosowo).

The conference theme 'Professional Social Work and Sustainable Development in Africa' is important not only in Africa, but also worldwide particularly at a time like this when the world is grappling with economic sustainability and also issues of environmental and community sustainability, and when the balance between economic and environmental benefits is fragile. Sustainability cannot be achieved unless we all join hands and work towards a common good for all people. Social work as a profession aims to promote human rights and social justice and plays a central role in the achievement of sustainable development.

The consortium thoughtfully selected Rwanda as the host country due to its unique history and position in Africa and globally; a country almost shattered by the 1994 genocide and yet one of those fastest growing economies in Africa; a country that is turning the ashes of the genocide into beauty. It offers a great lesson on environmental and community sustainability as well as resilience in the face of gross adversity. Rwanda also exemplifies the unique role that social workers play in re-building and sustaining communities and society. As part of the conference, we shall offer participants hands-on experiences of everyday life in Rwanda and an opportunity to get involved in some of the home-grown initiatives that social workers have adopted to promote social change.

Finally, as the host for this conference, it is an occasion to thank all those who continue to support the promotion of social work in East Africa. Special thanks to the Austrian Development Agency through the Austrian Partnership Program in Higher Education and Research for Development (APPEAR) for the support to the PROSOWO project, in general, and to this conference, in particular. We are also thankful to UNICEF Rwanda, to Homes and Hope for Children, and to all other partners and supporters.

The PROSOWO team has continued to work tirelessly to make this conference memorable for each of you. Our deepest gratitude to our keynote speakers for your invaluable contribution to the success of this conference. Thanks to all participants, delegates and presenters for making this happen.

Sincerely,

Ms. Consolee Uwihangana
Chair of the Local Organizing Committee

Detailed conference programme

DAY 1, Monday 19th March, 2018	
12.00 – 15.00	Registration
15.00 – 18.00	<p>Official conference opening</p> <p><i>Venue: Akagera</i> <i>Chairs: Jeannette Bayisenge & Charles Kalinganire</i></p> <p>Cultural performance</p> <p>Welcome note by Ms. Consilee Uwihangana, Chair of the Local Conference Organizing Committee</p> <p>Welcome remarks by Prof Helmut Spitzer, Coordinator of PROSOWO (Promotion of Professional Social Work in East Africa)</p> <p>Address by Ms. Elke Stinnig, Programme Officer of APPEAR (Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development)</p> <p>Welcome address by Prof Philip Cotton, Vice Chancellor, University of Rwanda</p> <p>Official opening by Guest of Honour</p> <p>Keynote speech by Prof Mathilde Mukantabana, Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda, Washington DC, USA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Sustainable development and Africa’s future: The role of professional social work”</p> <p>Cocktail party with Rwandan traditional dance</p>

WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY

DAY 2, Tuesday 20th March, 2018	
07.00 – 08.30	Registration
08.30 – 10.00	<p>Plenary session</p> <p><i>Venue: Akagera</i> <i>Chairs: Janestic Twikirize & Gidraph Wairire</i></p> <p>Address by Prof Vishanthie Sewpaul, University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“It’s in our hands: Social work and sustainable development”</p> <p>Keynote speech by Dr. Venkat Pulla, Australian University and Director of Brisbane Institute of Strengths Based Practice, Australia</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Strengths-based practice: A model for social work and social development in Africa?”</p>

10.00 – 10.45	Tea break		
10.45 – 12.15	Parallel sessions		
<i>Venue: Kigali 1</i> <i>Chair: Serges Nzisabira</i>	<i>Venue: Kigali 2</i> <i>Chair: Epiphanie Mukundiyimana</i>	<i>Venue: Akagera</i> <i>Chair: Abigail Kiwelu</i>	<i>Urukari</i> <i>Chair: Zena Mabeyo</i>
Comparative review of movements on establishment of social work councils and regulatory frameworks in African countries Joseph Kayinga	The synergy between peace building and social work approaches for sustainable peace in Rwanda Joseph Hahirwa & Elie Musafiri	Corruption as correlate of poverty and socio-economic inequality in Nigeria James Ayangunna	Home care for the aged: Does it have a place in the African setting? Adesola Adesokan
An investigation on social work practice in South Africa: Reflections on code of ethics and implication for future practice Babalo Gqaleni	Intergenerational transmission of memories in post-genocide Rwanda Chantal Marie Ingabire, Grace Kagoyire, Nicolas Habarugira, Theoneste Rutayisire & Annemiek Richters	Coffee cooperatives and women employment in Karaba, Rwanda's rural areas Ya-Bititi Gisaro, Déo Mbonyinkebe & Claudia Sanchez Bajo	Predictors of loneliness among older residents of low-income housing Robin P. Bonifas & David R. Hodge
Professional and lay social work practice in Uganda: Conflict, competition or complementarity? Denis Muhangi	Rituals of post-genocide mourning: Creations and limitations Augustin Nshimiyimana	Linking social capital to poverty reduction among the internally displaced persons in Kenya: An empirical analysis Christopher Nkonge Kiboro	Professional care for the elderly at Nyamuhinga health centre in Bukavu town, eastern DRC Cécilia Agino Foussiakda
Social work practitioners and students in the legal systems Anthony Kiwanuka	Social work with Holocaust survivors in Israel Tami Meroz	Socio-economic development: The dignified pathway to community and environmental sustainability Antoinette Lombard & Elmien Claassens	Informal social protection in Tanzania: A survey of the needs and resources for the support of older people in rural areas Paskas Wagana
Social work practice and needs in Rwanda: An overview Alexandre Hakizamungu, Joseph Hahirwa, Charles Kalinganire, Charles Rutikanga & Consolée Uwihangana	Psychosocial effects of armed conflict on civilians and the role of social work: A personal account from a South Sudanese in Uganda Joseph Kuol Akuein	"We find precious stones yet we cannot afford bread": Contextualizing sustainable food security in households headed by women miners Joseph Okech Manga & Kathleen Ayako Anangwe	A blind eye on femicide incidences against elderly women: A case of Misungwi District in Tanzania Johnas Amon Buhori
12.15 – 13.30	Lunch		
13.30 – 15.00	Parallel sessions		
<i>Venue: Kigali 1</i> <i>Chair: Ismael Buchanan</i>	<i>Venue: Kigali 2</i> <i>Chair: Yvette Kayonga</i>	<i>Venue: Akagera</i> <i>Chair: Susan Muchiri</i>	<i>Venue: Urukari</i> <i>Chair: Emmanuel Hakizimana</i>
Sexual violence against refugees and internally displaced persons: A social work response	Assessing efficacy of youth enterprise development fund in employment creation	Innovative ways of dealing with menstrual health among the marginalized communities in Kenya Jeniffer Birech	Experiential evidences of health social work in addressing domestic violence in Singida region, Tanzania

Luz Lopez, Mojdeh Rohani, Janestic Twikirize, Lin Piwowarczyk, Lynne Healy & Saida Abdi	towards poverty reduction in Meru, Kenya Mary Mogute & Julius M. Limbitu		Margareth A. Henjewele & Kayinga Joseph
Social work with refugee children in Uganda: Life stressors and mental health illnesses Atukunda Haggai Katson, Derick Kamanzi & Gwelle Steven Helbert	Improving rural livelihoods through formation of community saving groups. A case of rural community women in Chipata District, Zambia Christopher Muntanga & Joseph S. Munsanje	Cartoon communication and social justice in Kenya Nicholas Anyuor Odhiambo	Examining the nexus between the role of agency and policy in mitigating the holistic quagmires that child brides endure. A case of Maparadze communal lands, Chipinge, Zimbabwe Leonard Agere & Nigel Makosa
FGM and child marriage in Eastern Uganda: Are migration, cross-border and transnational networks (re)shaping the practice? Laban Musinguzi Kashaaja, Medard Kihemu Muhwezi, Allen B. Nankunda & Prossy Nakanjako	The impact of financial education on saving behaviors of youths from low-income households in Southwestern Uganda: Results from a randomized controlled trial Jennifer Nattabi	Social work and policy practice in Tanzania: The case of social work practitioners in Dar es Salaam Abu Mvungi & William Manyama	Applying social work principles and practices in partnership building in a reintegration from residential care project in Uganda Anna Jolly
Migration, education and women's empowerment: Issues of human rights, gender equality and social justice facing women migrants Epiphanie Mukundiylimana	Influence of biomedical knowledge and practices on child-related health perceptions and representations in a post-conflict community Aloysious Nnyombi	Actualizing social work education and a global CUNY agenda in East Africa Selena T. Rodgers	Empowering people living with HIV/Aids in associations: Strategy for poverty-alleviation and wellness promotion in Huye district, Rwanda Charles Kalinganire
Migration and emerging adulthood – social work with young refugees in Germany Juri Kilian	Challenges of poverty and unemployment in Africa and role of social work in poverty reduction, job creation and social equity Serges Claver Nzisabira, Susan Muchiri, Bienvenu Munyerere & Déogratias Nahabandi	Community perceptions towards community health workers (village health teams) and their services Comfort Ankunda	<i>“Omwaavu Tasobola Sirimu”</i> : A case for integration of economic empowerment as a basic component of free antiretroviral therapy in resource-limited settings Esther Nanfuka Kalule
15.00 – 16.30	March on the streets of Kigali Joint walk of the international social work community to celebrate World Social Work Day and to make the power of social work visible		
16.30 – 18.00	Gathering at Kigali Genocide Memorial		

DAY 3, Wednesday 21st March, 2018			
08.30 – 09.30	Plenary session <i>Venue: Akagera</i> <i>Chairs: Susan Muchiri & Stanley Kitimbo</i> Keynote speech by Dr. Régine Uwibereyeho King, University of Calgary “Trauma, psychosocial healing and social work”		
09.30 – 11.00	Parallel sessions		
<i>Venue: Kigali 1</i> <i>Chair: William Manyama</i>	<i>Venue: Kigali 2</i> <i>Chair: Charles Kalinganire</i>	<i>Venue: Akagera</i> <i>Chair: Alexandre Ntezimana</i>	<i>Venue: Urukari</i> <i>Chair: Helmut Spitzer</i>
Decriminalizing sex workers in South Africa Bev Orton	Globalization – a core agent of climate change and social injustice in Uganda. What can be done? Atukunda Haggai Katson, Derick Kamanzi & Gwelle Steven Helbert	Para-social work training as innovative social work model in Tanzania: A case of Morogoro municipality Deodati F. Babili	Psychosocial assistance in a post-conflict setting: The case of Eastern DRC Juvenal Balegamire Bazilashe & Amani Kasherwa Clovis
From exploitation to self-reliance: Restoring the dignity of Uganda’s sexually exploited girls through skills training Janestic M. Twikirize, Julius Batemba & Paul Fredrick Mugume	Globalization versus media for sustainable development: The case of East Africa Margaret Jjuuko	A model of paraprofessional social work in rural public education Jean Paulin Mutatsineza & Edward Ballen	Social intervention for street children in Bukavu: Case of the “Programme d’Encadrement des enfants de la rue”, PEDER/Bukavu Gloire Murhula Kapalata
"Born to be slaves to men": Violence against women and girls in South Africa Priscilla Gutura	Gender inclusion in the design of poverty eradication projects: The case study of Kweneng District, Botswana Joseph Kaggwa Ssegawa, K.P. Kubanga & A.P. Letsomo	The practice and challenges of traditional medicine in primary health care in Rwanda Joseph Hahirwa, Alexandre Hakizamungu, Consolee Uwihangana, Jean Baptiste Ndikubwimana, Immaculée Mukashema & Muganga Raymond	Ritualistic child sexual abuse in post-conflict Eastern DRC Amani Kasherwa Clovis
“A circumcised penis is more enjoyable than an uncircumcised one”: HIV prevention technologies as an embodiment of body politic and pleasure Peris Machogu & Laban Musinguzi Kashaija	Free primary education policy in Burundi: Aspirations at local community level and policy implementation Jacqueline Murekasenge	Going back to our roots: Indigenous and innovative social work practice models and approaches among the Abagusi and Abaluhya of Western Kenya Ndege Wilkins Muhingi, Mongare Muhingi Bitutu, Alice Bitutu, Aquinata N. Agonga & Simon Muthoni	Social work practice in the context of vulnerability: The case of women survivors of sexual abuse supported by Panzi hospital in eastern DRC Philippe Kaganda Mulume-Oderhwa

<p>Comforts of homeless shelter Nqobile Zulu, Mzwandile Sobantu & Ntandoyenkosi Maphosa</p>	<p>Poverty and disability in Tanzania Apaisaria S. Minja</p>	<p>The emerging social work techniques in youth empowerment programs: A case study of youth empowerment organizations in Nairobi County Edwine Jeremiah Otieno, Okatta Timothy Osiru & Ndege Wilkins Muhingi</p>	<p>The challenges affecting social interventions for the physically disabled people: The case of the center for re-adaptation of the disabled “<i>Heri Kwetu</i>” in Bukavu town, eastern DRC Josée Maramuke Bashige</p>
11.00 – 11.45	Tea break		
11.45 – 12.45	Special sessions and workshops		
<p><i>Venue: Kigali 1</i> <i>Chair: Joseph Hahirwa</i></p> <p><u>Special session:</u></p> <p><i>National Social Workforce Development Program to support implementation of the Rwanda Child Care Reform effort</i></p> <p>The living curriculum and its learning loop: Rwanda's efforts to strengthen its professional social service workforce Laura J. Haas, Mona Aika, Charles Kalinganire, Vincent Sezibera, Claudine Uwera, James Nduwayo, Espérance Uwicyeza, Patricia Lim Ah Ken & Mike Bagorozi Ndimurukundo</p> <p>Self-care and burnout: Ensuring resilience of the social service workforce Mona Aika</p> <p>A community-based practice model for child and family protection in Rwanda: An evaluation of the IZU intervention Charles Kalinganire, Laura J. Haas & Mona Aika</p>	<p><i>Venue: Kigali 2</i> <i>Chair: Eddy Walakira</i></p> <p><u>Special session:</u></p> <p><i>Advocating for workforce-supportive policies that strengthen the social service workforce to improve outcomes for vulnerable families</i></p> <p>The role of the Social Service Workforce in harmonizing processes of social policy formulation and uptake: The Uganda experience Agnes Wasike</p> <p>How strengthening the Social Service Workforce will contribute to SDGs related to ending inequality and poverty Michael Byamukama</p> <p>Policy strengthening to advance workforce-supportive legislation and use of social media to increase support: Case study from Kenya Jennifer Kaberi</p>	<p><i>Venue: Akagera</i></p> <p><u>Workshop:</u></p> <p><i>Resilience theory in action: Implications for practice with youth</i></p> <p>Hughlett Powell</p>	<p><i>Venue: Urukari</i> <i>Chair: Helmut Spitzer</i></p> <p><u>Workshop:</u></p> <p><i>The importance of social work in war zones: The case of the Democratic Republic of the Congo</i></p> <p>Shindano Ramadhani, Pacifique Obe Palmer, Kabuzi Rwenena, Joseph Dede, Larissa Kajangu, Awa Ostie Blanche, Yannick Mubakilayi & Shukuru Biringanine Eric</p>
12.45 – 14.00	Lunch		

<p>14.00 – 15.00</p> <p><i>Venue: Kigali</i></p> <p>Workshop:</p> <p><i>Complexities in the development of global ethics in social work</i></p> <p>Vishanthie Sewpaul</p>	<p>Special sessions, workshops and poster presentations</p>		
	<p><i>Venue: Urukari</i> <i>Chair: Julius Omona</i></p> <p>Special session:</p> <p><i>Presentations from the PROSOWO project</i></p> <p><i>Ubudehe traditional approach: A social work analysis of homegrown solutions and poverty reduction in Rwanda</i> Charles Rutikanga & Theogen Bangwanubusa</p> <p><i>Social work practice in Uganda: Towards cultural responsiveness</i> Ronald Luwangula, Janestic M. Twikirize, Justus Twesigye & Stanley Kitimbo</p> <p><i>Challenges associated with the application of indigenous models of problem solving in the practice of social work in Tanzania</i> Zena M. Mabeyo</p> <p><i>Mobile telephony in social work service delivery: A Kenyan perspective</i> Elijah Macharia Ndung'u</p>	<p><i>Venue: Akagera</i> <i>Chair: Badru Bukenya</i></p> <p>Special session:</p> <p><i>Synthesizing local and international social work theory and practice in Rwanda</i></p> <p><i>Social Welfare in Pre-genocide Rwanda</i> Alexandre Hakizamungu & Emmanuel Hakizimana</p> <p><i>Integrated, complementary or just different? Western and Rwandan approaches to clinical counselling</i> Régine Uwibereyeho King, with Michaela Hynie, Immaculee Mukashema, Habineza Jean Paul, Gilbert Kubwimana & Ancilla Musindarwego</p> <p><i>The practice of social work in Rwanda: Case studies</i> Members of the Advisory Committee: Gilbert Kubwimana & Ancilla Musindarwego</p> <p><i>Synthesizing local and global social work knowledge and practices</i> Susan McGrath & Charles Rutikanga</p>	<p><i>Venue: Akagera (front)</i></p> <p>Poster presentations:</p> <p><i>Understanding the psychological needs of black and minority ethnic social work students at university</i> Louise Bunce, Naomi King, Sinitta Saran, Jill Childs & Mariama Sheriff</p> <p><i>Risk factors associated with alcohol abuse amongst the youth: Implications for policy considerations</i> Calvin Jabulani Makhubele & F.K. Matlakala</p> <p><i>Researching with children</i> Hilda Nankunda</p> <p><i>Social work for lifelong learning opportunities through peer sexuality education: A case of Kenyatta University, Kenya</i> Mary A. Oganga, Noah M.O. Sanganyi & Erick Ater Onyango</p> <p><i>Intervention experiences of social workers working with children who have committed sexual offences</i> Diamond Onica</p> <p><i>Grow, Train, Make, Sustain: Social work innovation in East Africa via Bamboo for Good (B4G)</i> Jonathan M. Scherch, Johnson Nkuusi & Janestic M. Twikirize</p> <p><i>The Raleigh immigrant community: Using social action in support groups to</i></p>

			<p>address mental health needs of recently resettled refugees</p> <p>Amy Shipow, Laura Garlock, Joshua Hinson & Betsy Bledsoe</p> <p>Strengthening social work for sustainable development in East Africa. Evidence from the PROSOWO project</p> <p>Janestic M. Twikirize & Helmut Spitzer</p>
15.15 – 16.45	Parallel sessions		
<i>Venue: Kigali 1</i> <i>Chair: Denis Muhangi</i>	<i>Venue: Kigali 2</i> <i>Chair: Elijah N'dungu</i>	<i>Venue: Akagera</i> <i>Chair: Susan Muchiri</i>	<i>Venue: Urukari</i> <i>Chair: Antoinette Lombard</i>
Traditional fostering in a post-conflict context: The case of Laroo-Pece Women's Association (LAPEWA) model in Northern Uganda Ronald Luwangula, Janestic M. Twikirize, Justus Twesigye & Stanley Kitimbo	Utilization of occupational therapeutic techniques in psychosocial interventions to substance abusers and in rehabilitation programs of Dar es Salaam sober houses Joseph Kayinga	Perception of school management to social work intervention in early year education: A case study of selected schools in Southwestern part of Nigeria Adesola Adesokan & Adefunke Ekine	Towards a comprehensive and inclusive social protection system for Rwanda Stephen Barrett, Justine Gatsinzi, Thacien Yankurije & Crispus Ayebare
Building resilience through indigenous mechanisms: The case of <i>Bataka</i> groups in South-Western Uganda Justus Twesigye, Janestic M. Twikirize, Ronald Luwangula & Stanley Kitimbo	Psycho-social analysis of intimate partners' sexual violence in South Province Rwandan families Dative Nakabonye & Penine Uwimbabazi	Community-rehabilitation-workers in Ethiopia: Deficits, needs and chances of qualification Gottfried Biewer, Ababu Teshome & Berhanu Dendana	Re-conceptualising social protection: The case of social assistance grant for empowerment (SAGE) program in Uganda Deborah Atwine
Applying the capability approach on an urban family income generating activity (IGA) Osborn Kabingu Mutapa, Mwila Lillian Chilinde & Mupuna Ella Mupuna	Perpetrators against child rights violation must be held responsible for crimes committed in the South Sudan conflict Mure Moses Waigo Kumonik	Resilience and psychological wellbeing in social work students: supporting social work education in challenging times Louise Bunce, Adam Lonsdale, Naomi King, Jill Childs & Rob Bennie	Are Uganda's social protection interventions for the youth working? Evidence from the Youth Livelihoods Programme Badru Bukonya
Sharing circles: European approaches of conferencing in the context of indigenized social work Ute Straub	"Men sell food rations but expect us to provide food at home": Gender and power dynamics as a driver of violence against women among South Sudanese refugees in Uganda Laban Musunguzi Kashaija, Esther Nanfuka Kalule, Paul Fredrick Mugume, Julius	Social work field education in Ugandan universities: Policy, lessons from practice, and new directions Venesio Bhangyi Bwambale	The social workers' case management dilemma: Managing encounters in Kenya's child protection information management system Erick Ater Onyango

	Batemba & Oringa Philip		
Indigenous dispute resolution in Kenya John Muiruri	Values and ethical considerations in social work practice with refugees: Reflections from Calais, Tall Aabbas and Nakivale refugee camps Ileana-Maria Turda	The theory-practice nexus in social work education: Using 'Forum Theatre' as a preparation for practice Karin Cooper	Rwanda in handling social protection issues through innovative strategies: Case of Vision 2020 Umurenge program Pierre Celestin Bimenyimana
17.00 – 18.00	ASSWA and IFSW meetings		
<i>Venue: Kigali</i> <i>Chair: Gidraph Wairire, ASSWA President</i>	<i>Venue: Urukari</i> <i>Chair: Joseph Kayinga, Regional Secretary, IFSW-Africa</i>		
Meeting of Association of Schools of Social Work in Africa (ASSWA)		Meeting of International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW)	
18.00 – 19.00	<i>Venue: Akagera</i> <i>Chairs: Jean Bosco Uwikirebera,, Mahoro Joselyne & Stanley Kitimbo</i> Meeting of international students' associations		

DAY 4, Thursday 22nd March, 2018			
09.00 – 10.00	Plenary session <i>Venue: Akagera</i> <i>Chairs: Zena Mabeyo and Charles Rutikanga</i> Cultural performance Voices from the grassroots – testimonies of “service users”		
10.00 – 11.15	Parallel sessions		
<i>Venue: Kigali 1</i> <i>Chair: Esther Nanfuka Kalule</i>	<i>Venue: Kigali 2</i> <i>Chair: Justus Twesigye</i>	<i>Venue: Akagera</i> <i>Chair: Julius Omona</i>	<i>Venue: Urukari</i> <i>Chair: Laban Musinguzi</i>
Poverty alleviation strategies in South Africa: A literature review Zintle Ntshongwana & Pius Tangwe Tanga	Separating children in company of their imprisoned mothers in Uganda: Perspectives of prison staff Francis Kato, Hedin Ulla-Carin, Eddy J. Walakira & Manuela Sjöström	Social work education and the cultural realities of Africa: Grappling for relevance and efficacy in Tanzania Abu Mvungi & William Manyama	Social workers and foster care program implementation in Nairobi County, Kenya Margaret Kwamboka Sanganyi
Intra-household decision-making dynamics in the use of social grants: Case study of Tyutyu village, EC Province, South Africa Nigel Makosa & Pius Tangwe Tanga	The place of social work with child victims of disasters: What next after it happens? A case of Mji Mpya Mabwepande, Dar es Salaam Abigail Kiwelu	Pedagogy and research at work during the era of quality assurance policy implementing in universities Moses Muhindo Kibagirwandi & Adrian Rwekaza Mwesigye	Affluent families' behaviour on adolescent well-being in Nairobi County, Kenya Lucy Achieng Opondo

Restoring resiliency: A model for self-reliance and thriving communities Sara Stender, Mary Lynn Barrett & Anna Ferguson	Addressing challenges faced by children with disability: A case study of Ikangavya Location, Makueni County, Kenya David Mwendwa Kimaili & Okatta Timothy Osiru	Exploring collaborative synergies to improve social work education and training in Uganda: Sharing experiences and strategies seeking to improve overall program outcomes Kasule S. Kibirige & Lisa Tokpa	Everyday life experiences of children in child-headed households in Tanzania: The case of Sukumaland Leah Kalemela Mwaisango
An empowerment programme for community caregivers to facilitate HIV and Aids patients' adherence to antiretroviral treatment Herman Strydom & Roslind Mokwele	The state of mental health in Kenya: Milestones, challenges, and opportunities Okatta Timothy Osiru, Edwine Jeremiah Otieno & Ndege Wilkins Muhingi	Social work education in post-conflict DRC: Experience from the Evangelical University in Africa, Bukavu Bosco Muchukiwa	A five-step model to developing a sustainable family and community-based child protection system Delia Pop, Otto Sestak, Innocent Habimfura, Christopher Muanguzi & Epaphrodite Nsabimana
11.15 – 12.00	Tea break		
12.00 – 13.15	Parallel sessions		
<i>Venue: Kigali 1 Chair: Serges Nzisabira</i>	<i>Venue: Kigali 2 Chair: Joseph Hahirwa</i>	<i>Venue: Akagera Chair: Patricia Lim Ah Ken</i>	<i>Venue: Urukari Chair: Mona Aika</i>
Effects of jigger infestation among school going children and community responses towards their health care needs in Uganda: A Case of Kamuli District Sarah Kamyia & Stanley Kitimbo	Kenyan legislative instruments that protect children from child marriages Ajwang' Warrria	Taking gender and child neglect into account: Perceptions of reported caregivers in a post-conflict setting of northern Uganda Anicent Nyangoma	Experiences of forensic social workers on what constitutes child sexual abuse in a South African context: Implications for practice Frank Selelo Rapholo & Calvin Jabulani Makhubele
An exploration on social work interventions used on child-headed households in Hogsburg area, Eastern Cape Province Tafadzwa Mabemba & Pius Tangwe Tanga	Pregnancy-related expulsion of schoolgirls in Tanzania: The role of local authorities and school social work in protecting schoolgirls in Ukerewe and Muleba Districts Deodati F. Babili	Characteristics of orphan and vulnerable children in Kachia, Nigeria Durrenda Onolemhemen	Lives in adversity: Experiences of street children in Kigali city Charles Rutikanga
Sociocultural dimensions of child maltreatment in Uganda David Kaawa Mafigiri & Eddy Walakira	Unintended pregnancies, a rising issue which destroy our girls' future Innocent Nshimiyimana	Effects of alcohol and substance use on health and social wellbeing of youths in Nigeria: Implication for social work with special groups Isaiah Mobolaji Ojedokun	School social work in Northern Uganda in a post-conflict context: A case of Anaka Foundation and its partners Julius Omona
Violence against children: Where is the community? Interrogating efforts to eradicate VAC in the face of modernization in Tanzania	The impact of traditional methods and case management in preventing teenage pregnancy in Tanzania Leah Natujwa Omari	Towards a solution: A review of alcohol abuse among students at South African universities Vuya Mazibuko	An indigenous framework for youth resilience in South Africa Adrian van Breda & Theron Linda

William Manyama & Abu Mvungi			
13.15 – 14.30	Lunch		
14.30 – 16.00	Parallel sessions		
<i>Venue: Kigali 1 Chair: Gidraph Wairire</i>	<i>Venue: Kigali 2 Chair: Ronald Luwangula</i>	<i>Venue: Akagera Chair: Abigail Kiwelu</i>	<i>Venue: Urukari Chair: David Mafigiri</i>
Pitting the National Plan of Action for Children against families' empowerment towards the protection and fulfilment of the rights of children in South Africa Pius Tangwe Tanga & Nyasha Kausi	Housing as a basic human right: The situation in South Africa Mziwandile Sobantu, Zulu Nqobile & Ntandoyenkosi Maphosa	Socio-demographic factors influencing attitude towards human trafficking in Ibadan metropolis of Nigeria Ajiboye Isaac Oyeleke	Challenges faced by former prisoners in reintegrating into their former communities: The case of members of the Crime Prevention, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Ex-Offenders Association (CRROA) in Lesotho Katiso Sehlabane & Simbai Mushonga
The experiences of young adults raised in single-female parent households in South Africa: Social work implications Pius Tangwe Tanga & Marvis Makoni	Social clubs for the elderly in the community: A professional social work tool Tami Meroz	From exclusion to inclusion – Young people's trajectories from home to street to reintegration in the Kagera region, Tanzania Jeanette Olsson	The implementation of programs for maintaining care and safety of learners in the Graaff Reinet District Nkosana Carlon Bilaty
Strength-based approach in social work: Professionals' experiences in working with refugee youth in Nakivale refugee settlement, Uganda Ileana-Maria Turda	When it requires many institutions Billy Steve Camirirwa	Urbanization and land-related disputes: Case of Kigali, Rwanda Josephine Malonza & Antje Ilberg	Rethinking social work internship and supervision in Lesotho: Challenges faced by social work students Simbai Mushonga
Mood disorders in Uganda: How patients and providers conceptualize treatment approaches Justus Twesigye & Ashraf Kagee	A critique of the social assistance grant for economic empowerment of the elderly in Uganda: Progress and challenges Prosper Mubangizi	Community healing and social cohesion: A trans-generational dialogue approach in post-genocide Rwanda Eric Ns. Ndushabandi	Factors undermining social workers' attempts at furthering their studies James Pontsho Mmadi & Sello Levy Sithole
The coping mechanisms among women experiencing domestic violence in Mukono district: A case study of Naggalama parish, Nabbaale sub-county, Uganda Doreen Nuwagaba	On death and dying: The role of social work in end-of-life care Helmut Spitzer	Catalysing the regional eradication of institutional care for children: Case study of Tororo/Makindye-Uganda pilot project Pop Delia, Christopher Muanguzi, Otto Sestak, Innocent Habimfura & Epaphrodite Nsabimana	Critical analysis of the person-centred versus person-in-environment approach: A cultural-epistemic discourse Motshidisi Kwakwa & Sello Levy Sithole
16.00 – 17.00	Closing ceremony <i>Venue: Akagera Chairs: Jeannette Bayisenge & Charles Kalinganire</i>		

	<p>Conference summary and the way forward</p> <p>Vote of thanks by the conference organizing committee and the host university</p> <p>Official closing by Prof Philip Cotton, Vice Chancellor, University of Rwanda</p>
18.00 – open end	<p>Let's party</p> <p><i>Venue: Kivu</i></p> <p>Gala dinner with African music</p>

The East Africa Centre for Research and Innovation in Social Work (CRISOWO) and its partner universities



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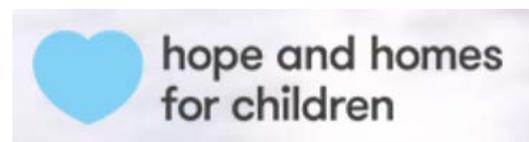


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Keynote speakers

Professor Mathilde Mukantabana



Professor Mathilde Mukantabana is the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Rwanda to the United States of America and non-resident Ambassador to Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina.

Prior to her appointment, Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana was a tenured Professor of History at Cosumnes River College (CRC) in Sacramento, California from 1994 to 2013. She is also co-founder and President of Friends of Rwanda Association (FORA), a non-profit American relief association created in the wake of the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda. Since its inception, FORA's dual purpose has been to expand the circle of friends of Rwanda and to support survivors of 1994 Genocide through a variety of initiatives and relief efforts. In addition, under the aegis of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Ambassador Mukantabana started the academic program of Social Work at the National University of Rwanda in 1999, and as an

Invited Lecturer taught a variety of subjects in their summer program until recently.

Ambassador Mukantabana has been a passionate community organizer for several decades and was a co-founder of many associations and organizations whose main purpose was to promote a positive engagement and collaboration of the Rwandan communities in the United States of America with other groups and organizations for the benefit of their respective countries. She is an active Board Member of the Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Sonoma State University in California and belongs to many local and international organizations including the International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS) and the Organization of African Leaders in Diaspora (OALD) that she co-founded and for which she is currently acting as Chair of the Board.

In her capacity as a college professor and as President of FORA, Ambassador Mukantabana was actively involved in various academic and civic engagements. She organized numerous domestic and international workshops and conferences on genocide and on the Rwandan experience. A featured presenter at several film festivals and an international in-demand speaker, Ambassador Mukantabana has won many awards attesting to her accomplishments, including the 2012 Peace and Justice Award from the Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution (CAPCR); Peace and Global Peace Award (on behalf of Friends of Rwanda Association) by Global Majority, 2012, and Crystal Apple Award for Best Instructor at Cosumnes River College, 2012. In addition, she was listed in Who's Who among Professionals in America 2003.

Fluent in English, French, Kinyarwanda and Kirundi, Ambassador Mukantabana holds a Bachelor's degree in History and Geography from the University of Burundi as well as a Master's degree in Social Work with special emphasis in Community Organization, Planning and Administration and a Masters of Arts in History from California State University in Sacramento, California, USA.

Dr. Venkat Pulla



Dr. Venkat Pulla is an Alumnus of the prestigious Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India, and a Tata Dorabji Scholar. He teaches and writes in social work ethics, human rights and cross-cultural competencies. He is currently at Australian Catholic University, Brisbane. Professor Venkat Pulla held many senior positions in the government and in schools of social work in Australia beginning his career as the Foundation Head of the School of Social Work in Darwin in the then Northern Territory University in 1993. From an applied research point of view, how people cope spiritually during crisis always fascinates him. His most recent writings in relation to Bhutanese refugees is widely acclaimed and reviewed across the world. 'The Lhotsampa People of Bhutan: Resilience and Survival' (2016) has been published by

Palgrave Macmillan.

