



Civil Society interventions on medicines policy in the African region

Aarti Patel

HAI Africa Board member

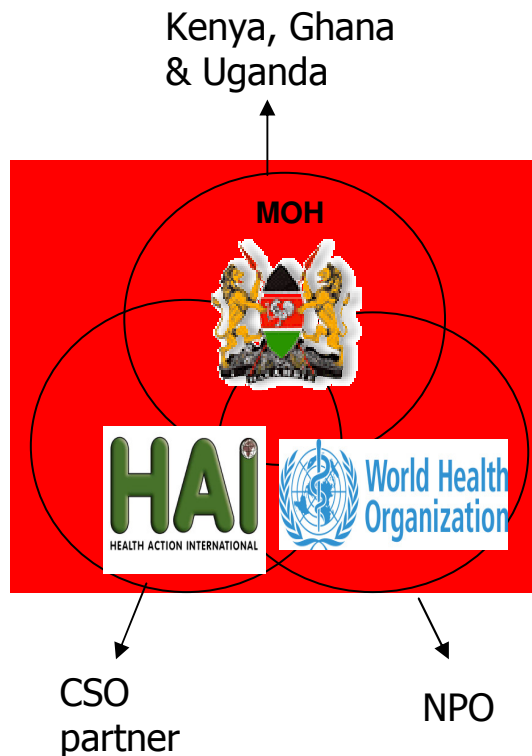
Presentation outline

- Overview
- Approach & guiding principles
- Initiatives: Kenya, Uganda, Ghana
- Challenges
- Lessons

HAI Africa

- Network of individuals, academics, NGOs in 15 African countries.
- Goal- Increasing capacity of local CSOs in health policy formulation and implementation
- Philosophy- Right to health and access to essential medicines is a basic human right of every individual irrespective of age, gender, social status.

HAI Africa/WHO-TCM Collaboration



- Support CSOs in medicines policy formulation and implementation
- At present in 14 countries in Sub Saharan Africa.
- Collaboration framework- Country Working Groups with MOHs, WHO, HAI Africa CSO partners
- Collaborative activities have added value in empowering consumers.
- Price Surveys – focus of initial activities.

Kenya Coalition

- Coalition first formed in 2001 for IP legislation.
- Coalition of activists, PLWA, International and regional NGOs reformed in 2006.
- Intensive media campaigns
- Successful campaign against the IP amendments to remove the TRIPS flexibilities
- Working with INRUD Kenya to formulate national guidelines on RUM.
- National drug policy review and STGs, etc.
- Pricing surveys and monitoring of medicine prices.

Kenya: Collaboration

- Assessment of the Pharmaceutical Situation in Kenya (*Baseline Survey - 2003*)
- A Study of Medicine Prices in Kenya (2004)
- MOH capacity strengthening on IPR Issues (ongoing)
 - ❖ Through IP & Health Advisory Group (IPHAG)
 - ❖ Monitoring the impact of patents on access to medicines
- Development of Guidelines for Rational Use of Medicines (ongoing)
- Establishment of Drug & Therapeutic Committees (DTC) at all levels (ongoing)

Kenya IP Campaign 2006



UGANDA - HEPS

- HEPS, a Local NGO-which is a coalition of CSOs advocating for health rights and responsibilities
- Involved in research, networking and policy dialogue.
- Campaigns on IP, M & E of the global fund.
- Educating consumers on Rational Use of medicines
- Analysis of the procurement of medicines in Uganda.
- Advocating for accountability of funds within the ministry of health and local authorities

UGANDA: COLLABORATION

- **Assessment of the Pharmaceutical Situation in Uganda (*Baseline Survey – 2002 to be repeated 2007*)**
- **A Study of Medicine Prices in (2004)**
- **Monitoring of Medicines Prices (Ongoing)**
- **Strengthening MOH and CSO capacity on IPR Issues**
- **Development of education materials on Rational Use of Medicines (ongoing)**

GHANA

- Working with Catholic Pharmaceutical services to increase advocacy on essential medicines.
- Baseline survey of the pharmaceutical sector.
- Advocacy on the use of generics and generics substitution

Kenya & GHANA: CWGs



CHALLENGES

- Capacity of the CSO partners: HR, Funding, technical capacity.
- Communication including telephone, internet.
- Governments' commitment to support NGOs not consistent. Unfriendly laws to NGOs.
- Brain drain of human resources.
- Poverty

STRENGTHS

- Relationship building amongst partners
- Starting the conversation (government + civil society members)

LESSONS LEARNED

- Time required to build coalitions
- Focus and consistency on the campaign issues
- Key people/organisations
- Constant monitoring and evaluation of results
- Achievable outputs

Thank you

Health Action International (Africa)

Tel: +254 20 3860434/6

Fax: +254 20 3860437

E-mail: info@haiafrica.org

Website: www.haiafrica.org