



BASELINE SURVEY REPORT

ON THE ESTIMATE OF MALE SEX WORKERS WHO USE AND INJECT DRUGS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The baseline survey was conducted in Kampala, Wakiso and Mukono districts of Uganda to estimate the prevalence of male sex workers who use drugs. The report estimates that about 50(96.2%) out of the total respondents mostly in the areas identified as drug users and only 2(3.8%) identified as non-drug users in Kampala, Wakiso and Mukono districts and according to their social networks, 38(73.1%) of the respondents knew of male sex workers who use drugs in their community , 12(23.1%) did not know any male sex workers who use drugs in their community while 2(3.8%) respondents were not sure if they knew any male sex worker who use drugs. The study highlighted Marijuana, opium and Alcohol as the mostly used drugs followed by cocaine, ice and Codeine and the least drug used is heroin. All the drug users were found to be male (100), respondents for drug users were aged between 18-23 years 37(33%), 24-28years 36 (32.4%) and 17 (15.3%) reported to be between 29-35 years. Most of the respondents were working 29(55.8%) besides sex work and the rest were just earning solely on sex work 23(44.2%) and had no side income apart from sex work. In regards to harm reduction services, 37(71.2%) respondents have never sought for harm reduction services of which 15(28.8%) think they did not need to seek for harm reduction services. 11(21.2%) have ever sought for harm reduction services while 4(7.7%) were not sure if they have ever sought for harm reduction services.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We thank all individuals who participated in this study. We also take this opportunity to thank the field data collection team for their commitment and tireless efforts in ensuring that data collection was well executed in the three districts

ABOUT MONU

MONU is a male sex worker led organization focusing on supporting and accompanying human rights and social justice of male sex workers in all their different diversities within Uganda. As an organization we envision an empowered male sex worker community with a better understanding of sexual rights and justice and our mission is to empower, advocate and educate male sex workers in all their different diversities to lessen stigma of male sex work in Uganda.

MONU is an intersectional organization that addresses the needs for male sex workers in their different diversities that is to say that we highly consider the intersections within our target population including urban refugees. MONU lives with the principle of “Nothing about us without us” straight from the organization development where it is found, managed and ran by male sex workers and we highly consider the human rights-based approach where our members are included from the issue analysis to project design and implementation.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

MONU	Men of the Night Uganda
NGO	Non-Government Organization
PWUDS	People Who Use Drugs
MSM	Men who have sex with Men
SW	Sex Worker
FGD	Focus Group Discussions

BACKGROUND/ INTRODUCTION

In Uganda, it is estimated that 5 of 10 percent of the population are drug users and 18 percent of men and less than 2 percent of women use drugs. The efforts to address this issue have been limited to NGOs (Non-government Organizations) and at a small scale by psychiatric hospitals where services are scattered with no priorities and their ability to address this issue among the sex worker community is largely lacking. We conducted a baseline survey among male sex workers in Kampala, Wakiso and Mukono districts to estimate the prevalence of drug use and associated factors among the male sex worker community. In march 2022, the researcher used convenience sampling procedures to enroll participants into the study; MONU registered members were considered suitable to participate in the study and were recruited consecutively until the required sample size was achieved. The study was a descriptive cross-sectional study and therefore both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection were employed to estimate the prevalence of drug use among male sex worker community in Kampala, Mukono and Wakiso districts.



METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted among male sex workers in their different diversities in Kampala, Wakiso and Mukono districts of Uganda where participants were randomly selected from mainly MONU registered members operating in three districts. Qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection were used where in Kampala and Wakiso, Google forms were designed for participants who could use smart phones and for those that were not comfortable using Google forms were interviewed through questionnaires. Some of the participants in Mukono were part of a focus group discussion using guiding questions from the questionnaire.

FGD with 30 male sex workers across three districts of Uganda and each district targeted 10 participants per FGD.

One on one interviews was used to collect data in Mukono district where 8 male sex workers were interviewed using the designed questionnaire.

Study Population

The study population included male sex workers in their different diversities mainly targeting MONU members living and operating in Kampala, Wakiso and Mukono districts of Uganda. Male sex workers from the three districts who are registered as MONU members were targeted for this study except those who failed to provide consent and were not interested. Those that were not operating in the three districts were excluded from the study.

Sampling Strategy

Participants were enrolled in the study using the social network strategy starting with MONU peer navigators as the first seed who connected other participants enrolling at

least 2 participants from each mapped hotspot in the three districts of the case study.

