Increasing access to Essential Medicines through Collaboration with CSOs, government and WHO

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- Increased access to essential medicines through improved policies and practices - joint priority areas of work: pricing and IPR issues, NDP, EML

- Increased capacity & participation of NGOs and consumers in medicines policy development and implementation

- Expanded participation in and strengthened coordination of the HAI Africa Network

- Project countries: Ghana, Kenya and Uganda
Rationale for WHO-CSO collaboration in countries

- Learn from our differences: mandates & approaches
- Synergy of expertise and know-how for greater impact
- Enhance CSO participation in policy development and implementation
- Empower CSO and build capacity in the medicines field
- Forge dialogue and links between MOH and CSOs
- Improve co-ordination and efficient use of resources
Country working Group: Uganda
Collaboration activities

- Joint activities: based on
  - Country priorities
  - Likelihood of sustainable impact
  - Added value in joint activity implementation

- Country Pharmaceutical Sector Baseline Surveys 2002-2003

- Medicine Prices Surveys 2004-2005

- Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues continuous
Progress activities

- National RUM guidelines in Kenya
- Knowledge Attitudes and Belief Studies-Ghana
- Participation in essential Medicines lists updates in the three countries
- Advocacy on medicine prices in Kenya
- Rational use of medicines in community -Uganda
- Advocacy on incorporation and utilization of TRIPS flexibilities at national and regional levels
- Monitoring of medicine Prices in 4 countries
Achievements of the collaboration

- CSO participation in policy reviews enhanced
  - Increased awareness of IP issues and activities
  - Involvement of HAI Africa partners in medicines policy formulation (Health Sector Strategic Plan Medicines Working Group), IPHAG Kenya
  - Involvement of discussions at sub regional and regional levels-IGWG
Contribution to health systems

- Improved access to essential medicines through
  - Increased funding for essential medicines
  - Improved drug management
  - Increased availability of some essential medicines in the public sector
  - Removal of taxes on raw materials in Ghana
Challenges

- Institutionalization of the Collaboration
  - Subcommittees of other policy committees

- Sustainability of the Collaboration - CSO partners at country level independent

- Different mandates and constituencies of partners

- Marketing the collaboration beyond the pharmacy divisions/departments
Future plans

- Expand the collaboration way of working to the SADC region
- Increased engagements at sub-regional and regional level - Regional Committees
- Rational Use and medicines promotion work in the region
- Pricing policy, regulation, procurement issues
About HAI Africa

- Network of individuals, academics, NGOs in Africa
- Important Objective - Increasing capacity of local CSOs in health policy formulation and implementation
- Philosophy - Right to health and access to essential medicines is basic human right of every individual irrespective of age, gender, social status.
- Asante Sana
- Merci
- Thank you