The 2024 Year Report of Human Rights, Research, Advocacy and Social Empowerment in Advancing Health Equity

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Message from the Executive Director – HURIC-Uganda Annual Report 2024

As we reflect on the journey of 2024, I am filled with deep gratitude for the partners, allies, and communities who have stood with us in our pursuit of health equity and social justice. This year has tested our resilience, sharpened our focus, and reaffirmed the power of collective action in the face of persistent systemic challenges.



Uganda, like many nations, continues to grapple with structural inequalities in health systems, exacerbated by economic pressures, climate-related disruptions, and political transitions. These realities have made our work more urgent and more relevant than ever.

In response, HURIC has expanded its reach and deepened its impact. we mobilized grassroots voices across multiple districts, empowering communities to demand accountability and shape health policies that reflect their lived realities.

On the global stage, our participation in the **People's Health Assembly 5** was a defining moment. As part of the People's Health Movement, we joined activists, scholars, and practitioners from around the world to reaffirm our shared commitment to health as a human right. The Assembly provided a platform to amplify Uganda's experiences, contribute to global solidarity, and forge new partnerships for transformative change.

Internally, we continued to strengthen our organisational capacity. We enhanced our governance structures, streamlined operational systems, and invested in staff development to align with our 2021–2026 strategic plan. These efforts have positioned HURIC to respond more effectively to emerging challenges and seize new opportunities for impact.

We are especially grateful to our donors and strategic partners for their continued support and trust. Your insights and collaboration have enriched our work and sustained our momentum.

As we look ahead to 2025, we remain committed to innovation, inclusivity, and integrity. We will continue to champion the right to health, advocate for policy reforms, and build alliances that centre the voices of the marginalised.

To the HURIC team, our Board of Directors, and our partners, thank you for your unwavering dedication. Together, we are shaping a future where health is not a privilege, but a right enjoyed by all.

Yours sincerely,

Denis Joseph Bukenya
Executive Director, HURIC-Uganda

Acknowledgement of Donors and Partners

In the spirit of solidarity and shared purpose, HURIC-Uganda extends its deepest gratitude to the donors and partners whose unwavering support and collaboration have been instrumental in advancing our mission throughout 2024.

We are especially thankful to:

- Haella Foundation
- Living Goods
- Heps Uganda
- People's Health Movement Global and Ugandan Chapter.
- Makerere University, School of Public Health and Makerere University School of Medicine College of Health Sciences, Department of Family Medicine.
- Nottingham Trent University
- Mengo Kisenyi Catholic Parish through the Jean Marie Vocational Centre

Government Institutions and Departments

Throughout the year, we collaborated with and received support from several Government Institutions and Departments, which contributed to a successful year. Some of these are:

1) The Ministry of Health, Uganda, through Heroes in Health
2) The Ministry of Education and Sports; girls in a quagmire, the girl for girl project
3) The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development; Our Partners in Social Development
4) Parliament of Uganda, through policy engagements
5) Uganda Human Rights Commission.
6) Equal Opportunities Commission.
7) Local governments in our districts where we had interventions.

Beyond financial and technical support, your commitment to equity, dignity, and justice has been a source of inspiration. You are not just supporters, you are co-creators of a movement that seeks to transform Uganda's health landscape from the ground up.

As we look ahead to 2025, we remain committed to deepening these partnerships, exploring new avenues for collaboration, and sustaining the momentum we have built together. With your continued engagement, we are confident that the vision of a just, inclusive, and people-centered health system is within reach.

Together, we are not only imagining the change we are making it happen

About Human Rights Research Documentation Centre (HURIC)

The **Human Rights Research Documentation Centre (HURIC)** is an indigenous, non-profit organisation dedicated to advancing human rights through research, documentation, advocacy and community empowerment. We champion innovative approaches to human rights implementation and reform, ensuring that regional responses are attuned to the specific needs of communities across Uganda and the broader Global South.

1. Our Vision

A society where human rights are the cornerstone of every decision and intervention impacting health and well-being.

2. Our Mission

To safeguard the well-being of Ugandans by amplifying community voices in decision-making processes. We achieve this through empowerment, evidence-based research, and advocacy for a human-centred approach to health and its broader social determinants.

3. HURIC's Overall Goal

Promoting bold approaches for effective health rights solutions.

