



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

Environmental Health Students' Association



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School of Public Health

WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DAY 2020

World Environmental Health Day (WEHD) is commemorated every 26th of September and this year, Makerere University Environmental Health Students' Association (MUEHSA) held it online via Zoom under the theme: *“Environmental Health: A key public health intervention in prevention of disease pandemics.”* The event had participants from Uganda, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Nigeria and Rwanda who included Environmental Health (EH) practitioners and students from different universities including Makerere, Cavendish, Victoria, Mountains of the moon, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda Institute of Allied Health and Management Sciences (UIAHMS) and School of Hygiene Mbale.

The event had 3 speakers: Dr. David Musoke, a Lecturer in Environmental Health at Makerere University School of Public Health; Mr. David Ssemwanga, a Senior Environmental Health Officer and Technical Assistant with Uganda Sanitation Fund (USF) at Ministry of Health; and Mrs. Hajra Comfort Mukasa, a Public Health specialist and a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) program manager at AMREF Health Africa.

Key points from the event:

- ❖ Dr. Musoke emphasized the role of EH practitioners as key stakeholders in the prevention and control of the COVID-19 pandemic. He highlighted the COVID-19 effects on EH training, and the adopted strategies to ensure continued safe learning in institutions of higher learning.
- ❖ Mr. Ssemwanga highlighted the epidemiological disease triad and its importance in disease pandemic prevention. He also emphasized the importance of active involvement of the EH practitioners both at national and local levels in the promotion of WASH, appropriate use of standard operating procedures (SOPs), disease surveillance, sensitization, mobilization and contact tracing.
- ❖ Mrs. Mukasa pointed out the role being played by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) such as AMREF Health Africa in the prevention and control of COVID-19 through support to task forces at the district and sub county levels in the implementation of the SOPs. She also highlighted the willingness of NGOs such as AMREF in providing internship opportunities in the fields of WASH, and promoting innovations aimed at improving hygiene such as Sanitation Digital Solutions systems (SaniDigs) that brings hygiene stakeholders and beneficiaries together with a single click.
- ❖ Ms. Ikol Rachele, the host and President of MUEHSA emphasized the need to use locally available materials such as ash and lemon peelings to develop hand washing materials in promoting hygiene to ensure sustainability.

Special thanks to the Dean MakSPH; Mrs Ruth Mubeezi (MUEHSA Patron), Department of Disease Control and Environmental Health (MakSPH) and the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) Africa group for joining us in these celebrations.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the speakers for their insightful discussions and presentations as well as all the participants who spared their time to join us.

For Health, Prevention is Our Priority