He is currently researching the narrative of discrimination, challenge and response of the North East Region migrants in Indian capital cities. As an Australian social work educator, he has been making significant contributions to social work education to four of the South Asian Nations known as SAARC countries: Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. His assistance with social work research in poverty and human rights and academic conferences in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Malaysia are well known.

As an expert in grounded theory, he offers Master Classes globally. Most of his research work is in the realm of human rights, obligations of our society and our common good. His publications signal ultimate reward even to his co-authors as they open a window of opportunity to think deeply about rights and about our responsibilities as fellow humans and our common futures. He has published with Sage, Routledge, Macmillan, Palgrave, and Wilfred Laureir Press-Canada; Primrose Hall-UK and Australia; Fernwood, California and with others in Malaysia, India and Bangladesh. He is recipient of National Association of Professional Social Workers - India NAPSWI Life Time Achievement Award, 2015, and Karma veer Puraskar - Global Indian Social Worker Award, 2008. He is known for his expertise in strengths approach in social work. He has established the Brisbane Institute of Strengths Based Practice, and the Asia Pacific Social Welfare Action Research Network, and he is an active accredited member of the Australian Association of Social Work and Asia Pacific Association of Social Work Education.

Dr. Régine Uwibereyeho King



Dr. Régine Uwibereyeho King is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary, and Adjunct Professor with the Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba, in Canada. She completed her PhD in 2011 at Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto. Her research interests include social processes in post-genocide Rwanda, women's rights, and the psychosocial well-being of survivors of organized violence who resettle in their former communities and in North America.

Dr. King is also interested in cross-cultural mental health interventions and indigenous knowledges. She has published on truth commissions, grassroots intergroup dialogue and other healing processes, transnational research, and North-South partnerships in social work education. Dr. King is committed to social justice, human rights for all, and healthy communities. Her community engagement has included genocide education and prevention through public speaking both in academic and non-academic settings. Dr. King recently accepted a volunteer position on the Federal Government Cross-Cultural Roundtable on Public Safety.

Abstracts

Abstracts of presentations by keynote speakers

Sustainable development and Africa's future: The role of professional social work

Prof Mathilde Mukantabana

Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda, Washington DC, USA

Even though the sustainability paradigm has just taken speed in our recent history, the social workers have dealt with some of its aspects since the inception of the profession. Social work was initially developed to help individuals who were marginalized at the height of industrial revolution that swept Western Europe and North America in the late 19th century. The individualized paradigm model was based on the individualistic culture prevailing in the Western world, which values self-reliance and State's obligation to tend to the weak and vulnerable. The philosophical underpinning of this approach was remedial and emphasized more on psycho-social factors than socio-environmental factors and social problems.

Over the next century, there has been a growing realization that people in need of social work services constitute an overwhelming majority in most developing nations and that most nations lack adequate resources to address all the various and complex needs of the people. In addition, a growing chasm between rich and poor in developed nations has more and more pointed to the structural roots of inequality and the need for systemic change. With this realization a significant shift has occurred in teaching and practice of social work that pays more attention to socio-environmental causes of poverty and social malfunctioning in particular groups. Thus, concepts of 'social justice and equity', 'globalization and social work practice' and "environmental protection" have gained ample space on academic forums. More than any other part of the world, the African continent is undergoing a major shift in its development since the end of colonialism, and consequently, is in the frontline of the current debate concerning sustainable economic development and its attendant effects. African nations have recently taken major strides in implementing major reforms, and are strengthening regional and continental ties to invigorate the economic future of their continent. And sustainable economy is the way to that future! As a

relatively newcomer in the global market economy, catching up with the rest of the world will make the issue of development and sustainability even more consequential. One of the main challenges will be on navigating the tight rope between promoting development while satisfying human needs and preserving the ecology. Sustainability entails spatial management and imposes certain levels of control that, if not checked and negotiated, could remove people's agency and that makes the role of social work in sustainable development of paramount importance.

Social workers are or should be the primary catalysts in building viable partnerships between local communities, governmental entities and all relevant institutions to effectively address a multiplicity of difficult and complex problems facing people in our nations as they embark on the arduous task to develop their continent. Professional social workers need to be present and participants at all levels of regional and continental forums that spearhead all socio-economic initiatives. Examples abound on the successful engagement of social workers in sustainable development in many parts of the world. A successful model of sustainable development in Africa would necessitate making the social work profession an intricate part in the harmonization between the social, the economic and the ecological aspects of development known as Triple P, "people, planet and prosperity" (Elkington 1998). A fourth P – "process" – was brought in to stress on the importance of popular participation.

Strengths-based practice: A model for social work and social development in Africa?

Dr. Venkat Pulla

Australian University and Director of Brisbane Institute of Strengths Based Practice

For us in the profession of social work, it is difficult to understand governments, societies and institutions that are willing to tolerate poverty and suffering. But of course, it should be equally difficult for us to tolerate those who merely critique oppression and injustice and fail to engage with institutions, societies and governments and remain with the status quo. I do not insist that we social workers ought to give much credence to the *World Happiness Report* of 2017 that identifies many nations in Africa as being poor and therefore unhappy. But I do want us to see the summaries of these reports as those summaries provides a huge agenda for our possible interventions.

Can we intervene in areas such as dissatisfaction with governance, erosion of values, and lack of various forms of security in this beautiful big continent – Africa? Maybe

not directly but through deliberate planned approaches of engaging with institutions, societies and governments in Africa. But before we begin such an agenda, I wish to share with you an approach and a practice that works and is considered non-contentious in democracies and most democracies aspire to assure human wellbeing. I believe that social work and human services professionals can see appropriate outcomes when they work with the inherent strengths of individuals, family groups and organisations within the cultures in which we live. Our commitment to build on those inherent strengths goes a long way. In all humility, this approach is all about a way of asking the client three pertinent questions: 'What has worked for you before? What does not work for you? And what might work in the present situation for you?' These three questions will allow facilitators and clients to make important changes in the processes and goals of engagement that will see through a variety of changes. Social workers are often wonderstruck as, with every change, clients seem to blossom. And when I use the word clients it includes people, agencies and governments. I intend explaining the strengths-based approach in social work and expand on its assumptions and its core elements that:

- People have strengths and capacities in all societies
- People can change
- People change and grow through their strengths and capacities
- Problems can blind people from noticing their strengths

In this conversation, I will keenly discuss strengths approach in social work as a tactical approach that promote resilience in people as opposed to dealing with deficits and as how it would build hope.

Trauma, psychosocial healing and social work

Dr. Régine Uwibereyeho King
University of Calgary, Faculty of Social Work

The concept of trauma is utilized in various disciplines, such as medicine, history, psychology, psychiatry, law, sociology, and social work. Trauma frequently describes aspects of individual and group injuries resulting from experiences of violence. The conceptualization of trauma and its diagnosis in the form of post-traumatic stress disorder most often emphasizes the individual injury as a mental disease to be treated by psychiatrists and psychologists. The collective and social nature of traumatic experiences have lacked sustained analysis despite that violence is often a collective experience that affects various aspects of human life. Critical scholars

have found western conceptualizations of trauma to be narrow and simplistic. Some have contested its exportation to non-western post-conflict settings. It is argued that people become traumatized when the powers that are supposed to protect and provide them with security become their tormentors; when the community to which they belonged turns against them; or when their family dwelling is no longer a source of refuge but a site of danger. In this context, trauma has dimensions not only as an individual psychological issue, but also as a social and public health problem that needs to be addressed both at the individual and community levels.

While people in each society are capable to overcome adversity, post-conflict non-western countries recovering from mass violence are often constrained by the complexity of the issues at hand and the inadequacy of resources to address them. As a result, relief programs rely on trauma-based interventions that were conceived in relatively peaceful western countries, with an emphasis on the individual psychological needs. Such programs lack background information on the cultural, social, historical, and political contexts in which traumatic incidences occurred and from which appropriate interventions could be conceived, assessed and validated. The universalization of trauma-based models has raised questions about individual and societal resiliency, the legitimacy of cultural knowledge, the right of civil society to determine what is best needed by its people, and the overall contextualization of implemented interventions. Local practices and initiatives are particularly undermined and overlooked. The twin tasks of theorization of traumatic injury for diverse social contexts and the development of culturally appropriate psychosocial interventions call for a review of individual and collective indigenous knowledge and practices along with other innovative approaches that relate to the cultural and socio-political context of the affected people.

This presentation will draw on the interdisciplinary literature to articulate the emerging understanding of the different dimensions of the traumatic injury. It will also explore the different healing processes and practices used in non-western post-conflict contexts to start developing alternative models that can address complex psychosocial problems in such settings. I will conclude my presentation by offering recommendations for social sciences researchers, policy makers and practitioners who work to promote the healing of individuals and communities and the rebuilding of peaceful and healthy communities.

Abstracts for special sessions and workshops

National Social Workforce Development Program to support implementation of the Rwanda Child Care Reform effort

1. The living curriculum and its learning loop: Rwanda's efforts to strengthen its professional social service workforce

Laura J. Haas¹, Mona Aika², Charles Kalinganire³, Vincent Sezibera³, Claudine Uwera⁴, James Nduwayo⁴, Espérance Uwicyeza⁴, Patricia Lim Ah Ken² & Mike Bagozi Ndimurukundo⁵

1 Tulane University, USA, 2 UNICEF Rwanda, 3 University of Rwanda, 4 Government of Rwanda, 5 Tulane International, LLC
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In 2012, the Government of Rwanda's National Commission for Children (NCC) embarked on a rapid workforce development effort to quickly scale-up its professional social service cadre to implement the Strategy for National Child Care Reform. 68 social service professionals currently serve half of the country's 30 districts. NCC, in partnership with UNICEF, Tulane University, the University of Rwanda, has developed a national training program to meet pre- and in-service workforce needs. In order to provide contextualized content and learning activities, several mechanisms were implemented to ensure indigenization of the curricula and prioritization of skills development. Training modules were drafted based on initial input from experienced members of the social service workforce and other key stakeholders. As part of an on-going process, specific content areas are determined by NCC with support from UNICEF. Modules are then supplemented by learning activities created by a broad range of key stakeholders in Rwanda's child protection sector through "master team training" events. Multi-day workshops are facilitated with the aim to prioritize social service workforce skills and professional behaviours, identify matching knowledge blocks, and create contextualized learning activities and case studies for the Rwandan-based curriculum. Master team training participants comprise critical stakeholders such as representatives from NCC and UNICEF, University of Rwanda faculty from the disciplines of clinical psychology and social work, and members of the child protection working group – drawn primarily from international implementing agencies and partners. Modules are organized around priority skills, desired behaviours, knowledge blocks, and Rwandan-developed

learning activities. University of Rwanda faculty facilitate face-to-face training sessions for the professional social service workforce, minimizing lecture and promoting active discussion and experiential learning. These facilitators also capture the experiences and real-life cases shared by participants to further enrich the national curriculum and ensure its relevancy for child protection workforce development within the Rwandan context. The final format for the national curriculum is envisioned in binder format, to facilitate additions and modifications in content and learning activities as changes in the child protection environment evolve and training priorities change. These processes of engaging critical stakeholders in the curriculum development effort seek to gather input from an ever-broadening audience to ensure a truly "Rwanda-relevant" or "home-grown" curriculum. The "learning loop" seeks to ensure that training guides and curricular content are driven by the ever-evolving priorities of the professional social service workforce as per the needs of Rwanda's children and families.

2. Self-care and burnout: Ensuring resilience of the social service workforce

Mona Aika
UNICEF Rwanda
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The National Commission for Children (NCC) is the organ tasked with the coordination, monitoring and evaluation processes of the Integrated Child Rights Policy (ICRP) and its Strategic Plan. The policy highlights the importance of the rights of children to be raised in a family environment. It also details the importance to strengthen families and ensure children without parental care are catered for through comprehensive social support systems that provide quality alternative family-based care; and an operational child protection system. In line with this initiative, a Strategy for National Child Care Reform was adopted in 2012 by Cabinet. The strategy details how children living in institutions will regain their rights to live in a loving, safe and supportive family environment. In 2013, NCC, in collaboration with UNICEF and partners, developed a national programme called *Tubarerere Mu Murungu (TMM)* [*Let us raise children in families*]. This programme was put in place to implement the Child Care Reform Strategy. The TMM Programme facilitates the safe placement of children from orphanages to family-based care using 68 professional social workers and psychologists. In the course of workforce supervision and monitoring, NCC observed long hours spent to address difficult child protection cases, and many in the workforce reported experiencing stress and burn out from heavy

work logs. UNICEF and NCC together developed a strategy on how to better support the social workforce to build the resilience required to carry out their responsibilities. UNICEF, in collaboration with NCC, Tulane University and the University of Rwanda, developed a child protection training curriculum for workforce development. The resilience theory was applied to encourage frontline workers and managers to be self-aware of the risk of burnout as a consequence of excessive exposure to adverse issues associated with the challenges in child protection. The curriculum includes a module on Self Care and Burn Out. This module provides skills development to facilitate the identification and behaviors to address the symptoms and signs of burnout. Furthermore, NCC contracted an expert in psychology with the purpose of providing clinical supervision for the social workforce across the country. Resilience processes were identified and applied both at individual and managerial levels to reduce burnout risk and implement early interventions. Building the resilience has shown to improve the psychosocial wellbeing of the social workforce in Rwanda, responsible for the provision of child protection services through a strengthened child protection system.

3. A community-based practice model for child and family protection in Rwanda: An evaluation of the IZU intervention

Charles Kalinganire¹, Laura J. Haas² & Mona Aika³
1 University of Rwanda, 2 Tulane University, USA, 3
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“*Umwana wanjye ni uwawe ni uwacu*” (My child is yours and ours) – “*Fata umwana wese nk’uwawe*” (Raise each child as your own): These are two key principles usually recommended in the framework of protecting the child in the traditional Rwandan context. In the aftermath of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, the Government of Rwanda (GOR) has been intensifying efforts to rebuild the country’s social fabric, and particularly to strengthen the social service system. In the latter, it was found crucial to focus on child and family protection with the firm aim to address critical risks and adversities faced by children. In this perspective, the GOR established in 2012 the Strategy for National Child Care Reform. One of the strategic long-term goals was to “promote positive Rwandan social values that encourage all Rwandans and their communities to take responsibility for vulnerable children.” Concurrently, an innovative intervention model, consisting of family-based, community-led and child-centred care, was introduced to enhance the wellbeing and

quality of life of children and their families. Two individuals, one woman and one man, are elected by community members at the *Umudugudu* or village level – the lowest administrative structure, to perform these critical activities. This frontline team of para-professional child protection workers are referred to as *Inshuti z’Umuryango* (IZU) or “Friends of the family.” They intervene voluntarily in their community, under the coaching and supervision of social service professionals (68 social workers and psychologists deployed so far in 19 districts). IZU are expected to detect and follow up various cases and in collaboration with allied workers – very often through informal support mechanisms – they may create awareness and sensitisation around issues of child abuse, violence, exploitation, discrimination, etc. In this paper, derived from an ongoing formative evaluation of the National Social Workforce Development Program under the auspices of the National Commission for Children (NCC), the authors discuss the relevance of the IZU intervention. To gather the needed information, the researchers examined monthly reports, conducted individual telephone interviews with the professional workforce as well as IZU, and visited selected beneficiary households. Overall, the findings show that there is progressive change in family management as parents and/or other caregivers understand the benefits of positive parenting. There is also revitalisation of community vigilance and sensitivity toward child issues, although continuous reinforcement in this area is encouraged.

Synthesizing local and international social work theory and practice in Rwanda

This 4 paper panel presentation is being proposed to present on the findings of a joint Rwandan/Canadian research project studying the contemporary practice of social work in Rwanda and how it informs international social work theories and practices. Funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the project was undertaken by social researchers from 3 Canadian Schools of Social Work with academics and students from the University of Rwanda Social Work Program. Data included 18 individual interviews with practitioners, reports from meetings with a local advisory group, and 3 annual workshop discussions held with various stakeholders in Rwanda. Project members will present on the key findings of the research.

1. Social Welfare in Pre-genocide Rwanda

Alexandre Hakizamungu¹ & Emmanuel Hakizimana²
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This presentation focuses on the major changes in social welfare provision and programmes in the history of Rwanda. Social assistance in Rwanda has traditionally been provided by family members and neighbors in different forms such as *gutabarana* (mutual assistance, rescue), *gutwerera* (helping hand), *kugurizanya*, *gufatana mu mugongo* (empathy), *ubudehe*, *umuganda* (community work) and *umuganura* (sharing seasonal agricultural produce). The findings of the research show how these traditional practices and philosophy are being drawn upon in the contemporary practice of social work. The role of historic social organisations and faith groups in providing social supports is also traced.

2. Integrated, complementary or just different? Western and Rwandan approaches to clinical counselling

Régine Uwibereyeho King, with Michaela Hynie,
Immaculee Mukashema, Habineza Jean Paul, Gilbert
Kubwimana & Ancilla Musindarwego
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This presentation outlines the understanding of the connections made by Rwandan practitioners in the human social services between the application of conventional counselling training and local practices. The findings indicate that professional counselling is a specialty of those formally trained to counsel individuals or groups of people who are severely distressed emotionally. However, from a Rwandan context counselling consists of helping practices of approaching and accompanying persons in need, strengthening their connections to local resources, and building capacity in order to help them get back on their feet. This presentation will discuss policy, pedagogical and practice implications of these findings.

3. The practice of social work in Rwanda: Case studies

Members of the Advisory Committee: Gilbert Kubwimana
& Ancilla Musindarwego

The social work practitioners who have advised the research project will present examples of contemporary social work practice in Huye that have informed the research.

4. Synthesizing local and global social work knowledge and practices

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This presentation will focus on the development of professional social work practice in Rwanda and how it relates to and informs global social work practices, knowledge and curricula. The values of collectivity and mutual responsibility and care resonate with the international practice of social development. The implications for pedagogy and the education and training of social workers worldwide will be considered.

Resilience theory in action: Implications for practice with youth

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According to proponents of resilience theory (Brown et al., 2001; Werner & Smith, 1992), an individual's response to his or her environment, whether successful or unsuccessful, is greatly affected by a host of risk and protective factors. Risk and protective factors are biopsychosocial variables that can be either internal or external. When the protective factors outweigh the risk factors, the individual is believed to have a better chance at being successful. Resilience theory identifies protective factors present in the families, schools, and communities of successful youth that often are missing in the lives of troubled youth (Krovetz, 1999). When some of these protective factors are present, children develop resilience which is the ability to cope effectively with adversity. The proposed workshop will provide an overview of the empirical supports for the clinical application of resilience theory. Beginning with the findings from longitudinal research around risk and resilience, participants will be introduced to a number of studies that highlight the efficacy of resilience theory among special populations. The characteristics of risk and protective processes will be examined, along with parental and family risk factors. Finally, practical ways of assisting youth and families in building resilience will be presented and discussed. A section on planning interventions underscores the significance of relationship in building resilience. It offers a step-by-step method of targeting the home and family, the school, the community, and it ends with a detailed list of activities to build resilience and future supports.

Following is a list of topics that will be covered in the workshop:

1. Longitudinal research of risk and resilience
 - ❖ Discussion of imperial supports for the clinical application of resilience theory.
2. Characteristics of risk processes and resilience
 - ❖ Discussion of the various characteristics of risk factors in children, families, schools, and the community
3. Characteristics of protective processes and resilience
 - ❖ Discussion of the characteristics that facilitate good life outcomes in the face of multiple risk factors
4. Main routes to resilience
 - ❖ Discussion of two main routes to resilience: perceived control and competencies, and social connections
5. Planning interventions for resilience
 - ❖ Discussion of practical ways to assist youth and families in building resilience
6. Implications for intervention
 - ❖ Discussion on preventive efforts and how they can be used to build protective factors to buffer against the inevitable risk processes.

The importance of social work in war zones: The case of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Shindano Ramadhani, Pacifique Obe Palmer, Kabuzi Rwenena, Joseph Dede, Larissa Kajangu, Awa Ostie Blanche, Yannick Mubakilayi & Shukuru Biringanine
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The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is highlighted as a country rife with issues which are extreme when compared to most others parts of the world. It is listed as one of the poorest countries in the world, where in the past 15 years over 5 million people have died from war, starvation, and disease. Particularly in the Eastern part of the country, repeated wars and armed conflicts led to millions of civilian casualties, refugees, and internally displaced people. Infant mortality rates are one of the highest in the world, and the DRC also holds the spot for second worst in secondary educational enrolment worldwide. Over 53 million people have no access to clean drinking water. At almost a rape per minute, 433,785 women have experienced often brutal and repeated assaults by armed groups, earning DRC the label “worst place on earth to be a woman” by the United Nations. This percentage is not inclusive of men and children who also serve as targets. Such a situation of chronic poverty and

rampant forms of direct and structural violence calls for an extensive coverage of social services for vulnerable population groups. However, there are only very limited numbers of qualified social workers in the region, and only one higher education institution which provides professional training.

In this workshop, a young generation of social workers would like to talk about the situation and the importance of social work in the DRC, particularly in the Eastern Congo. We will look at the consequences and antecedents of war such as sexual violence, trauma and street children, and how social workers can help in the psychosocial integration of the victims. We would also like to discuss the efforts and limitations of social work in DRC. In particular, a project will be introduced that is supposed to promote social work education and practice in Eastern Congo by means of a. establishing an 'Initiative Nationale des Travailleurs Sociaux' in order to empower social workers to influence social policies and play a more significant role in social development; and b. to collaborate with a local university to strengthen social work education and training in the region. The workshop will entail presentations from social workers based in Eastern Congo and will be highly interactive.

Complexities in the development of global ethics in social work

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IASSW and the IFSW are embarking on a task of reviewing the IFSW/IASSW Statement on Ethical Principles. In doing so a key question to be addressed is: Do we take the current Statement and tweak it a bit, or do we problematize issues, and re-think ethics. There are several taken for granted assumptions about social work ethics, rooted in Western hegemonic discourses and positivist notions such as autonomy, confidentiality, self-determination, and value neutrality. Consequent upon these, and with a relative disregard for feminist relational, and situated ethics there is the search for an objectively founded, foolproof, universal ethical code. Yet, the complexities of moral dilemmas that we face in our contemporary world cannot be dealt with by reliance on ethical codes. At the same time, given the power imbued in the social work profession and the need for multiple accountabilities, as an applied discipline, there is a need for ethical guidelines.

In addressing the complexities around ethics, I will deal with: the potential relationship between codes of ethics and personalized morality; the possibility of making *being for the other* a normative, and central ethic in social work; raise the question of autonomy versus obligation to the *Other* as the foundations for everyday ethical practice; the possibilities for de-colonising ethics; and ethics as codified attempts to regulate conduct *vis-a-vis* dialogue, openness to new experiences, reasoned debate, the willingness to resolve dissention in constructive ways and when necessary through non-violent non-cooperation. As Chair of the Global Ethics committee, on behalf of the International Association of Schools of Social Work, I will share the current draft of the revised Global SW Ethics Statement and invite participation into this global process.

Advocating for workforce-supportive policies that strengthen the social service workforce to improve outcomes for vulnerable families

1. The role of the Social Service Workforce in harmonizing processes of social policy formulation and uptake: The Uganda experience

Agnes Wasike

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2. How strengthening the Social Service Workforce will contribute to SDGs related to ending inequality and poverty

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3. Policy strengthening to advance workforce-supportive legislation and use of social media to increase support: Case study from Kenya

Jennifer Kaberi

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The social service workforce contributes to care, support, promotion of rights and empowerment of vulnerable

populations. We cannot achieve global goals such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) without a strong workforce. Presenters will highlight the ways in which the social service workforce contributes to the care and well-being of vulnerable populations and can help in meeting several of the SDGs. Presenters will review the framework for strengthening the social service workforce in order to more effectively plan, develop and strengthen this workforce. Presenters will also share data and trends on investments in the workforce, using examples from Uganda, Kenya, and throughout ESARO. For example, Uganda has comprehensive legal and policy frameworks for the care and protection of its population including children; however, in the past decade, research studies point out a major gap in policy implementation. The 2013 mapping of the National Child Protection system in Uganda is one such study. Learning from policy, research and practice is one of the strategies employed by the National Child Protection Working Group in Uganda, and application of these legal and policy frameworks by the social service workforce will be shared during this session. In Kenya, the Children's Act Bill is currently under review, and a group of 140 civil society organizations have banded together to provide updated language to be included within the bill that defines the important role of the social service workforce in the provision of services for children within the country, including recognition of social workers specifically. To gain greater attention and interest from the government for children's rights and justice, an online news platform has been created. These policies and others under review and discussion by governments in the region will help to strengthen the social service workforce and their ability to provide quality services to vulnerable children and families. Examples will be shared on how a stronger workforce will help to achieve many of the SDGs, particularly addressing inequality and reducing poverty.

The session will conclude by sharing information about the role of the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance as a network that brings people together to share innovative approaches, tools and current efforts in advocating for strengthening the workforce, including the development of a new global advocacy toolkit.

Abstracts for sub-theme 1: Social work ethics and legislation

An investigation on social work practice in South Africa: Reflections on code of ethics and implication for future practice

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The social work profession aims to help people, families, and communities to improve their wellbeing through casework, group work, and community work. Notably, the profession entails dealing with human lives hence raising issues of ethical dilemmas. In South Africa for instance, social work plays a pivotal role in addressing social challenges. However, there are instances where social workers grapple with ethical challenges such as maintaining and upholding confidentiality, considering parental consent when working with children, care and protection of the rights and integrity of the child, and cultural and structural barriers, just to mention the few. Furthermore, Social workers face many challenges in relation to social work ethics due to the constraints presented by westernized orientation of social work practice that poses gaps in mitigating some challenges that are African-grounded and can be understood using the Afrocentric lens and interventions. This paper, through desktop review, seeks to explore the ethical dimensions of everyday social work in South Africa. This paper recommends the need for education and empowerment of social workers to skillfully and intelligently uphold ethical obligations when interacting with client systems at all levels; and the urgent need for social work practice to consider the issue of social and cultural relevance in their interventions. Therefore the findings and discussion in this paper will be instrumental in stimulating incisive questions, debates, and discourses surrounding social work ethics in Africa.

Comparative review of movements on establishment of social work councils and regulatory frameworks in African countries

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Social work in Africa endures the history backed by the establishment of the first social work training program in Egypt documented far from 1937. Besides this notable historical heritage of professional workforce training on the continent, more literature informs further of increased training institutions in the 1960s, following change in political regimes due to end of colonial regimes in many African countries which squarely affected social welfare systems and programs. However and opposed by other professions like law, medicine and accountancy, social work has remained unrecognized legally, invisible in policy making and non-influential politically for more than 50 years to date, which requires added efforts to strike and affect policy decisions at national and regional levels. With exception of very few countries like South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe where social work is registered by law and regulated to oversee the training and practice, there is a need to speed up the social work status quo as a profession and mount to functional heights in relation to national governance and abundant poverty. Challenged by human abuse, injustice, and poverty, the profession finds itself at crossroads to have guts and voice and echo for voiceless populations. However, the literature documented and research evidences to justify its scope, whereabouts and contribution to the continent at professional scales seems to miss and provide a room for challenge from and by political gatekeepers. This presentation aims to stage and advance on established dialogue in Zambia for the purpose of invigorating the shared experiences on practices, challenges and perspectives on these moves. The regional dialogue under IFSW Africa wants to print and clear the gaps by launching space for further data gathering from different countries regarding the establishment of social work councils and challenges facing them. Methodically it is a comparative work on progress by IFSW Africa aiming to nurture the development of the profession in the region, as well as peer knowledge sharing placing the professional recognition and regulation. At the end the presentation wants to unfold questions and doubts at hand which call for more discussion targeting the African social work community and its professional role in the region.

Social work practitioners and students in the legal systems

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Social work practitioners and students need to understand the legal context, act ethically in their respective countries, and know how social work law relates to it. Social work

practice in all countries incorporates a clear unstinting commitment to social justice. Using an applied, practice based and refreshingly “real approach” we can bridge the gap between law and ethics; design a program or framework to help students strengthen their critical reflection abilities, and encourage consideration of legal and ethical dimensions of social work generally and in personal practice. Topics such as care, proceedings, adoption, community care, youth justice, mental capacity and accountability explore how understanding and application are equally important. Ethical decisions in social work that involve legal issues do not involve ethical dilemmas, particularly situations where social workers’ decisions are compatible with both legal and ethical standards. However, other situations produce difficult ethical dilemmas particularly when social workers’ decisions are compatible with legal standards but not consistent with prevailing ethical standards in social work. Therefore in some instances, social workers believe that actions the law permits or requires will violate ethical standards in social or actions that will violate the law. There are no simple decisions to these ethical dilemmas. Thoughtful principled and reasonable social workers may disagree in these situations; some social workers embrace the view that all laws should be obeyed regardless of social workers personal opinion about their reasonableness. From this perspective, an orderly society requires strict obedience to the laws. Other ways will risk social chaos. Social workers have right to seek changes in the law but they do not have right to violate the law. Social work history is filled with instances where social workers have had to make decisions of conscience about whether to obey the law, particularly when doing so seems to conflict with social work values. In the end, such decisions constitute some of the most difficult ethical dilemmas in the profession. These are the dilemmas that generate intense disagreement among practitioners, dilemmas that require earnest collegial consultation and supervision, and reflection on the implications of the National Association of Social Workers.

Values and ethical considerations in social work practice with refugees: Reflections from Calais, Tall Abbas and Nakivale refugee camps

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Social work developed a strong emphasis on human rights, ethics and values which empower humans and acknowledge and promote their dignity. However, practitioners encounter contradictions and dilemmas while

engaging and assisting individuals at all levels of practice: micro, mezzo and macro. In our context, this happens due to previous traumatic experiences of refugees, their different cultural backgrounds, conflicts and difficult situations in the camps, systems and policies which limit the practice. Malkki (1995) describes refugee camps as places of *highly unequal space* where people live under control over basic resources essential for supporting human life. Working with refugees implies beside a good theoretical baggage and knowledge, skills, human and intuitive reasoning, emotional wisdom, ethics, resources and a good supervision. The study explores the challenges of professionals and their ethical dilemmas and brings forward examples of good practices while working with refugees. The data was collected over 4 months in Calais ‘*The jungle*’ refugee camp in France, *Tal Abbas* refugee camp in Lebanon, and Nakivale in Uganda. Using a qualitative methodology, through participatory observations, in-depth interviews and narratives which were held both with 25 practitioners from 4 main organizations and refugees, and looking into the way professionals deal with ethical dilemmas, what supports them, what are their experiences in the camp and how are they regarded by refugees. The results show the importance of cultural sensitivity and non-oppressive practice, promoting the dignity of refugees, good supervision, emotional support and constant reflection on their work in order to deal with dilemmas and critical situations, maintaining a positive attitude and personal beliefs while dealing with injustice and limitations of practice. All these mentioned aspects are essential for the study of social work, by preparing us to develop a critical thinking and understanding of our realities as professionals and bringing awareness of strengths and resources we own.

Abstracts for sub-theme 2: Social and environmental justice in a changing global environment

Globalization – a core agent of climate change and social injustice in Uganda. What can be done?

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As Uganda continues working around the clock to achieve middle income status by 2020 and Vision 2040, various measures should be taken to encompass environmental and social justice. Promotion of both environmental and social justice is a profound conversation happening at the same time although in different contexts. Issues that impact the environment have impacts on the people who live there as well. The capacity of these people to cope up with these impacts vary as some people have access to resources that help them relieve them while others are vulnerable, and this inequality makes it a social justice issue. A UN report on climate change stated that, it's the poor who will suffer the most as the effects of climate change continue. In Uganda, the global environment changes have potentially grave consequences on the wellbeing and security of the citizens. For instance droughts are killing crops, family livelihoods, biodiversity has been destroyed leading to loss of food, clean water, death and beauty has been lost which all negate human welfare. The purpose of this presentation therefore is to highlight the different ways globalization is instigating climate change and social injustice and proposes ways on how the impacts of globalization can be tamed for the greater good.

Globalization versus media for sustainable development: The case of East Africa

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While East African nations voice their commitment to the objectives of sustainable development, various socio-political and economic factors have combined to frustrate their goals of achieving them, particularly in the natural environment sector. These nations exist within a global capitalist system, which is largely rooted in the exploitation of natural and human resources leading to unsustainable

tendencies such as environmental degradation. Further, globalisation has introduced dominant transnational conglomerates that have acquired and merged almost all public and private entities including the media. Yet, the media are expected to perform certain normative roles in a given society that are relevant for national development and progress. News media are, for example, obligated to inform the public about environmental sustainability and solicit and communicate public views and proposals on how it can be attained. Drawing on examples from the East African media (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Rwanda), this paper will discuss some of the institutional and discursive impediments for the news media to promote environmental sustainable development, particularly those linked to the processes of production, distribution and publication of media content that seek to address developmental concerns and matters of the public interest. The central thesis for this paper is that the kind of journalism practices and the content influenced and produced by the global media systems, are highly conducive to the neo-liberal political economic order which, directly and indirectly, control media content owing to their various statuses as media owners or major advertisers. Consequently, media services have been replaced with market controls leading to, among others, the exclusion of developmental issues from news media agendas.

Abstracts for sub-theme 3: Populations dynamics, human rights, gender equality and social justice

A blind eye on femicide incidences against elderly women: A case of Misungwi District in Tanzania

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Tanzania has experienced an increasing incidence of inhuman practice and socio-economic injustice against elderly women. Actually, such incidences are common in Lake Zone region which borders with Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi. The Zone comprises of Kagera, Shinyanga, Mara, Simiyu, Tabora, and Mwanza regions. The focus of this study will be in Mwanza region, in the district of Misungwi. The district of Misungwi alone has recorded a persistence of femicide incidences that has claimed a total number of 37 lives of innocent elderly women in three years alone; that is from 2014 to 2016. The paper would like to explore the understanding of elderly women housed in Bukumbu and to find out their understanding of the available indirect social work intervention designed to prevent such incidences against elderly women. At least seven (7) elderly women will be interviewed and four (4) social workers, this due to the fact that, this study will adopt a qualitative approach and the principle of saturation point will be observed. This study is explorative in nature and qualitative research methods will be utilized to get in-depth thoughts and perceptions as well as their understanding and available gap in such intervention. The focus, however, will be on two legal instruments that are witchcraft ordinance and the policy for old people. The theory of natural human rights will be used to analyse the obtained data from the field and inform the discussion later on. Finally, the recommendation and conclusion will be drawn based on the findings from the field and the theory used during the discussion.

