CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVES DAY

KAMACOS BACKGROUND

Kampala Medical and Allied Health Workers Cooperative Society Limited (KAMACOS) is a health cooperative wholly owned and operated by medical and allied health workers in Uganda. The Cooperative is registered with the Ministry of Cooperatives, Registration No. 11663/RCS. The organization operates under the cooperative principles of collective ownership, democratic participation, economic participation, education, information sharing, community concern, sustainability, autonomy, voluntary and open membership, and professional healthcare delivery. Its mission is to improve access to quality, affordable, and universally acceptable healthcare, particularly for underserved rural and urban populations. KAMACOS envisions becoming a leading healthcare, education, and research institution in East Africa. Its strategic objectives include providing accessible healthcare for vulnerable communities, promoting health education and nutrition, empowering members' economic empowerment, establishing cooperative health facilities and hospitals, and conducting research to address healthcare challenges.

HEALTH COOPERATIVE BACKGROUND IN UGANDA

Currently, Uganda has two health cooperative models, i.e., One Model brings together medical professionals and allied health workers as members for economic development and humanitarian service. The other models offer health insurance schemes and other services to their members. Health cooperatives started with the support of development partners who provided technical, financial, and policy advocacy support. In 2019 the government formulated a national cooperative policy that diversified cooperative activities, including health/medical services and health insurance. In 2020, the Cooperative Societies Amendment Act provided for promoting, regulating, and supervising health cooperatives. The Ministry of Health is in the process of establishing a public health insurance scheme for the benefit of the citizens. Currently, Uganda has 34 registered health cooperatives as of 31st January 2025 that provide medical and insurance services in Uganda. This coverage is still low, and the health cooperatives are still weak, which calls for strengthening the existing ones.

RATIONALE OF HEALTH COOPERATIVES:

Health cooperatives play a pivotal role in Uganda's health systems, significantly contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3), which aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. By providing affordable and accessible healthcare services, health cooperatives bridge the gap in healthcare delivery, especially in underserved and rural areas. Their success stories inspire hope and demonstrate the potential for positive change in the health

sector. They foster community participation and ownership in health management, enhancing healthcare services' quality and responsiveness. These cooperatives also facilitate the pooling of resources, risk-sharing, and collective bargaining, leading to cost-effective healthcare solutions and improved health outcomes.

Health cooperatives not only address the medical needs of their members but also significantly improve their social and economic welfare. By offering affordable health services, these cooperatives reduce the financial burden of medical expenses on households, thereby increasing disposable income for other essential needs. This aspect of their work should evoke empathy and a sense of support for their cause. Members benefit from health education, preventive care, and early diagnosis, leading to a healthier and more productive population. Furthermore, the cooperative model encourages mutual support, social cohesion, and solidarity among members, fostering a sense of community and belonging.

Health cooperatives play a significant role in creating employment opportunities within their communities. By establishing healthcare facilities, cooperatives provide jobs for various health professionals, including doctors, nurses, technicians, and administrative staff. This not only boosts the local economy but also contributes to the overall development and resilience of the community. Additionally, they create indirect employment through the need for services such as supply chain management, maintenance, and logistics. Cooperatives also invest in training and capacity-building for their members, enhancing their skills and employability.

Health cooperatives are thus integral to strengthening Uganda's health systems, improving their members' social and economic welfare, and creating sustainable employment opportunities. By aligning their efforts with the goals of SDG 3, SDG 10, and SDG 17, these cooperatives contribute to a healthier, more prosperous, more collaborative, and equitable society.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

Theme: Cooperatives Build a Better World, **showcasing cooperatives' enduring global impact everywhere.**

Dates: 9th to 13th June 2025

KAMACOS, a Health Cooperative in Uganda, in partnership with DGRV, joins the rest of the world to commemorate the yearly International Day of Cooperatives in the Year 2025, which was declared by The UN General Assembly as the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC2025), under the Motto “Cooperatives Build a better world. The International Day of Cooperatives is celebrated annually on the first Saturday of July to recognize and promote the contributions of cooperatives to global development. It highlights the values and principles of cooperation, emphasizing their role in building sustainable, equitable, and inclusive societies.