4. Strategic Goals

- Foster an equitable, just, and inclusive health rights environment that respects, protects, and fulfills the right to health.
- Reform policies, laws, cultural norms, and practices to advance the realisation of health and human rights.
- Establish a well-resourced Centre for Health and Human Rights serving Uganda, Africa, and the Global South.
- Enhance community wellbeing by promoting meaningful participation and social empowerment of both rights holders and duty bearers.
- Build an evolutionary, efficient, and sustainable resource hub for health and human rights.

Introduction

In the evolving landscape of Uganda's health sector, the year 2024 unfolded as a crucible of transformation, adversity, and recalibration. The Human Rights Research Documentation Centre (HURIC), unwavering in its mission to champion social empowerment, health rights advocacy, and impact-driven research, stood at the forefront of these seismic shifts. Our work during this period was defined by resilience, strategic engagement, and a renewed commitment to safeguarding the health rights of all Ugandans.

The year 2024 marked a period of significant growth, visibility, and impact for HURIC. Guided by our mission to advance human rights, health equity, and civic empowerment, we strengthened our role as a catalyst for change at local, national, and international levels. From leading the Advancing Health Equity Through Collaborative Action (AHETCA) Conference 2024 in Kampala to representing Uganda at the 5th People's Health Assembly in Argentina, HURIC consistently created platforms that bridged academia, civil society, and grassroots communities.

Throughout the year, our work focused on amplifying marginalised voices, promoting evidence-based solutions, and advocating for policies that safeguard dignity, justice, and equity in health and beyond. We deepened collaborations with communities, government institutions, and international partners, while championing innovative approaches to address pressing challenges, from health systems strengthening to civic participation.

This annual report provides a reflection on our achievements, lessons learned, and the pathways we are shaping toward a more just and inclusive society. As we look ahead, HURIC remains committed to building solidarity, knowledge, and action that advance the rights and well-being of all Ugandans.

Our programs

Capacity Building for Social Empowerment as a factor for Health Rights.

Empowering Youth in slum communities in Kampala

In 2024, HURIC launched a dedicated Social Empowerment Programme aimed at uplifting vulnerable populations, particularly girls from the slum community of Kisenyi. Through our rehabilitation and training programs, we are unlocking the potential of youth from Kampala's slum communities and giving them the tools to build brighter futures. So far, 250 young people, 100 girls and 150 boys, have taken part in our mentorship initiatives, gaining confidence, guidance, and hope. Right now, 20 of these youth (12 boys and 8 girls) are advancing even further, learning practical, income-generating skills in plumbing and tiling. With continued support, we can expand this opportunity to many more, turning vulnerable young lives into stories of self-reliance, dignity, and community transformation.

Video on the project: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jB4Qkq06bVI&t=178s






Strategic Interventions and Policy Advocacy

Huric-Uganda's work in 2024 was anchored in strategic interventions that addressed both immediate health crises and long-term systemic reform:

Advancing Health Equity Through Collaborative Action Conference 2024

As the host organisation for the People's Health Movement- Uganda chapter, HURIC demonstrated exceptional leadership in orchestrating the groundbreaking "**Advancing Health Equity Through Collaborative Action (AHETCA)** Conference 2024". Held on 22th – 23rd February 2024 in partnership with Makerere University School of Public Health, the two-day event successfully bridged the divide between civil society and academia by fostering collaborative, evidence-based program implementation and facilitating the sharing of best practices across key health stakeholders. The conference featured a rich array of presentations, including innovations like the We Care Solar Suitcase for improving childbirth lighting in Uganda, the electronic Community Health Information System (eCHIS) rollout in six districts, antimicrobial stewardship initiatives, and strategies addressing mental health, indoor air pollution, HIV resilience, and more. Through these dynamic sessions, HURIC advanced its mission of enhancing health equity and reinforcing its standing as a convener of meaningful dialogue and impactful change within Uganda's health ecosystem.







People's Health Assembly

In April 2024, HURIC proudly joined global partners in representing Uganda at the 5th People's Health Assembly, held from April 7 to 11 in Mar del Plata, Argentina. The assembly brought together health activists, academics, and civil society organisations from across the world to collectively reflect on pressing health challenges, deepen solidarity, and strengthen the global People's Health Movement. As one of the Ugandan partners present, HURIC contributed to critical discussions on advancing health equity, addressing social determinants of health, and resisting policies that undermine the right to health. Participation in this global forum not only amplified Uganda's voice in shaping international health justice agendas but also provided HURIC with valuable insights and collaborative opportunities to strengthen its advocacy and community-driven approaches back home







Traditional Medicine Integration: In alignment with WHO's strategy, we convened stakeholder consultations to explore pathways for integrating traditional medicine into Uganda's health policy. Our recommendations emphasised safety standards, practitioner accreditation, and community education.

