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THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
Plot 6 Lourdel Rd, Wandegeya
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KAMPALA
UGANDA

In ANY CORRESPONDENCE ON
THIS SUBJECT PLEASE QUOTE NO.

ADM.105/261/01

7th September 2017

The Executive Director
Community Health Alliance Uganda (CHAU)
KAMPALA

Dear Sir

**DEMONSTRATION OF THE NEEDLE AND SYRINGE PROGRAM (NSP) FOR
DRUG USERS IN SELECTED HEALTH FACILITIES IN UGANDA**


Reference is made to your letter dated 30/08/2017 which you wrote pledging commitment to support ministry of Health in the demonstration of the Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) for Drug users in selected health facilities in Uganda to inform programming.

The Ministry of Health acknowledges that Needle and Syringe Exchange Program (NSP) and Medically Assisted Therapy (MAT) are two most critical HIV Prevention interventions that have been lacking in our interventions yet they are among the 9 core harm reduction interventions as per WHO guidelines. In line with strengthening Uganda's HIV/AIDS response and accelerating progress towards achieving the 90-90-90 targets and ending AIDS by 2030, this pilot is timely and highly a welcome initiative since NSP and MAT have been proven to be effective in reducing HIV new HIV and Hepatitis B & C infections among drug users. With this background, therefore, Ministry of Health Uganda hereby authorizes Community Health Alliance Uganda (CHAU) and its partner Harm Reduction

Network (UHRN) to demonstrate the impact of provision of NSP as HIV preventive intervention among drug users. The NSP demonstration program (September 2017 to October 2018) should be implemented in Mulago MARPI Clinic, Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital, Mbale Regional Referral Hospital, Gulu Regional Referral Hospital and Butabika National Referral Hospital.

The Ministry of Health, STD/AIDS Control Program will provide oversight and supervisory role during the program demonstration period and we expect routine monthly, quarterly and detailed final report from CHAU/UHRN clearly demonstrating NSP results and impact to inform Harm Reduction Programming in Uganda. By copy of this letter, all the Directors of the selected regional referral hospitals are hereby informed.

Sincerely,



Prof Anthony K Mbonye

Ag Director General Health Services

Copy: Director Butabika National Referral Hospital

Director Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital

Director Mbale Regional Referral Hospital

Director Gulu Regional Referral Hospital

STD/AIDS Control Program Manager, Ministry of Health

Executive Director MARPI Clinic, Mulago National Referral Hospital

Executive Director, Kenya AIDS NGO Consortium (KANCO)

Executive Director, Uganda Harm Reduction Network (UHRN)

Head Anti Narcotics Police Uganda Head Quarters Kibuli