"Born to be slaves to men": Violence against women and girls in South Africa

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Violence against women and girls is a widespread violation of human rights across the globe. It is a symbol of gender inequality and social injustice. When women

and girls are violated, it reinforces other forms of discrimination which include but are not limited to age and race. With so much research having been conducted on violence, to date, more is known about the various forms of violence, causes of violence, and effects thereof. This qualitative study aimed at exploring the views of female social work students at University of Pretoria regarding how they feel about being born as women in a country where violence against them keeps rising. Interviews and focus group discussions were conducted and major findings show that girls feel at a disadvantage of being females as they are more at risk of being violated than their male counterparts. Therefore, they do not feel safe and are always on the lookout. Efforts to address violence against women and girls is seen largely in civil societies and women's movements mobilizing to put gender-based violence to an end, raising awareness and also multiple of laws and legislations. This paper therefore questions the missing link to stop violence against women in South Africa.

The synergy between peace building and social work approaches for sustainable peace in Rwanda

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This paper explores the contribution of the most used peacebuilding approaches in Rwanda including dialogue, peace education, conflict resolution, etc. and complements them with strength perspectives and socio-political and economic empowerment approaches. The research questions are twofold: How do peacebuilding and conflict resolution approaches contribute to peace and development and to what extent do social work practice through strength perspectives and empowerment approaches can contribute to an integrated approach to sustainable peace and development in Rwanda. The aim of the paper is to propose an integrated approach for sustainable peace and development combining peacebuilding from below and other conflict management/transformation approaches with strength perspectives and empowerment approaches. The approaches to be explored are those used by the following organizations: the Center for Conflict Management (CCM), AEGIS Trust, and IRDP. The methodology is mainly based on secondary data from the above mentioned organizations' reports/syllabus/notes and the authors' fieldwork with one representative and 15 individuals trained by or beneficiaries from each organization, which means that we will use both critical and empirical analysis. The preliminary results show that in the approaches used

by these organizations there is no clear relationship between identified weaknesses/problems and potential and opportunities for self-transformation and improvement towards sustainable peace and development.

Intergenerational transmission of memories in post-genocide Rwanda

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The aftermath of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda has been characterized by profound individual psychosocial distress with lack of ability to regulate internal emotional states, disruption of self-perception and interpersonal relationships among the first generation. However, empirical studies in other settings have shown that genocide legacies are being transcended to the next generations through direct or indirect communication between parents and children (narrative, behavior and silence). Despite robust literatures on the effect of genocide among the first generation in Rwanda, a little is known on whether or not these effects are being transmitted to the second generation and the impact on young adults' psychosocial lives. This study explored parent-child communication patterns with regard to genocide, its impact and contribution of sociotherapy program – a trauma-informed approach that promotes healing, social cohesion, and reconciliation – in breaking the cycle of violence. Its qualitative approach draws on individual interviews conducted in the western and eastern provinces of Rwanda in 2016 with descendants of survivors and perpetrators of the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi. Findings suggest the lack of parent-child communication with regard to parental genocide experiences for both descendants of survivors and perpetrators despite a widely available public discourse on genocide in Rwanda and the eagerness of children to know the past. The little disclosed by parents and/or learnt from the environment was found associated with traumatic symptoms among the youth. A rather modulated disclosure is therefore suggested to mediate the potential negative effects of disclosure of the painful past. For this to happen, specific programs that promote parents' healing and provide them with specific skills on effective communication are needed to ensure smooth transition from the past, prevent family conflicts and a potential cycle of violence. On the other hand, targeting youth with tailored psychosocial programs such as spaces for dialogue that promote mutual learning, understanding as

well as trust in peer relationships for sustainable peace and development is needed.

FGM and child marriage in Eastern Uganda: Are migration, cross-border and transnational networks (re)shaping the practice?

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Female genital mutilation (FGM) is one of the key child protection issues in Africa today. In Uganda, FGM is commonly practiced in Eastern and Northeastern parts of the country. There are claims that recent efforts through community sensitization and awareness creation and outlawing the practice through the enactment of the 2010 Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act have reduced the practice of FGM. In this paper, we contest these claims and argue that outlawing the practice created disguised practices which are more deleterious fueling child marriage than the public and open practice of FGM. In this paper, we show how the FGM practice is evolving and being (re)shaped under the cross-border influence. Focus group discussions, in-depth interviews and informal conversations were conducted between December 2016 and January 2017 with young people, parents of young people, cultural leaders, health workers, peer educators, and other stakeholders working in the area of sexual and reproductive health as part of a bigger study that assessed the drivers of teenage pregnancy and child marriage in Eastern and Northeastern Uganda. The findings show that while FGM appears subsiding from public view and that FGM is no longer publicly practiced, it is also evolving under disguised practices. Young girls are transported across the border to Kenya under the guise of visiting relatives. Once in Kenya, they are circumcised and return back to their communities. FGM is now practiced across the border in Kenya mainly because the anti-FGM laws are perceived to be weak. In some communities in Kenya, FGM is still openly done even when the Kenyan government passed the anti-FGM legislation in 2011 which has given impetus for some border communities in Uganda to continue practicing FGM. The differences in the level of implementation of the anti-FGM law in Uganda and Kenya is a big challenge for the campaigns against FGM. In essence, outlawing the FGM practice in Uganda appears to have opened up space for a more dangerous pattern of FGM influenced by migration, cross-border and transnational networks that are also fueling early marriages. Social workers are called upon to understand these dynamics.

Sexual violence against refugees and internally displaced persons: A social work response

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In 2016, a staggering 65.6 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide. This presentation articulates the trauma and mental health needs of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) who are survivors of sexual violence and examines the role of social work in addressing this serious, timely global health problem. Historically, social workers have engaged in global health efforts through poverty reduction programs and social development. Because of the profession's ecological approach that spans clinical, community and population health, social work can build community partnerships that reflect the goals of the community itself, engage in participatory community-based research and policies, and develop community-directed programs that promote healing and well-being. We present a critical analysis using sexual violence among refugee and IDP populations as an illustrative case study to 1) articulate the trauma and mental health needs of refugees and IDPs affected by sexual violence as well as the scarcity of psychological services for this population, 2) map out a human rights programmatic framework for addressing these needs, and 3) analyze gaps and offer recommendations to strengthen the social work role in the implementation of the 2030 United Nations Social Development Goals that address sexual violence in this marginalized population.

“A circumcised penis is more enjoyable than an uncircumcised one”: HIV prevention technologies as an embodiment of body politic and pleasure

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HIV is one of the few health conditions that have engineered a significant amount of technological innovation: highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART); pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP); post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and; safe male medical circumcision (SMMC). A lot of the HIV prevention technologies have been hailed as critical in reducing the rate of HIV infection. Consequently, a lot of studies investigating HIV

prevention technologies have tended to apply biomedical lenses studying the efficaciousness of such technologies and their impact on aspects like subsequent sexual behaviors. Little is known about how these technologies are interpreted and localized by their eventual users. In this study, we draw from experiences of community members, male and female alike, on one of the HIV prevention technologies – SMMC. The study was conducted in Luwero district, central Uganda, in August and September 2017. The study employed a case study design using qualitative methods of data collection. A total of 10 men who identified themselves as circumcised and 10 men who identified themselves as uncircumcised participated in the study through in-depth interviews. Two FGDs with women were also conducted. Purposive sampling was used in the selection of key informants who included the health workers, District Health Officer (DHO) and Village Health Teams (VHTs) in the community. Data were coded and analyzed using thematic analysis. Drawing from interviews and focus group discussions, this study shows that community members have internalized and localized the experiences of HIV technologies around their bodies. Particularly the interpretation of the HIV technologies appears to be largely influenced by how the technology shapes the physical body transforming it into a zone of pleasure. SMMC as an HIV prevention technology transforms the physical body into a *theater of pleasure*, more about the body and the feeling derived and less of the technology itself. Women particularly mentioned that circumcision improves physical appearance of the penis making it more appealing to look at, touch and feel, and creates a sensational feeling during sexual intercourse. Participants also mentioned that SMMC increases sexual pleasure by prolonging ejaculation enabling the woman have maximum enjoyment. Therefore, from the laboratory where technologies are invented, as objects to prevent disease and promote health, the localization of these technologies appear to give meaning and life to their everyday usage. Social workers need to understand how these technologies are localized and embodied within the body politic and pleasure to be able to influence decision-making around them.

Urbanization and land-related disputes: Case of Kigali, Rwanda

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The primary purpose of this research study is to explore the narratives of land-related disputes in Rwanda alongside the evident rapid urbanization and the everyday

practices of policy makers and urban planners. The Government of Rwanda has, as the first country in the region, taken a proactive approach to promote urbanization for the socio-economic improvement for all residents, which is hoped to impact positively on their quality of life. The implementation of this vision has not been without challenges; it is often met with an intersection of complex issues including land administration and management, user aspirations versus what is planned, and the glaring mismatch between various planning documents themselves. Within this study, the concepts of “land use”, “urbanization” and “community participation” are explored through the lens of urban residents who are dealing with various land use-related disputes and uncertainties as a result of rapid urbanization and development, which provided insights into why the implementation of urban plans and policy has been challenging. This qualitative study consists of semi-structured interviews with urban planners and urban citizens. Social constructivism shall be used as the theoretical framework within the study as this theory allows ample space for participant voices to be heard. Grounded theory shall be used to guide the examination of data, which allows movement between the various stages of analysis. The study shall inform policy makers and urban planners of land-related disputes within the community as well as demonstrate the overall importance of a social work practice, that of remaining grounded in and allowing to be guided by the experiences of participants.

**Migration, education and women’s empowerment:
Issues of human rights, gender equality and social
justice facing women migrants**

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Wars, conflicts and political instability in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) are among factors driving female migration from SSA to Western Europe. This migration gained importance during recent years and has been linked to a variety of factors, including social and economic contexts, level of poverty and gender equality in the sending countries. Migration is a multidimensional phenomenon, which expands opportunities for productive work and leads to a wider perspective among migrants. The aim of this study is to examine the relationships between migration, education and women’s empowerment, using a case study of female migrants from SSA living in Gothenburg, Sweden, and links to causes of migration, human rights, gender equality and social justice; their

integration process into social life and labour market; their empowerment process and the role of education; as well as implications of female migration for the families and communities in the sending countries. Anti-oppressive, empowerment and feminist theories have been considered. The empirical data consists of qualitative data, collected between February-March 2013, using individual interviews with primary respondents. The findings indicate that some female migrants from SSA used voluntary migration (e.g. family reunification) as strategy to move to Sweden. For other immigrants, the move to Sweden was dictated by the political instability in the sending countries. The data demonstrate that main challenges faced by female migrants during their integration into the Swedish society were the knowledge of the Swedish language, lack of social relations, and access to the required information. For some migrants, the integration process was hard and slow, while for others it was easy because they already had family members who immigrated to Sweden before and had background information on Sweden. When it comes to accessing jobs, women have more power than men as highlighted by respondents. Jobs were found to be education-oriented and the knowledge of the Swedish language a prerequisite. The data also confirm previous studies that there is still some segregation in the labour market, especially based on gender, ethnicity, educational background, and the knowledge of the Swedish language. Gender equality between men and women migrants was illustrated by equal division of tasks for home work and child care. The findings revealed that women in Sweden have the power to take independent decisions regarding their lives, in accordance with the Swedish government policies on women’s empowerment. Finally, female migrant remittances were shown to have a positive impact on the families left behind.

**Psycho-social analysis of intimate partners’ sexual
violence in South Province Rwandan families**

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Culturally it is understood that sexual matter is a taboo subject in Rwanda and probably in many other countries, yet a great source of conflict within families. Nevertheless, this study aims at exploring and highlighting different types and causes of intimate partner sexual violence (IPSV) in Rwandan families, to show the impact of IPSV on individuals, families and community, and to explore approaches that would help to prevent it. The study will focus closely on the community of Rwandan families. A

sample of our respondents will be purposively selected from the population of South Province. Structured questionnaires will be administered to the respondents, purposively using snowballing technique to identify families that are known to be in conflict. This study will demonstrate how the existence of intimate partner sexual violence in Rwandan families constitutes a factor of psychosocial dysfunction of the family. IPSV can also provoke some health problems such as depression, shame, low self-esteem for the victim (mainly woman), and this will be having a huge negative impact not only to women but to children as well as their community in general. It will be identified that there is a clash of tradition belief and modern belief on how to approach partners' sexual violence. Although this is not an easy subject, especially looking at the Rwandan cultural belief, the study suggests couple therapy as method which would help and accompany victims in the process of recovery.

Community healing and social cohesion: A trans-generational dialogue approach in post-genocide Rwanda

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What to say after genocide when victims and perpetrators, assimilated and relatives have to leave together? Absolute silence is not possible. In any case among all social categories some are silenced but shouting in their mind, others need to express their painful memories. In both cases, the question is who and how can initiate and open these wounds and preside to a neutral and mutual constructive dialogue? What are or should be the guiding principles of a consensual dialogue when the silence around the so-called sensitive issues is considered as a culture? What kind of competences, legitimacy and approach to go through and initiate the community dialogue? On what basis can we talk of values around social cohesion? The following questions are based on a theory of change. The assumption is that, communities can change but they need to be empowered to safely handle the trauma and grievances after the genocide through open dialogue and collaborative activities. Healing for social cohesion in Rwanda's reconciliation process can deepen, building a society that is more resilient when there are tensions and political or economic challenges. The following paper is drawn from empirical popular voices and community dialogue processes from 8 communities selected on the basis of particular stories and social-political characteristics before, during and after genocide.

From a social work perspective, the paper presents inter-group tensions collected through a comprehensive, inter-generational approach of trauma healing, community dialogue, joint problem-solving and volunteer projects to help the most vulnerable. All activities occur together, making each other stronger. From a social work perspective, we will understand IRDP's approach, strength and weakness in organizing dialogue clubs in community and its capacity to train other community members who facilitate dialogues every month mixing genocide perpetrators and survivors, men and women to address problems "openly". The paper contributes to understand the open spaces, listening sessions, rollout of community-based clubs and workshops, training of community members to lead dialogue as IRDP's contribution to the trauma healing and social cohesion process.

Rituals of post-genocide mourning: Creations and limitations

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The usual burial rite is done in the presence of the body and allows the ritual process set up by the culture to be fulfilled: the hygiene of the dead, the embalming, the accompaniment, the burial, the deposit of the flowers, the washing of the hands ceremony, and the ending of the mourning period. At the sight of the body, there are cries and screams, some touch the forehead of the body, when they bid farewell, address themselves to the deceased one in the church at a requiem mass. There the spouse speaks and relates the life of the living of the dead; it may also be the children, as well as the representative of the extended family, the representative of the deceased's colleagues, in short someone who lived with the defunct; one can thus conquer death. This way of making it familiar, to wane its oddity, its shock, brings the living not to regard it as wicked, as burdensome, as disheartening. We can see that the classical rite, performed by the community, is very metaphoric and even attempts to scorn the dangerousness of death, death is still death; but the community knows how to handle a natural death. On the other hand for the funeral rite of genocide, reference is taken to our research on Rwanda mourning rituals post-genocide and their psychic reconstruction, the survivors have not been able to practice such a rite that was obviously not established. We mean that if for every misfortune the cultures provide for appropriate rites, it has never been imagined that a misfortune such as genocide can happen and therefore no appropriate rite is prepared. Since genocide is something

that is difficult to apprehend (What happened? Why us? What happened to us?), our action research with widow escapees has shown that the Rwanda genocide survivors specifically and the community also has trouble repairing the damage which has an unknown basis. That's why they try, make an attempt, tinker, modify, transform, and face surprises. It was therefore necessary to show imagination and creation in an attempt to give a dignified burial to the missing of the genocide, if not a condition to appease and alleviate the survivors.

Cartoon communication and social justice in Kenya

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Social justice and democracy go hand in hand. Democracy is a system of government where citizens exercise power either directly or indirectly through representatives elected by the people in efforts to promote social justice. It is one of the systems where people are given the freedom to shape a country's political leadership. However, for democracy and social justice to be achieved effectively, other tools and factors must be taken into consideration. Media has been one of these tools used in promoting social justice across the globe. As a result of new technologies, different media platforms are used in sending messages that promote social justice. Media entertainment such as drama and cartoons, among others, has become part and parcel of media tools used in this field. Consequently, this study took a critical look at Madd Madd cartoons in the Kenya's *Saturday Standard* newspaper as a media entertainment tool that has shaped democracy and social justice in Kenya. The main objective of this study was to analyse how cartoon communication has promoted democracy and social justice. The study has also looked at other specific areas such as: global social justice and democracy, social justice and democracy in Kenya, role of media entertainment in promoting democracy and social justice, role of cartoon communication in promoting democracy and social justice, and how Madd Madd cartoon has promoted democracy and social justice in Kenya. The study was based on the referred journals and literature selected by the researcher, and the content analysis of the cartoons in the paper. 100 such cartoons were selected for the study. According to reviewed literature in this study, cartoons promote democracy and social justice across the world. It therefore recommends that for democracy to thrive in a third world country such as Kenya, media must venture more into entertaining its audience through the art work of cartoon with relevant

messages that promote good leadership of social justice and democracy.

Decriminalizing sex workers in South Africa

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That the Law Reform Commission says it has not proposed for the decriminalisation of prostitution because it is not suited to the South African context where there are high levels of poverty and gender-based violence is incongruous. Many people, particularly women in South Africa, live in abject poverty, lacking money and the opportunity to learn skills. To achieve and provide basic needs women resort to precarious occupations, such as sex work, to provide basic survival resources. Sex workers in South Africa are criminalised, abused, subjected to violent assaults and rape by both clients and police. They face severe rights abuse, public stigma and discrimination and are one of the most marginalised groups of people in South Africa. Sex workers' have human rights which are critical to improve health and wellbeing and protection, yet they are rarely addressed at human rights conventions or declarations. They suffer grave violations of their fundamental rights of due process, protection from discrimination and violence, and equal access to social services. Criminalisation has not eradicated sex work. Criminalisation exposes sex workers' vulnerability to HIV, extortion, increased health risk, psychological trauma, drug use, poor self-esteem; loss of family and friends; work-related mortality; and restrictions on travel, employment, housing, and parenting. Violent and obstructive cultural practices and laws promoting gender inequalities including gender-based violence (GBV) is a core issue sustaining women's vulnerability to HIV and this, combined with social, economic and cultural factors, contributes to the higher levels of HIV infection occurring among women. In some cases, sex workers have no access to condoms and are not aware of their importance or are simply powerless to negotiate safer sex. Studies indicate that HIV prevalence among female sex workers is three to four times higher than among adult women in the general population. Decriminalisation is an issue of gender equality and sexual rights. Laws criminalising sex workers create a form of state control over the bodies of women and transgender women - who comprise the large majority of sex workers. The criminal label serves to legalise brutal mistreatment and/or social exclusion. Decriminalisation of sex workers will help to promote safer working conditions enabling them to organise, address risk factors in their workplaces, encourage insistence for improved

conditions, and with raising financial support for sex worker health programmes.

Housing as a basic human right: The situation in South Africa

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In 2017, the housing challenge still persists as nearly one million South Africans live in the informal settlements while thousands are homeless. These realities undermine the human rights of the urban poor, especially their right to participate in the economy as *bonafide* citizens. This paper discusses the country's housing challenge, the various initiatives undertaken by the post-apartheid government and how these efforts impinge on the rights of the urban poor. Supported by international and local legislative frameworks, this paper persistently argues that the right to adequate housing is inseparable and indivisible from other human rights. In contrast to the foregoing frameworks and the South African Constitution's hope of an inclusive society, this paper contends that the current housing situation in the country still mirrors the apartheid spatial pattern of exclusion. Through implementing top-down housing delivery policies and programmes, literature shows that the government missed an opportunity to promote the socio-economic and political rights of the urban poor and redress apartheid injustices. Therefore, it is the main argument of the paper that housing is more than just brick and mortar, but a fundamental human right that undergirds all social, economic, and political relationships in any society.

Comforts of homeless shelter

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The study describes the lived experiences of women living in shelter in central Johannesburg. Women residing in two all-women shelters in Yeoville and Braamfontein conceptualised homelessness as a reflection of not only poverty but a nexus of unemployment, socio-economic inequalities, and victimhood. Women's descent into homelessness is because of gender-based violence and other structural forms of violence inflicted upon them. Yet, respondents' experiences of living in shelter draw a picture of adaptability through establishing beneficial

relationships among themselves and others in the shelter. Establishing relationships with house-mothers buys homeless women not only influence but longer stays in the shelters. The result is a series of *professional shelter migrants* whose existence is ameliorated by the temporary comfort of shelter living. The quality of life in the shelters presents a stability absent in the streets and even in some poverty-stricken homes. Since living at the shelter, the women have found temporary comfort with the provision of basic needs, counselling and life skills being a temporary reprieve from life outside the shelter. While providing essential temporary comfort to homeless women, shelters implicitly foster an unsustainable culture of home hopping ineffective in empowering homeless women for the long-term sustainance of their livelihoods.

Abstracts for sub-theme 4: Poverty, unemployment, socio-economic inequalities and sustainable poverty eradication

Corruption as correlate of poverty and socio-economic inequality in Nigeria

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Corruption prevents judgment and perverts conduct of a person or persons in position of trust. Corruption is any act undertaken with the deliberate intent of deriving or extracting monetary and other benefits by encouraging or conniving at illegal activities. Due to this high level of corrupt practices, poverty prevails in the Nigerian society. Funds meant for socio-economic development and health services have gone with corruption translating to high poverty and unemployment rates. Corruption tends to foster more corruption, perpetuating and entrenching social injustice in daily life, thereby making social work to advocate for the poor and vulnerable. Presently, poverty and corrupt practices are highly visible in Nigeria. Consequences of corruption are violation of the social and economic rights of the poor and vulnerable; undermining democracy; subversion of the rule of law; retardation of development, and erosion of the moral fabric of society. The Nigerian government has put some anti-corruption agencies in place to tackle this serious problem but society is yet to feel the impact of these approach and efforts. This paper examines corruption as it affects poverty eradication and socio-economic inequality in Nigeria.

Coffee cooperatives and women employment in Karaba, Rwanda's rural areas

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In many developing countries in general and particularly in Rwanda's rural areas, women are the poorest and most vulnerable group. This category of Rwanda's population is basically involved in agricultural activities; they also are responsible for maintaining the welfare of the household. Coffee is one of the most important traditional cash crops

in Rwanda. Women are key important group that is essential to a sustainable coffee supply chain in Rwanda. Coffee cooperative through its coffee washing stations have been used as breeding grounds for employment and socio-economic empowerment of women and girls by improving quality of life. Cooperatives increase production by treatment of cherries. They played an important role in creating jobs for women and girls in rural areas during the harvest period and coffee processing. By getting income, women have been able to cover the family needs. Thus, the socio-economic welfare of women coffee growers is enhanced. In Karaba, results reveal that coffee cooperatives have contributed to poverty alleviation among coffee grower's families. Members borrow credits through rotating funds known as "Ibimina". Cooperatives also provide education to the members by empowering women and encouraging them in decision making and joint decision making. This is evidenced through the provision of adequate shelter, observation of human rights, access to medical insurance, paying school fees for children, undertaking entrepreneurial activities, and learning how to save income. Cooperatives also helped women and girls to access to land, coffee farms and asserts ownership. The present study seeks to analyze the effect of coffee cooperatives in promoting women and girls employment in Rwanda's rural areas, with Karaba coffee zone as a case study.

Linking social capital to poverty reduction among the internally displaced persons in Kenya: An empirical analysis

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The role of social capital in both economic and social development has in recent years been receiving growing attention from academics and policy makers. Social capital is viewed as an essential resource for facilitating and sustaining diverse income generating activities and access to opportunities and resources to individuals and households. Using primary data collected from a survey in which both qualitative and quantitative data were collected from a sample of 400 internally displaced persons and 8 key informants, this paper examines the relationship between social capital and poverty reduction among the internally displaced persons in Kenya. Empirical findings show a positive and statistically significant relationship between social capital and poverty reduction among IDPs in Kenya. The analysis revealed that social capital is basic in accessing vital resources for reducing the level of vulnerability for the internally

displaced persons. The analysis has significant policy and practice implications. The findings suggest that poverty reduction policies and programs should integrate social capital as key component of poverty reduction efforts especially among vulnerable populations such as IDPs.

Socio-economic development: The dignified pathway to community and environmental sustainability

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Environmental and community sustainability are core to a fair, inclusive and peaceful society. Socio-economic inequalities exclude people from opportunities for human and socio-economic development, keeping them trapped in poverty. An unequal society, such as South Africa with a Gini-coefficient of 6.9, is embedded in structural injustices. Poverty is intertwined with unemployment and lack of income which inevitably impacts on opportunities to access food, education, health services, and general well-being; all being basic socio-economic rights. Food insecurity is key to peoples' survival. Having access to food is a human right, but when provision of food, including food parcels, is not managed in a dignified manner, it counteracts the core of human rights, which is human dignity. Pre-packed food parcels leave recipients with no say in what they need or prefer, and also keep people trapped at a systemic level. Furthermore, food parcels, even provided through dignified anti-poverty strategies, only bring temporarily relieve on a survival level. For sustainable communities, long-term strategies are required. This paper will report on a case study of the Moola project of Funanani Charitable Trust who – after 19 years of pre-packed food parcels for vulnerable households – shifted focus to socio-economic development which also take the environment into account. The analysis of the case study is based on the five Ps of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, namely people, planet, prosperity, peace building and partnerships. Findings will indicate how people, when provided with the opportunities to shift a handout to a sustainable socio-economic development project, take responsibility for developing their capabilities and agency through active involvement and participation. Furthermore, it will show how partnerships among sponsors, volunteers, service users and professionals promote socio-economic development and also how people's engaging in community activities through their own choice, foster economic literacy, financial skills, and purchasing power. Findings support the *2015 Human Development Report (HDR) Work for Human*

Development's premises that there is an intrinsic relationship between work and human development. In alignment with the *HDR*, the paper concludes that for environmental and community sustainability, work and income have to be seen as a broader concept than jobs or employment; it can be a means of contributing to the public good, reducing inequality, securing livelihoods, and empowering individuals. Implications for practice, education, policy and research will be highlighted.

“We find precious stones yet we cannot afford bread”: Contextualizing sustainable food security in households headed by women miners

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Existing research in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) in the South indicates that mining activity not only provides women with employment opportunities, but promotes sustainable poverty reduction at the household level mainly through increased income which boosts sustainable food security. Though this double advantage renders artisanal mining attractive to women, it engenders their socio-economic inequalities. This paper is framed within research affirming the insecurity of mining incomes, a lack of mineral rights, a poor saving culture, and the socially constructed roles of women which are replicated in the mining milieu tending to support socio-economic inequality. Subsequently, women in AGSM are offered stereotypically designed roles and remuneration, predisposing them to exploitation, and precipitating poor household nutrition through inadequate food security. In the East African region, apart from quantitative studies conducted in Uganda and Tanzania on AGSM, there exists a scant body of work demonstrating links between socio-economic inequalities, insufficient food security and the “flight” from agriculture to AGSM by women heads of households. Previously however, focus has been on the lucrative nature of AGSM to women. These women heads of households use AGSM to supplement their diminishing incomes from agriculture which is expensive, and unable to promote sustainable food supply. Improved knowledge of the links between the abandonment of agricultural activity, socio-economic inequalities, women's participation in AGSM, poverty and sustainable food security at the household level is required. We seek to respond to the following questions: “Why are women heads of households employed in ASGM unable to diminish socio-economic inequalities?” Secondly, “How can women heads of households return to agricultural activity to guarantee sustainable food

security?” We present qualitative findings using focus group discussions. Participants were selected through purposive sampling. An unstructured interview guide was translated into the participants’ language and administered. Data were transcribed into text, and analyzed following qualitative content analysis. Results indicate that women engaging in ASGM demonstrate poor employment outcomes, augmenting socio-economic inequalities that interfere with food security. Agricultural activity must be supported through county policy to improve household nutrition. In conclusion, new and existing policies for women in ASGM should enhance incomes to positively influence food security and diminish socio-economic inequalities.

Poverty and disability in Tanzania

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Fighting poverty has been a goal to achieve all over the world. Tanzania is not an exception to this. It has taken initiatives to reduce poverty, with a particular focus on special need groups such as women and person with disabilities (PwDs). One of the measures taken was to invite Formal Microfinance Institutions (FMI) in this war. This article presents findings of a study conducted to assess the utilization of microfinances by persons with disabilities for poverty reduction in Tanzania. The research employed both quantitative and qualitative research approaches as well as case study design. It covered 80 respondents and used questionnaires, interviews, focus group discussion, observation and documentary reviews in collecting data. Study findings reveal that 79.7% of all PwDs had little knowledge on loans conditions, including processes and procedures. Less than one third reported that, they used loans for addressing the intended goal of poverty reduction. On the contrary, more than two third used loans for attending immediate needs such as paying house rent, school fees, medication, as well as purchasing food. As a result, most of them were not able to come out of poverty trap. The study also revealed that there are both institutional and individual challenges that limit PwDs’ ability to start and manage successful economic enterprises for poverty reduction using loans from MFIs. The study concludes that poverty among disability is still a challenge to address, particularly in rural areas. The study recommends that the government should institute monitoring and evaluation for tracking the utilization of loans by PwDs. MFIs should ensure reciprocity benefit and PwDs should use loans properly and work hard in order to attain development.

Factors undermining social workers’ attempts at furthering their studies

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The paper addresses a paucity of research that exists regarding factors that undermine social workers attempts at furthering their studies. The central focus of this paper is to explore the hurdles that social workers have to overcome in pursuit of attaining postgraduate education while in the workplace for more than half a decade. A qualitative study based on the maintaining professional competence theory aimed to investigate the barriers social workers grapple with in pursuit and aspiration of postgraduate studies was undertaken at Sekhukhune district, Burgersfort area. A purposive sample of twenty (20) respondents was constituted and a semi-structured interview guide designed and administered to all twenty (20) participants to gather data on the following issues likely to dishearten social workers endeavours to undertake postgraduate studies: family commitments, financial constraints, meagre income, poor incentives, distance education obstacles, negative impact of the social development bursary, poor confidence, motivation and also academic demands. The data gathered was presented, interpreted and analysed thematically. The findings reveal that social workers grapple with issues such family commitments, financial constraints, meagre income, poor work incentives, distance education obstacles, poor confidence, motivation and also academic demands in attempt of improving their qualifications. Regardless of the aforesaid hurdles social workers have to overcome, the employer expects and exhorts practitioners to provide high level services to the clients and further to keep abreast of contemporary knowledge and expertise necessary to the profession. Based on the findings of the study, the researcher has made conclusion that it is of essence to rescue the disheartened recent and future practitioners in their attempts to improve qualifications, hence submits the following recommendations: 1. The employers should promote supporting services at work as well as assisting the employees with aspirations to improve their qualifications which may in turn aid the employer, for employees resuming postgraduate education, the employer and employee must negotiate reasonable time needed for the completion of the studies being sensitive to the demands of the qualification. 2. The government should enhance and further develop policies that offer employees the autonomy to study further by means of subsidising tuition fees and protecting employment of practitioners while they resume with studies and further

offer stipends with contribution of the employer that is sufficient to sustain the practitioner (postgraduate student) and the family. 3. The employer must offer the practitioners competitive remunerations above subsistence level and further provide competitive incentives which aid in minimising high staff turnover.

Assessing efficacy of youth enterprise development fund in employment creation towards poverty reduction in Meru, Kenya

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Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) is a national government program in Kenya providing financial facilitation services to unemployed youth to enable them initiate income generating activities. Most unemployed youths are vulnerable to poverty characterized by lack of basic needs in life. They also do not have assets to serve as collateral in accessing bank loans. Therefore, the YEDF offers soft loans to enable youth initiate business enterprises as a strategy of creating employment and poverty reduction. The targeted youth groups are trained on entrepreneurship skills before being given the money. However, the rates of unemployment and poverty levels among the youths continue to be high, indicating that there are gaps in YEDF program. The objectives of the study were to assess the role of YEDF in offering business start-up capital; investigate the contribution of YEDF in employment creation; and assess the efficacy of YEDF in poverty reduction. Literature on the functional role of entrepreneurship from the YEDF experience and its role in poverty reduction was covered. The study applied mixed methods with quantitative and qualitative techniques of data collection and analysis. The population of the study included members of the youth social groups benefitting from YEDF in Meru County, Kenya. The study found that 68% of respondents felt that YEDF facilitated in offering business start-up capital which enabled employment creation and poverty reduction. The study recommends scaling up of YEDF so that more youths would access business start-up capital to initiate and manage income generating enterprises to further promote employment creation opportunities and enhance poverty reduction processes. Entrepreneurship capacity building training among YEDF beneficiaries need to be improved since 48% of the respondents revealed that they received the loan without any training.