Sample Size

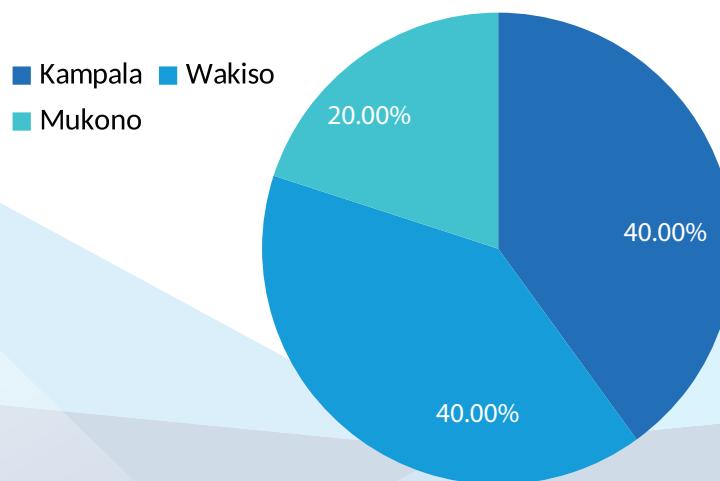
The sample size for the study was 90 respondents from the male sex workers in Kampala, Wakiso and Mukono districts of Uganda.

RESULTS

Demographic characteristics

The study population targeted male sex workers in their different diversities living and operating in Kampala, Wakiso and Mukono districts. Among the 90 participants reached, 32.4% male sex workers were reached in Kampala, 32.4% in Wakiso and 16.2% participants reached in Mukono districts.

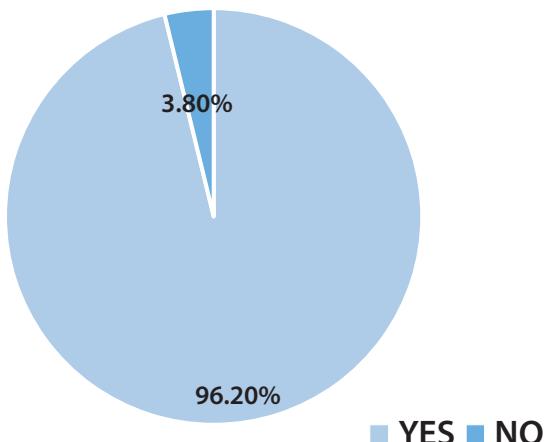
Presentation Of Location



The considered age range for the survey was male sex workers from 18 years to 35 years of age as MONU membership policy states. 33% of the respondents ranged from 18 to 24 years, 32.4 percent ranged from 24 to 29 years and 15.3 percent ranged from 29 to 35 years.

Graphical representation of age range

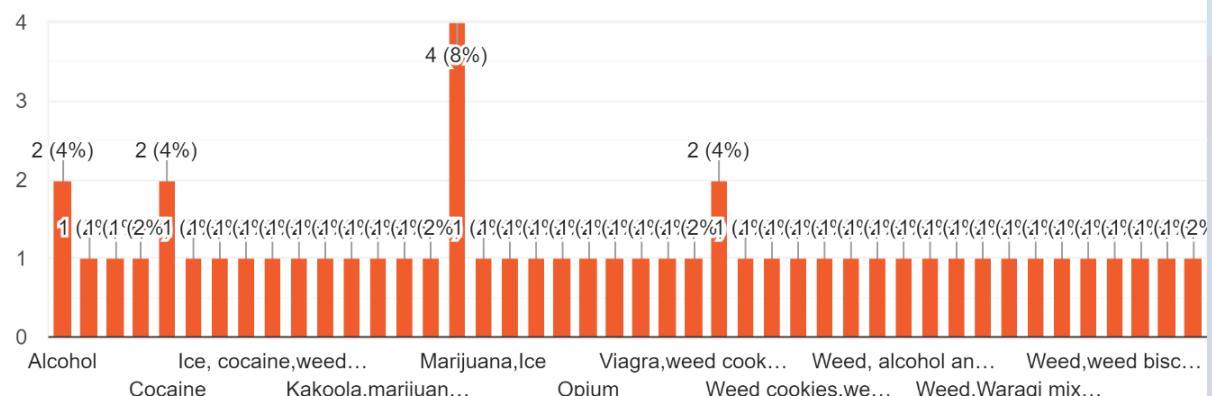
96.2 percent of participants identified to be drug users and only 3.8 percent identified to be non-drug users in Kampala, Wakiso and Mukono districts. The study revealed that most of the male sex workers use drugs. Below is the graphical presentation.