First commemorated in 1923 by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), the observance raises worldwide awareness of cooperatives' economic, social, and environmental impact. The specific theme chosen per year is always to address current issues, fostering a greater understanding of how cooperatives contribute to achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Specific commemoration Objectives:

1. To raise awareness, sensitize, and promote the role of Health Cooperatives

2. To showcase how Cooperatives Contribute to SDGs

3. Strengthen collaborative efforts through sharing experiences, knowledge, key interventions, and strategies for addressing challenges.

4. Policy advocacy for improving the cooperating environment of the local health cooperatives

Means of Verification

- Commemoration report
- Photographs and Video recordings of activities and proceedings.

Strategies and Methodologies for Implementation

The activity strategies will include awareness and sensitization campaigns, policy advocacy, international collaboration, and stakeholder engagement.

KAMACOS, with support from DGRV, will lead the planning and mobilization process for resources, personnel, and partners to participate in a 5-day activity. The commemoration will feature a one-day symposium bringing together diverse stakeholders for policy engagement sessions, dialogues, and knowledge-sharing on the successes, challenges, and future strategies for Health Cooperatives in Uganda. It will also include a high-profile visit to the KAMACOS Cooperative by the President of the International Health Cooperative Organization (IHCO), accompanied by key dignitaries from the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Cooperatives (MTIC). Additionally, a two-day community medical camp will be held in Rwerere, Rukungiri District, followed by a meeting between the IHCA President and His Excellency, the President of Uganda.

The activity will be implemented as follows: (This shall be refined after engaging all stakeholders**)**

Date	**Activity**	**Venue/Location**	**Time**	**Person/Entity Responsible**
9th June 2025	Courtesy call with the Minister of Health and Minister of Cooperatives Meeting with the KAMACOS board and visit	Kampala, Kansanga office + Medical Center	To be determined	KAMACOS, MTIC, and MOH

	to the Cooperative Medical Center			
10th June 2025	Medical Camp	Rwerere-Rukungiri District	8:00a.m to 5:00 pm	KAMACOS
11th June 2025	Medical Camp	Rwerere-Rukungiri District	8:00a.m to 5:00 pm	KAMACOS
12th June 2025	Symposium	Kampala/	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 Pm	MTIC, UHPC, KAMACOS & DGRV
13th June 2025				

Key Stakeholders/Guests to grace and participate in health cooperative symposium events

1. The Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives- *Hon Francis Mwebesa*
2. The state minister for Cooperatives- *Hon Gume Fredrick Ngobi*
3. The Minister of Health- *Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng*
4. The Minister of Security- Hon. Jim Muhwezi
5. The Commissioner for Cooperative Development- *Mr. Robert Bariyo Barigye*
6. The Commissioner of Health Services, Planning, Financing and Policy, MoH- *Dr. Sarah Byakika*
7. UN Country Representative
8. International Labour Organization (Pamela
9. UNDESA Representative
10. WHO Country Representative
11. Cooperative Officers (Divisions in Kampala)
12. Program Director DGRV- Weis Martina
13. Representatives of Registered Active Health Cooperatives
14. Representatives;
    a. Medical and Dental
    b. Allied Health Professionals
    c. Nurses and Mid-Wives
15. Union leaders/ Financial
16. Rukungiri District Leaders/RDC- MC
17. UBC
18. New Vision
19. Nations Media

Organizing Committee Members Representation.

1. Representatives from KAMACOS (4)
2. Representatives MTIC (1)
3. Representatives from DGRV (3)
4. Representatives from UHPC (2)
5. Local Government (DHO) (1)
6. Host Health Cooperative (1)

Prepared by	**Reviewed by**	**Approved by**
Mr. Kawanguzi Willy	Dr. Dan Kagaha Atuwaire	Martina Weis (Mrs)
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Chief Executive Officer KAMACOS	**Chairperson Board of Directors KAMACOS**	**DGRV**