Improving rural livelihoods through formation of community saving groups. A case of rural community women in Chipata District, Zambia

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It is estimated that about 70% of Zambia's population is poor. Chipata is both rural and with high poverty levels. A village bank project was designed to address prevalent issues of poverty in Chipata. It involved formation of village bank groups, where with enough group savings, individual members accessed loans dependent on one's savings at minimal interest rates. Project aimed at reinforcing a culture of saving among rural women, which savings would enable individual members to either start new businesses and/or expand current ones to generate income. In 2014/2015, five groups each comprising 25 members were identified and trained in management of village bank associations. Group members met once a week for the duration of the project cycle to participate in group activities like share purchase, loan acquisition, and loan repayments. At the end of the project, cycle group members got back individual savings plus accrued interest. Study findings showed that over 80% of the participants in the project indicated an improved income status at household level attributed to being a member of a village bank association. Participants demonstrated a degree of economic self-sufficiency in that they now were able to meet basic necessities – an indication of improved livelihood and reduction in poverty levels. With improved livelihood and reduction in poverty levels, social safety nets strengthened, as such children no longer faced a risk of losing parental care. Furthermore, participants showed willingness to be part of future project cycles due to perceived benefits. This model demonstrated to be one of the most effective ways of improving livelihoods and reducing poverty in rural areas where most community members are not in a position to access loans from commercial banks and/or financial lending institutions which usually demand collateral and other stringent measures which unfortunately most rural community members cannot afford. To date, the model is being replicated and there are now close to 20 active groups. The last 2-3 years has continued to witness success stories by members belonging to various associations which they attribute to the village bank model. The village bank savings model has proved itself as a means to improving livelihoods and reducing poverty in poor communities because it is very basic both in formation and management. The model is also self-sustaining; since

savings are individual personal money, group members hold one another accountable.

The impact of financial education on saving behaviors of youths from low-income households in Southwestern Uganda: Results from a randomized controlled trial

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Purpose: The aim of this study is to examine the impact of financial education on the saving behavior outcomes among youth who participated in a Child Development Account Program in Southwestern Uganda. Methods: Baseline and wave 2 data from a total of 297 AIDS-orphaned adolescents (average age 13.4) were utilized. Bivariate and Logistic regression analyses were conducted to examine the impact of financial education on saving behaviors of youth controlling for gender and age of the participants. Results: Findings indicate that participants who received financial education reported higher percentage scores on importance attached to saving, confidence to save, and self-reported savings. Controlling for participants' demographic characteristics, participants who received financial education showed higher odds ratios to importance attached to saving (OR=2.1, CI=1.1-3.9, $p<.05$), having saved money (OR=3.2, CI=1.8-5.7, $p<.001$), and saving higher amounts of money (OR=4.1, CI=1.7-10.1, $p<.05$). Conclusion: Study findings suggest that, programs that combine financial education and other poverty alleviation strategies for youth in low-income households have the potential to increase financial capabilities, that is, knowledge, changed attitudes and behaviors towards savings. Financial education can also be included in the school curricula and this will lower the costs of implementing individual financial education programs which is a challenge to low-income communities.

Influence of biomedical knowledge and practices on child-related health perceptions and representations in a post-conflict community

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The resettlement process of communities that were living in internally displaced people's camps in Northern Uganda was followed by a sizeable investment in the health sector. Subsequently, alternative spaces and places

for health care were introduced or strengthened. Biomedical knowledge, particularly on malaria in children under 5, was popularized mainly through village health teams. This kind of knowledge is in sharp contrast with the local perceptions on childhood illness. The local community holds a belief that teething in children causes malaria and other common childhood illness like diarrhea and pneumonia. In this article, I draw attention to how biomedical knowledge and practice has influenced child-related health perceptions and representations with a local therapeutic community. I explore how this kind of knowledge and practice has brought about new forms of consciousness, agency, subjectivities and relational identities and how these are in constant motion as they are negotiated in light of existing local health knowledge, and other local realities. I also draw attention to how a mix of the bio-medical and local health knowledge results into hybrid ideas that place children at a risk of poor health. Data used in this article was collected through an ethnographic approach. This approach enabled the collection of descriptive data from the perspective of members of the local therapeutic community. It made possible the participation in people's daily lives, watching what happens, listening to what is being said, asking questions and collecting whatever data is available that could provide a comprehensive understanding of how biomedical knowledge impacts on health perceptions and representations. Data collection lasted for a period of 10 months. Parents have been re-socialized as they have given new child health care vocabularies. They got acquainted to the signs, symptoms and medicines used to treat malaria in children and would occasionally self-prescribe medicines for their ill children. They would purchase malaria medicine from drug shops whenever the child got a fever. It was common not to provide the whole dosage to the child. The parent would stop providing medicine to the child the moment he/she starts feeling better. The parent would keep the rest and would only use it if the child falls sick again or if any other child within the household falls sick. Drug sharing is a norm within the community.

Poverty alleviation strategies in South Africa: A literature review

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South Africa's population is 55 million; in 2011, 3 million South Africans were living under the poverty line. With more women affected than men, and children and the elderly hardest hit. Racial inequalities continue to define

poverty as largely a black African problem. Reasons include “weak” economic growth, stubbornly high unemployment, and educational outcomes failures. In an attempt to identify policy instruments that could help change this status quo, the various strategies that have been implemented in countries such as China, Vietnam and Uganda that are known to have been relatively successful in reducing poverty are reviewed. In the process, this paper discusses the literature regarding poverty, with a particular emphasis on the definition, measurement and determinants thereof. Furthermore, South Africa’s anti-poverty strategies are discussed and the role of social workers in reducing poverty is also highlighted. Poverty is largely due to insufficient pro-poor economic growth, weak implementation, slow asset redistribution, high income or wealth inequality, low job generation rates by the government, high HIV/Aids infection rates, public corruption, and inadequate monitoring of poverty. Therefore, if meaningful progress towards poverty reduction is to be achieved, the government needs to deal with the foregoing constraints accordingly.

Challenges of poverty and unemployment in Africa and role of social work in poverty reduction, job creation and social equity

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This presentation will look at an in-depth reflection on the challenges posed by poverty, unemployment, socio-economic inequalities, and sustainable eradication of poverty in Africa, particularly in Burundi. First, definitions of key terms will be identified; these are poverty, unemployment, socio-economic inequality, and poverty eradication (poverty reduction). Since the eradication of poverty is one of the largest global challenges facing the world, this presentation discusses the role of social work in poverty reduction, job creation, social equity, and suggest more pragmatic social policies that can be implemented at the level of African states and more particularly in Burundi and local NGOs in order to reduce poverty. Economic growth of African countries remains fragile, standards of living are still very low, and poverty is endemic. Education and health indicators remain poor and in some countries the pace of job creation fails to keep pace with that of the labour force. In addition, youth unemployment remains a major political and socio-economic challenge in Africa despite the recent strong growth performance of many African countries. This presentation will also look at the main sources of youth unemployment in Africa and the role of African countries

in resolving the problem of unemployment, because according to International Labour Organization, Africa continues to be confronted with high levels of unemployment, vulnerable employment, and working poverty with little signs of potential recovery in 2017. The harmful effects of high level of inequality are seen in many developing countries on everything from economic growth to poverty reduction, social unity, and public health. Reducing inequality is not only helpful but essential. This presentation will discuss different active social policies that can help reducing inequality in Africa and tackling the norms and practices that sustain gender discrimination.

Gender inclusion in the design of poverty eradication projects: The case study of Kweneng District, Botswana

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Many countries in Africa find themselves grappling with issues of poverty and inequality. Most of these countries, including Botswana, have come up with projects for poverty eradication. However, it is not clear how gender issues and needs are often included in their design. Therefore, the research sought to answer the research question: Are gender issues and needs considered in the design of poverty eradication projects in Botswana? The study used a multi-method approach that included questionnaires and interviews. The questionnaires sought to obtain the views of poverty eradication beneficiaries while the interviews targeted project officers in Kweneng District. The results indicated that poverty eradication programs did not have a robust policy framework except guidelines for poverty eradication project packages, and, as a consequence, poverty eradication projects seemed to address basic needs rather than sustainable needs. Lastly, the study found that the projects do not address the needs of men and women equally and seem to be more biased toward females than males.

Abstracts for sub-theme 5: Social administration, policy processes and advocacy

Free primary education policy in Burundi: Aspirations at local community level and policy implementation

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The research on free primary education policy in Burundi intends to assess the aspirations of students and other educational actors at local community level, based on their perceptions, expectations and experiences, towards primary education since the implementation of the policy, and to find out its relevance at local community levels. The policy has been implemented under the framework of MDGs/SDGs and Education for All, within the global consensus on the role of education in development and poverty reduction. However, despite the efforts at international and national levels, and the government of Burundi's emphasis on human capital production through basic education among its top priorities, universal primary education seems to be far to be achieved in Burundi, as the drop out and retention rates are reported to be high and a large number of students do not complete the primary education cycle. The aspiration concept and human capital approaches will be used to critically assess the coherence of empirical study and the theoretical arguments about the role of education in development and poverty reduction. Through qualitative research methods, the study will contribute to the scientific new knowledge with the understanding of free primary education policy in Burundi and beyond, as it will focus on the realities and the context at local community levels, which are often not taken into account by policy makers at international and national levels, in the global education for all programs. For the social work profession in Burundi, the study will provide evidence about the challenges of the policy which are important for social advocacy within the framework of social administration and policy process.

Abstracts for sub-theme 6: Social work linkages, networks and partnerships for development

Community perceptions towards community health workers (village health teams) and their services

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The study examined community perceptions towards village health teams as community-based health care service providers. The study was carried out in Nansana Municipality, Wakiso district. In particular, it examined community perceptions towards home visitations, maternal services provided by CHWs, and health worker competencies. An exploratory and cross-sectional case study research design was adopted and qualitative data collection methods used. Purposive sampling techniques were used to select 35 study participants, among whom were 21 residents of Nansana Municipality, 5 key informants (professional health workers and local leaders) and 9 mothers of reproductive age (who constituted one FGD). The qualitative data generated was transcribed and translated from Luganda to English. For purposes of emphasis, some responses have been presented as direct quotations but with translation into English. Thematic and content analysis strategies were used to organize data into meaningful categories to guide the presentation of the findings. Findings from the study revealed that CHWs play a vital role in promoting community health especially in issues of hygiene, maternal health as well as increasing health-seeking behaviour among residents of Nansana. Most of the respondents believed that CHWs are good and experienced enough, respected them and trusted their services which compelled them to seek and utilize such services. However, some of the respondents held negative perceptions and doubted the quality of health services provided by community health workers. I therefore recommend that the community should be sensitized more about the services offered by CHWs so that they can utilize them but CHWs also need to receive more training to build their competences and knowledge in order to win the trust of community members in handling health issues.

Innovative ways of dealing with menstrual health among the marginalized communities in Kenya

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Globally, there are 1.8 billion young people and the majority live in developing countries. Approximately half of them are adolescent girls and young women. Notably, the adolescent girls have huge untapped potential, unfortunately most of them are marginalized, vulnerable, and their voices unheard. This paper discusses menstrual health challenges facing the adolescent girls and innovative ways of dealing with it. Menstruation is a natural process that every woman experiences in her life time. More particularly, it is one of the physical changes that occur in girls at the start of puberty. However, in the developing countries, menstruation is shrouded with myths and cultures which lead to feelings of shame, stigma, and anxiety. Besides, the girls lack adequate knowledge on how to handle menarche and the prohibitive costs of sanitary pads. Worldwide, studies have reported that more than 50% of girls have inadequate menstrual health facilities with high proportions reported in the rural areas. In Sub-Saharan Africa, it is estimated that one in ten girls misses school during menstruation. In Ghana, it is estimated that 11.5 million women experience poor sanitation. In Kenya, 1 million girls miss over six weeks of school in a year due to lack of access to affordable sanitary pads. The marginalized communities are adversely affected. Innovative ways of dealing with menstrual health have come up though it experiences inadequate coordination, funding, and awareness. In Rwanda, Sustainable Enterprises is working with communities to turn discarded banana fibers into affordable biodegradable sanitary pads and provides menstrual education. In Kenya, ZanaAfrica uses local agricultural products to produce affordable sanitary products. The use of menstrual cup has been associated with fears such as loss of virginity, cultural beliefs that forbid girls from touching their reproductive organs, limited resources such as soap and water. The paper recommends that awareness needs to be created on the existence of innovative products, linkages and partnerships to be enhanced to ensure that the girl has access to the facilities. Beyond that, there is need for investment in research to unearth more sustainable products. Finally, a multipronged approach that encompasses government institutions, community, parents and development partners should be adopted. This enhances effective sustainable solutions.

When it requires many institutions

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The mission of Think East Africa, a Christian NGO, is mainly centered on drilling boreholes and spreading the word of God in rural and undeveloped urban areas. Through varied programs such as maintenance, training and education we ensure our projects have long term sustainability. We are not the first organization to provide wells and access to clean water in Burundi; we are however trying to improve the quality and longevity of the wells in those areas which has been an issue in the past. One of our areas of focus involves linking with the Burundian government, which is important as they have structures in place that collect the contributions from the community, for the upkeep of the projects. It is important for us to connect with other Christian organizations working in health and education that are already integrated within the community so that our projects can run as efficiently as possible. We are currently building a spare parts logistics program to make the acquisition and utilization of spare parts necessary for the maintenance of the different projects achievable for the local people. We are currently in the process of developing a partnership with 'Hope Africa University', working with students studying social work. It is our hope that they will be able to put their knowledge and skills to use and see where they can get involved in projects, benefiting themselves and the community. As an organization we go out in to different areas and carry out 'community assessments', this involves meetings and discussions with varied groups and communities with an aim to find appropriate solutions that work for everyone. As the founder of 'Think East Africa' John Peake said on many occasions, if it was only about drilling, we would hire a construction company and drill a well, but it's about more than that, it's about building relationships that will last. Some underprivileged communities are so used to drinking water that is unfit for consumption that they have no desire to use a well; it takes well-trained representatives and an effective network in the region to educate the community. It is of vital importance that we continue to develop our relationships, to move forwards in unity; to create new and more ambitious projects and ensure the sustainability and maintenance of the projects we are currently working on and have completed.

Professional and lay social work practice in Uganda: Conflict, competition or complementarity?

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The social work sphere in Uganda is dominated by a huge informal or lay domain of practice. From informal social

support networks in the villages, through religious counselling and prayer groups, to semi-structured HIV peer support groups, there is enormous informal social work practice going on in Ugandan communities, institutions, and other social spaces. There is also increasing recognition of the roles played by lay social workers in some sectors such as health care, as reflected in increasing calls for task shifting from professionals to lay workers in the face of inadequate trained human resources. What is the interaction between this massive sphere of lay social work practice and the professional social work practice? What positive developments are happening and how best can we tap into the existing potentials for complementarity? This paper is based on personal experiences and observations drawn from years of research and support to development organizations. The paper reviews experiences on the ground and uses examples from the HIV and child care sub-sectors to demonstrate the parallels and complementarities that exist. The paper concludes that there is need to systematically document the interface between professional and lay social work roles and practice; and to develop protocols and guidelines that help to optimally harness the complementarities. Additional implications for social work training and policy development are drawn.

Social work and policy practice in Tanzania: The case of social work practitioners in Dar es Salaam

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Social workers have a huge amount of potentials which can be used to change the lives of the vulnerable populations in the world and Tanzania in particular. This can be done by actively and creatively participating in policy advocacy and change, analysis, launching campaigns, and building coalitions. The powers social workers have are grounded from the professional legality offered to them in making practice decisions. By utilizing their powers and skills as change agent, they can considerably inform social policies. Drawing from the findings of the study conducted in Dar es Salaam, it was revealed that social workers' engagement in policy practice was very low. The reasons ascribed to low policy practice engagement were related to organizational, institutional, structural, and individual factors. The study has found out that low engagement of policy practice has partly contributed to the poor recognition of social work profession in Tanzania and inefficient provision of welfare services. This paper points out that it is very important for social workers to utilize their powers and skills so as to

bring positive social and economic outcomes to the lives of the vulnerable populations in Tanzania.

Actualizing social work education and a global CUNY agenda in East Africa

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Strengthening partnerships between the United States and the global world remains a foremost priority for the City University of New York (CUNY), the world largest and leading 170-year old urban public university. The City University of New York comprises 25 campuses – 13 senior colleges, 7 community colleges and 4 graduate schools. The University's strategic plan promises to cultivate new deep partnerships and networks worldwide to address the intersecting challenges of globalization and urbanization (The Connected University Master Plan, 2016-2020). York a senior college within CUNY is located in Queens, NY, home of the largest, most diverse city in the world. As an Associate Professor in the Department of Social Work at York College, CUNY, and a U.S. Fulbright Scholar, a program of the United States Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, continuing this momentum is a priority and pursuit with actualizing a *global CUNY*. In 2016, York College, CUNY boasted an enrollment of 8,360 students worldwide, of which 219 reported their country of birth as Africa. The prospect to enhance linkages with underrepresented countries, especially East Africa, is exciting. There is increasing development and global competence of the social work profession (see, Rinkel & Powers, 2006). This presentation introduces multifaceted platforms in which internationally-focused engagement activities and social work global curricula (i.e. Urban Health Disparities and Global Health). Lessons learned from study abroad, research mentoring, networking, training, and teaching endeavors in Brazil, Cuba, Egypt, France, Republic of Moldova, Seoul Korea, and Haiti (Alexandre & Rodgers, in press) can leverage enthusiasm for sustained global networks and future collaborations with East Africa. Implications for the transmission of knowledge that could benefit cross-cultural learning and internship opportunities, which are rooted in global competencies, pedagogical and practice methods for African and American social work students and faculty are discussed.

Abstracts for sub-theme 7: Indigenous and innovative social work models and approaches

Para-social work training as innovative social work model in Tanzania: A case of Morogoro municipality

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Introduction: In the 21st century, the newly developing nations, including Tanzania, are passing through global and structural transformations challenged by fragile organizational structures involved in the supply of social welfare services, implying the social agencies and the social work profession. Virtually all social welfare services are dispensed through social agencies, public and private. In practice all “social workers,” professional and non-professional (community development workers, home-based carers, clinical health workers, para-social workers), operate through such agencies. Agencies are created to integrate specialties based on technical knowledge; professions are organized to claim and realize jurisdictions based on technical knowledge. In response to the acute shortage of “social workers” in public and private organizations, the Ministry of Health & Social Welfare in collaboration with the Institute of Social Work and development partners (Intral Health, AIHA, JSI) progressively carried out para-social work training programs for young volunteers, SWOs, CDOs and other professionals in 17 districts to supplement the gap of social welfare workforce at local village/mtaa and ward levels. **Objective:** The main objective of this paper is to examine the efficacy of para-social workers in providing basic care, support-services (including referrals and networking with SWO) and working progress with the vulnerable children, ‘priority population’ and their families affected by HIV pandemic in Morogoro Town Council. **Methodology:** This is a qualitative designed study conducted between April and June 2017. The cross-sectional descriptive analytical study targeted 65 para-social workers in the 6 wards in Morogoro Town Council. **Results:** The presence of para-social workers have widened scope of activities of social work at mtaa/village, ward and district levels-connecting SWOs, CDOs, teachers, medical practitioners, and lawyers. Regular capacity building programs focused particularly on case management processes, child status index forms, reporting gender-based violence, and participatory monitoring of HIV-related cases. Inadequate working tools, financial incapability and lack of friendly

used policy documents (health-related and welfare support) to guide their elementary practice are major challenges. Remarkably, the geographical remoteness and wide distance from households to the village/mtaa public agencies pose obstacle to connect clients with the service providers.

The practice and challenges of traditional medicine in primary health care in Rwanda

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In the virtue of the universality of human rights, Western values dominated all societies but the 2003 Beirut conference gave a room to cultural relativism where local practices were ultimately recognized. The present paper analyzes the performance of traditional medicine in Rwanda focusing on how it has evolved and acquired the official right to provide health care. In this perspective, we explore the existing platforms of traditional medicine and depict its contribution and challenges in therapeutic profession in Rwanda and examine the role of social work in sustaining human rights in terms of integrating traditional medicine for promoting community health care. We conducted interviews with 21 individuals comprising representatives of selected social agencies, community health workers, 10 traditional healers and their representatives at local and national levels, 1 pharmacist from the Ministry of Health, and 2 practitioners in modern medicine. Findings revealed that traditional medicine in Rwanda plays an important role in treating rare diseases untreatable by modern medicine such as rare skin diseases (*amahumane*), snakebite (*kugombora*), liver diseases (*umwijima*), poliomyelitis (*imbasa*), etc. It was revealed that as modern medicine facilities are limited in rural areas and treatment provided by local community health volunteers seems ineffective, rural people refer to traditional healers they trust. We also found that among the main challenge traditional medicine is currently facing is that natural herbs are about to disappear due to deforestation of natural reserves. Therefore, in order to sustain traditional medicine, the main recommendation of traditional healers was that of investing in the protection of natural forests, benefiting from financial support in order to improve the quality of their profession in health service delivery through research and trainings to practitioners.

Critical analysis of the person-centred versus person-in-environment approach: A cultural-epistemic discourse

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The history of social work in South Africa is inextricably embedded in colonial and apartheid ideology. Consequently, social work discourse (and praxis) is mainly influenced and shaped by the hegemonic Western epistemology and perspectives. This paper attempts to provide an analytical debate about the person-centred v/s person-in-environment approach in South African social work and the welfare system with special reference to African communities. Social work practice in (South) Africa needs to respond to the cultural nuances of the majority of citizens, instead of the dominant Western approaches. This paper which is based on contextual and empirical experiences from undergraduate students in training, aims to argue the appropriateness of the eco-systems/‘person-in-environment’ approach for the African culture and the dissonance of the person-centred approach in social work practice. Epistemologically, social work education and curriculum content in South Africa need to engage with socio-economic, political, cultural and structural realities in the home front and develop theories and models that address these realities. Education after all is always culture bound. The social work praxis in South Africa today, is facing the challenge of relevance, more so within the discourse of decolonisation. The post-apartheid and post-colonial era has given birth to new complex social problems (of identity) that require a critical, reflective and conscious adaptation to teaching, learning, and practice of social work.

Social work practice in Uganda: Towards cultural responsiveness

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Social work’s emphasis on indigenous and innovative models of practice is increasingly gaining a center stage across time and space for valid reasons. It represents a phenomenon where the profession is repositioning itself but also striving for relevance and responsiveness to the clients’ contextual needs. In Uganda, social workers recognize and appreciate the necessity and utility of

integrating indigenous and innovative models of helping in social work education and practice. Yet, there has been no empirical documentation of these models. This chapter unravels the indigenous and innovative social work practice models in Uganda which bear the potential to enrich social work by contributing to culturally competent practice. The paper draws from a qualitative study on ‘Indigenous and Innovative Models of Social Work Practice in Uganda’ under the auspice of PROSOWO-II project. The study was conducted in 3 regions of Western, Central and Northern Uganda. Data was obtained through in-depth interviews with 18 social workers/community development workers, 12 community leaders including traditional leaders, 12 focus group discussions with social service users, and 6 case studies. This chapter sheds light on: the issues and concerns within the community that indigenous and innovative social work models address; the level of integration of these models in social work education in Uganda; the place (or lack) of indigenous knowledge in policy practice; and concludes with proposed measures towards an integrated model of social work and the implication of the same for social work education and practice.

Traditional fostering in a post-conflict context: The case of Laroo-Pece Women’s Association (LAPEWA) model in Northern Uganda

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Children dropping out of family care are a global concern. In 2010, the United Nations developed Guidelines on Alternative Care to guide response towards children outside of family care. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as Uganda’s Children Act (1997) recognize kinship care (a form of informal alternative care) alongside other formal alternative care options such as fostering, adoption and, as a last resort, institutional care. But as society increasingly becomes individualistic, materialistic and as social relations become commodified, kinship care as an alternative is becoming weakened. It is under such circumstances that institutional care, despite its documented weaknesses, has been on the rise, mostly motivated by monetary benefits of running such institutions and aiding international adoptions, rather than benevolence. Within the alternative care literature, the concept of traditional fostering is uncommon. Fostering is presented as a formal arrangement. However, a PROSOWO-II study on ‘Indigenous and Innovative Models of Social Work Practice in Uganda’ identified a

practice of traditional fostering by a group of women in war-torn Northern Uganda: the Laroo-Pece Women's Association (LAPEWA). This chapter offers a description of the LAPEWA traditional fostering model including its historical and cultural origin, philosophical underpinning, the child protection issues it addresses, its linkage to conventional social work models and theory, some case illustrations, its strengths, gender dimensions, challenges in its application, and the lessons it offers for modern social work practice, particularly the child care reform literature in Africa.

Challenges associated with the application of indigenous models of problem solving in the practice of social work in Tanzania

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Like in many other developing countries it has been confirmed that, since its inception, the social work profession in Tanzania has been dominated by theories, methodologies and models inherited from the developed world. This is evidently reflected in the training and practice interventions that characterize the profession. In teaching, materials and literature used are largely adopted from the West. Literature based on local realities and models as well as their applications is almost non-existent. The legacy and pedagogy of colonizers still shapes the profession. The study on which this article is based is part of efforts to bridge this gap. It presents distinctive indigenous problems solving approaches particularly applied in: solving marital and other conflicts, provision of care to widows, orphaned children and the elderly. The extent of application of these models as well as challenges that affect their implementation are explained. Concrete recommendations regarding advancement of the agenda of integration of indigenous approaches and models in social work practice and education are made. Amidst challenges faced, social work trainers and practitioners should continue to identify, document and lay contextually appropriate strategies to formally integrate the locally and culturally relevant models of problem solving into practice and training. The value and contribution of such models should never be underestimated. Social work trainees and practitioners with adequate and strong base of knowledge on the indigenous and local systems and approaches can make more effective intervention.

Going back to our roots: Indigenous and innovative social work practice models and approaches among the Abagusi and Abaluhya of Western Kenya

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Social work has its roots in western theories and discourses but these are not always compatible with cultural values of non-western people, especially those who have in the past been victims of Western imperialism. This study explores the indigenous social work models and their relevance among the Abagusi and Abaluhya of Western Kenya. Particularly it focuses on child protection. Additionally, it will establish the influence these models have had on the legal framework in the contemporary society. It will further argue that social work practice relevance now cannot detach itself from the rich African culture. This will be a systematic desktop review and also it will adopt a fact-finding approach to enrich findings that link theory to real narratives of current and previous practice among the communities in question. The target population will be purposively selected due to their rich culture and the abundance of these practices. Findings will be presented and a conclusion drawn. Recommendations will also be made guided by study findings. Areas of further research will also be identified on the same.

Indigenous dispute resolution in Kenya

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Action for Children in Conflict, through the Kenya Children Legal Aid Work (KCLAW) program, promotes and facilitates alternative dispute resolution (ADR) on issues of child & women rights and gender-based violence. Through the course of its work, the organization has recorded a constant increase in the number of cases of child neglect and gender-based violence. Despite the organization being adequately equipped to handle these cases through ADR mechanisms, most of the cases always find their way to court. This paper therefore examines the different ADR mechanisms, some indigenous and others innovative, that are employed by the organization; and that can be adopted by the community to help in the resolve of the problems. Some of the methods we employ are mediation, where complaints from clients are processed. Upon receipt of a complaint, the person complained of is invited for a meeting to agree on how they are going to

share parental responsibility. Of paramount importance in the process are the best interests of the child. Mediation assists children subject of the process to achieve and enjoy their rights. In addition, it saves time and costs for the parties and also maintains cordial relations between the parties. Through organization of clinics, awareness and outreach campaigns, locals are sensitized on issues touching on children and women rights as well as where to get help. Some of the avenues citizens are encouraged to exploit include discussion of matrimonial and children issues within the family by engaging parents and where this is not successful, to involve village elders and the chief/local administrative units, rather than rush to court. KCLAW also engages in training of community gatekeepers and resource persons who then disseminate information to their communities. These are entry points to the community and since they are ever on the ground, they offer a communication channel both to and from the community. In reconciliation, the parties, be it in a children matter or gender-based violence, are asked to make concessions. The end game is that the parties come together and make compromises therein restoring peace and harmony between themselves. Through our findings, we found that the failure to educate the community on the importance of the ADR mechanisms causes people to lack faith in them. On the other hand, where effectively employed, they yield better results and restore peace; hence, reducing animosity between members of the community.

Applying the capability approach on an urban family income generating activity (IGA)

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The capability approach is useful to assess if people lead a good and meaningful life, thus their general wellbeing. In family settings social workers often experience how their clients struggle to lead a 'good life' and face challenges such as poverty, poor health and mental concerns which severely affect their wellbeing. This is where the capability approach can be used to assess client systems, financially or otherwise, as it provides a holistic view of capabilities and wellbeing. Sen, the founder of the capability approach, identified certain elements, namely, functionings, capabilities, agency, and aspirations in order to determine the wellbeing of the people. The capability approach provides a valuable framework for social workers when assessing their client systems and could be utilized in various social work settings such as by NGO's

dealing with CBO's in improving household incomes through IGA's. Goal: The goal of the study was to explore how social workers working with families in SOS Children's Villages Zambia's "Family Strengthening Program" could apply the capability approach in engaging clients in the individual, small group and community based indigenous IGA program. Methodology: A qualitative study with an exploratory and participatory nature was undertaken. Purposive sampling was done and 30 program participants, 03 community-based organizations and 1 microfinancing organization took part in the study. Data was collected by means of a focused group interviews, participatory observation and structured interviews and were categorized into 4 themes namely, functioning, capabilities, agency, and aspirations. Ethical clearance was obtained for this study. Certain limitations of the study were also noted. Discussion of findings: The participants provided vignettes of their clients indicating the elements of the capability approach. The study researchers were able to indicate aspects in their clients' lives that were not conducive to their general growth of their IGA's, but could also provide suggestions where functioning of their clients IGA growth could improve. Conclusion: It was concluded that the capability approach could be used effectively in the provision of empowerment services as a way for social workers to assess the capacity of their clients to undertake an IGA venture. Future research into the utilisation of the capability approach on family capacity building could be done in order to determine various ways how social workers can apply this approach.

A model of paraprofessional social work in rural public education

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Rural public schools in Rwanda face the obstacles of overcrowded classrooms, insufficient instructional time, lack of school supplies, family trauma, and food insufficiency. Against these odds, children are expected to stay focused, comprehend and learn both Kinyarwanda and English, and pass complex national exams. The Rwanda Education Assistance Practices (REAP), a nationally registered NGO based in the Eastern District of Rwanda, has initiated a pilot school social work model based on training local leaders in the community as paraprofessional social workers. Research supports that social-emotional competencies such as emotional regulation, problem solving, conflict resolution and

decision making when enfolded into everyday life of a child, enliven learning, and equip students with the life skills to innovate and create opportunities amidst rural poverty. Along with parental involvement, the infusion of these skills increases academic success. We have been working closely with a large complex rural public school with over 3,400 children from nursery to S-6. We established an early intervention literacy program, targeted to children in grades P-1 through P-5 where children receive a half-day instruction. By feeding children during lunchtime, we can access the children's free time to build and strengthen the foundation of reading, reading, and speaking. Each parent, whose child is in the program, receives a monthly visit from the paraprofessional school social worker. These visits start with an assessment of the family's strengths, a social history, and an understanding of the ways literacy is already a part of the family's life. By going to family's home, we ensure parental recognition, and convey their importance in their child's learning. In our second phase, we are now collecting indigenous folktales and non-fiction stories, dually recorded in English and Kindayranda, to promote adult literacy, and demonstrate the social emotional skills that emerge through the use of literature. Additionally, the paraprofessional social worker promotes a classroom-learning environment where the norms of participation, question asking and risk taking foster curiosity and inquiry. This presentation will share the impact of our school social work model, illuminating through examples as well as data how the introduction of a paraprofessional social worker can affect the development of social emotional competencies as well as engagement of parents in their child's learning to enhance the resiliency of their child.

Mobile telephony in social work service delivery: A Kenyan perspective

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The mobile phone has become an inevitable device, which one must have to be in touch with the fast changing dynamics of our society in the 21st Century. Among the social work practitioners, the mobile phone has become an innovative intervention strategy for service delivery assisting them in performing their duties in the field and in their administrative roles. In Africa, mobile phones are evolving from simple communication tools into service delivery platforms, thus there is a paradigm shift of mobile phones as gadgets for reducing communication and coordination costs to those with potential of transforming

lives through innovative applications and services. The mobile phone has incidentally become a revolutionary device in Africa and more specifically in Kenya. It has undoubtedly transformed the mode of communication and livelihoods among individuals and is increasingly becoming a natural necessity for many people in Kenya. It was once considered a gadget for the high and middle class in society, but has now been adopted by the lower class in society. Social workers have become key users of the mobile phone and especially the mobile applications in their service delivery engagements at the community level. Thus, mobile applications have increasingly gained acceptance among the mobile users due to the various functionalities and user friendliness they possess. Several applications have been developed with services and products for specific target populations or users with the sole aim of easing and enhancing service delivery, communication and networking, and for socio-economic development initiatives; for example, mobile money (like M-Pesa) and M-health applications, among others. Therefore, the mobile application platform is an innovative strategy for social workers and clients at community level due to its user friendliness and efficiency. In Kenya, the mobile money platform has been used by both social workers and clients in sending or receiving money; hence, making it safer and reducing on long distances witnessed by many to deliver the money. It has also assisted social workers in settling small administrative expenses while in the field. Thus, the mobile phone has become a crucially important innovative technological platform transforming social work service delivery at community level and eased the work of social work practitioners in the field.