Results identified the different types of drugs used by male sex workers who use drugs to be Cocaine, Marijuana, Opium, Viagra, Myrrh, Tobacco, Mijaje, Aviation fuel, Ice, Alcohol, Weed, Kakoola, Weed cookies, Waragi, Weed biscuits, Cannabis and Codeine

If Yes above, what type of drug do you use?

50 responses

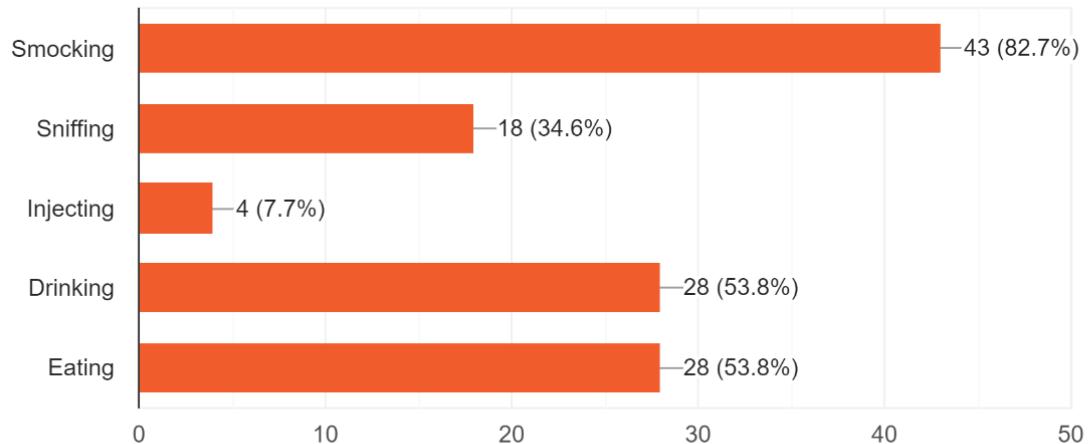


The study revealed the different methods used when using drugs among the male sex workers who use drugs in Kampala, Wakiso and Mukono districts. It revealed that smoking was the commonly used method standing at 82.7% followed by drinking and eating at 53.8% which was also followed by sniffing at 34.6% and lastly injecting which stands at 7.7%

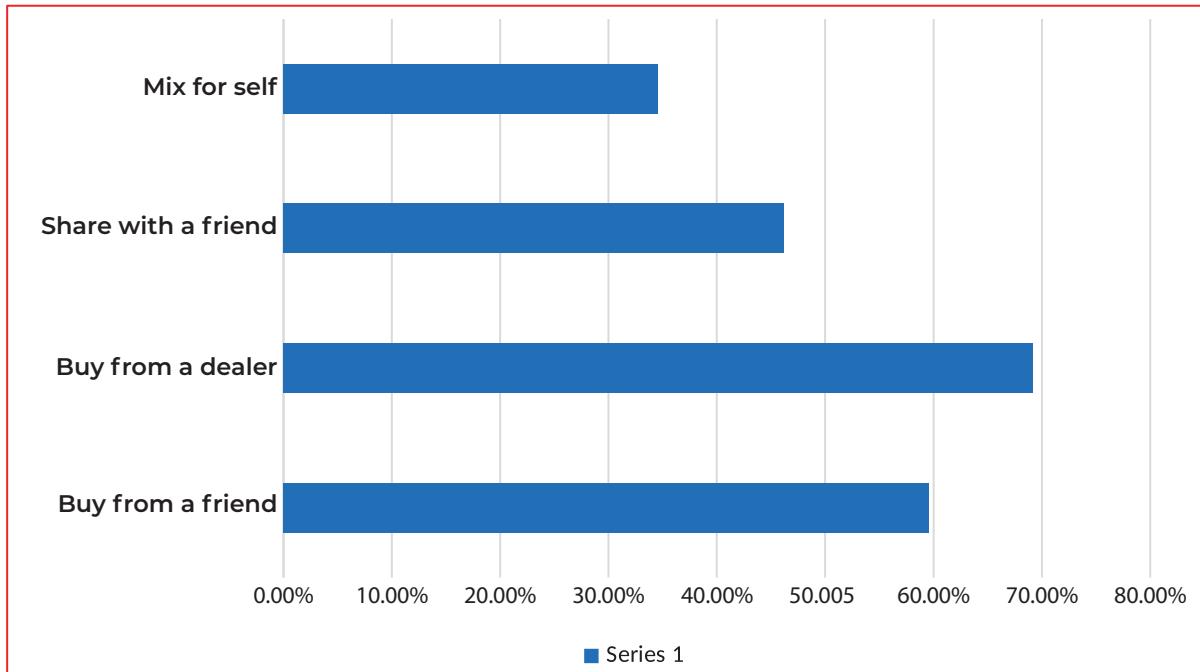
Graphical presentation of the methods used for drug intake

