

THE NETWORK: TOWARDS UNITY
FOR HEALTH & FACULTAD DE MEDICINA,
UNAM, PRESENT



THE NETWORK
TOWARDS UNITY FOR HEALTH



Facultad de Medicina



TUFH2020 MEXICO

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

"PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: A PATH
TOWARDS SOCIAL JUSTICE"

SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY BASED
RESPONSES TO COVID-19

SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2020

#TUFH2020
TUFH2020.COM



TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	he role played by Community Health Workers in the COVID-19 pandemic, sharing experiences from South Western Uganda
Type	Oral Presentation <i>Systems and Community Based Responses for COVID 19</i>
Presenting Author	MUTATINA ROBENS
Co-Authors	Teddy Kyomuhangi, Jerome Kabakyenga, Clare Kyokushaba, Jenn Brenner
Country	Uganda
Abstract N°	TUFH325

Content

Introduction COVID-19 emerged from China at the end of 2019 and in March 2020, World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. By May 22, 2020, global statistics indicated 5,080,000 COVID-19 cases and 332,000 deaths while Uganda had 264 cases with no death. Based on previous epidemic management experience, Uganda emphasized use of community structures including leaders and Community Health Workers (CHWs) to reinforce prevention measures. Methodology The team purposively sampled Health workers and CHWs in districts of Rubirizi, Mbarara, Rwampara and Bushenyi where there has been previous interventions by Healthy Child Uganda aimed at strengthening readiness to implement health programs at district, health facility and community level. Phone calls were made to participants to share their experiences on roles played by CHWs during COVID-19 pandemic. These included 8 health workers (3M/5F), 25 CHWs (16M/9F) and 2 (1 M/ 1F) CHW district coordinators. Findings CHWs played a big role in reinforcing implementation of COVID-19 prevention guidelines such as visiting homes to ensure every HH has a hand washing facility, participated on community level task force, conducted health education at health facility and helped health workers to ensure patients kept social distance, community surveillance as well as addressing issues of panic and fear by providing correct information about the pandemic. However, CHWs faced challenges like lack of personal protective equipment and inadequate awareness on COVID-19 guidelines. Conclusion Recognizing the great potential of CHWs in supporting health systems in case of an outbreak is very key.