The emerging social work techniques in youth empowerment programs: A case study of youth empowerment organizations in Nairobi County

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Social workers working with the youth have realized that the traditional techniques have become ineffective and obsolete to meet the contemporary needs of the dynamic youth population. This has led to the development of new social work techniques that seek to achieve social transformation among the youth. These innovations, which are being implemented by youth empowerment organizations are important not only to the social workers

that utilize them and their clients but also for the upcoming professionals and institutions that provide services to the youth. The overall objective of this paper is to unravel the emerging innovative social work techniques applied by youth empowerment organizations that seek to achieve social transformation among the youth. This study is grounded on diffusion of innovation model and linear models of innovation. The study reviews different articles related to social work techniques, social work methods, social work intervention book, youth empowerment programs and social innovations, and existing local and international literature using different material from related fields to get rich information. The reviewed literatures revealed that there were new social work techniques that have emerged to address the needs of the contemporary and dynamic urban youth population. This innovations have neither been documented nor shared with other organizations and social work practitioners. Social workers also face challenges in developing new techniques and these contributes to poor outcomes with the concurrent diversity of social problems. This study recommends documentation of emerging social work interventions in youth empowerment and development programs, sharing of information and utilization on the new techniques and methodologies among social workers working with the youth. Social workers need to be trained on how to utilize social research to enhance their capacity in technique development, and organizing regular seminars and workshops where social workers can share and learn more about the new and emerging social work interventions.

The impact of traditional methods and case management in preventing teenage pregnancy in Tanzania

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Issues: The expulsion of pregnant students from primary and secondary school are not new practices in Tanzania, the practice has been going on for over 50 years. In Dar es Salaam region educators have decided to equip school girls with necessary tools to make informed decision about when and how to have sex. But the cases still increase since some school girls are raped or have forced sex while socializing; this resulted into early pregnancy at a tender age. There has been debate about whether or not teenage mothers should be allowed back to school. But this has brought a lot of debate, especially to educators that once they have been allowed back to school they would set a bad example to other students. It is a problem that social

workers need to take it into consideration as a means of helping these teenage girls complete their education or continue with their lives. Description: This presentation wants to highlight issues that the use of traditional methods can be the best methods in reducing the problem. Case management can be used to introduce the traditional methods at family levels. The community members can be involved as a remedial process in handling the problem. The two methods can be more effective if they are used concurrently and systematically. These techniques will allow the teenage girls to speak on their view on how to handle their life. Problems that have risen as results of teenage pregnancy will be sorted out at family levels through case management without condemning the government for not allowing the teenage girls to continue with their lives. Lessons Learned: The presentation has noticed that teenage girls' pregnancy has an opportunity for advancing their lives after delivery of their babies. The use of traditional techniques through case management has helped them to regulate their behavior where parents have been involved from their earliest stage of their life in school and life after pregnancy. Next Steps: The parents have to be involved in reducing the problem of teenage pregnancy at community level. Case management has to be included as a means of reducing the problem. The government should take steps forward in combating the problem in collaboration with the parents.

Catalysing the regional eradication of institutional care for children: Case study of Tororo/Makindye-Uganda pilot project

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Reliance on institutional care in Africa has grown rapidly in recent years, fuelled by child sponsorship-based fundraising and demand for volunteering. Poverty is consistently shown to be a key driver of the separation. However, decades of research demonstrated how institutional care harms children, families and communities creating an intergenerational cycle of poverty, exclusion, and long-term dependence. Family-based care has been proven to be more cost effective with far better outcomes for children and families. In view of that, Rwanda is on track to be the first African country to reform its child protection system from institutional to community and family-based care. How can the learning from Rwanda be transferred to catalyse the regional eradication of institutional care for children? The present paper aims at presenting a project piloted in Uganda by

Child's I Foundation (CiF) and Hope and Homes for Children (HHC) for that purpose. Uganda has the highest number of children in institutions in the region, with poverty being the main reason for separation. The key barrier to reform is a lack of community support mechanisms. The project will be delivered in two representative areas facing multiple challenges: Tororo and Makindye. The conditions for change are in place, including the policies that support reform and partnerships with all key agencies. It is expected that hundreds of institutionalized children will be transitioned into safe family environments where they will receive care and protection and benefit from significantly improved health, education and wellbeing outcomes. Also, the lives of thousands children and their families at risk of institutionalisation in targeted districts/sectors, including children with disability, will benefit from improved community-based services. Families will be supported to reduce their vulnerability, access services and gain relevant skills with regard to increasing their income and protecting all children. In addition, the capacity of government professionals and community paraprofessionals will be increased to strengthen families in responding adequately to poverty and ensure children are safe and protected. Learning from Rwandan experience, this project will demonstrate the positive impacts of family strengthening and protection as a high quality alternative to institutions and provide a model for district-wide reform that can be replicated across Uganda and the remaining Eastern African countries.

A five-step model to developing a sustainable family and community-based child protection system

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Millions of children are confined to orphanages around the world. As other forms of institutional care for children, they are associated with high levels of abuse, isolation, neglect, death and delayed physical, psychosocial and cognitive development. Most of those children are not orphans. Moreover, it has been proven that family-based alternatives can actually deliver much better outcomes for children and communities and are more cost effective. However, to safely and successfully close orphanages, support children into loving families and prevent family breakdown, a systemic approach is needed. The present paper aims at presenting and discussing a five-step model to deinstitutionalization developed by Hope and Homes for Children. The model has been developed based on

evidence from over 20 years of global expertise in the field of deinstitutionalization that resulted in closing more than 100 orphanages, developing quality family-based alternatives to residential care and supporting families to care for their children. The resulting model is as follows: (1) Engagement of all relevant stakeholders including children, families, institution staff, community members, professionals and paraprofessionals, policy makers, local authorities, government, civil and faith-based societies, and donors; (2) Assessments to map out existing and required support including requirements to develop/strengthen adequate child/family/community responses; (3) Design and develop sustainable family and community-based services and support systems by matching needs and circumstances and tackling the root causes of family breakdown; (4) Transition out of institutional care through adequate child/family/community preparations and retraining/re-deployment of resources in new services; (5) Monitoring and evaluation to ensure post-placement support and refine sustainable mechanisms to coordinate services. This model is innovative and an entry point to systemic change/reform of the broader child protection system, influencing other areas of the social protection element leading to family strengthening and community development. The model achieves comprehensive and long-term reform when a four-point theory of change is considered: (1) Working in partnership with governments and civil society organization (political will); (2) Developing a well-trained, well-supported professional child protection workforce (capacity to deliver); (3) Funding the transition, and (4) Showcasing evidences and know-how.

***Ubudehe* traditional approach: A social work analysis of homegrown solutions and poverty reduction in Rwanda**

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As part of efforts to reconstruct Rwanda and nurture a shared national identity after the 1994 genocide, the Government of Rwanda has drawn on aspects of Rwandan culture and traditional practices. On this basis, the cultural context was made a strong basis from which home-grown solutions to felt needs would emerge and one of them is *ubudehe* approach. Since the post-genocide time, these solutions were understood as culturally owned practices aimed to translate sustainable development programs into practice. In addition to contributing valuable inputs to Rwanda's reconstruction and development, home-grown

solutions came along with insightful approaches that successfully mobilize citizen participation towards their own development. Under the framework of PROSOWO II project, there was an opportunity to collect field data from different categories of informants through focus group discussions (FGDs) and interviews. The research focuses on indigenous and innovative models of social work practice. Initial findings establish that development programs in place are informed by cultural practices and are more or less similar to social work models of helping individuals, families, groups and communities and one of these models is *ubudehe* which played a significant role towards poverty reduction in post-genocide Rwanda.

Sharing circles: European approaches of conferencing in the context of indigenized social work

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Social work is internationally facing a paradigm shift, infused from bottom up and affected by approaches of social work of the South and traditions of conflict management or “healing” in indigenous communities. If we look at this process more closely, the image of circles appears in two ways. „Sharing circles“, i.e. circular problem solving approaches are part of indigenous cultures. They are the result of a perspective on the world which is not based on dichotomies but on eco-spiritual thinking, which focuses on the mutual dependency of individuals, community, and eco-social environments. Secondly, the process of the adaptation of approaches from the South can also be described as a circular movement. My thesis: This circle is closed because social work, an agent of colonisation and an export into the colonies and later the „Third World“, based on the idea of the superiority of Western/ Northern modernity is now starting to learn from the Global South and indigenous communities. This development will be depicted in approaches of conferencing. Since Family Group Conferencing, emerging from a Maori citizens’ rights movement, was imported in the late 1990’s from New Zealand to Europe, conferencing has made an amazing “career”. Rooted originally in youth care, youth protection and juvenile justice, it has been implemented in working with families of young ex-convicts, with relatives in need of care (chronically ill children, old people), with children who refuse to go to school, and in urban quarters (community conferencing). This development will be shown in the presentation not excluding critical questions. Is Northern social work really open enough for dealing with local and indigenous approaches at equal? Processes

of creolization or hybridisation are happening whether we want it or not. But being susceptible in terms of postcolonial perspectives, social work has to be careful neither to romanticise nor to misuse indigenous approaches. Cultural appropriation or exploitation – where it starts and where it ends would have to be discussed – is not the way to enrich Northern social work by just adorning ourselves with borrowed plumes without understanding and accepting the deeper context.

Building resilience through indigenous mechanisms: The case of *Bataka* groups in South-Western Uganda

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Difficult life circumstances in Sub-Saharan Africa such as poverty and deprivation, sickness and death can often lead to extreme challenges in behavioral adjustment and coping for individuals and families. Whilst there is increasing emphasis on strengths and resilience perspectives in global social work literature, little emphasis has been placed on indigenous ways of coping with adversity. Yet, a critical analysis of indigenous approaches could offer significant insights to the resilience literature in contemporary social work. To fill this research gap, we conducted an exploratory case study with key informants and members of *Bataka* groups (local burial associations primarily formed by community members to deal with death of a family member) in Rukungiri district, Western Uganda. In the context of this research, *Bataka* groups should be viewed as an indigenous social work practice model that harnesses mutual support among members in times of social adversity. Our findings show that *Bataka* groups are associated with numerous strengths and capacity to respond effectively to death among members and their relatives. Despite some limitations, *Bataka* groups were nevertheless applauded for turning death which is ordinarily a traumatic situation into a manageable human experience through mutual support that in turn enhances coping. Moreover, *Bataka* groups were steadily metamorphosing from the original deficit-focused descriptors which focused on death and support during bereavement, that is, *Bataka Kwezika* (literary translated *local people bury one another*) with strengths-focused descriptors such as *Bataka Twebiseho* (self-help for local people), *Bataka Twimukye* (local people rise up), and *Bataka Tukwatanise* (local people cooperate). Our results suggest important implications for strengths and resilience perspectives in social work practice.

Abstracts for sub-theme 8: Social work with special groups: children, youths, the elderly, victims of conflict, violence and human trafficking, minority groups, and others

Home care for the aged: Does it have a place in the African setting?

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Economic growth is hinged on several factors – one of which is the reduced stress on those who are adding productively to the advancement and achievement of the overall development. These are those who are at the prime of their productive years aged 15-54 years estimated at about 50.13% of the Nigerian population. These in this age range actively contributing to the society have dependents – the elderly (aged 55-65 years) who constitutes 7.08% of the population. The concern of this researcher in this study is the rising neglect of this age group due to the decline in the extended family structure. The aged, if not properly cared for, are susceptible to psycho-emotional disturbances that can ultimately put them in stressful situations and thereby impair their healthy living. This act of inaction can thus have a ripple effect on the economic growth and stability of their children. Thus, social work intervention in homes as it operates in developed countries can be a subtle solution to this emerging need in the society as more women are empowered to work outside the home. “In Nigeria we care for our own” is the slogan held by many and it is seen as “un-African” to put your elderly in a rehabilitation center or in a home to be cared for. Hence, the need to having a home support system where the social worker can provide support and psychosocial care to the dependent in his or her own home is the major thrust of this paper. Furthermore, the place of such intervention in the African culture and how it is perceived is discussed in this work.

Examining the nexus between the role of agency and policy in mitigating the holistic quagmires that child brides endure. A case of Maparadze communal lands, Chipinge, Zimbabwe

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The resilience approach which posits that humans are born with inherent reserves to face adversity informs this article which attempts to investigate the psycho-social and health challenges that affect child brides in Zimbabwe. Research findings highlight how rustic patriarchal systems and hegemony exacerbate the entrenchment and disenfranchisement of the child brides; poverty and inequality as a gag order and the absence of a formidable legal and policy framework further floors the perpetuation of this phenomenon with minimal abatement. The study utilized a qualitative approach and a case study was used as the research design. Semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions were utilized as means of gathering data. The paper recommends the development of programs that empower girls with information, life skills and support networks, educating and mobilising parents and community members, enhancing accessibility and quality of formal schooling, and fostering the presence and functioning of an enabling legal and policy framework.

Psychosocial effects of armed conflict on civilians and the role of social work: A personal account from a South Sudanese in Uganda

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South Sudanese have been in a liberation war for over 21 years since 1983 against the national government of Sudan. The second phase of civil war sparked off in December 2013 after the gaining of independence in 2011 between government forces and rebel forces led by Dr Riek Machar. These conflicts have resulted into abuse of humanitarian rights due to atrocities committed and the worst of it is that combatants have increasingly targeted civilians as a strategic objective. The brutal indoctrination of child soldiers has led into emotional and psychological scars; children witnessed massacres and atrocities which eventually led into trauma. Personally, I witnessed horrifying acts of violence during the civil war, unaccountable deaths along the streets and forests, destruction of property by gun fires and heavy artilleries, spending nights running with empty stomach to the point of starvation, sometimes women obliged to trade sexual favours for food, shelter or physical protection for themselves and their children, causing intense psychological trauma. This presentation will focus on my account of experiencing conflict in South Sudan and reflections on the role social workers can play in such situations. According to my perception on how conflicts have been both in South Sudan and Africa in general, the

abuse of humanitarian rights is something that cannot be underestimated by professional social work scholars. From strength and person-in-environment perspectives, something can be done to alleviate suffering of civilians caught up and/or running away from conflict situations and perhaps engage the stakeholders in peace keeping missions globally such as UNMISS, IGAD and other developmental partners in ensuring that peaceful negotiations spearhead resolutions rather than the usual armed forces. I would also suggest that professional social work is strengthened in those various affected countries through establishment of social work institutions to instil the values and principles of the profession to the population.

Pregnancy-related expulsion of schoolgirls in Tanzania: The role of local authorities and school social work in protecting schoolgirls in Ukerewe and Muleba Districts

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Introduction: In view of previous research studies conducted between 2010 and 2016, at least 8,000 Tanzanian girls drop-out of school every year due to pregnancy. Some wealthier families are able to send daughters who got pregnant to private schools once they are expelled from state schools, but the majority of girls affected do not return to education. However, based on 1961 law that allows state schools in Tanzania to ban young mothers from attending school, the cases of pregnancy among school girls have increased since then. In addition, the second law passed in 2002 allows for the expulsion of pregnant schoolgirls for “offences against morality and....wedlock”. Consequently, according to a 2013 report by the Centre for Reproductive Rights in Tanzania, over 55,000 pregnant Tanzanian schoolgirls have been expelled from schools in the past decade. In fact, for the rest of life, this trend of schoolgirls’ pregnancy remains an unfinished issue leaving a burden to the poor parents, the banished girls and their newborn children at the detriment situation. Therefore, what else can be done to rescue schoolgirls against all risk factors attributing to pregnancy? **Objective:** To assess the influential factors attributing to the increased rate of pregnancy among schoolgirls in primary schools specifically in Lake Victoria zone of Ukerewe and Muleba Districts. **Methodology:** The study is of qualitative design, employing a cross-sectional descriptive study which targeted girl students in primary schools and those expelled from studies due to pregnancies in the years 2012

to 2014. Other key informants were teachers in primary schools, education officers, social workers, councilors, police officers, NGOs representatives, planning officers, and medical practitioners. **Result:** There are wide range of risk factors affecting schoolgirls’ future and their welfare whilst in school. These influential factors include low socioeconomic status, lack of economic support due to changing family pattern of life, peer group pressure, absence of reproductive health education, and remoteness distance from home to school, mobile phones accessed by girls but risk to be allured by men. **Recommendation:** Restore the parents’ board in all primary schools to mobilize funds for girls’ hostels; establish school social work to help teachers and parents to educate their children of reproductive health issues.

The challenges affecting social interventions for the physically disabled people: The case of the center for re-adaptation of the disabled “Heri Kwetu” in Bukavu town, eastern DRC

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The Heri Kwetu Center was created in 1979 and in 2016 it has been supporting 103 disabled people for physical re-adaptation and professional training. In fact, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the rights of the disabled people are not respected. People living with disability are exploited, sexually abused and deprived of all forms of freedoms, and this particularly lead them to live within permanent frustration. Most of the disabled people develop disturbing traumas that impedes their effective social functioning; meanwhile the interventions addressing physical and mental disability in post-conflict DRC remain weak. This study was designed to investigate the challenges affecting the social interventions for the physically disabled people in Bukavu town. Using the case study of the Center for re-adaptation of the physically disabled people “Heri Kwetu” in Bukavu, the study employed both qualitative and quantitative methods in the research design and data analysis. It employed the techniques of individual interviews, participant observation and documentation as key data collection techniques. The main results of the study indicated that 46% of the participants appreciated the medical assistance received from the Center against 36.6% who declared that the medical care they had received from the Center was not effective for healing their injuries. Likewise, 60% participants appreciated the education services in addition to the other services they had received from the Center. In

the social intervention sector, only 30% respondents appreciated the overall social interventions they had received from the center whilst 60% of the respondents reported that the social assistants at the Center play a critical role in helping them psychosocially. Finally, it was equally reported by many respondents and staffs of the Center that limited manpower and resource constraints are amongst the critical challenges affecting the social interventions of the Center in taking care of the physically disabled people in Bukavu town.

**Psychosocial assistance in a post-conflict setting:
The case of Eastern DRC**

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The recurrent civil wars and armed conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) brought with them significant psychosocial needs among the affected individuals, families, and communities. The armed conflict-related turmoil also produced gross human rights violations including murder, chopping off body organs, extreme forms of torture and sexual assault of women and children, torching houses and whole villages, lootings, devastation of livestock, and denial of access to basic social services such as education, healthcare, justice, social protection, and shelter. Despite the particularly complex and highly prevalent psychosocial problems, no professional social work manpower existed in the DRC. Clinical psychologists were also scarce and both the social work as well as the psychological assistance fields are alternatively supplemented by non-specialists. In extremely challenging conditions, some civil society organizations and non-governmental structures recruited alternative workers whom they trained in basic case management strategies and employed them as social assistants. Alternatively, generalist psychologists were also recruited in the place of clinical psychologist to supplement the prevailing deficiency in psychosocial assistance manpower. Despite the lack of advanced theoretical and epistemological background in clinical social work, these psychosocial assistants are playing an important role in promoting the recovery and welfare of the war-affected population all over the country. The notion of “Psychosocial Assistant” in Eastern DRC is thus an innovation systematized by non-governmental and some governmental structures to supplement the prevailing shortage of professional social workers and addressing the complex post-conflict aftermaths. This

notion of “Psychosocial Assistant” is not worthily described in the scholarly literature. This study examined the “Psychosocial Assistant” function in post-conflict Eastern DRC. It describes the concept, the profile, the function and the role played by the psychosocial assistants in post-conflict Eastern DRC. The study used an exploratory research design. It employed qualitative methods data collection and resulted from primary and secondary data. In the data collection process, the study used the techniques of in-depth individual interviews, observation, and focus group discussions. The secondary data was also obtained through a systematic review of the existing literature on the phenomenon under study.

Predictors of loneliness among older residents of low-income housing

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Among older adults the experience of loneliness can negatively influence physical health, mental health, and psychosocial functioning. Although considerable literature provides a foundation for understanding loneliness among diverse older population groups, limited work has focused on loneliness among older adults living in independent low-income housing. As part of a larger study examining health and social outcomes among residents of one such setting in a large American city, predictive relationships were assessed between loneliness and four variables hypothesized to influence loneliness: spirituality, social functioning, health-related quality of life, and sense of community membership. Loneliness was measured via the UCLA Loneliness Scale (Russell, 1996); spirituality was measured via the Intrinsic Spirituality Scale (Hodge, 2003); social functioning via the Rand 36-Item Health Survey (SF-36, Rand, 1994); health related quality of life via the Quality of Life Index (Ferrans & Powers, 1996); and community membership via the Sense of Community Index II (Chavis, Lee & Acosta, 2008). The combined survey instrument was administered via individual interviews with 40 out of 279 tenants who expressed an interest in participating in the study. The sample was 40% female and 57.5% Caucasian, with “multi-racial” the largest group of color (20%). The majority had graduated from high school and completed some college; 15% were veterans of the United States military. Participant ages ranged from 50 to 73. Given the high rates of chronic illness, physical disability, and history of homelessness among tenants, age 50 was selected as the cut-off age for “older adult” given the early effects of aging among such vulnerable individuals.

Findings reveal high levels of loneliness with 82.4% of the sample reporting frequent to severe loneliness. Multiple linear regression results indicate that the four independent variables predict 41.5% of the variance in loneliness ($f = 7.905$; $p < .001$), with spirituality ($\beta = -.270$; $p < .05$), social functioning ($\beta = .527$; $p < .01$), and sense of community membership ($\beta = .258$; $p < .05$) representing the primary predictors. Health-related quality of life did not play an independent role in predicting loneliness ($\beta = .008$; $p = .962$). Interestingly, a stronger sense of community membership was associated with greater loneliness. Findings suggest that loneliness reduction interventions focused on expanding social network connections and community integration might achieve greater leverage if low-income housing residents are also supported in using spiritual values as a strength and in building social skills.

Ritualistic child sexual abuse in post-conflict Eastern DRC

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Introduction: Ritualistic child sexual abuse is a critical and under-recognized form of child maltreatment prevailing in developing countries. In post-conflict Eastern DRC, children suffer complex forms of ritual-based sexual assault perpetrated with extreme brutality by various individuals and groups. Although DRC has achieved significant milestones towards combatting war-related sexual abuse of women and children, disturbing forms of ritualistic sexual abuse targeting children from specific communities resurge and affect so many victims. This study examines the factors associated with the resurgence of ritualistic child sexual abuse and the implications of such forms of abuse for social work practice and education in a post-war context.

Methods: An exploratory research design was used and grounded theory was the main tradition behind the study. The unit of analysis for the study was a household where at least a case of ritualistic sexual abuse of a child was reported. In each selected household the head of the family and the child survivor of the assault were interviewed. Thus semi-structured interviews were conducted with a purposely selected sample of 41 participants, among which 22 primary respondents (household level participants) and 19 key informants. Besides, 3 FGDs were conducted in all territories with heterogeneous categories of participants. Data collection was conducted

in Kavumu, Kalagane, Mukungwe, and Bukavu in South-Kivu province. Results: Forms of ritualistic sexual abuse included incest, pedophilia, sexual exploitation, child marriage, and child abduction associated with extreme sexual brutality. The abuse was basically sexual and targeted children from any age between 6 months and 12 years. Ritualistic sexual assault of children was based on 3 main determinants: Socioeconomic determinants were all about child poverty, poor parenting, poor housing, and unemployment. Political instability-related factors involved IDPs, community militarization, civilian adoption of rape, and weak CP mechanisms. The mystical factors involved superstitions such as: healing HIV/Aids and other STIs, blood adduction, economic power, and invulnerability to shooting on the battles. Conclusions: In a context of ample impunity and poor empirical data, speculation persisted and sexual abuse of children was far from being curbed.

Professional care for the elderly at Nyamuhinga health centre in Bukavu town, eastern DRC

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Over the last decades, the social security system in the Democratic Republic of Congo has not allowed the elderly to achieve balanced quality of life. As a result, this category of people faces critical vulnerability that affects both their physical and mental health. The study aimed at examining the determinants of the elderly's vulnerability as well as the contribution of the Nyamuhinga health centre in addressing such vulnerability. The study also suggested alternatives for an efficient social intervention for the elderly. Both qualitative and quantitative methods were employed in data collection and analysis. The study concerned 30 thoroughly selected human subjects. Through a supporting program funded by the NGO Louvain Cooperation to Development, the Nyamuhinga health centre supports 388 elders. Despite this, the results of the study indicated that 57% of the respondents still rely on the support from their families, with increased risks of deception, given the poor socioeconomic conditions in the country. Many of the elderly participants in the study live in particularly disturbing conditions and lack access to basic assets and services such as housing, healthcare, diet, clothing, etc. As a result, the elders are stigmatized, abusively branded "witches" and are often regarded as being "frightening" in their home communities. The strategies of care for the elderly at the Nyamuhinga health zone mainly include primary healthcare, diet, and income

generating activities. However, these social help mechanisms are limited and it is necessary to reform both the methods and means of social interventions by launching comprehensible services for the elderly.

Experiential evidences of health social work in addressing domestic violence in Singida region, Tanzania

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Domestic violence, torture and silent enslavement affect women and children in Tanzania as it is obvious and alike around the world. Normally most of these terrible incidents are committed behind closed doors where the power and control to exercise such brutality by intimate perpetrators to the victims take place in secrecy and compounds which are thought to be safe and of course homes to both parties. The work study aims at sharing experience and informing the situations and incidents taking place in Singida, central region of Tanzania with details of practical experience from the social welfare office of Singida districts and regional hospitals. It is an operational study and case reviews carried in 3 key hospitals dealt by social workers in collaboration with police gender desks which together form protective teams to address GBV and VAC related issues. It is a demonstration of functional system set by law and implemented by different players as unified team. The success and team work in Singida is among best practices that need to be scaled up all over the country. The work is also a justification of best GBV and VAC catchment areas in addressing human threat and in justice to the voiceless and a manifestation which reveal and represent potential cruelty unnoticed within homes. The cooperation between hospital social welfare offices and the regional police gender desk sustains potential evidence to inform necessary social work interventions in undoing domestic violence fate. Through desk review on reports and records, the work discusses the invisible costs of illiteracy and harmful culture and traditions of silence on trending number of events through treatment records, social workers' interviews, and case analysis. The documented sample of process records at social welfare offices in hospitals under study between 2016 and 2017 propose further intervention to social work community and to the society at large to rescue women and children. This in turn sets a need for an immediate intervention such as setting up special shelters and safe homes or programs for women and children victims of domestic abuse. Such proposals

are considered as ways to end or reduce the related trauma affecting the victims but also as ways to promote family peace and social justice.

Applying social work principles and practices in partnership building in a reintegration from residential care project in Uganda

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The last 30 years have seen a proliferation in the establishment of Residential Care Facilities (RCFs – a.k.a. Residential Care Institutions, Child Care Institutions, orphanages, etc.) in Uganda, with an estimated 50,000 children currently living in institutional care. Despite the prioritization of family-based care in the national legal framework, few RCFs in Uganda have managed to fully incorporate the reintegration components outlined in the Alternative Care Framework (2012) into their programming. In support of the national transition toward family-based care, USAID-funded “Keeping Children in Healthy and Protective Families” (KCHPF) was initiated in November 2016. Within the project, a team of 35 social workers under Child’s i Foundation (a Ugandan organisation who transitioned its own RCF to community-based foster care, and now supports others to do the same) work in partnership with RCFs across 7 districts in Central Uganda, to provide case management for children to return to family care. Within the first year of implementation, a strong focus was given to partnership building with RCFs, alongside key national and local government stakeholders. In a context where the operationalisation of the national legal framework is still in its infancy, the project captured extensive learnings throughout the partnership building process, finding in particular, that the quality of partnerships between the project and RCFs, can often constitute an important determinant in the quality of case management which is ultimately able to be conducted. As such, partnership building approaches were adapted to incorporate social work principles and practices, for example, respecting and working with the uniqueness of each client (organisation), a focus on the centrality of human relationships, allowing adequate time to build trust and rapport, starting where the client (organisation) is in the sensitization of the impact of institutional care and relevant national legal framework, non-judgemental attitudes to different understandings of appropriate care options for children and best practices in family support, strengths-based language, etc. Ultimately, incorporating social work principles and practices into partnership building contributed to securing partnerships with 33

Residential Care Facilities. Future reintegration from residential care projects could similarly benefit from conceptualising institutions as clients, and applying social work principles and practices in partnership building, to enhance their reach to the broadest possible cohort of children who could benefit from family-based care.

Empowering people living with HIV/Aids in associations: Strategy for poverty-alleviation and wellness promotion in Huye district, Rwanda

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People living with HIV/Aids (PLWHA) are among persons who have been often discriminated, isolated, and disempowered. The literature shows that in the absence of a dedicated cadre of helping professionals, they feel helpless, discouraged, and powerless. In consequence, they remain incapable of performing adequately required duties for their survival. Such a situation has been prevailing in the aftermath of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in different parts of Rwanda. However, there is conviction that once in associations voluntarily set up, the members get various opportunities and are empowered in a sense they can cope with their socio-economic problems and promote wellness in their respective families. This paper analyses how empowerment of PLWHA gathered in associations in Huye district-Rwanda is amongst the key poverty alleviation and wellness promotion strategies and discusses the main challenges to effective success. Methodologically, a mixture of methods was used and the concurrent triangulation design was concretely referred to. The researcher has drawn on preliminary findings from his on-going PhD research. Extensive literature review supplemented by a series of focused group activities with leaders of 13 local PLWHA targeted associations, interviews with a number of key informants as well as a survey with associations' members were used as key data collection techniques. Despite the slight improvement in their socio-economic conditions, the associations' members – mostly women from poverty-stricken families – are faced with psychosocial problems such as low level of morale and lack of persistent resilience that limit them to fulfil the requisite material needs. However, PLWHA recognise firmly that their associations are real amplifiers of individual potentialities. Findings show that there is need of promoting caring relationships and building on PLWHA's strengths. Finally, social workers are referred to as key catalysts who should assist particularly PLWHA in Huye so that they can combat poverty and participate in the community with dignity. They are particularly

considered as professionals who have been providing indirect uplifting services to meet the needs of vulnerable persons by contributing to the creation of protective environments. The current research provides opportunities to develop a model of communitarian social work intervention in Rwanda and serves as a basis to synthesise local knowledge with existing understandings of international social work.

“Omwaavu Tasobola Sirimu”: A case for integration of economic empowerment as a basic component of free antiretroviral therapy in resource-limited settings

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Expanded access to antiretroviral therapy (ART) has commuted HIV from a terminal to a manageable chronic illness. However, optimizing the benefits of the treatment necessitates sustained adherence to medicines and other requirements of the ART regime for the patients' life time. This article considers the financial burden ART imposes on its beneficiaries in a resource limited setting. It draws on data from an ethnographic study of 50 people living with HIV (PLHIV) enrolled on two ART programs in Mukono, Central Uganda. One of the treatment sites was a public health facility whilst the other was a mission facility. Fifteen of the respondents were followed up for a period of six months. Data was mainly collected through in-depth interviews and participant observation. We found that structural and health system related constraints such as stigma, stock-outs and food insecurity make it difficult for PLHIV on free ART in a resource-limited setting to adhere to its requirements without money. It is argued that economic empowerment should be integrated as a basic component of free ART programs in resource-limited settings for optimal outcomes.

Utilization of occupational therapeutic techniques in psychosocial interventions to substance abusers and in rehabilitation programs of Dar es Salaam sober houses

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Recovery from substance abuse and addiction requires a careful planned and complex intervention based on holistic or interdisciplinary collaborative approaches.

These include non-medical psychosocial interventions which are highly used by clinical and psychiatric social workers available in health facilities or private practice. The successful substance abuse and addiction recovery hence are dependent on combined knowledge and skill-set drawn from client-centered approaches weaved with interdisciplinary helping care and support models. In Tanzania, mental health treatment and related services beyond substance abuse rehabilitations are offered free of charge as proclaimed by Tanzania National Mental Health Policy (2017) and highly limited to government health facilities which also experience shortage of required specialists as proposed by and according to WHO standards. As a result, the services are graded accordingly and mostly offered in specified health facilities which also are mostly overloaded by substance abuse addicts and related cases. The situation has ultimately led to rely on sober houses which are mostly run by private individual compassionate volunteers without specific and required training but only with minimum exposure or personal experience. The national standard operating procedures or statutory guidelines are yet in place to regulate the playground which prompts to do as one can. This presentation is based on review of services available in famous sober houses, the programs and their efficiencies as rehabilitation support to clients against general expected professional conduct and outcomes. The study methodology used is deployment of volunteers with basic social work knowledge as program visitors in the target houses which serves as participant observers and assessors. The results are compared with available literature on standard conducts to weigh the magnitude and service impacts. The findings conclusively lead to strongly propose that, it is only and through proper qualified professional engagement and utilization of skilled clinical and psychiatry social workers that recovery and rehabilitation programs and interventions to substance abusers and drug addicts in Dar es Salaam and Tanzania at large will excel and the expected results and success will be attained.

Effects of jigger infestation among school going children and community responses towards their health care needs in Uganda: A Case of Kamuli District

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Health care is very essential in the lives of people to ensure effective functioning in society. The human right to health means that everyone has the right to the highest attainable

standard of physical and mental health, which includes access to all medical services, sanitation, adequate food, decent housing, healthy working conditions, and a clean environment. Despite the constitutional rights of enjoying equal rights and having access to health services, many children in Uganda remain subjected to many diseases including jigger infestation. According to the Uganda Second National Health Policy (2011), malaria, malnutrition, respiratory tract infections, HIV/AIDs, tuberculosis, prenatal and neonatal conditions remain the leading causes of child morbidity and mortality in Uganda. For instance, 70% of overall child mortality is due to malaria (32%), prenatal and neonatal conditions (18%), meningitis (10%) pneumonia (8%), HIV and AIDS (5.6%), and malnutrition (4.6%). Children are also at risk of parasitic skin infections such as tungiasis. The study attempts to explore the effects of jigger infestation among school going children and community responses towards their health care needs in Kamuli district, Uganda. This study used both quantitative and qualitative approaches to obtain data. A descriptive survey research design was utilized to descriptive assertions about the experiences of children with jiggers including their health status, performance, attendance participation in school activities. Qualitative methods of data collection included focus group discussions with children infested by jiggers and key informant interviews. The study major findings were that jigger infestation greatly affects school attendance of children, performance and their participation in indoor and outdoor activities compared to children who are not infested by jiggers. Due to jigger infestation, children cannot attend school on a daily basis. Consequently, their absence from school affects their performance. Furthermore, the affected children cannot effectively participate in indoor activities such as jumping, dancing and clapping and outdoor activities including physical education (P.E). Furthermore, the study findings reveal that the community has been involved in responding to the health needs of school going children infested by jiggers but this has been done to a lesser extent. The study recommends that the School Administrators should liaise with other stakeholders such as Health Officials and Education Officials to seek for strategies of curing those infested, carry out routine checkups on children and sensitize communities on the causes, dangers and preventive measures of the jigger parasite in order to help all children realize their full educational potential in life.

