

WOMENA 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) 11 November 2015

MINUTES

Participants: Bianca Luff, Siri Tellier, Marianne Telier, Maria Hyttel, Halvor Storrusten, Kristine Garn, Ida Marie Boas, Edgar Beyaraaza, Meth Reeves Salanjaye, Blanche Merten, Simone Kjær Jensen, Laura Hytti, Simona Simkute, Wiston Karisa

A. Welcome, self-presentations and agenda:

Marianne Tellier welcomed and presented the agenda.

B. Election: Chairman for AGM

Marianne Tellier was elected.

C. President's report

Marianne Tellier presented the President's report:

*2015 was another very productive year for WoMena and we continue to be amazed at the level of commitment, quality and results achieved with the voluntary resources of this organisation. Regarding our **ACTIVITIES**, we made a lot of progress. On **Research & Evaluations**, we advanced on the work for both articles on the **Gulu menstrual cup (MC) study** and plan to submit the qualitative article for publication in 2016. We went through national ethical approval processes for our **MC follow up study** of previous WoMena interventions in collaboration with our excellent new research partner, Mbarara University of Science & Technology (MUST), finalised the data collection in the first two sites and presented the preliminary findings at the MUST research conference in December.*

*Under **Program Implementation Support**, we planned for the introduction of MCs within existing NGO programs of WHH in Karamoja and other partners. We expanded our training package to include broader menstrual health components, as well as sexual & reproductive health, and trained WoMena volunteers and partner organisations (RHU, MCU, Ruby Cup Uganda, WHH) on the content. We did the exploratory work in relation to strengthening our MHM Male involvement strategy and improved our programmatic data collection tools. Under **Raising Public Awareness**, we prepared for Radio Wa MHM/MC radio programming reaching a potential 2 million people in Uganda's Sub-Lango region. We did a number of info sessions and distribution of MCs to partner communication organisation Straight Talk Foundation, as well our first MHM/MC info session at MUST for gender students. Last but not least, as part of our **Advocacy and Policy** work, we started developing our MC advocacy plan with MUST. WoMena became a member of the National MHM and started engaging with national MHM stakeholders, as well as developed ideas with partners on how we can improve MC affordability and accessibility.*

*Regarding our overall **OBJECTIVES**, in line with our focus on neglected but important issues, we identified menstruation-related pain management, broader stakeholder engagement and menstrual health (nutrition and hygiene) as neglected issues within menstrual health and management (MHM) that we want to work more with.*

***Operationally**, we achieved a lot against our strategies for 2015. We approved our founding articles of association & registered our NGO in Denmark, established a*

paying membership base, a fundraising team with clear strategy, action plans and processes and raised 4,800 USD in the last half of 2015. We launched our new website, developed our new logo and recruited new communication officers to support the communications team. We established an office in Kampala in September and successfully recruited 10+ new wonderful volunteers, including 4 full time colleagues in Uganda.

All this could never have been possible without the support of our members and the hard work of our many excellent volunteers. It is a true honour and inspiration to work with you and we hope to have many more years together in our efforts to improve access to innovative reproductive health solutions. Thank you so much!

D. Changes to membership fee
 Simone Kjær Jensen presented the suggested changes to the membership fees. The following rates were agreed upon and will be included in the revised statutes:
 4 DKK for persons **below** 30 years of age from low- and middle-income countries (0.60 USD / 2,000 UGX according to current currency rates)
 50 DKK for persons 30 years old **and above** from low- and middle-income countries;
 100 DKK for students and unemployed persons from high-income countries;
 150 DKK for all other persons; and
 350 DKK or more for others wishing to provide a “donation” (“gave” according to Danish law) in addition to the minimum membership fee.

E. WoMena statutes:
 The WoMena statutes including the proposed changes were reviewed and discussed. Maria Hyttel edited the statutes based on the discussion. It was decided that the document with the agreed track changes should be circulated after the meeting.

F. Strategy & budgets
 Marianne Tellier presented WoMena’s 2016 strategy, which was discussed and agreed by all participants.

G. Presentation & approval of mid-term adjustments to WoMena’s 2015 budget
 Kristine Dandanell Garn and Edgar Beyaraaza presented the mid-term adjustments to the 2015 budget, which were approved.

H. Presentation & approval of WoMena’s 2016 budget
 Kristine Dandanell Garn and Edgar Beyaraaza presented the 2016 annual budget, which was approved but due to the funding situation the budget will be monitored monthly by the board.

I. Election: Accountant
 Brook Neale with support from Wiston Karisa were elected.

J. All other business
 There was no other business