



National Association of Social Workers of Uganda (NASWU)

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NASWU 2024 New Year Message.

January 2, 2024.

The National Executive Committee and Management of the National Association of Social Workers of Uganda (NASWU) would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude and admiration to our members and partners for your continued dedication towards strengthening Social Work in Uganda. In 2023, NASWU continued to bring and work together with diverse stakeholders through fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange focusing on different domains of social work practice along the continuum of social protection and care.

We have noted with concern the emerging and escalating social challenges such as the increased intensity and impact of climate change on vulnerable populations, escalation of HIV/AIDS with disproportionate effect on women, children and young people, continued violence against children, burden of mental illness, drug abuse by young people, poverty and inequality, reports of corruption and human rights abuse, increased numbers of refugees and forced displacement which demand our attention.

Looking ahead, we must continue to leverage on our collective expertise to confront these social challenges of our time, we have to keep stronger be more resilient and remain committed to building a vibrant social work profession in Uganda that is able to tackle the most pressing issues facing our communities.

Celebrating 2023 Achievements

- Individual membership increased by 380 of all membership categories, from social work agencies, social work teaching institutions and government ministries and departments.
- NASWU is part of the technical working group, supporting the process of rolling of the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development new National strategy for strengthening the social service workforce in Uganda; and operational framework for social care and support system in Uganda 2023/2024 – 2028/29.
- Seven (7) new Institutional members joined NASWU including-Kabale University, Kumi University, Kyambogo University, Kampala International University, Teen Challenge Uganda and Redeem International.
- NASWU successfully organized the World Social Work Day Conferences 2023 in four regions of Uganda at University of Kisubi, All Saints University, Kumi University and Kabale University. A total of 697 social workers took part, from 15 Social Work member Universities and 18 social work agencies shared practical social work knowledge and best practices with early career professionals.
- Coordinated cross-learning between Han_ University-Netherlands and selected social work agencies and teaching institutions in Uganda including Schools of Youth Lira, All Saints University, Children of Nations Lira, Kyambogo University, Nkumba University, Africa Renewal University, REPSSI, Safe Places Uganda, Dwelling Places and Inclusion Support Uganda. New opportunities for bachelor of international social

work internship placement has been build and knowledge exchange links provided to our members. <https://th-nuernberg.zoom.us/j/92171109812?pwd=aG9BelozRTZTQll3aFVnNUI5UzZldz09>

- NASWU together with Project Ten and Jewish Agency for Israel coordinated cross-learning between Israel social workers and selected social work agencies and Universities in Uganda including, Makerere University, REHORE refugee agency, Africa Renewal Ministries, Loving Hearts and Bethany children transitional homes, Project-Ten, Days for Girls Uganda, REPSSI, Butabika hospital, the National Association of Social Workers of Uganda Secretariat and the Parliament of Uganda. <https://www.ifsw.org/cross-learning-between-israeli-and-ugandan-social-workers/>
- NASWU is part of the Inter-University Council for East Africa select technical committee from seven member states including Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda working on benchmarks to standardize the bachelor of social work education in East Africa <https://www.socialserviceworkforce.org/resources/blog/east-africa-region-starts-process-standardizing-social-work-education>
- Continued to continuous professional development and mentorship engagements for early career professionals and frontline social workers focusing on mental health and child protection skills based on INSPIRE global package. A total of 359 younger professionals were empowered at metropolitan International University, Cavendish University, Makerere Business Institute. <https://www.ifsw.org/paving-the-way-for-a-safer-and-more-secure-future-for-children-in-uganda/>
- Presented papers and actively participated in national and international platforms including the National Mental Health Conference 2023, World National Mental Health Day 2023, IFSW Africa Region Conference 2023, and the 7th Regional Psychosocial Forum-organized by REPSSI. NASWU was a co-convenor together with the Ministry of Health (MOH), Uganda Counselling Association and Uganda Psychological Association of the 2nd National Mental Health Conference 2023, including presenting a paper to the Uganda Catholic Medical Bureau-on the role of social workers in promoting Quality medical services in Uganda.
- Continued to share guidelines, policies and tools like the Minimum Standards for Social Work Education in Uganda, the Harmonized Case Management Tool, NASWU ethical code of conduct, the Para Social Work Manual and Child Protection Policy 2020 as amended to frontline social workers to strengthen the quality of social work services in our communities guided by ethical values and evidence.
- Contributed to the upcoming 5th International Employee Assistant Program 2024 anthology/ Compendium Series to cover the Country Uganda, with key focus areas on the impact of services during the pandemic, the effects of online/virtual counseling, the role of technology and social media, the efforts toward diversity and inclusion during Covid-19 response. A total of 50 countries are expected to share in this Anthology, and the book expected to be available through Amazon this year.
- Worked with social work teaching Universities to review their bachelor and masters social work programs to ensure quality social work education in Uganda in line with Minimum Standards and Competency Framework for Social Work Education in Uganda (2019) and the current social needs of our society. In particular Bugema

University, Makerere University, Africa Renewal University and Kyambogo University. https://www.ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/29_06_2019_Final-Minimum-Standards-and-Competency-Framework-1-2-1-1.pdf

- NASWU worked with social work teaching universities strengthen leadership structures of social work students to increase the participation of early career professionals in activities to promote social agenda in line with IFSW 2019 Muryonyo 2021 Kigali and 2023 Lagos communique. In particular student leadership structures in Kyambogo University, Makerere university, UCU, Kumi University, IUIU, Nkumba, Ndejje, KIU, Kabale University, Bishop Baham University, Metropolitan International University, Bugema, Africa Renewal University, University of Kisubi, All Saints University, Uganda Martrys University, Nsamizi Institute for Social Development were functional by end 2023.
- Working with MGLSD, NASWU is reviewing the upcoming Social Assessment and Accountability Bill already on 2024 policy agenda to highlight the role of Social workers in social and assessments.
- Strengthened partnership and working relationships with government Ministries, Departments and Social Work Agencies including MGLSD, MoH, MoES, KCCA, UNICEF, REPSSI, GSWA, IFSW, USAID, Africa Renewal Ministries, Cornerstone Development Africa, and 30 Social Work teaching Universities to promote the social work agenda.
- Established Regional coordination teams / structures in Easter, Northern, Western, and central Uganda <https://naswu.org.ug/> and supported and linked up to 30 bachelor and master of social work students to competent social work agencies for internship and mentorship mainly Students from Uganda Christian University, Nkumba University, Kampala University and Kyambogo University and together with Makerere University coordinated an international webinar an International learning engagement between Ugandan social workers and Howest University-Belgium on Refugees and Forced Migration, and between Haifa University students and social work student leaders.
- In partnership with Inspire Youth Network Uganda, NASWU organized a regional marathon in Northern Uganda to create awareness on the need to prioritize sexual reproductive health and menstrual hygiene among girls in Northern Uganda themed- “Run to restore a Girl Confidence.” A total 178 stakeholders took part.

We look forward to double our effort and strengthen our partnerships in 2024 for a stronger social work profession in Uganda. Thank you, again, for your support and advocacy for the Social Work profession. Wishing you happy holidays and a fruitful new year 2024 of collaborative opportunities!.

Sincerely



Michael Byamukama Ntanda,
President- National Association of Social Workers of Uganda-NASWU