**Social intervention for street children in Bukavu:
Case of the “Programme d’Encadrement des enfants
de la rue”, PEDER/Bukavu**

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Children in post-conflict eastern DRC face extremely challenging situations that affect their socioeconomic well-being. Although different humanitarian organizations are in place to enhance the life conditions of the affected children, many children go back on the street after they have been beneficiaries of the programs. Using the case study of the “*Programme d’Encadrement des enfants de la rue*”, PEDER in Bukavu, this study is designed to examine the following research questions: What are the strategies implemented by PEDER for the social reintegration of street children in Bukavu? What are the outcomes achieved by the Organization throughout social integration? The study was qualitative and employed individual interviews, observation, and documentation. The study employed a sample of 3 social assistants, 30 children reinserted in their home communities, and 20 children still supported by the center for data triangulation. The results of the study indicated that PEDER has implemented 4 major strategies of social interventions, including the identification and reinsertion of street children in their home families, alternative education (writing and reading skills), formal education, and professional training. Besides, 90% of the children beneficiaries of the programs reported that the social assistants often involve them in the social reinsertion process. However, the organization has not achieved significant reintegration-related outcomes, as 87% of the interviewed children reported that in case they had been socioeconomically supported, they would have been more accepted in their home communities than they are now. Similarly, the interviewed social assistants highlighted different constraints that entrenched the program activities, including the lack of an analytical approach in designing the interventions. Most of the children, beneficiaries of the program (around 93% of the reinserted children) did not also receive any reinsertion kits from the program and only 30% of the reinserted children reported that they are able to save some money by the end of the month. With regards to the above results, the study proposed the implementation of a monitoring and evaluation framework as soon as the kits of reinsertion are delivered to the program beneficiaries and after they have received some professional training from the program.

**“Men sell food rations but expect us to provide food
at home”: Gender and power dynamics as a driver of
violence against women among South Sudanese
refugees in Uganda**

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Uganda is host to an estimated 1.3 million South Sudan refugees currently staying in the several refugee settlements in west Nile and northern parts of the country. The emergency nature of interventions in several refugee settlements makes it difficult to understand the gender and power dynamics and their influence on violence against women. Between June and July 2017, we conducted an exploratory study in the refugee settlements of Bidibidi in Yumbe district and Rhino Camp in Arua district. We conducted 22 interviews with district probation and social welfare officers, district gender officers, refugee welfare councils, community leaders in the host communities, child protection committees, technical officers in humanitarian agencies, and caregivers in the refugee settlements. In addition, 8 focus group discussions were conducted with refugee women and men, child protection committees, and youth (male and female) in the 2 refugee settlements. Results show that the various forms of violence against women are a result of the ubiquitous power and gender relations that constitute a critical refugee dynamic. Various spaces are controlled by men who use their power to influence decisions about household food rations, access to and utilisation of WASH services including water collection, and decisions on marriage for girls. Men use their power, position and influence to sell food rations that households depend on; but expect their wives to provide food as a traditional role of women. Women disproportionately ensure that homes have enough water even if it means collecting it in the harshest of circumstances. Water collection is considered unmanly and men who collect water are considered *weak*. Yet, women often get sexually abused by men during water collection processes. Men also arrange for the marriage of their daughters, usually because of their desire to control household resources. The male patriarchy system is played out in different situations in the refugee settlements that encapsulates the whole regime of entrenched gender norms. The entrenched gender norms also mean that women and men have different levels of stressors in a refugee settlement where the conditions of living are themselves disempowering. Despite the gender and power dynamics that play out in different situations in

the refugee settlements, social workers are either unavailable or unprepared to address these critical issues. Rather than muddle through, humanitarian agencies must pay attention to questions of power and gender dynamics if interventions are to be meaningful to girls and women in refugee settlements. Social workers must be equipped to interrogate these issues.

Separating children in company of their imprisoned mothers in Uganda: Perspectives of prison staff

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Children in company of their mothers represent a defenseless group. Evidence shows that their separation presents a complex challenge. Dilemmas reflected in debates for and against their stay in prison make it clear. However, the debates pay little attention, if any, to perspectives of prison staff regarding the separation process and decision. To explore the gap, this paper utilizes mental models and theories of role and group identity as interpretative lenses towards the views of prison staff about separating children in company of their mothers in two prisons in central Uganda. Data was collected using seven in-depth interviews with prison staff. Braun and Clarke's (2006) six steps of thematic analysis supported analysis. Findings revealed four major themes: pursuit of the law, extra workloads, protection of the children from abuse, and concerns about children's general wellbeing. Overall, themes reveal several inadequacies in the prison environment and gaps in the separation process. As debates on separation and the place for prisons in the lives of children accompanying their mothers continue, concern raised should help us to reconcile with the reality and pay attention. Addressing the manifest and salient gaps in the prison environment and the separation process can yield benefits for the child and the community at large.

Social work with refugee children in Uganda: Life stressors and mental health illnesses

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In Africa, no country has taken in more refugees than Uganda in the last one year. Kampala alone has more than

1,000 child refugees from South Sudan. According to UNICEF, the refugee crisis in Uganda has become a children crisis. Situation in numbers: 519,572 refugee children (<18 years) and 770,339 refugee children and women from South Sudan, respectively, as of April 2017). These children are mostly between the ages of 4-17 years. These child refugees experience various life stressors that undermine their psychological wellbeing. These stressors are classified in three ways: while in their country of origin; during their flight to the country of refuge for safety, and when having to settle in the country of refuge. The psychological morbidity among refugee children includes post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and anxiety disorder among others. These are manifested by rampant incidences of malnutrition, poor social networking, isolation, low esteem among others. The psychological wellbeing of the refugee children has not given priority as compared to other needs of these children. This has greatly undermined their general wellbeing and functioning; hence, calling for social work intervention. This study examines the different types of stressors and mental health illnesses refugee children face, how they emasculate the general development and functioning, and counsels on how social work can intervene with new notions that can help combat this challenges.

Migration and emerging adulthood – social work with young refugees in Germany

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Migration and integration of refugees are big challenges of contemporary German society. The social work sector in Germany working with refugees has become a highly important field of the profession, especially since 2015 when close to a million people – most of them without identification papers – have come to Germany to seek asylum. Unlike other countries that have constantly received large numbers of refugees since many years such as Uganda, the situation is relatively new to German society. Especially for the youth welfare sector the situation has become a big challenge. In the last two years, tens of thousands of unaccompanied minors have been placed in residential care settings of social agencies where they live until they turn 18 years old. After becoming an adult under German law, young care leavers in Germany have the right to apply for social pedagogical support up to the age of 21, according to the German Children and Youth Law. Due to the sharp increase of total numbers of young care leavers and certain professional regulations,

this field of social work is currently highly relevant for the profession and many social workers and social pedagogues are currently working in this sector to deliver youth care services for this population. The presentation will focus on this field and introduce to the international audience important social work concepts and methods, which characterize the work with refugees in emerging adulthood while leaving the youth care system. To contextualize these approaches, the presentation will also seek to explain contemporary German discourses around the legal and political transformations of this sector as well as the postcolonial implication of the situation.

Addressing challenges faced by children with disability: A case study of Ikangavya Location, Makueni County, Kenya

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According to the United Nations, there are about 650 million people worldwide living with a disability. The WHO states, “80 percent of individuals living with disabilities live in developing countries.” Persons with disabilities in developing countries are often marginalized and face difficulties because of their disability. Most have limited or no access to medical services, education, and employment. In addition, persons with disabilities often experience social, cultural and economic prejudice and discrimination which consequently prevents them from obtaining a better quality of life (Grut, 2007). Today in Kenya, it is estimated that approximately 3 million people have some form of a disability. Even though the Kenyan government has created laws and policies to address disability problems, only a small amount of disabled persons throughout the country have received services. Individuals with disabilities in rural areas suffer the most. This qualitative study investigates the challenges persons with disabilities face in Ikangavya, Nzau, a small rural district located in Makueni County on the lower Eastern of Kenya. Through interviews with disabled persons, their family members, community members, health professionals, and government officials, we were able to understand the challenges people with disabilities face in a rural environment. The qualitative methods used in this study were in-depth interviews, focus group discussions and key informant interviews. These qualitative methods provided valuable insight on the challenges faced by persons with disability in Ikangavya, Kenya. During this study, we were exposed to 7 different types of disabilities. Out of the 29 interviews we conducted, 20 individuals had physical disabilities, 9 individuals had mental disabilities,

5 individuals had speech disabilities, one individual had visual disability, one individual displayed albinism, and one individual had neurological disability. 7 out of the 29 disabled persons interviewed had multiple disabilities, 2 of which displayed 3 separate disabilities. The study recommended that, profiling of disability cases needs to be done in the community, coupled with sensitization and awareness creation. Community health workers need special in-depth disability training and special education programs.

The place of social work with child victims of disasters: What next after it happens? A case of Mji Mpya Mabwepande, Dar es Salaam

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When disasters strike, partners and professionals from both public and private entities work together in providing necessities to the victims (food, shelter and medcare). The effort is done in order to at least address their physical requirements. After material needs have been covered to a certain degree “almost everyone goes home” leaving behind the victims who are not prepared to face life “after the after” of the disaster. They may have food but not know what to do to continue having food, have building materials but not know how to sustain those houses, have schools but not know how to cater for other school-related needs for children. Generally, they have been removed from their being normal to a state where they feel doomed. This article is born of the interest to know what social workers do as part provision of psychosocial services to children and their families who have been directly affected by disasters. Findings have been drawn from Mabwepande in Dar es Salaam. In gathering data, qualitative methods of data collection were employed; interviews, focus group discussions and review of related documents. Psychosocial services go beyond provision of material, they are meant to boost the victims’ resilience so as to address their own challenging situation head on. In situations where such services are inadequate, one should expect that the victims’ lives will take another form of vulnerability, affecting the families and consequently the children as will be shared in the presentation. Generally, little has been done with regards to provision of psychosocial services. On that account, families continue to be affected socially and economically. Children as members are impacted and this is observed by their underperformance in various aspects of their lives. The presentation will also briefly highlight on several challenges that were shared by service providers directly

working in the area. Challenges which the researcher believes, if taken care of, will improve the quality of services provided to victims of disasters.

Perpetrators against child rights violation must be held responsible for crimes committed in the South Sudan conflict

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The conflict in South Sudan has aggravated suffering in the lives of South Sudanese citizens with grave violation inflicted on children boys and girls. Children throughout South Sudan's subsequent conflict and the most recent of December 2013 and July 2015, a number of children were killed, recruited into armed forces or groups, sexually abused, abducted, and denied access to education. The socio-political context in South Sudan has placed the government not to even commit to international laws and the government has placed a high priority on maintaining security with little attention to civilian protection and social service provision. In the 2013/15 conflict an estimated huge number of children were recruited into the armed forces or groups in many parts of the country. To address the issue of children being recruited into South Sudan armed forces or groups, a number of engagement through meetings/advocacy between UN/NGOs and the government/rebel groups at different levels have been conducted, leading to signing of an action plan to enable armed forces/groups to release Children Associated in the Arm Forces and Arm Groups (CAAFAG), advocacy with senior armed force/group commanders on the prevention and re-recruitment of children into army forces, advocacy for the release of all children within the armed forces, advocacy with government and partners UN/NGOs to design programs for children who are released or will be released, conduct programs on family tracing and reunification for release children with their families, and develop a plan of action for parties recruiting children to sign and monitor their commitment. I expect this paper to encourage social workers to advocate and continue to lobby for financial support towards programs aims at responding to reintegration of child soldiers into their communities to ease them access to health, education services, and community social networks on life skills building. Reports and press releases by United Nation Children Fund (UNICEF) in its South Sudan program show that the number of children released are receiving reintegration programs implemented by its partners; these programs are aimed at supporting the psychosocial aspect of the children as many of them are traumatized by what

they witnessed or participated in committing atrocities. The organizations' concern for children in South Sudan need to continue to advocate with armed forces/groups to respect international laws and abiding by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights of the Child and stop use of children.

An exploration on social work interventions used on child-headed households in Hogsburg area, Eastern Cape Province

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This study aimed at examining the effectiveness of social work interventions into the lives of child-headed households in Hogsburg area. Child-headed households are households headed by children below the age of 16. The work was guided by two theoretical frameworks: resilience and sustainable livelihoods approach. A qualitative research method was used to gather data from the participants using purposive sampling method. In-depth interviews and focus group discussions were used to examine the relevance of social work interventions into the lives of child-headed households and how effective were these interventions to these households. Data were gathered from child-headed households, community members, and social workers. This paper used 30 participants and data was collected through semi-structured interviews. The participants were 15 children between the age of 10-16 years, 10 community members and 5 social workers. An analysis of the in-depth interviews and focus group discussions showed that child-headed households in Hogsburg area face various challenges including social, economic, psychological, and mental problems which affects their livelihoods. The findings of the study showed that social work interventions were very important to child-headed households as they bring positive change to the lives of the children. It was concluded that social work interventions has great impact on the livelihoods of child-headed households.

Sociocultural dimensions of child maltreatment in Uganda

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Objectives: To broaden our understanding of sociocultural dimensions of child maltreatment among cultures in

Uganda that are under-represented in child maltreatment work. Methods: A synthesis of scientific evidence from studies locally generated through collaborative efforts between international and national experts, scholars, and practitioners. This systematic review of studies conducted by Ugandans resulted into actionable evidence through the book: *Child Abuse and Neglect in Uganda* edited by David Kaawa-Mafigiri and Eddy Walakira, both of Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. The book is part of the series *Child Maltreatment: Contemporary Issues in Research and Policy* (Springer). The series is co-edited by Jill Korbin (Case Western Reserve University) and Richard Krugman (University of Colorado School of Medicine). Results: There is wide scale violence against and infringement of the rights of children, especially during war and among street children. Cultural practices and norms, particularly in low resource contexts impact child wellbeing including among children in homes. Existing conventional approaches to child protection appear not to adequately address child maltreatment in Uganda because of limited 'localized' evidence to influence policy and practice. Conclusions: Protecting our children requires 'localized' understanding of child maltreatment and neglect; yet, the lack of evidence to influence policy and practice not only limits but also threatens to unhinge tremendous progress in child protection services achieved over the past decades in low resource settings like Uganda. Governments and other actors responsible for child wellbeing require distinct evidence of child maltreatment and neglect from cultures that are under-represented in child maltreatment work especially in the following areas: culture and child maltreatment from within a nation in the developing world; approaches to child maltreatment focusing on how child maltreatment is managed in low resource settings; and threats to that well-being including war, child marriage, violence against and infringement of the rights of street children.

Intra-household decision-making dynamics in the use of social grants: Case study of Tyutyu village, EC Province, South Africa

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Introduction/background: Social welfare grants have been set up to be a useful governmental intervention strategy in the alleviation of poverty among South African citizens (Johannsmeier, 2007). Decision making in the household where the beneficiaries come from has a crucial role to play if the intended outcome of those grants is to be

achieved. To this end, the principle behind this survey is that, besides the government handing out social assistance to an increased number of beneficiaries, there is an increment in the number of allegations of families misusing grant money because of poor decision making. Hence, the decision making dynamics in the household need to be understood and redefined if the social welfare grants are to serve their function. Aims/Objectives: This paper investigates the intra household decision making dynamics in the usage of social grants, particularly the Child Support and Foster Care grant. Methodology: The area of study was Tyutyu village in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa where the research sample and participants were drawn. The data were collected with semi structured in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. A qualitative research method was employed and data was collected from fifteen heads of households and fifteen beneficiaries of the Child Support and Foster Care grants aged between 13-18 years. Discussion of findings/expected outcomes: The findings of the study suggest that women are the prominent decision makers in terms of the usage of the Child Support and Foster Care grant. In addition, women are the decision makers because of the high rates of divorce, and children end up being raised by a single parent (mother). It has also been said by participants that decisions made by women often lead to productive outcomes compared to a state of affairs where the male physical body is sorely in control of the resources. The survey also proved that they are either very small, or no consultation with the beneficiaries of the Child Support and Foster Care grants when decisions are being made on spending the grant money. The grounds being that the children are still immature, hence, are not capable of producing any meaningful conclusions. It was suggested that guardians need to make decisions for children less than 15 years of age, because they are still young. Nevertheless, kids who are 16 years and above can reason and are mindful of their preferences, therefore, they should be included in the decision making process.

Violence against children: Where is the community? Interrogating efforts to eradicate VAC in the face of modernization in Tanzania

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Violence against children in Africa generally and Tanzania specifically is currently a serious social problem. This heinous practice continues notwithstanding the various efforts that have been undertaken by the governments and NGOs. The hitherto haven of the

children, i.e. community and school, are no longer safe to children. This research-based paper seeks to interrogate the social fabric of selected local communities in Tanzania with a view of establishing the history base of VAC. The paper will point to the weakened traditional community fabric as a function of modernization. The major argument in this paper is that the weakening of the local community fabric does not justify abandonment of indigenous models of social helping that can be taken on board to effectively contribute to eradication of VAC. Through a participatory study that involved social work practitioners and professionals, the paper points to a significant contribution of indigenous models of helping. Our argument is that successful models for VAC eradication will have to be crafted with due regard to the indigenous environmental, cultural and knowledge base.

Towards a solution: A review of alcohol abuse among students at South African universities

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South Africa has one of the highest alcohol consumption rate per capita of any country in the world. While there is research-based evidence that alcohol continues to be abused on university campuses in many countries around the world (Karam, Kypri & Salamoun, 2007), there is insufficient hard evidence that South African campuses are the same. This paper aims to report on previous research studies conducted in South African universities on alcohol abuse among students. The existing statistics of youth issues (such as unemployment, high dropout rates, high HIV&Aids prevalence, crime etc.) beckons for this topic to be explored further in the context of youth development and education. According to Mogotsi, Nel, Basson & Tebele (2014, p.1574), during major events such as festivals in the universities, it is almost a norm that students use alcohol. This is usually accompanied by high-risk behaviours, such as rape and other forms of violence. The purpose of this concept paper is to create a research agenda for 'young academics', in researching implications of alcohol abuse among the first-year students of the universities. Embodied in this paper will be a review of previous Southern African research studies conducted in this field. First-year students are often teenagers who are still facing or dealing with life challenges associated with adolescence. In minimising the youths' involvement in alcohol abuse, the approach of Africanisation needs consider programs that can promote positive youth development and educational success, as the academic

performance of the youth is also affected by their excessive drinking.

Social clubs for the elderly in the community: A professional social work tool

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Social work with the elderly is a specialization treating a normative, expected part of life that most people strive to reach, yet it is very challenging. Old age, even if reached healthy and happy, is a phase characterized by losses; the elderly are exposed to loss of family members and friends, decline of everyday living abilities, senses (hearing, eyesight, etc.) and cognitive skills. Usually, the elderly work less (if at all), leading to a loss of income, not meeting the need for enough nutritional food, personal care, transportation, medical attention and more. The one difficulty that is common to the vast majority of elderly throughout the world is loneliness. Israeli social workers in the Ministry of Welfare in cooperation with other organizations have developed a set of social services to meet the needs of the elderly in different cultures, lifestyles, religions, and socioeconomic levels. One of the professional tools social workers use for greater welfare of the elderly are social clubs. These clubs are tailor-made to the unique characteristics of the community they are serving. Social clubs can be implemented for the benefit of the elderly anywhere on the globe, as long as there is a social worker that can act to match the community's needs in a suitable accessible meeting place with the availability to relevant resources. The elderly's social clubs serve different populations, such as secular or religious Jews, Muslims in cities or in villages, Bedouin, Ethiopian originated Jews, Druze, Holocaust survivors, deaf elderly and more. These clubs operate once a week or more; some provide a snack, some serve two full meals every day. Some members arrive independently, some with transportation. The activities vary, according to the members' preferences: music, dancing, crafts, lectures, trips, holiday celebrations, etc. The main purposes of these clubs are:

1. Strengthening social ties and the sense of belonging.
2. Enabling local community's support of its elderly population.
3. Locating common problems and needs of the elderly.
4. Treating individual problems as soon as they arise, preventing deterioration.

Our experience shows that this very efficient tool can be life changing for the elderly. It can be implemented almost anywhere.

Social work with Holocaust survivors in Israel

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“The Holocaust” is the title for the horrors and genocides initiated and executed by the German Nazi government before and during World War II, 1933-1945. The Nazis persecuted different populations, as they believed the "pure" Arian Race was threatened by them. Among these populations were intellectuals, Gypsies, gay people, and people with physical, mental or cognitive handicaps. These victims suffered persecution, torture, hard labour, humiliation, assault, and other horror. Part of the Nazi plan was to exterminate the Jewish people. During the Holocaust, 6 million of the 16 million Jews then in the world lost their lives, mostly in Europe but also in North Africa and the Mediterranean. Jews that survived those horrific experiences are referred to as Holocaust survivors. After the war ended in 1945, most of them immigrated to Israel and America. Those who immigrated to Israel constituted a large portion of the population that built the young state of Israel. Today, the population of Israel counts 8.5 million people. 900,000 of them are elderly, of which 210,000 are Holocaust survivors. Today, the youngest Holocaust survivors are 72 years old. Their average age is 86. The government of Israel, as well as other European countries and various organizations, granted Holocaust survivors special economic, social, and medical privileges, especially as they grow old and relive traumas they suffered at a young age and which were never addressed professionally. Social workers in government offices and other organizations, NGOs, and local municipalities have identified a common set of specific psycho-social needs of Holocaust survivors, and developed a variety of services to meet those needs. These special services include: social clubs whose members are all Holocaust survivors. Some survivors feel more comfortable to express a range of emotions among other survivors; a free telephone hotline for emotional support, active 24/7 by volunteers, trained by social workers; support groups, led by social workers; social group meetings, held in neighbourhood homes, accessible for people with motor disabilities; volunteers visiting home-bound survivors to function as a social contact – talking, singing, playing and crafting together. All these activities and extra attention to these post-traumatic, frail elderly address their special needs, while emphasizing their

strengths and they are effective in enhancing their physical and mental wellbeing.

Social work practice in the context of vulnerability: The case of women survivors of sexual abuse supported by Panzi hospital in eastern DRC

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This study is a contribution to the scientific and professional discourse on the challenges affecting social interventions in post-conflict African societies. Using the case study of the women survivors of rape who are taken care of at Panzi hospital, the study analyzes the challenges of social interventions for individuals in particularly disturbing vulnerability. The study employed both existing secondary data and interviews conducted with 8 social assistants associated with Panzi hospital as well as 25 women survivors of rape. In eastern DRC, the recurrent civil war and armed conflicts produced significant forms of sexual violence against women and children. In South-Kivu province, around 5.028 women have been raped only in 2012 (MINIGFAE, 2013:18). Between 1994 and December 2014, about 42,264 women survivors have been registered and taken care of at Panzi hospital. From January 2004 and December 2014, 3,500 children survivors among which 205 under five-years girls have been taken care of at Panzi hospital after they have been systematically assaulted. All these women face critical vulnerability related to their precarious life conditions before they were assaulted. According to a preliminary report, the “holistic” care model for women survivors of rape at Panzi hospital is a sum of medical, psychosocial, socioeconomic and judicial assistance to the victims. The social assistance approach would therefore be entrenched by the extreme vulnerability of many women survivors as well as the unfavorable socioeconomic and cultural context in the country. As a result, the holistic social assistance approach does not enhance sustainable socioeconomic recovery, psychological healing and reintegration in their home communities. The practice of social work in the post-conflict communities of Eastern DRC is between social intervention and social assistance because of the increased and widespread vulnerability of individuals and groups.

Everyday life experiences of children in child-headed households in Tanzania: The case of Sukumaland

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The creation of child-headed households (CHH) is largely associated with the emergence of HIV and AIDS. However, before the scourge of this epidemic, CHH were associated with labour migration, wars and conflicts, natural disasters, urbanization and change in land use. Most of studies about CHH in Tanzania concentrated much on CHH creations and its socio-economical and psychological effects. There is scarce information on knowledge, skills and strategies employed into CHH everyday lives. Therefore, this study will be guided by an actor-oriented approach to assess the everyday lives and social experiences of children living in child headed households. The goal of this study extends from understanding the reasons towards creation of CHH, to the search of needs arising out of CHH, strategies and skills employed in their everyday lives, moreover, understanding logic and meaning attached to their everyday actions. Upon understanding the CHH experiences, a qualitative study will be employed, CHH households will be recruited in the study by the use of purposeful sampling. Ethnographic methods will facilitate participants' observations, narrative interviews, mental maps, and drawings with children. The study will take place in Sukumaland in Tanzania which comprise: Mwanza, Geita, Shinyanga, and Simiyu regions. The study expects to reveal social, political and economic transformations relating to the creation of CHH, children's knowledge and skills, and expose division of work based on gender and age patterns of CHH. Hence, the findings will inform the Tanzanian government, the social work profession, international frameworks and organizations working with children on childhood experiences of these children, to facilitate formulation of children policies, programs and practice based on their experiences.

Unintended pregnancies, a rising issue which destroy our girls' future

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In Rwanda, there is accession of unintended pregnancies especially for girls of sixteen to twenty years old. The consequences are remarkable everywhere; girls who drop out of their studies, the number of street children increases,

family conflict, and poverty. In 2016, about 17,500 girls under twenty years got unintended pregnancies. The root cause is not well defined but social media, lack of appropriate sexual education, domestic violence, and poor family dialogue play important roles in this problem. An exploratory qualitative method was employed to conduct this work. Many reports are used to investigate this issue. Interviews with some girls are conducted to have concrete ideas on how they manage to solve their problems. The result of this work shows that we have a long way to go in order to solve unintended pregnancies issues. Many elements must be considered to reduce unintended pregnancies like sexual education, media policy review to make it more suitable to young people, avoid family violence, and other sexual violence. As recommendation of this work, it is important to mobilize all community to stand against everything that should destroy the young girls' future, promote the community education, and conduct the advocacy to help all girls and children victims of this problem.

The coping mechanisms among women experiencing domestic violence in Mukono district: A case study of Naggalama parish, Nabbaale sub-county, Uganda

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The study focused on the coping mechanisms among women experiencing domestic violence. The prime concerns of the study were to find out how women experiencing violence in this particular area cope with it as well as the different strategies they employ in contending with the perilous situations they undergo as a result of this problem. The study was largely an explanatory, cross-sectional case study. I employed typical qualitative data collection methods which provided rich, detailed information about the different strategies women experiencing domestic violence utilize to cope with the situation. The study involved 20 participants among whom were 15 primary respondents who were selected purposively and these were mainly residents of Naggalama parish. A focus group discussion with the primary respondents and 5 key informant interviews including the police, CFPU, CEDOVIP, local council 1 and the woman councilor. Qualitative data collection methods were employed in the study. The collected data was transcribed and responses were translated from local language (Luganda) to English. However, for purposes of emphasis, some responses were quoted in Luganda. Data was analyzed and presented in thematic form with some quotations from direct respondents. Results showed that

more than a half of women in Naggalama parish have experienced domestic violence in one form or the other, normally termed as GBV and that the problem is prevalent despite the strict policies that have been put in place to curb it down. However, less than half of women in the same area testified to have never experienced violence from their partners. I therefore recommend that women and the entire community should be sensitized more about the dangers associated with domestic violence and how best the problem can be reduced in the families as well as ensuring that the perpetrators are strictly dealt with.

**Taking gender and child neglect into account:
Perceptions of reported caregivers in a post-conflict
setting of northern Uganda**

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Child neglect is often characterized as a breakdown in the relationship of care and failure to provide for the children's needs. Mothers are often assumed to be perpetrators of neglect compared to fathers in a patriarchal setting. Family life in the Northern region of Uganda was greatly affected during the war period of 1986 to 2006. The post-conflict setting has fueled conditions that limit father's capacity to provide for their family and mother's failure to provide care thus often reported for child neglect. Media reports indicate high incidences of child abuse and neglect, especially from the post-conflict region districts. In this article, we examine the gendered circumstances reported caregivers attribute to neglecting their children. The theoretical framework draws from radical feminism which links domestic violence, child abuse and mothering. Motherhood operates in patriarchy system as a social form where most basic power resource and physical force are exercised by men. In-depth interviews were carried out from 36 reported caregivers of neglected children and subjected to interpretative thematic analysis. The findings implicate fathers and mothers not committed to intimate relationships as being more likely to be reported for child neglect. The study has implications for policy and practice in interventions against child neglect.

**Effects of alcohol and substance use on health and
social wellbeing of youths in Nigeria: Implication for
social work with special groups**

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Alcohol and other substance use have great consequences on health and social wellbeing of the youth on both short and long run. Adolescents involved with alcohol and other substances are often having difficulty with school and are experiencing high levels of conflict and tension within the family and in other personal relationships. The youths are further pushed to become chemical dependent which poses both a medical and social problem. Chemical dependency affects them from all walks of life. This study examines the effects of alcohol and other substance use on health and psychosocial wellbeing among youths in Nigeria. Descriptive research design was adopted. 220 youths selected through random sampling served as respondents. A self-developed validated Likert designed questionnaire with a reliability of $r=0.86$ was used as instrument. 6 research assistants helped in data collection. The data collected was analysed using simple percentage and frequency counts and Pearson Product Moment Correlation. Hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance. The result showed that alcohol and other substance use had significant effect on health of youths ($r=0.254$, $p=0.000$, significant at 0.05). The result further showed that there was no significant relationship between alcohol and other substance use on psychosocial wellbeing ($r=0.042$, $p=0.557$, not significant at 0.05). It was also revealed that there was a significant joint relationship between health and psychosocial wellbeing ($r=0.600$, $p=0.000$, significant at 0.05). The study concluded that alcohol and other substance use has direct relationship on health while health also has direct relationship on social wellbeing of youths. The study recommended that sensitization on dangers of alcohol and substance use on health and psychological wellbeing should further be intensified by health stakeholders. Social workers especially are therefore enjoined to take the bull by the horn facing squarely the challenges of alcohol and substance use among the youths to ensure a drug-free African nation.

**From exclusion to inclusion – Young people's
trajectories from home to street to reintegration in
the Kagera region, Tanzania**

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This study examines what causes children and young people to leave their homes, how they experience their situation on the streets and as domestic workers, and what facilitates them to reintegrate into their local community. A mixed methods approach was used, comprising of focus group discussions, individual interviews and a cross-

sectional survey with children and young people in the Kagera region of Tanzania, who had left their homes for a life on the streets or domestic work and had reintegrated into their local community. The findings revealed that orphanhood and mistreatment were the main reasons for leaving home, that few children had lived with their parents before they left home and that leaving home was a complex process, often lasting several years. The children were subjected to more emotional violence compared to the average child in Tanzania. Life on the streets was very violent and the children experienced severe discrimination with no opportunity to access their basic needs and rights. The situation of those employed as domestic workers depended on whom they worked for, but they generally faced long working hours and were denied schooling. The reintegration trajectory can be described as a move from a position of social exclusion to inclusion. Their quality of life and self-rated health were significantly better after reintegration compared to before they left their homes, and the level of violence in their life was also significantly lower. The young people developed social capital in terms of membership of social groups, making friends and having reciprocal relations where they had people both to turn to and who turned to them for assistance. However, structural issues such as poverty and violence continued to play a role in their overall quality of life. The results showed that young people who have lived on the streets can successfully reintegrate into their local community when given adequate support. It highlights the importance of early interventions and the vital role of social welfare organisations in assisting young people during the transition from the streets to reintegrating into the community. However, the strategies need to be individualised and adapted before the young people finally settle into the community. The community plays a crucial role in reintegration. The factor most strongly associated with good quality of life was having others who turned to them for assistance, highlighting the importance of reciprocal relations and making use of the young people's skills and competencies.

School social work in Northern Uganda in a post-conflict context: A case of Anaka Foundation and its partners

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Introduction and background: Northern Uganda has experienced a prolonged Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebel insurgency from 1986-2006 (Omona and Aduo, 2013). Many NGOs have intervened during this post-

conflict period to provide services to the different categories of vulnerable people. Anaka Foundation is one of the NGOs that have intervened to provide integrated community-based services. One of the clients targeted has been the vulnerable school going children through a pilot project that ran from March 2014 to August 2016. The NGO has been doing this in partnership with others systems through a unique project of school social work. Problem focus: Little is known about school social work in sub-Saharan Africa. Social work interventions on children and education sector under the said partnership have also not been widely documented. The pilot phase is now over and the project was evaluated in 2016 on the achievements by Anaka Foundation; the effects of the intervention on the children and their families; the challenges faced; and the opportunities for making this future practice more responsive to the beneficiaries. Methodology: The end of project evaluation adopted a case study approach on the school social work project to collect data on the key objectives. Specific social work cases were documented. The Foundation's project reports constituted another major source of data. Key informant interviews together with FGDs of children and community meetings were later compiled to validate the evaluation findings. Theoretical underpinnings: Many social work theories informed the intervention and study: empowerment approach to social work practice (Lee and Hudson, 2011); systems theory (Andreae, 2011), problem solving theory (Shier, 2011); and lastly social networks theory (Tracy and Brown, 2011). Findings and conclusion: The project was a success and implemented in a total of 9 government-aided primary schools. 157 vulnerable children benefited. Some of the outstanding effects are: more life skills gained by the children; improved performance and retention in school; better linkages of the children to other services; improvement in the quality of education; improved school performance by beneficiaries; and social justice to the households and children was assured. The major challenge is insufficient funding, amidst opportunities such as taking advantage of the government's commitment in reforming the primary education sector and the increasing use of ICT in the education sector to improve on the scope and quality of educational interventions. The model can be replicated in other parts of Uganda, and perhaps in other parts of sub-Saharan Africa.