The thematic topics engaged:

1. Historical Review of Traditional Medicine in the Modern Medical Paradigm
2. Capitalisation, monopoly and patents in herbal medicine
3. Decolonisation and indigenous perspectives on health.
4. Difficulties and Traps of Receiving Traditional Medicine

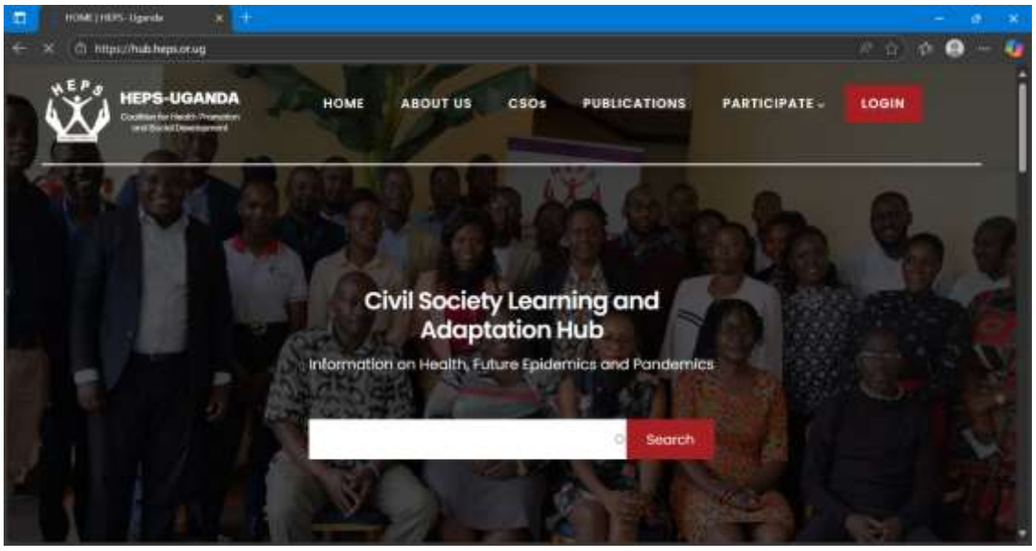
5. Resistance and resilience of traditional medicine
6. Equity through Access to Health
7. Development of a concept note on traditional medicine

Strengthening Regulatory Compliance on Digital Health with Health Rights-Based Approaches

Establishing the Digital Health Knowledge Hub

In 2024, HURIC participated in the development of the Civil Society Learning and Adaptation Hub (CSLAH) led by HEPS-Uganda, which serves as a central place for health rights information, learning and adaptation with the health sector in Uganda and beyond. This hub serves as a centralised platform for research, dialogue, and policy engagement on digital health and human rights.

It can be accessed at https://hub.heps.or.ug/





Advocacy and Grassroots Mobilisation

As part of its advocacy strategy, HURIC:

- Supported the formation of a national and grassroots social movement on digital health
- Facilitated joint fundraising initiatives with grassroots networks
- Conducted district-level assessments to strengthen collaboration with Community Health Advocates (CHAs) and their Community-Based Organisations (CBOs)

These efforts aimed to amplify community voices and ensure inclusive participation in digital health governance.

Strengthening and Expanding Local and National Partnerships

In 2024, HURIC significantly expanded its network of strategic partnerships, collaborating with over 10 organisations across Uganda and the East African region. These partnerships have been instrumental in amplifying advocacy efforts, enhancing community engagement, and advancing Health Rights.

Enhancing Grant Development

In pursuit of sustainability and scale, HURIC intensified its focus on grant development. Throughout the year, proposals were prepared and submitted in partnership with like-minded organisations, reinforcing commitment to collaborative growth and innovation.

OUR PARTNERS

Makerere University School of Public Health

HEPS- Uganda

Innovations for Development (I4DEV)

PHM Uganda

Haella Stichting Foundation