What methods do you use?

52 responses



When participants were asked about the ways of obtaining or acquiring the drugs they use, they highlighted different sources where 69.2% of them acquire drugs from drug dealers and 59.6 % acquire them from friends then 46.2% said they always share with friends and 34.6% mix for themselves the drugs they use. This is represented in the graph below.

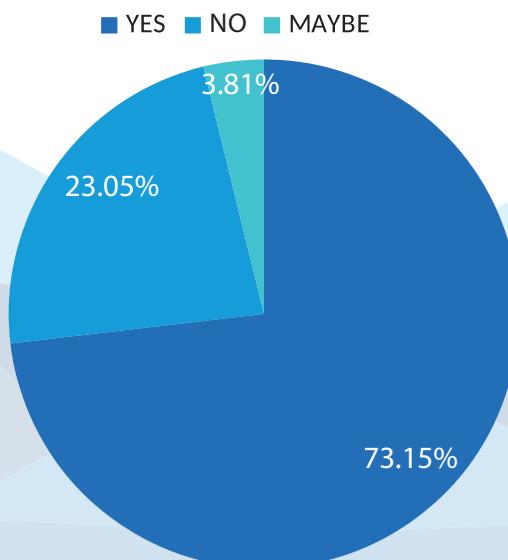


The study revealed whether participants who use drugs have ever sought for harm reduction services or not. 71.2 percent said to have never sought for harm reduction services and 21.2 percent said to have sought for harm reduction services and 7.7 percent were not sure if they have ever sought for harm reduction services or not as represented in the pie chart below.

Some of the reasons for accessing and not accessing harm reduction services were;

Reasons for accessing harm reduction services	Reasons for not accessing harm reduction services
<p>I" Need to reduce on the consumption Because I do it with care and I consent with what I do"</p>	<p>"I don't see it necessary" "Have no idea about it" "Never heard of it" "Don't know them" "Have no reason for acquiring such services"</p>

The study participants were able to give the size estimate of the male sex workers using drugs in their social networks were 73% of them agreed to know at least 10 male sex workers using drugs, 23 percent of them did not know any other male sex workers who use drugs while only 4% were not sure if they knew any male sex workers who use drugs or not.



Most of the participants knew at least one (1) male sex worker who use drugs in their social networks.

The study identified issues faced by male sex workers who use drugs as below

- Anxiety and depression
- Poverty
- Violence
- Discrimination
- Having no back-up in life ("am all lone")
- Family neglect
- Low self-esteem/ in search for confidence
- Addiction
- To fit in the life style

The study highlighted the ways in which male sex workers who use drugs would want the identified issues to be addressed.

- Sensitization on harm reduction strategies
- Advocacy for policy change
- Proper counselling and guidance
- Come up with harm reduction interventions
- Formulate proper centers for harm reduction interventions
- Program for mental health interventions among male sex workers in their different diversities.
- Proper economic empowerment programs
- Put in place proper tools for drug users to limit HIV danger
- Continuous trainings on drug management among male sex workers.
- Sensitization of policy makers on the effects of legalizing drug use in Uganda.

LIMITATIONS

The study was for Kampala, Wakiso and Mukono districts but was first conducted in Kampala and Wakiso due to the different dynamics of the 3 districts. The major limitation for this current study design was predictor and outcome variable were assessed simultaneously. However, data was collected from a significant sample size and used validated tools to obtain information. Both these factors lend credence to the interpretation of the collected findings.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Support sex worker led organizations efforts in reducing harm related to drug use in the sex worker led community since the government appears to be concentrating on drug law enforcement and just treatment as well as the existing harm reduction agencies are discriminatory.