Characteristics of orphan and vulnerable children in Kachia, Nigeria

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Introduction: In Sub-Saharan Africa, 43 million children under the age of 18 are orphans. In Nigeria alone, there are 17.1 million orphan and vulnerable children (OVC). OVC are defined by Tsheko et al. (2006) as “the loss of a parent through death or desertion”. Additional factors include severe chronic illness of a parent or caregiver, poverty, hunger, lack of access to service, inadequate clothes or shelter overcrowding, deficient caretakers, and factors specific to the child including disability, direct experience of physical or sexual violence, or chronic illness. The problem of OVC is most prevalent in the northern states of Nigeria. Kaduna Nigeria is one of these states. **Method:** As a volunteer with the America International Health Alliance, I worked as a social work organizational advisor at Save the Children in their STEER project. The purpose of the program was to improve the condition of families with OVC. During my six months stay in Nigeria, I identified the characteristics of Kaduna State OVC using survey research methods. I examined their living conditions, families, and education. The data was analyzed using the SPSS software program. **Findings:** My preliminary findings found that Kaduna State children lived with extended family members. Most of these families suffered from poverty manifested by poor housing, lack of nutrition, poor education, and other social problems. The Steer Program provided the heads of household with vocational training and support. The goal was to increase the incomes of families so that the vulnerable children could benefit from this intervention. This is a 5-year program whose effectiveness will be evaluated when it ends in 2020.

Affluent families’ behaviour on adolescent well-being in Nairobi County, Kenya

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Parents from affluent families seem not to have time for their children in recent times. Most often they provide more money than their children need but no time to care for their emotional or psychological problems. The adolescents being deprived of love and care are likely to engage in risky behaviours. This study targeted affluent families and adolescent well-being in Nairobi County, Kenya. The objectives were: how parent’s behaviour affects the adolescents, adolescent well-being and the causes of lack of it, possible intervention strategies. Mixed- method research design namely, convergent parallel design was used. Erickson’s psychosocial theory was used. Pilot testing was done to test face and content validity. The quantitative approach was descriptive in

nature and cross-sectional, while the qualitative was phenomenological. A sample size of 52 respondents consisting of 20 parents, 20 adolescents, 10 house helps and 2 local chiefs was used. The study used questionnaires, interview guide and a focus group discussion. Data was analysed descriptively in frequencies and percentages and cross tabulation for inferential statistics. The findings of this study indicated that both mother- and father-adolescent communication influence the well-being of adolescents to a similar degree. Adolescents who experience open and less problem communication with their fathers and/or mothers have higher levels of well-being than those who experience problem communication with either of their parents. The findings of this study point to the need for the government to implement family life education and communication skills’ training programs. Through parent education, parents can be made aware of some of the important elements of dialogue with their adolescent children and be helped to implement these in their relationships with them. Moreover, if programs are created to help Kenyan parents and adolescents develop good communication skills, such programs may help adolescents handle psychological issues, settle and achieve good positive sense of well-being.

The state of mental health in Kenya: Milestones, challenges, and opportunities

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Health does not occur in a vacuum; instead health is embedded in larger living working conditions. This means that health occur within the larger human environments. Mental health has been characterized by stigma and more often than not mental health clients have been degraded and suffered untold humiliation. It is however important to state that Kenya has undertaken measures to ameliorate this situation. The purpose of this paper was therefore to discuss and articulate the state of mental health in Kenya; milestones, challenges, and opportunities. The study used a qualitative approach and explorative design; this was complemented by empirical review of different articles related to mental health published scientific researches, both locally and internationally. Qualitative data was obtained through in-depth interviews with key informants. Content analysis was used to analyze the empirical study while thematic analysis was used to analyze qualitative

data. The study revealed that managing chronic mental health presents a profound challenge to the mental health profession, not only because of the myriad formal and informal services required, this can be because of complexity of chronic illness, and limited resources available to address the complexities. Milestones achieved include: formulation of legal and policy frameworks to address mental health, improved infrastructure like establishment of mental health units in hospitals to treat the increasing number of mental health patients. The underlying challenges include and are not limited to: inadequate government funding, inadequate knowledge about mental health conditions which contributes to social stigma to patients, inadequate and ill-equipped personnel in mental health facilities. Opportunities therein include comprehensive public education on mental health conditions with an aim of elimination of stigma towards mental health patients, advocacy and lobbying for adequate government and donor funding, emphasis on prevention of mental health conditions vis-à-vis treatment of mental health conditions, intervention by interdisciplinary professions which will help reduce the burden of chronic psychological need on clinicians and further research on emerging risk factors to mental health conditions. This paper therefore recommends inter-professional networking and collaboration in mental health and in the learning institutions, empowerment of individuals and communities on how to effectively respond to mental health patients and finally enhancing the legal and policy frameworks to guarantee quality mental health services to the Kenyan people.

Socio-demographic factors influencing attitude towards human trafficking in Ibadan metropolis of Nigeria

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Due to the increase in the activities of trafficking in persons in Nigeria as a result of recent economic recession that has brought untold hardship to many Nigerians, this study interrogates the influence of socio-demographic factors on attitude towards human trafficking in Ibadan metropolis. Cross-sectional research design was used to obtain information from two hundred (200) respondents in Ibadan north local government area of Oyo State. A carefully designed questionnaire was used to collect information from the respondents. Five research questions were drafted to guide the study. The findings of the study reveal that there is a significant effect of education and occupation on attitude towards human trafficking while

there is no significant effect of gender on human trafficking. Furthermore, the results show that there is a joint significant influence of sex, age, and education on the attitude towards human trafficking. Lastly it is shown from the results that socio-economic status significantly influences public attitude towards human trafficking. The results were discussed based on the review of literature and necessary social work intervention strategies were recommended.

Experiences of forensic social workers on what constitutes child sexual abuse in a South African context: Implications for practice

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Child sexual abuse (CSA) is an alarming social issue that calls the attention of professionals from across that globe. The problem with child sexual abuse is the disclosure. Children are not easily telling their sexual abuse experiences due to various influential factors. To this point, South Africa has adopted forensic social work as a field of specialisation to facilitate the disclosure of CSA. When investigating sexual offences, forensic social workers are guided by the three primary legislative frameworks. These are: (i) The Criminal Law [Sexual Offences and Related Matters] Amendment Act No 32 of 2007, The Children's Act No 38 of 2005 as amended and the Children's Amendment Act No 41 of 2007. Legal definitions of CSA vary from country to country. The researcher employed evaluation design to assess forensic social workers' experiences of what is CSA in a South African context. The study was qualitative in nature wherein the researcher has used a triangulation of stratified random sampling, purposive sampling and convenient sampling to select the respondents and ended up with 14. Out of these respondents, 13 were females and 1 was a male. Data was collected through semi-structured in-depth interviews and was analysed thematically through Nvivo program. Findings show that boundaries around culture play a role in defining what CSA is. That as a result contradicts the legislative framework in addressing sexual offences against children. It is evident from the findings that in South Africa, CSA is only believed when it is in the form of rape; other sexual offences are taboos and minor things, and cultural norms. There is a serious need in South Africa to educate communities about the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and related matters) Act 32/2007. A lack of knowledge and understanding of the said act places children in these homes at risk of being sexually abused, especially by

family members, because they do not get the correct knowledge from their parents. It is also important that forensic social workers be knowledgeable about the influences of various cultures in defining what CSA is, as this impacts the process of disclosure.

Lives in adversity: Experiences of street children in Kigali city

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The problem of street children is a growing issue worldwide in both developed and developing countries. The problem has become prevalent in many African cities due to combined effects of socioeconomic restructuring resulting in poverty, the HIV and AIDS epidemic, internal conflicts that directly or indirectly affect families, child abuse, and violence in families. In Rwanda, the problem is on increase regardless all the efforts made and the economic development the country has made in the past years. This study intends to explore the lived experiences of street children in Kigali city and to find out their coping strategies within their social-spatial environment to respond to the risks and conditions of adversity they live in. The factors that drive them to the street, how they perceive themselves and how they are perceived by the government officials and members of the public, how they negotiate spaces and places they occupy within the city. The study will be informed by the notions of childhood, vulnerability, resilience, space and place concepts. The aim of the study is to develop an understanding of the lived experiences and coping strategies of street children in their social-spatial environment within Kigali city. The study will use qualitative methodology to explore, understand and analyze the lived experiences and coping strategies used by street children with their own voices on the way they interpret their every-day street lives. Therefore, to look at these multiple perspectives, the researcher will be significant in observing, asking questions, and interacting with research participants extensively in the field. The field data will be collected in Kigali city from three locations of Nyabugogo, Nyamirambo and Kicukiro centre where street children are believed to congregate. To collect the field data, focus group discussions, interviews and use of visual methods like drawing, maps and photographs will be used during the field data collection.

Challenges faced by former prisoners in reintegrating into their former communities: The case of members of the Crime Prevention, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Ex-Offenders Association (CRROA) in Lesotho

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This study investigates the challenges faced by former prisoners who happen to be members of the Crime Prevention, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Ex-offenders Association (CRROA). Data for this qualitative study was obtained from 20 ex-prisoners who are now members of CRROA, officials from CRROA and from Maseru Central Prison, ordinary members of the community from Mafikeng village in Roma and from one community leader from Mafefooane village, also in Roma. Despite the presence of initiatives such as counselling, vocational training, victim-offender mediation programme and radio programmes in order to facilitate reintegration and to ameliorate the condition of ex-prisoners, the study found that the transition is marked with numerous challenges. Some of these challenges include stigmatization and isolation from friends, rejection by members of the community, marital problems, unemployment, and denial of education opportunities. On the basis of these findings, the study recommends that community outreach programmes on the plight of ex-prisoners, strengthening of vocational rehabilitation programmes, and targeted training among others, might go a long way addressing some of these challenges.

On death and dying: The role of social work in end-of-life care

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Death and dying are essential and omnipresent elements of human life. They are embedded in cultural belief systems, in spiritual concepts of human existence, and they refer to fundamental questions of the meaning of life. Depending on the cultural and religious context, such questions can pertain to a human being's relationship to God, to his/her ancestors, and to the entire cosmological world. The process of dying is often accompanied by physical pain and strong emotions, coupled with the suffering of family members who not only have to deal with the loss of a loved one but sometimes also with the socio-economic implications of such a loss, particularly in

situations of deprivation and poverty. Social workers all over the world are confronted with death and dying, with bereavement and grief in their day-to-day practice. Yet, sometimes they feel not adequately prepared to deal with these issues since they have neither acquired the necessary skills nor critically reflected on their own corresponding attitudes and values. Indeed, issues of death, dying and grief are very much underrepresented in international social work education and research, and most social work graduates enter practice without having heard anything about these topics in their professional training. In this presentation, aspects of death, dying, bereavement and grief are discussed from a cross-cultural perspective. As much as it is important to respect the cultural context of such anthropological phenomena, it is equally imperative to discuss social work's role in end-of-life care against the background of culturally appropriate methods and practices. This does not only refer to specialized areas such as hospice, palliative care, and hospital social work, but to everyday social work practice, particularly in African contexts where colleagues are dealing with families and communities who suffer from the loss of many members due to widespread epidemics and diseases, coupled with the effects of chronic poverty, violence, and poor health services. Social workers have to be familiar with locally relevant belief systems, death rituals, and the importance of funerals and mourning practices in order to provide proper support and counselling. While they have to consider such communal aspects, they also have to make sure that the human rights of the individual dying person are respected. The right place where social workers should become acquainted with these topics is their training; hence, schools of social work should incorporate death and dying as crucial elements in their curricula.

Restoring resiliency: A model for self-reliance and thriving communities

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Africa Healing Exchange (AHE) presents a model for trauma intervention, called Restoring Resilience (RR). Specifically the audience and groups that we serve include youth and victims of conflict. The relevance of this model in Rwanda is directly related to assisting communities who have experienced trauma and would benefit from additional skills to expand the Resilient Zone™. The purpose of RR is to help people re-discover the inherent resiliency of the human nervous system through culturally-aware community interaction, increased ability to practice self-regulation skills, and to

better understand how the body heals from traumatic or stressful experiences. The basic program is delivered in a one day community workshop and as a three day training for trainers (TOT). The presentation will cover RR foundation skills: 1. Sensing: Identifying bodily sensations and practicing being present to them without avoiding or clinging to them. 2. Resourcing: Practicing internal mindfulness techniques that enable participants to create positive, resilient internal environments in all types of external environments. 3. Interpersonal healing: Practice observing themselves and other participants learning these skills in a safe, supportive environment. 4. Movement-Based Self-Regulation: Culturally-appropriate and specific breath and movement-based techniques that encourage the human nervous system to self-regulate. 5. Education on the biology of stress and trauma: Basic information on how the human body receives, interprets and deals with stress and trauma. The format, delivery and anticipated outcomes of the model will be presented, along with suggested methods for monitoring and evaluating effectiveness. AHE has delivered a related model and TOT to the NRU psychology department, two years ago. RR is using some of the same skills from that model called CRM™. A brief impact study will be presented on how one TOT for 25 Rwandan psychology students has led to the formation of community groups that are spreading these resiliency skills in their communities. We will highlight the added benefit of becoming more resilient in terms of how this holistic approach offers support for greater self-reliance and pursuit of entrepreneurship endeavors. We will offer examples from a group of women we work with in the Western Province, called UMUTUZO, and show how the trainings have helped support a more harmonious community and more peace within the individuals who are participating in AHE's programs there.

An empowerment programme for community caregivers to facilitate HIV and Aids patients' adherence to antiretroviral treatment

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This presentation forms part of a larger project done within the intervention research model. This model can be defined as an applied action taken to enhance or maintain the functioning and well-being of an individual, family, group, or community. Phase I of the study focused on a literature study of all the key words, such as antiretroviral treatment, community caregivers, HIV and Aids, empowerment, and programme. Phase II of the study

focused on an empirical study done in a qualitative fashion by way of focus groups and in-depth interviewing of a selected number of caregivers. The findings of phases I and II informed the development of the programme, which formed phase III of the project. After the programme was developed it was presented to a group of caregivers in an experimental fashion with an experimental and control group with a pre-, post- and post-post-test measurement, which formed phase IV of this study. Presently ART is the only available option that offers the possibility of dramatically reducing HIV and Aids-related morbidity and mortality, while improving the status of people living with Aids. The shifting to lay community caregivers is increasingly suggested as a potential strategy to overcome the barriers to sustainable antiretroviral treatment scale-up in high HIV-prevalent and resource limited settings. Community caregivers provide psychosocial support and lay counselling, education on HIV prevention, and provide care and treatment to people living with HIV and Aids. They also conduct home visits to trace patients who have missed appointments and to provide adherence support, while assisting with matters of disclosure, prevention, and stigma reduction. They support the patients' ability to understand and adhere to their medication regimen, while the community and families are also educated about ART and adherence. Self-care should be included in such a programme seeing that these caregivers are lay people and should be trained how to handle these issues of stigma, death, and dying. The programme was developed and presented in a group work fashion, while the Information-Motivation-Behavioural skills model (IMB model) and the Systems Theory were used as theoretical basis for the study. The programme was presented in eight weekly sessions and the presentations focused on a detailed discussion per session in terms of content, objectives, and programme activities.

Pitting the National Plan of Action for Children against families' empowerment towards the protection and fulfilment of the rights of children in South Africa

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Globally, regionally, nationally and locally, vast children are more vulnerable when confronted with poverty, livelihood securities, social ills, and health pandemics. Conversely, children need an enabling environment to ensure their survival, development, care and protection, as well as their full participation in matters affecting them. Children also need to take responsibility and seize the

opportunities available to them to realise their full potential. As such, the commitment to children and their future remains a core value in South Africa. The National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC) as a comprehensive overarching plan that brings together government's obligations in the realisation of the rights of children in the country through the collaboration of the Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities' was therefore, development to fulfil its mandate to ensure the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the rights of children across South Africa. Much effort was given towards the development of the necessary institutional mechanisms, mainstreaming and advocacy strategies, as well as monitoring and evaluation systems, to realise children's rights. Nonetheless, South Africa is regarded as the leading nation with the premier dominance of children in needs of care and protection in Southern Africa due to neglect, abandonment and abuse amongst other psychosocial pathologies. This, therefore, renders the NPAC to be in dire controversy specifically with regards to its effectiveness towards fulfilling the total wellbeing of the children in South Africa. Accordingly, this paper through a systematic review of literature pitted the National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC 2012-2017) against families' empowerment towards the protection and fulfilment of the rights of children in South Africa. The paper also recommends the child welfare system to contemplate promoting and advising immediate families to take the responsibility of caring and protecting those children in need of care and protection. Likewise, the paper also indorses the need to support and monitor the functioning of family preservation strategies so that families adhere to the requirements on the best interest, care and protection of the children in South Africa.

The experiences of young adults raised in single-female parent households in South Africa: Social work implications

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Single-parenting is a practice that was adopted from the West and it comes with a lot of hardships and stereotypes, especially for African single-mothers. Apart from the death of a spouse, divorce is a major cause of single-female parenting which is characterised by the mother taking full responsibility for the children's financial, emotional, social, and educational needs all alone. The aim of the study was to investigate the experiences of young adults who were raised by single-mothers. A qualitative research method was utilized and data was

collected from 26 participants both male and female aging 22 to 39 years and residing within the Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality, Eastern Cape Province. Data was analysed using thematic analysis. The results of this study indicate that single-female parents struggle mostly with monetary issues to provide adequately for their children and they also lack enough time to spend with their children because of the numerous jobs and shifts they take. This affects the children's educational performance and confidence. The financial challenges in the home prompt older children to take up jobs at a young age so as to help out in the family and in some cases they work during the day and attend night schools. The White Paper on the Family (2013) stipulates the strengthening of families but this does not seem to be the case in South Africa. It is recommended that the government and other parastatals in the educational sector should establish financial support systems for children who are being raised by single parents, especially those with poor academic performance. Also, the government should impose strict measures to ensure that the fathers pay child support or maintenance in order to contribute to the financial welfare of children in single-female families. Finally, social workers need more refresher courses in family strengthening structures and empowerment.

**Strength-based approach in social work:
Professionals' experiences in working with refugee
youth in Nakivale refugee settlement, Uganda**

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The aim of the research was to explore the area of social work practice with refugee youth in Nakivale refugee settlement, Uganda, in relation to the use of strength-based approach. Hence, the focus was on the professionals and their experiences in working with the youth, covering the area of strengths and resources, both personal and those acknowledged in their clients, the guidelines used and their approach towards youth. The research is constructed around the sensitive contexts of refugee settlements and refugees, with a focus on the youth and children as predominant groups in the overall population of refugees in Uganda, which also applies in the case of Nakivale. In spite of adversities, limitations and precarious living conditions within the refugee settlements, the strengths and resilience embodied in humans represent actual resources when acknowledged and promoted. Therefore, within this context and drawing from social work literature in terms of good practices in working with refugees, the strength-based approach was used as theoretical

framework. Ethnography was used as a research design and the data was collected using qualitative methods and a purposeful sampling. The main sample consisted of 25 professionals from 6 organizations operating in the settlement, focused on the work with youth on different areas of practice and service provision. Moreover, the voices of the youth were captured through FGDs in order to enrich the data. The findings show that the strength-based approach is used and acknowledged by professionals in their practices. Hence, it is reflected through their attitude towards their clients, through their values, motivations and their passion expressed both for their work and at a deeper level, for humanity. Emphasizes are made on the importance of genuine relationships, faith and spirituality as resources and the strength encountered in love, hope, dreams and positive thinking as reflections from their experiences in working with the youth. Therefore, the refugee youth is acknowledged as a resourceful and resilient population, professionals recognize their strengths and promote them, despite the vulnerabilities, risks and limitations encountered in the environment. Moreover, the youth's voices are strengthening and confirming the findings. At a macro level, the policies for refugee protection in Uganda are focused on self-reliance and empowerment which are guiding the practice and the service provision and at a deep level, promote a strength-based approach.

**Mood disorders in Uganda: How patients and
providers conceptualize treatment approaches**

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In the context of diverse approaches to psychiatric care worldwide, the range of treatments that exist to ameliorate mood disorders in Uganda has not been documented. Psychiatric treatment provided in Uganda mainly addresses patients' medical complaints and not their social, economic and psychological concerns. While social work is capable of complementing psychiatry to address patients' concerns holistically, its contribution in the Ugandan context has not yet been documented. Little is known about the range of treatment options available to Ugandans living with mood disorders and how key players conceptualise the nature of such treatment. Implications of these conceptualizations for social work practice in psychiatric care have also not been considered. We conducted an exploratory study involving in-depth interviews with seven patients diagnosed with mood disorders, seven families, three religious healers and three

traditional healers in Western Uganda. Our findings indicate that participants conceptualized psychiatric care as an integrated function of various treatment approaches, including the provision of psychotropic medication, psychosocial support, and spiritual healing. This integrated conceptualisation of care is influenced by the participants' complex conceptualisations of mood disorders, their unique value systems, and the available resources. Because of the complex conceptualisation of psychiatric care for mood disorders, we argue that there is a high possibility of non-adherence to psychotropic medication regimens and dissatisfaction with the burden of care among patients and their care providers. Social workers have potential for mobilising social support for patients, training lay care providers in counselling, and supporting adherence to medical treatment. These social work contributions can promote holistic psychiatric care for patients.

From exploitation to self-reliance: Restoring the dignity of Uganda's sexually exploited girls through skills training

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Sexual exploitation is considered as one of the worst forms of violence against children and women. Whilst a combination of factors have been advanced for involvement in sex work, research has shown that for most adolescent girls and young women in Uganda, sex work is engaged in as a source of livelihood and survival since they lack other viable alternatives. The underlying factors relate to family breakdown, loss of parents, dropping out of school, and as a crosscutting factor, poverty and destitution. Sex work is not only illegal in Uganda but also highly stigmatised and dehumanising. And yet, young people continue to engage in this trade mostly against their conscience. While it is spread across the country, sex work and sexual exploitation are most prevalent in the urban slums. Sex work exposes the girls and young people to a myriad of risks including HIV infection, other STIs, violence and from a social point of view, a diminished dignity and lack of identity. With regard to HIV for example, the prevalence among sex workers in Uganda was estimated to be between 35%-37% in 2014, multiple times higher than the national average of 7% (UAC, 2015). This situation presents not just a public health issue but also a human rights challenge in as far as girls, young women are concerned. Against this background, Plan International Uganda in partnership with Uganda Youth Development

Link (UYDEL), with funding from Comic Relief, implemented a 3-year project (2014-2017) to empower sexually exploited girls and young women through skills training in order to increase their access to age appropriate sustainable alternative livelihoods. A total of 903 girls were directly targeted for vocational and apprenticeship skills training. Other interventions focused on increasing access to quality HIV and sexual reproductive health services as well as early childhood care and development for their children. Partnership was used as the main model for implementation. An end of project evaluation revealed significant changes in the girls' and young women's economic and social empowerment. The most striking outcome of the project was that at the end of the project the proportion of girls surviving on sex work had reduced from 77% at baseline to 6.2%. This presentation will elaborate on the project model, the evaluation methodology and key findings with regard to key transformations in the social and economic lives of the beneficiaries.

An indigenous framework for youth resilience in South Africa

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Given rampant conditions of poverty and inequality facing the majority of South African young people, there has been growing interest over recent years in the resilience processes that enable youth to navigate through such adversities and achieve well-being and accomplishment in life. Traditionally, resilience has tended to foreground intrapersonal characteristics, but increasingly researchers, particularly in social work, are emphasizing a more holistic and ecosystemic understanding of resilience, together with aspects of social justice and counter-neoliberalism. This paper presents the findings of a qualitative systematic review of resilience research conducted in South Africa between 2009 and 2016 focused on children and young adults. A thematic analysis of this literature generated a framework for youth resilience in South Africa. This framework constitutes an indigenous and contextualized understanding of youth resilience that gives emphasis to the social ecologies of resilience. Implications of the framework for social work practice will be addressed.

Kenyan legislative instruments that protect children from child marriages

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Globally, 15 million girls are married before the age of 18, with Kenya having one of the highest child marriages prevalence in the world, estimated at between 25-30%. Child marriages in Kenya are rampant in rural areas, especially, and certain communities are reported to have child marriages as part of their customs. Child marriages have also been used as a survival strategy by parents in the case of “famine brides”. Child marriages compromise a child’s development and threaten the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. This paper reviewed international and regional conventions and focussed on Kenyan legislative framework that has been put in place to protect children from child marriages. The legislations that have been discussed in relation to child marriages include the Constitution, the Marriage Act, the Female Genital Mutilation Act, and the Sexual Offences Act. A review of literature was undertaken to understand the nature of child marriages in Kenya. The initial search for material used key words “child marriages”, “child marriages Africa”, “child marriages Kenya” and “child marriages legislation Kenya”. A grey literature search was also conducted and it will be updated accordingly. The selection criteria used was that the journal articles should not have been older than 15 years and they should have been peer-reviewed. Reports commissioned by organizations such as UNICEF, UNFPA and Save the Children were also reviewed. The analysis shows that Kenya has a strong legal framework to fight child marriages and it is further evident that legal mechanisms are in place to protect the rights of children and prosecute perpetrators. However, the practice still remains rampant and is on the increase in certain areas. Indeed, child marriage policies and measures targeting children should reflect a child-rights approach and also focus on socioeconomic vulnerabilities to address the root causes. In addition, it should be acknowledged that protection of children is a collective process requiring collective responsibility and not only policy reform.

Abstracts for sub-theme 9: Social work education: curricula, pedagogy, field practice, career pathways and research

Perception of school management to social work intervention in early year education: A case study of selected schools in Southwestern part of Nigeria

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School social work is a specialized area of practice within the broad field of the social work profession. It is an area grossly valued in the developed countries as it is instrumental in furthering the purpose of the schools and enhances the total development of the vulnerable children especially. It is also an often needed service as children tend to exhibit different challenging behaviours during the school period. It can further help to provide a setting for effective teaching, learning, and attainment of self-competence in the child. Intervention of social workers in schools, particularly in early years pupils, is therefore a necessity in the Nigerian school system since it has been proven through studies that the psychological experiences of a child is never forgotten in his adult life and constitutes his cognitive and behavioural responses to the society. For every engagement, however, there is need for cooperation in systems of function – the question of how it is perceived in the African side of the globe needs to be analysed. This study therefore is to see the interplay of social work expertise in the daily administration of the schools as perceived by the management.

Community-rehabilitation-workers in Ethiopia: Deficits, needs and chances of qualification

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Children and adults with disabilities live in communities all over Ethiopia. Professional support often is not, or hardly available. NGOs employ semi-professionals in community-rehabilitation projects, who take an important role in support and development for persons with disabilities and their families, though they have only a low qualification of a few weeks of training by their

employers. Until now, tracks of further professional development for community-rehabilitation-workers (CRWs) are missing. The group of CRWs is estimated to encompass around 3,000 persons all over Ethiopia. The APPEAR-project INEDIS (Inclusive Education for Persons with Disabilities) gives attention to this situation and tries to develop a certificate course at university level. In a first stage, qualification needs were investigated and ideas for course development were collected. The project team of Dilla University started to investigate the current situation in a process of participative research together with persons with disabilities, their parents, and stakeholders in the field. Dilla University plans to launch community based rehabilitation (CBR) training with a certificate program from 2019. The program will be developed in collaboration with the APPEAR project partners (University of Vienna, University of Gondar, and Addis Ababa University) in the INEDIS-Project with financial grant from Austrian Development Cooperation. The main intent of launching the training is to ensure the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities and their families in their communities. Additionally the course shall develop a track for qualification of an important group of supporters of persons with disabilities. The paper will present preliminary results of an ongoing research process, and ideas for further development of the new qualification project.

The implementation of programs for maintaining care and safety of learners in the Graaff Reinet District

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The study examined the implementation of programs for maintaining care and safety of learners in four secondary schools in the Graaff Reinet District. The study is located in the interpretivist paradigm and employed a case study research design. Purposive sampling was used to choose participants in the four schools. Focus groups, semi-structured interviews and document analysis were used as instruments for data collection. It emerged from the data collection that schools used a variety of strategies to implement care and safety strategies such as Code of Conduct, social emotional learning programme, guidance and counselling, the Hlayiseka project, the crime and reduction school programme, school safety committees and safety regulations. Data revealed that there are challenges that are faced by schools in the implementation of care and safety strategies. Despite these challenges, there are pockets of good practice that are found in

schools. The study concluded and recommended that, in ensuring the implementation of care and safety all community stakeholders should be on board in the process of crafting the strategies. This would encourage ownership and transparency. The process of crafting the Code of Conduct should be fair, be simplified, involve all those stakeholders that have interest in the schools. Upon admission, the Code of Conduct should be issued with the application forms to learners and parents to carefully read, and sign. The language of preference should be considered. It should be emphasised that learner misconduct is dealt with through record keeping. Principals and educators should engage the Department of Education to build the capacity on educators and learner support agents in the provision of guidance and counselling to learners. It is important to establish links with sister departments such as SAPS, correctional services, social development and health for effective implementation of care and safety strategies.

Resilience and psychological wellbeing in social work students: supporting social work education in challenging times

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Background: The psychological characteristic of resilience has been identified as playing a crucial role in social workers' abilities to cope with distress and have a long-term career. Building on the work of Kinman and Grant (2011), this research explored factors that influence the development of resilience and reduce psychological distress. We drew on Self-determination Theory (SDT), which predicts that when our needs for competence (effectiveness at mastering the environment), autonomy (sense of control and free will), and relatedness (interacting and connecting with others) are satisfied, we experience higher degrees of wellbeing. Thus, when these three needs are met in social work students, they have the potential to promote psychological wellbeing and contribute to the development of resilience. The current study tested the hypothesis that higher levels of autonomy, competence and relatedness will predict levels of psychological wellbeing and resilience in social work students. We further explored the role of emotional and social competences as investigated by Kinman and Grant (2011). Methods: 210 social work students studying in the UK completed questionnaires to assess: autonomy, competence and relatedness; resilience; psychological distress; emotional intelligence; empathic abilities; and

social competences. Results: After controlling for age, gender and ethnicity, preliminary analysis revealed that autonomy, competence and relatedness predicted 19% of the variation in resilience scores. However, these SDT factors did not remain significant predictors of resilience when emotional intelligence, empathic concern, and psychological wellbeing were added to the analysis; these additional factors significantly predicted resilience, explaining 55% of the variance. Instead, SDT factors significantly predicted levels of psychological wellbeing, which in turn predicted resilience. Discussion: This study supported Kinman and Grant's research by confirming the substantial role played by emotional intelligence in predicting resilience in social work trainees. Further, SDT provides a useful framework for understanding psychological wellbeing, which plays an important role in developing resilience. This is important because the psychological needs for autonomy, competence and relatedness can all be affected by external social and cultural factors; thus, they can be improved by the right type of supportive teaching practices and educational environments. These findings contribute to the growing evidence-base to support the development of a resilient and healthy social worker workforce.

Social work field education in Ugandan universities: Policy, lessons from practice, and new directions

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Although social work training has historically adopted a dual model of instruction that pays equal attention to both theory and practice, fieldwork instruction in many schools of social work especially, in the Global South, does not receive the same attention as theoretical lecture room teaching. This paper examined the current policies and practices that inform social work field instruction in schools of social work in Uganda and explored experience-based learning points and new directions towards improving social work field education learning in the country. The study adopted a largely qualitative method and combined cross-sectional and exploratory designs to collect both primary and secondary data. Data was analyzed using thematic content and discourse analysis. Major findings showed that many schools of social work did not have coherent and formal field instruction policies; field instructors were short on the required competence to guide interns; social work schools largely used block student placements; field instruction funding was still problematic; and the selection of learning agencies was not optimized. The study concluded that

social work field education in Uganda in its current format does not offer effective learning or teaching and that it does not satisfactorily compare with international benchmarks for field instruction. The study recommends that there is need for schools of social work in the country to develop comprehensive formal field instruction policies and guidelines, formalize university-agencies training memoranda, develop capacity of agency field work instructors, explore field instruction options beyond block placements, and address the field education funding gaps.

**The theory-practice nexus in social work education:
Using 'Forum Theatre' as a preparation for practice**

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The challenge for social work educators is to provide a realistic experience, within a safe space, to explore the emotional-relational complexities of social work prior to practice. This paper focuses upon initial findings emerging from a qualitative study following an educational project using Forum Theatre as a pedagogical tool during postgraduate social work students' training. Funding for the project was gained from the Ferens Education Trust. I utilised theatre techniques to promote the acquisition and practice of core skills and values to enhance students' professional expertise and effectiveness in the field. These skills align with the Professional Capabilities Framework held by the British Association of Social Workers and the standards of proficiency required by the Health and Care Professions Council for social workers in England. There is a growing international and European literature base focused upon the social pedagogy of Augusto Boal and the use of applied theatre, such as Forum Theatre, in education and professional training. Applied theatre pedagogies are about more than the pedagogical processes themselves, they are about understanding the community settings where applied theatre is practiced and the users it is practiced with, in order to learn through an embodied or felt experience. The project and research included social work, drama and youth work students, service users, carers and practitioners from within the local community. Through the interface between disciplines, and the wider community, this collaborative project sought to extend students' learning in creative ways that developed transferable skills. The research consisted of individual interviews and focus groups. The data drawn upon for this paper are derived from five focus groups involving 20 participations who took part in the project. I report on the interlinked themes of 'personal-professional transformation', 'theory-practice links' and 'connection

and shared learning' which emerged from participants' narratives as they journeyed through Forum Theatre.

