

Robinah Kaitiritimba

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Robinah Kaitiritimba is the Executive Director for Uganda National Health Consumers' Organization (UNHCO). She holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration and Management and a Bachelors of Arts (Sociology and Political science) she was trained in Health and Human Rights, NGO management, integrating gender and health for poverty reduction and health policy advocacy. As a Patient Safety Champion for the WHO Patient Safety Programme she has served on several WHO expert Panels. Robinah has attained additional training in Health and Human Rights, NGO management, social accountability and participatory methods, gender integration in health for poverty reduction and policy advocacy.

She has led implementation of social accountability projects under UNHCO funded by DFID, World Bank Institute, Open Society Foundation and European Union to strengthen community and CSO voices to promote beneficiary participation to demand accountability for health resources from duty bearers. At national level Robinah has taken leadership role in CSO social accountability initiatives in the public accounts committee of parliament in demanding accountability for health resources. Robinah was responsible for the development of a module for social accountability published by World Bank Institute currently being used globally as a resource material among other resource materials developed with civil society. She currently provides consultancy support to local and international NGOs adapting social accountability approaches recently International Rescue Committee and currently Concern Worldwide.

She leads a coalition of patients 'rights organisations, "Voices for Health Rights" (VHR) which is currently implementing a maternal health project funded by Sida focusing on promoting through community empowerment and services utilisation. As Coordinator for VHR, she has mobilized over 40 CSOs to rally support for the maternal health petition number 16 and budget advocacy for increased funding for maternal health services in Uganda. Her other positions of responsibility include, member of the National Health Policy Advisory Committee (HPAC) National Health Insurance Task Force, Saving National New-Borns Steering Committee, and was part of the task force that developed the Public Private Partnership in Health (PPPH) policy and the Health Sector Strategic Investment Plan (HSSIP) and serves on the Makerere University College of health Sciences Institutional Review Board (IRB) and Patient Safety Champion for WHO.

Robinah has made various presentations of abstracts/papers and done research on various topics at national and international levels including human rights and consumer participation for quality of health. Her greatest contribution has been citizen empowerment for improving healthcare user participation and overall health outcomes for vulnerable communities and spearheading the development and adoption of the Patients' Charter (PC) for Uganda. The PC has facilitated promotion of Civil Society and Citizen Capacity building through the community score card for promoting social accountability and civil society participation in all working groups for health and related sector.