

AfricaNPUD Completes Successful Governance Strengthening Workshop in Zimbabwe

From November 13th to 15th, 2024, AfricaNPUD hosted a transformative governance-strengthening workshop for its Board of Trustees and Secretariat in Harare, Zimbabwe. This workshop, held at the Cresta Jameson Hotel, was supported by RCF Core Support and Love Alliance Projects and focused on equipping AfricaNPUD's leadership with essential skills for effective organizational governance, financial oversight, and advocacy. By fostering a collaborative learning environment, the workshop aimed to reinforce the leadership structure within AfricaNPUD and further empower the network's advocacy efforts for People Who Use Drugs (PWUD) across the African continent.

Workshop Highlights

Day 1: Foundations of Good Governance

The workshop began with opening remarks from AfricaNPUD's Board Chair and a representative from the Zimbabwean host network. Led by experienced facilitators, participants explored board governance fundamentals, delving into the roles, responsibilities, and legal duties of board members. Sessions on effective communication, financial oversight, and risk management gave the board practical tools to ensure transparency and accountability in managing AfricaNPUD's resources.

Day 2: Building Stronger Leadership and Strategic Focus

Day 2 addressed the dynamics of leadership and decision-making within a nonprofit board. Participants discussed strategies for fostering a cohesive and collaborative board culture, emphasizing conflict resolution and shared accountability. A dedicated session on emerging trends in governance provided insight into adaptive leadership in the face of evolving challenges, followed by action-planning exercises to establish actionable goals for AfricaNPUD's board.

Day 3: Strategic Planning and Organizational Development

The final day they were focused on AfricaNPUD's long-term strategic vision, with a session led by a seasoned consultant on the board's role in strategic planning. Participants reviewed AfricaNPUD's mission, values, and strategic objectives and conducted a SWOT analysis to identify the network's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. With a focus on understanding AfricaNPUD's organizational structure and governance, the board developed targeted strategies to improve service delivery and enhance AfricaNPUD's influence in policy engagement.

Key Outcomes

1. The workshop helped board members and secretariat staff better understand their roles and provided tools for effective communication and decision-making.
2. With dedicated sessions on financial literacy, AfricaNPUD leaders are now better equipped to interpret financial statements and implement risk management practices, ensuring greater accountability and sustainability.

3. Through collaborative action planning, AfricaNPUD's leadership outlined concrete goals aligned with their mission to advocate for People who Use drugs rights, build partnerships, and ensure harm reduction as a core health priority.
4. Training on stakeholder engagement prepared the board to engage more meaningfully with policymakers and other stakeholders in advocating for policy changes that protect and promote the health and well-being of People Who Use Drugs communities.

Looking Forward

As AfricaNPUD looks ahead, this workshop marks a significant step toward a stronger governance structure. The new skills, knowledge, and strategies developed over the three-day event will empower AfricaNPUD's board and secretariat to lead with integrity, drive impactful advocacy, and foster collaborative partnerships. AfricaNPUD remains committed to building a future where People Who Use Drugs communities across Africa are healthy, secure, and empowered.

"Nothing About Us Without Us" – With this principle at the forefront, AfricaNPUD is poised to continue making strides for People Who Use Drugs in communities across Africa, ensuring their voices are heard and their rights are upheld in policy and practice.