**Social work practice and needs in Rwanda: An
overview**

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This paper presents empirical findings from the Rwanda social work survey conducted in 2016. The aim of the survey was to put in place a database of social workers operating in Rwanda with all their corresponding addresses for ease communication in case of need. The information gathered include respondents' gender, category of the organization they work for, experience of practice, field of practice, training background, highest qualification attained, areas of specialization in case they need to upgrade their studies, and where they would choose between Huye and Kigali. Beyond the biographical information, the researchers sought to know the respondents' expectations for the promotion of social work education and practice in Rwanda. Findings revealed that in the total number of 438 respondents, males were 244, females 183 while 11 did not indicate their gender. 82 of them were operating in Kigali City while 39 were based in Huye District. Nyabihu District had a less number of 5 respondents while in other districts the number of respondents varied between 6 and 17. Majority of the respondents (64%) work in the public sector, 17% in semi-public while less than 1% were self-employed. Their experiences of practice differ from less than one year (18) and more than ten years of experience with 77 respondents. Between 1 and 5 years, there were 208, between 6 and 10 years, there were 91, while 44 did not give details about their experience. Their education background was predominately social work with 255 respondents. It was followed by sociology (44), clinical psychology (12), education (5), and other social sciences (90). In terms of the domain of intervention, 91 respondents indicated that they work in social welfare and social protection, 67 are in child and family welfare, 55 in community development, 53 in medical/hospital social work, 27 social work administration, 19 in case management while 44 did not give details concerning their field of practice. 88.1% showed their interest in pursuing master's program in social work where 173 wanted to do child and family studies, and 111 would like to pursue social work administration. 66.7% needed the master program to be run in Kigali while 33.3% preferred Huye. It was noticed that social work is not only practiced by

trained social workers. Majority of them therefore expressed the need for continued training and education at higher levels. Indeed, more qualified social workers should be recruited in all districts to be able to meet the ultimate mission of social work to assist and empower the people.

Pedagogy and research at work during the era of quality assurance policy implementing in universities

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Education is a social service that academicians are struggling to improve its quality so as to transform global communities economically and socially. Quality Assurance (QA) Policy aims at establishing a culture of continuous quality improvement in institutions of higher learning, colleges, and universities globally. The process may be hijacked or frustrated by institutions' internal management and national government policy implementation procedures. The existing literature shows that there is need to address knowledge freedom so as to encourage creativity and innovation in developing countries. The low morale academicians fail to practice modern pedagogical practices that would transform learners into critical thinkers and innovators; hence, leading them into proud citizens among "owning social class" of their economy. The two objectives of this presentation are; to establish how quality assurance policy implementation can cognitively be enhanced by universities and political leaders in developing countries; and to establish a relationship between pedagogy, research and implementation of quality assurance policy in universities. This paper originates from partial data collected during PhD field research where the following variables were observed significant for institutional policy implementation: policy knowledge (cognitive value) 0.88, negotiation between involved parties 0.94, empowerment in decision making 0.87, and perceived service delivery 0.83. It is in the interest of employees to see and cause a transformation in institutional management that is oriented towards continuous quality improvement of both personnel and service delivery to the clients. The current practice of policy implementation in universities and governments remains a challenge as cognitive value is not considered by policy makers and politicians in different global economies. There is a lot of resistance towards transformation and policy implementation due to failure to follow normal policy cycle; hence, little is being achieved and verbal practice is surpassing practice or reality of

development and quality service. The few intellectuals remaining in developing countries where dictatorship is significant, they are seeking VISA to enslave themselves in search for freedom of expression and possibility of practicing what they know through research. A lot of discrepancy exists between what they say, know, and their practice. Pedagogy in such institutions and countries is practiced with reservation and little is achieved by the students due to system failures.

Exploring collaborative synergies to improve social work education and training in Uganda: Sharing experiences and strategies seeking to improve overall program outcomes

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The discussion explores potential benefits of partnership between two social work schools from the developed-world context and Uganda Christian University's (UCU) department of social work (developing-country context). The main objective of the discussion is to generate ideas on how best experiential knowledge and skills on effective teaching and learning, and program leadership can transform the education and training of social workers (equipped with adequate competencies suitable for current and future social service job demands), especially in a resource-constrained country like Uganda. A historical background and current overview of social work education and practice in both contexts is presented to facilitate an understanding of some of the challenges social work educators face, but also the opportunities program leaders should seize – especially leaders from private university settings. Examples of current social problems such as overarching poverty at the local level, and immigration-related issues at the international level are, but just some of the useful illustrations for this discussion – to make a case for developing partnerships that exchange and share effective practices. We also argue that respecting indigenous knowledge integration into curricula will not only enrich collaborations between developed and developing contexts, but also addresses needs of local and international learners. In conclusion, this discussion posits that while such collaboration initiatives lead to knowledge and skill transfer and exchange (immediate) for students and faculty, collaborations also present great potential for applied research to inform meaningful social work curricula reviews.

**Social work education in post-conflict DRC:
Experience from the Evangelical University in Africa,
Bukavu**

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The higher education sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC, includes the public and private providers. Until 2013, no higher education institution offered a social work education program. Professional social work was not amongst the stakes of both public and private interest as universities only offered traditional social sciences programs, including sociology, psychology, economics, and political sciences. In October 2013, the Evangelical University in Africa, UEA/Bukavu launched a 5year advanced BA program (diplome de licence) in Social Work in the Faculty of Social Sciences; the Faculty runs two departments, the Department of Social Work and the Department of Peace and Conflict Transformation. The first cohort in this program will graduate in 2018 and it is expected that they will bring important innovations to the interventions addressing the many post-conflict aftermaths in DRC. The social work program at UEA is therefore an innovation and this experience of UEA is not worthily known. This study wished to describe the experience of the Evangelical University in Africa in training social workers. It employed primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected from students, educators and academic authorities and employers who use the social work students for internships through individual interviews, while secondary data was obtained from records, programs, and other important literature available at the school. The research evidence indicates that in its social work education program, the Evangelical University in Africa intends to promote the culture of sustainability in interventions addressing the traditional social problems and the issues emerging from the conflict aftermaths. The approach of the Department is therefore different from the emergency and assistance-oriented approaches of humanitarian NGOs and local associations intervening to address particular social problems such as child abuse, sexual exploitation, prostitution, child marriage, communitarian conflicts, and the like.

**Rethinking social work internship and supervision in
Lesotho: Challenges faced by social work students**

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Field attachment of social work students is an integral practical component aimed at providing students with the best opportunities to relate theory to practice. Students are expected to get exposed to the practical aspects of the profession vis-à-vis its values and ethics. For the social work student, this is where internship agencies and agency-based supervisors as well as institutional instructors become critical. These agencies and supervisors, together with institutional instructors are expected to guide the student who in turn is expected to relate her/his practical experiences to the academic content. Preliminary investigations for this study show that there are some challenges encountered by social work students during internships. For example, the majority of the few social welfare agencies in Lesotho are staffed with non-social work managers/supervisors and are administered by people with little understanding or appreciation of social work practices. It is this observation, among others, that has made the researcher quite enthusiastic to explore the challenges faced by National University of Lesotho (NUL) social work students who find themselves in such agencies. By so doing, the article intends to contribute to the scholarship on social work internship and supervision. The ultimate purpose of the study is to make recommendations that will go a long way in improving the nature of social work field internship and supervision in Lesotho with a view to global benchmarking.

**Social work education and the cultural realities of
Africa: Grappling for relevance and efficacy in
Tanzania**

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The development and practice of social work in Africa take cue from the African colonial history. The social work education which developed latter in Africa therefore had all the ramification of being part and parcel of that history. Evidence is abound which indicate or doubt the extent to which such training has captured or is striving to capture the diverse African cultural realities. Based on recent data, this paper interrogates the extent to which social work education and research has managed to craft social work education that takes into account the cultural realities of diverse communities in Tanzania. The main argument is that major strides have been made towards making social work education relevant in Tanzania but there are still gaps that need to be dealt with to ensure that social work achieves the desired change. The paper will underscore the conspicuous absence of incorporation of

indigenous and cultural specific models into social work education in Tanzania that would make sense to both the students and the community. Granted that we have curriculum development experts more often than not the kind of training delivered here that which is offered in the West which include reading materials. This over-reliance on research and publications based on other cultural perspectives and discourses has sapped social work of its power to change and improve lives. The paper recommends for crafting a social work education which is informed by local discourses and knowledges thereof.

Abstracts for sub-theme 10: Social protection and social security systems: challenges and innovations

Re-conceptualising social protection: The case of social assistance grant for empowerment (SAGE) program in Uganda

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Social protection has become a popular development strategy because it directly addresses poverty reduction. The manner in which it is perceived by policy makers influences how and what is provided as social protection. This paper will examine the conception of social protection, its purpose and overall goal in Uganda, versus the actual provision. Despite dramatic reduction of poverty levels in Uganda over the last two decades, 43% of the population is highly vulnerable to shocks that push them back into extreme poverty. To respond to this vulnerability, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development in partnership with UK Department for International Development, Irish Aid and UNICEF have championed efforts to promote social protection. Accordingly, a 5 year Expanding Social Protection (ESP) program was launched in 2010. One of the goals is to reduce chronic poverty and improve life chances for poor Ugandans. SAGE is one of the core components of ESP. SAGE targets those above 65 years old and vulnerable families with limited capacity to work. Currently, it is implemented in 40 out of the 116 districts in Uganda. The beneficiaries receive 25,000 Uganda shillings (\$6.8). The aim of SAGE is to protect the poor and vulnerable households so that they can access small, regular and reliable direct income supply. The overall goal is to protect them from extreme poverty and improve their resilience to socio-economic shocks. Notwithstanding these noble goals, the program is bedevilled by conceptual and practical problems relating to how it is defined and delivered. Hence, there is a discrepancy between what the policy conceives and what is provided as social protection. This paper will examine the relevance and appropriateness of SAGE in relation to social protection policy. A document review will be done to examine SAGE program in Uganda. Conceptual problems relating to the definition of social protection and its actual provision will be explored. Additionally, it will investigate practical challenges of its delivery. This paper will also inquire into whether SAGE really qualifies to be categorized as social

protection, as well as to rethink how to figure out ways of overcoming challenges related to its delivery. This will inform policy makers and development partners on how to make SAGE more realistic and relevant to ensure it serves the intended purpose.

Towards a comprehensive and inclusive social protection system for Rwanda

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Over the period 1994 to 2017, national development strategy in Rwanda focused on the eradication of extreme poverty and reducing other forms of human deprivation. Social protection, during this period, evolved from humanitarian assistance to social assistance for the extreme poor and contributed to Rwanda's strong performance in delivering national development targets and the Millennium Development Goals. Rwanda's flagship social protection program, the Vision 2020 Umurenge Programme (VUP), has been critical to these achievements and, as a largely domestically funded program is recognised as a regional success story. Furthermore, a social care system has begun to emerge to respond to a wider range of social risks affecting children, women, youth, people with disabilities, and the elderly in particular. However, despite these successes Rwanda's social protection sector faces a number of challenges. In the first instance coverage remains low, particularly among key vulnerable groups such as older people, people with disabilities, children and labour-constrained households. As a result, resilience of the population to a wide range of socio-economic risks is limited, thereby delaying achievement of the eradication of extreme poverty. Second, current approaches to targeting of social protection benefits have often proved problematic. Third, the capacity of the emerging social care system remains insufficient to address increasingly complex forms of social deprivation and marginalization. Finally, institutional capacity remains weak at all levels and coordination with complementary programs remains insufficient to support sustained graduation from extreme poverty and reduced malnutrition – two of Rwanda's key policy priorities. Therefore, in order to ensure the achievement of commitments contained within key national, regional and international policy frameworks, Rwanda must take steps to establish a more comprehensive, inclusive and effective social protection

system. This paper charts the development of Rwanda's social protection system over the past decade, reviews evidence on program impacts and effectiveness and examines the future for social protection, both in the immediate and longer-term. It draws on a number of quantitative and qualitative evaluations as well as analysis conducted in the lead up to the development of Rwanda's new National Social Protection Policy and Strategic Plan (2018-2024).

Rwanda in handling social protection issues through innovative strategies: Case of Vision 2020 Umurenge program

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After the 1994 genocide against Tutsi, it was not easy to handle problems related to the wellbeing of the Rwandan citizens. Among other innovative initiatives, the Government of Rwanda has developed a long term "Vision 2020". It is under this vision that different social protection programs (VUP, Ubudehe, Mutuelle de Santé, Girinka,) have been developed, aiming at improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable groups of the Rwandan community (elderly, poor, unable to work, people with disability, historically marginalized people, ...). In the same context, the Vision 2020 Umurenge Program (VUP) was established in 2008 under the Ministry of Local Government, currently implemented within the Local Administrative Entities Development Agency with an aim of making a critical contribution to Rwanda's efforts to eradicate extreme poverty, malnutrition, and promote socio-economic transformation by accelerating graduation from extreme poverty and strengthening household resilience. Even if different reports have been raised on the effects of VUP interventions in social protection, there is a need to really know what has changed in the way a household used to live. The current study discusses one of these programs namely Vision 2020 Umurenge Program and its impact on the living conditions of a household. Through documents review (reports and policies), direct observation, informally talking to the beneficiaries of the program in Gicumbi district of Rwanda, I have come to know that this program meant a lot in the lives of its beneficiaries. Among the research participants, a household that was in severe poverty told me that in a period of 3 years under the support, up to now, it has changed its ways of living where it has got 3 of small livestock (2 goats and 1 lamp), bought iron sheets for covering its shelter, 2 mattresses, cloths, food, and hygiene kit. VUP has success stories in the

living conditions of a household including: graduation from extreme poverty to resilience; capacity empowerment, food security; job creation; adult population accessing financial institutions; promoted women's financial inclusion; and effectiveness of social protection interventions. It has directly addressed and needs more efforts in addressing the crosscutting issues of good management of funds to beneficiaries; climate change and mind-set development; however, VUP is a success to recommend to any decision-maker in the area of social protection.

Are Uganda's social protection interventions for the youth working? Evidence from the Youth Livelihoods Programme

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Many governments in developing countries are grappling with the challenge of youth unemployment. While the government of Uganda has initiated several development programs to address the same, few have been rigorously evaluated to ascertain their efficacy. Between October and December 2016, a study was commissioned to investigate the Youth Livelihoods Programme (YLP) – a five year government of Uganda flagship development program targeting poor and unemployed youth aged between 18 and 30 years from all the districts of Uganda. The evaluation employed mixed methods research and guided by the theory of change. A total of 40 focus group discussions with YLP beneficiaries in youth interest group and 103 in-depth interviews with government officials were conducted. The evaluation found that YLP was largely rolled out as planned with vulnerable youths being mobilized throughout the country and enthusiastically expressing interest to take part in the program. With only three years of implementation, the YLP has reached over 83,000 youths across the 112 districts of Uganda. YLP has reached 56% of its target beneficiaries with only 40% of the resources. The program is constrained by inadequate operational funds and some youths have been misguided by unscrupulous politicians to misinterpret the program as a political gift for supporting the ruling government. The overall conclusion is that the YLP is a bold initiative on part of the government to invest in young people without prior business experience. There is agreement that if the implementers of the program are facilitated to undertake the operational activities as planned, the YLP has potential for securing the lives of this vulnerable but dynamic population category.

Strengthening national social service systems: a tool for planning, monitoring, and evaluation

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Sustainably and effectively addressing strong social development rests – in part – on the performance of the underlying government social service system. To support social welfare services around the world, governments, donors, and civil society are working to ensure that national systems are robust and provide quality assistance to individuals and households in poverty. This includes investment in developing and implementing national policies, accurately forecasting and advocating for financial assistance, and mobilizing and training frontline and other staff to deliver social assistance. Yet the outcomes of such efforts are fragmented and largely undocumented, due in part to the lack of consensus around the critical components of a well-performing social service system and standardized measures of assessment. To address this, experts from MEASURE Evaluation, a global project funded by the United States Agency for International Development, developed a framework to plan, monitor, and evaluate national ‘social service systems’ with an emphasis on child-sensitive social protection and child protection systems. Development of the framework was highly participatory, with global experts from governments, donors, academia, and civil society engaged. The result of this work is a series of 33 standardized indicators and a comprehensive guidance document for global use to assess the status of a national social service system, plan priorities to continue sustainably strengthening the system, and routinely monitor progress in strengthening the system. The indicators support structured diagnostic system assessments for strategically determining investments, and provide a means to measure achievements of system strengthening interventions. This presentation will outline the global indicators, measurement strategies, findings from the field validation conducted in South and Eastern Africa, and updates based on piloting the framework in Cameroon in December 2017.

A critique of the social assistance grant for economic empowerment of the elderly in Uganda: Progress and challenges

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Statistics show an improvement in the life expectancy rate of Uganda of up to 58 years from 49 in the early 2000s implying that more and more Ugandans are living into their prime ages. Consequently, the government of Uganda through the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development introduced a Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment where the elderly of 65 years and above in about 45 districts are given a monthly remittance of about 15% of their monthly expenditure which is 10 dollars as of 2010. However little the money has turned out to, there has been unprecedented progress in the field of social protection, inclusion of the elderly in development programs, assured incomes for the elderly, and increased government visibility on the ground. This paper therefore brings to the fore the progress made by the Expanding Social Protection Policy in Uganda through the Senior Citizens Grant under the SAGE program. It also gives a little background of the traditional social support systems of the elderly in selected Ugandan communities. As noted, the remittance only captures 15% of total monthly expenditure of the beneficiaries. This is one of the many challenges marring this social protection program in Uganda. Failure to account for inflationary changes, funding, selection of service providers, corruption, and politicization of the policy are among the other challenges facing this noble program. The paper concludes by suggesting possible recommendations to make this program more inclusive so that no one is left behind like the second National Development Plan articulates. Effort is made to draw knowledge and experience from the developed countries that have set up an effective social protection policy for the elderly so that an appropriate indigenous policy is introduced to buttress the efforts so far made by the Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment of the Elderly in Uganda. I also look at how traditional social support systems like the family and mutual support groups can be incorporated into this policy well privy to the fact that as humans grow older, they tend to delve more into the socio-cultural and religious systems at their disposal.

The social workers’ case management dilemma: Managing encounters in Kenya’s child protection information management system

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Lack of congruent data concerning social workers problems in the background of a child welfare intervention conceals frustrations among social workers during child protection case management. It is distinct to notice that

social problems are seen from multi-problem perspectives that trigger varied encounters for successful interventions in child protection endeavours. The strength is broad understanding about family problems by social workers and the weakness is the unknown intention of some cases filed and lack of seriousness attached to the cases by the complainants who report such cases to social workers in the children offices. Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS) provides a case management platform where social workers collaboratively assess the needs of the client, coordinate interventions, and manage multiple intervention services and encounters, thereby generating real time data. Despite social workers' efforts towards generating real time data and managing encounters through the CPIMS, the number of pending cases reported by the system is still alarming. This paper examined the reasons behind the increasing number of pending cases recorded in the Child Protection Information Management System. Exploratory design was employed and in-depth interviews were conducted to 8 sub-county social workers managing CPIMS in Nairobi County using unstructured interviews. One focus group discussion was also conducted involving both CPIMS social workers and senior social workers at the Department of Children's Services Headquarters' planning and development section. Relational content methodology was used to analyse gathered information which allowed generation of themes and concepts for discussions. The study revealed that case reporting by clients in many occasions does not demand logical conclusion through case management procedures but are intended to serve other interests of the clients causing confusion among social workers in child protection case management. The study recommends proper vetting, understanding and scrutiny of cases reported before they are recorded in the child protection information system.

Social workers and foster care program implementation in Nairobi County, Kenya

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The number of children in need of care and protection in Sub-Saharan African nations has been on the rise. Impact of HIV/AIDS, changing family patterns and rural to urban migrations have contributed to an increase in the number of children that need care. Institutional care has been the most dominant approach for protection and caring for vulnerable children but has, however, been known to have a negative effect on children development. Foster care has been heralded as an effective approach to providing care

and protection of vulnerable children in a home environment. In foster care programs, social workers provide services for children in care by identifying children in need and linking them with foster parents and families that best suit their plight. However, the foster care program in Kenya has been documented to experience problems. The main objective of this research focuses on the challenges that social workers experience in implementing foster care services in Nairobi County. The study will use purposive sampling strategy to select stakeholders in the foster care services sector. A qualitative approach will be adopted consisting of both primary and secondary sources of data for the research. Key informant interviews with foster care stakeholders and secondary information from published and unpublished material on foster care program implementation in Nairobi County will be used to gather information for this research. The implication of this research is to improve service delivery to vulnerable children through foster care program by addressing documented experiences of social workers. This research hopes to make recommendations to improve social workers service delivery within the emerging foster care systems in Kenya and other Sub-Saharan Africa countries with similar challenges and contribute to the holistic development of vulnerable children in society.

Informal social protection in Tanzania: A survey of the needs and resources for the support of older people in rural areas

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Tanzania is currently experiencing the rapid increase of the proportion of older people in its population. Majority of older people live in rural areas in traditional extended families. Informal social support for the elderly from these families is dwindling away and many families in rural areas often offer inadequate or sometimes fail completely to provide adequate support to their aged family members. This study examines the available resources and social protection needs of older people in two rural districts of Mwanza region in Tanzania. It addresses the questions: What kinds of resources are available for the support of older people in rural areas? What are the present social protection needs of older people in rural areas? A single point in time cross-sectional survey method was used to collect data (n=968) from research participants aged 60 years and above in two districts of Mwanza region. Face-to-face paper and pencil interviews were used to collect information from the participants. And descriptive

analysis was used to analyze the data differentiating male and female within the districts. The key findings indicate that the family is the main source of support for older people. Support mainly came from male married children sharing residence with older parents. Older people also offered support. However, social inequalities in education and marital status affect older people's capacity to reciprocate and give social support. In spite of the support offered in the family, older people expect interventions of other social institutions, particularly state cash transfers to support them with many aspects of their livelihood: daily needs, health needs, and family cohesion. The family structure offers practical support to older people living in rural areas. Its functions can be improved to allow it to offer more services to family ageing members.

Abstracts for poster presentations

Understanding the psychological needs of black and minority ethnic social work students at university

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Black and minority ethnic (BME) students disproportionately experience difficulties with academic progression than white students: they are more likely to defer, have academic work referred, take longer to complete the course, and withdraw from the course altogether. Fletcher et al. (2013) argue that this is because universities compromise on the strategies needed to afford equality of outcomes for BME students. These issues may be particularly problematic in social work: admission of BME students in social work programs across the country, and at Oxford Brookes University, are substantially higher than the proportion of BME students entering other degree programs (Social Work Task Force report, Building a Safe, Confident Future, DCSF, 2009). Little research has been carried out that is specific to social work and not much is currently known about the best ways in which BME social work students may be supported. This is important because inequality of access is still an issue in the social work profession for BME students and the profession is unrepresentative of the multicultural society it serves. This research reports on the findings of a literature review and 2 focus groups that were carried out with a number of BME students studying social work. The framework we employed to review previous literature and analyse the focus groups was Self-Determination Theory (Deci & Ryan, 2000). This empirically supported theory predicts that when our needs for competence (ability to master our environment), autonomy (our sense of control and free will), and relatedness (sense of belonging and connecting meaningfully with others) are satisfied, we experience higher degrees of motivation to learn and wellbeing. Our analysis revealed that BME students experienced both fulfilment and lack of fulfilment of their psychological needs. They discussed issues of a lack of autonomy in referring to the restrictive and colonised nature of the curriculum, and a lack of ability to discuss diversity issues in the classroom, but they experienced a sense of belonging in some classes. In terms of competence, students felt that they had to be 'twice as good' as a white person to be at the same level, although more supportive teachers contributed to their sense of competence. However, there remains a lack of diversity

among teaching staff, which has a negative impact on sense of belonging. Implications for improving support to BME students at university are discussed.

Risk factors associated with alcohol abuse amongst the youth: Implications for policy considerations

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The influences of alcohol abuse amongst the youth have been linked to multiple risk factors. Alcohol abuse among the youth is costing the country a lot of money every year. This is evident in large sums of money that is used particularly in prevention and treatment centres throughout South Africa. This paper aims at analysing risk factors associated with alcohol abuse amongst the youth. The authors reviewed and analysed literature as research design. The study adopted eco-systems theory. The eco-systems theory asserts that the systems are always sub-systems of the larger systems in an environment, but can, at the same time, be divided into smaller sub-system units that influence each other. The eco-system theorists believe that to view alcohol abuse by youth in isolation from their family and environment is equal to ignoring the influence of the home in which they learn to perceive how they fit in the world, as well as the influences others have on their behaviour. The most widely abused substances are alcohol, tobacco and cannabis because they are in excess. Moreover, a national survey indicates that 51% of Grade 6 learners experienced peer pressure to drink alcohol. Moreover, risk factors of alcohol abuse represent challenges to an individual's emotional, social, and academic development. The analysis focused on risk factors associated with alcohol abuse amongst the youth. It can be concluded that there are numerous factors that play a vital role in determining the usage of alcohol in the life of individuals.

Researching with children

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There is increasing interest and emphasis on child participation in good governance for sustainable development. There are occasions when children have been involved in research activities and community programs at various levels. They have participated as research subjects, research objects, and to a limited extent

older children have been empowered to work as researchers under the guidance of adults. Various approaches of involving children have been documented by practitioners and researchers to illustrate ways of interacting with children effectively. As is the nature of participatory methods, there has been no best approach but a variety that endeavors to uphold ethic, theory, and principles of participation. This poster will share the use of action research approaches with children of 10-15 years from a peri-urban and rural community in Uganda in field study that explored their awareness and perspectives of children's rights. The field study sought to explore ways of soliciting children's views for inclusion in decision making processes across government structures. The poster is intended to demonstrate that children are able to communicate ideas generated from their focus group discussions to parents, guardians, and community leaders. The study confirmed that effective involvement of children empower children to contribute to decision making in planning for community welfare. The poster will illustrate how the power centers in the community were managed at various stages of the field research to create a favorable environment for a dialogue meeting at which children presented their perceptions of children's rights, and elders listened attentively; and thereafter engaged in discussion affirming that children need protection.

Social work for lifelong learning opportunities through peer sexuality education: A case of Kenyatta University, Kenya

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Social workers capitalize on peer participation to demystify the societal practices and traditions for improved wellbeing of the youth. Through peer sexual education, social workers encourage interaction between individuals with shared behaviour, experience, status or social and cultural backgrounds. Peer are then recruited to lead sexual interventions among young people in higher learning institutions adopting peer-led methods in contexts best understood by the peers themselves at particular instances. As an age-appropriate, situation-befitting and relevant approach to reaching peers about sexuality and relationships, it nurtures mature decision-making by providing succinct and broad-minded information for promoting lifelong learning opportunities. However, despite social workers' efforts in advocating for its significance in higher learning institutions, coupled with

the good will from the institutions' administrators, peer sexuality education is still not commonly practiced by university students. This paper examined effects of social work in promoting sexuality education for lifelong learning opportunities among university students. The study adopted descriptive and cross-sectional survey design and a sample of 70 students were interviewed in the survey. Further, 2 focus group discussions were conducted and simple random sampling technique was used for main respondents in this study. Descriptive and content methodologies were used to analyse both quantitative and qualitative data. The paper revealed that social workers' efforts through peer sexual education influences student's sexual knowledge, attitudes, and sexual behaviour, thereby improving lifelong learning opportunities. This paper recommends to the Ministry of Education, social work associations, university administration and student unions to consider putting more emphasis on peer sexuality education in universities.

Intervention experiences of social workers working with children who have committed sexual offences

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The cases of children involved in criminal activities are on the increase all over the world, including in South Africa. Offering services to all children and youth, whilst upholding the rights of children, is one of the fields of practice in social work. South Africa has adopted a restorative approach that aims to rehabilitate and return children in conflict with the law back into their communities. At the heart of applying restorative approaches as intervention with children in conflict with the law are social workers. The study attempts to explore the experiences of social workers regarding their intervention strategies with young sexual offenders. The study applied a qualitative approach and narrative research design. Non-probability purposive sampling was used to select 12 research participants from organisations that facilitate diversion programs for child sex offenders. To ensure trustworthiness of the research, three prosecutors were also interviewed. Semi-structured interview schedules were utilized to conduct in-depth telephonic interviews with the participants. The data was transcribed verbatim and analyzed using thematic analysis. The main finding which emerged from the study was that social workers' challenges with diversion are mainly associated with external factors such as poor parental co-operation. The study concludes that diversion contributes to reducing the level of recidivism with child

sex offenders and is a necessary form of intervention for children in conflict with the law.

Grow, Train, Make, Sustain: Social work innovation in East Africa via Bamboo for Good (B4G)

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Communities around the world face myriad social, economic and ecological challenges as they endeavor to improve quality-of-life (QOL) conditions via precarious dependencies on energy-intensive and supply-chain extensive resource systems. Local and regional self-reliance innovations can reveal new means of realizing QOL improvements, including social and environmental justice, while reducing undesirable conditions. Doing so is important as increasing impacts of climate change and related incidents of human and more-than-human displacements, including losses of life and habitat, require people and communities to improvise and adapt solutions to promulgate opportunities for timely social, economic, and ecological benefit. Such benefits aim to progressively resolve injustices as reliable resources and social relationships replace entropic disenfranchisement with foundations of resilience, confidence, and power. To mitigate and resolve hardship, social workers acting in support of sustainable development are themselves challenged to innovate, collaborate, and demonstrate solutions as effectively and quickly as possible. This clarion call for action requires practitioner sensitivities and attention to whole-system contexts of issues and opportunities. Accordingly, this paper will introduce the dynamic model of Bamboo for Good (B4G), which combines traditional sustainable development intentions with strategic use of the valuable bamboo plant as a catalyst for innovation to address critical humanitarian and wildlife habitat issues in East Africa. An overview of the four B4G stages of collaborative program development and implementation will be offered, including (a) growing and harvesting bamboo to complement existing agriculture and agroforestry efforts, (b) provision of skill training and workforce development to support sustainable cultivation, and (c) new bamboo product creation and industries to meet critical needs, all aligned via (d) strategic planning to sustain programs and partner relationships for durable beneficial impacts. Implications for social work practitioners, educators, researchers and students are outlined in the interest of recommending actions targeting knowledge and skills needed to support B4G application and sustainable QOL improvements.

Permaculture design principles, methods and examples are specifically cited as a theoretical framework and practical means for social work professionals to adapt B4G methods as means of pursuing their own personal and professional innovations.

The Raleigh immigrant community: Using social action in support groups to address mental health needs of recently resettled refugees

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This presentation provides an overview of how a group curriculum, entitled Pathways to Wellness (P2W), was adapted for recently resettled refugees in North Carolina. By incorporating systems-level, social justice advocacy work, group members have been empowered to be the engineers in their individual and collective healing. Refugee Wellness describes the evaluation procedures and initial findings on the effectiveness of engaging in this community-led treatment. In this process of exploring social justice issues of equity and inclusion, a Congolese refugee group is moving toward independence – naming themselves the Raleigh Immigrant Community, electing a leadership board, and doing group work outside of our sessions. Through discussions about their active role in fighting for systems-level changes, group members are empowered to be the architects of their recovery. This exploration started by sharing misconceptions and expectations of the U.S. and has now evolved into a refugee-run 501(c)(3) non-profit organization funded by the Office of Refugee Resettlement. Goals: to demonstrate how refugee leaders have leveraged mental health support groups to gain self-sufficiency and coping skills by meeting with community partners independently and responding supportively to group members' feelings of hopelessness. Integration of theory and practice: While the recovery process may begin with exploring trauma histories, healing can also start with the onset of collective action, which delves into the structural formation of these relationships. By working on advocacy and systems level changes, group members have the opportunity to foster their own healing. Outcomes: participants to learn about the P2W curricula and how to adapt it to their clients/have clients participate in adapting the curricula for themselves. The P2W curriculum normalizes the refugee experience and focuses on individual and cultural strengths by fostering a group problem-solving environment; building social capital among members; providing education about culture shock; contextualizing

mental health needs such as anxiety, depression, PTSD, and loneliness; and teaching coping skills. Engagement: use both quantitative and qualitative results to illustrate the process of responding to recently resettled refugees' mental health needs and the following community ownership of advocacy and program planning.

Strengthening social work for sustainable development in East Africa. Evidence from the PROSOWO project

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Globally, social work aims to promote social change, with human welfare and social justice at the heart of the profession. Social workers have to daily grapple with issues of poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion as they work with the most marginalised groups in society. A more developmental approach to social work involves engaging with the structural and systemic factors that drive poverty and vulnerability and in this regard, the social work profession must be seen as a viable contributor towards sustainable social development. In East Africa, the social work profession is rising from the claws of the colonial heritage, coupled with inadequate investments in the training, development and support of professional social workers at the education, policy and practice levels. In an environment where social work practice is not regulated, its contribution towards sustainable social development has been hardly recognised. Since 2011, a consortium of 6 academic institutions from East Africa (5) and Austria (1) embarked on a joint project to strengthen professional social work to more effectively contribute towards social development, poverty reduction and gender equality. The project – Professional Social Work in East Africa (PROSOWO) – now in its second phase is funded by the Austrian Development Cooperation through the Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development (APPEAR). The project's interlinked components include research, curriculum development, capacity building, advocacy, and dissemination. These have resulted in concrete outcomes including launch of revised and new curricula that are more developmental-oriented and responsive to the practical realities of the East African Community. Through research and publications, numerous scientific publications have been developed reducing the gaps in relevant teaching and reference materials on social work in East Africa. Other outcomes are reflected in the increasing visibility of professional social work amongst

government and non-governmental agencies; as well as the strengthening of professional associations at the national levels. A combination of these outcomes is seen to increase social work's position as a critical player in promoting sustainable social development in the region. This presentation will elaborate the processes, milestones and challenges in positioning social work to contribute effectively towards sustainable development in Africa.