

Cross- Learning between Israeli Union of Social Workers and Ugandan Social Workers- a positive step towards achieving the Global Social Work Agenda.

Between May 8, and May 15, 2023, the Israel Union of Social Workers led by Inbal Harmoni, the president of the Israel Social Work Union; Reut Cohen, Union Director for the Jerusalem District; Dr. Ella, the Head of Quality Supervision at the Israel Ministry of Welfare; and Tami Morez, a senior Israel-East Africa Social Worker, led a team of 26 professionals representing all parts of Israel for a one-week cross-learning with Ugandan social workers. The major objective of this visit was to share best practices and listen to inspiring and promising field stories in different domains of social work practice and along the continuum of social protection and care.



Israel social workers having an engagement with policy makers at parliament of Uganda on May 11, 2023.

This professional engagement symbolized a long-term working relationship and friendship between Israel and Uganda and feeds into the 2020-2030 Global Social Work agenda themes of valuing social work as an essential service, transforming social protection systems, Ubuntu-strengthening social solidarity and global connectedness, promoting diversity and the power of joint social action and co-building an inclusive social transformation.

While in Uganda, the Israel social workers interfaced with frontline social workers working in mental health hospital setting at Butabika National Mental Health referral hospital, social workers in social work education and research at Makerere University, policy makers at the parliament of Uganda and social workers in mental health programing at Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative–(REPSSI) the organization led by Mr. Michael Byamuka Ntanda who also doubles as the president of the National Association of Social Workers of Uganda.



From (L-R) Israeli social workers meeting at Makerere University and NASWU secretariat in Kampala on May 9, 2023.

Other social work agencies where cross-learning took place include; REHORE an urban refugee agency, Africa Renewal Ministries, a faith-based organization and home to both Loving Hearts and Bethany children transitional homes taking care of abandoned minors and other children at risk and supporting over 10,000 vulnerable children, Project-Ten, Days for Girls Uganda, and the National Association of Social Workers of Uganda Secretariat. The engagement ended with social work dinner between Israel and Ugandan social workers.



Israeli social workers meeting with Africa Renewal Ministries Team leader Rv. Pastor Peter Kasirivu, where they met abandoned children minors at loving Hearts and Bethany Island in Lake.Victoria on May 10, 2023.

In all social work agencies, social workers in Uganda and their counterparts from Israel shared their unique interventions, experiences, guidelines, policies and social work frameworks along different practice domains. Social workers from both countries compared similarities and differences with a view of strengthening and re-enforcing individual social workers, social work agencies and sister professional bodies.

“I love Uganda - the climate, her welcoming people with Ubuntu values, green environment, organic food and fruits and unique animals and birds,” says Tami Morez, one of the Israel social work trip coordinators.

This Israel-Uganda social work learning experience presents a unique opportunity for the global social work fraternity to continue working and thinking about strengthening professional networks, sharing social work models, innovative tools, frameworks and field experiences in different practice domains of social work practice for a well-planned, trained and supported social workforce. The Israel-Uganda social work engagement also opened new discussions around joint research and publications, sharing innovations, and networking in respect to 2020-2030 global social work agenda.

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