MONU to come up with interventions that target male sex workers who use drugs.

MONU to come up with interventions that sensitize the male sex worker community on the available harm reduction services.

More inclusive programs targeting the sex worker community need to be considered since they are limited due to limited capacity of sex worker led organizations to address issues of sex workers who use drugs in these regions.

MONU to create programs on economic empowerment for male sex workers so as to reduce on the redundancy of its members and find best options for members besides sex work and consider mental health programs.

Training members in problem management as a way of reducing harm and reduce cases to do with limited access to counselling services among the male sex worker community as well as put in place emergency lines for male sex workers who use drugs.

ANNEXES

Focus Group Discussion

Opening Remarks, Expectations and consent

Opening remarks (5 Minutes);
Thanks for attending today's session. The goal of today's meeting is to understand the estimated number of drug users among the male sex work community in Uganda as well as create an evidence base for the community to best advocate for better harm reduction services in the sex work community in Uganda in order to positively influence funders and increase mobilization of flexible resources towards this cause. We are excited about this research because it will advance the work of our community and movements nationally.

This research is run by Men of the Night Uganda but is currently being run across three districts of Uganda namely Kampala, Wakiso and Mukono districts. MONU is an organization that is interested in wellbeing of all mela sex workers in their different diversities across Uganda mainly through capacity building efforts. Overall, it is a project funded by UHAI EASHRI.

The research is being administered across the three districts of Uganda with the aim to understand the estimate of male sex workers who use drugs in Uganda which is conducted by 5 research assistants to collect necessary information.

This specific session will last for 1 hours with a rest break of 3 minutes requested at any time within the session. It will be led by **(Insert your name)** a current facilitator under Men of the Night Uganda organization (You can introduce yourself shortly and relevantly based on the different roles you will be playing in the session).

Consent clause (3 minutes);

Before we start off this research session, we would love to inform you that you are all asked to give verbal (over microphone) or written consent (in the chat) to show that you are willingly participating in this research. Please feel free to refrain consent at this point. Please note that doing this will have no implications on your current or future relationship with either UHAI EASHRI or MONU.

Please also note that this session will be recorded, the information used here will however only be used for only the purposes of the research and protected to the best of our abilities.

Expectations (3 minutes);

There are a few basic rules to keep in mind while participating today;

<>This is a safe space. Please be respectful to other people's views. All feedback today will remain anonymous. In order to maintain anonymity, I just ask that anything that is said during our session is not repeated outside of our session.

<>No judgement, just love, empathy and understanding.

<>If anything arises from the session that you may need extra information or help on , please do not be afraid to reach out.

<>Everyone is expected to be an active participant. There are no "right" or "wrong" answers.

<>Speak freely but remember not to interrupt others while they are talking.

<>Note taking is for reporting purposes only and will be used for analysis. Names are not attached to the notes.

<>We are conducting these sessions at many of our sites. All information gathered will be analyzed to determine trends and make recommendations to research team. We will try to give individual feedback only when the report findings are released.

At this point, ask 2-3 participants to feel free to emphasize or add to the list.

Introductions (7 Minutes)

Before we start, I'd like to go around the room and have everyone introduce themselves in 30 seconds or a minute at the most. Tell us what your position is at the organization or in the whole movement. What kind of work you do, name and location?

Interactive Exercise (10 minutes)

Based on who you are as a person, think about what makes you feel good and better when you are down, the kind of environment you would love to be in and how best you can achieve it.

(Take 2-3 volunteers to discuss what you have come up with. This session is supposed to give facilitator of the understanding of the kind of group they are handling but also ease participants into research)

QUESTIONNAIRE (1 HOUR AND 30 MINUTES);

(Remember to take 3 to 4 responses from participants for each question to save time. Please do not un-necessarily ask a question if you feel participants may have already answered it prior)

What is the estimated number of drug users do you know of in your community?

What methods do you use of the people you know?

Which kind/type of drug are commonly used in your circles?

How do you obtain the drugs you use?

How long have you been using drugs?

What challenges have you faced as a drug user in Uganda?

What are you currently doing to solve these challenges?

Have you ever sought for harm reduction services? And if so from where/ by who?

If No, in question 5 above, which other services have been helpful to you as a drug user

in your community?

Do you hope to seek for harm reduction services in the future?

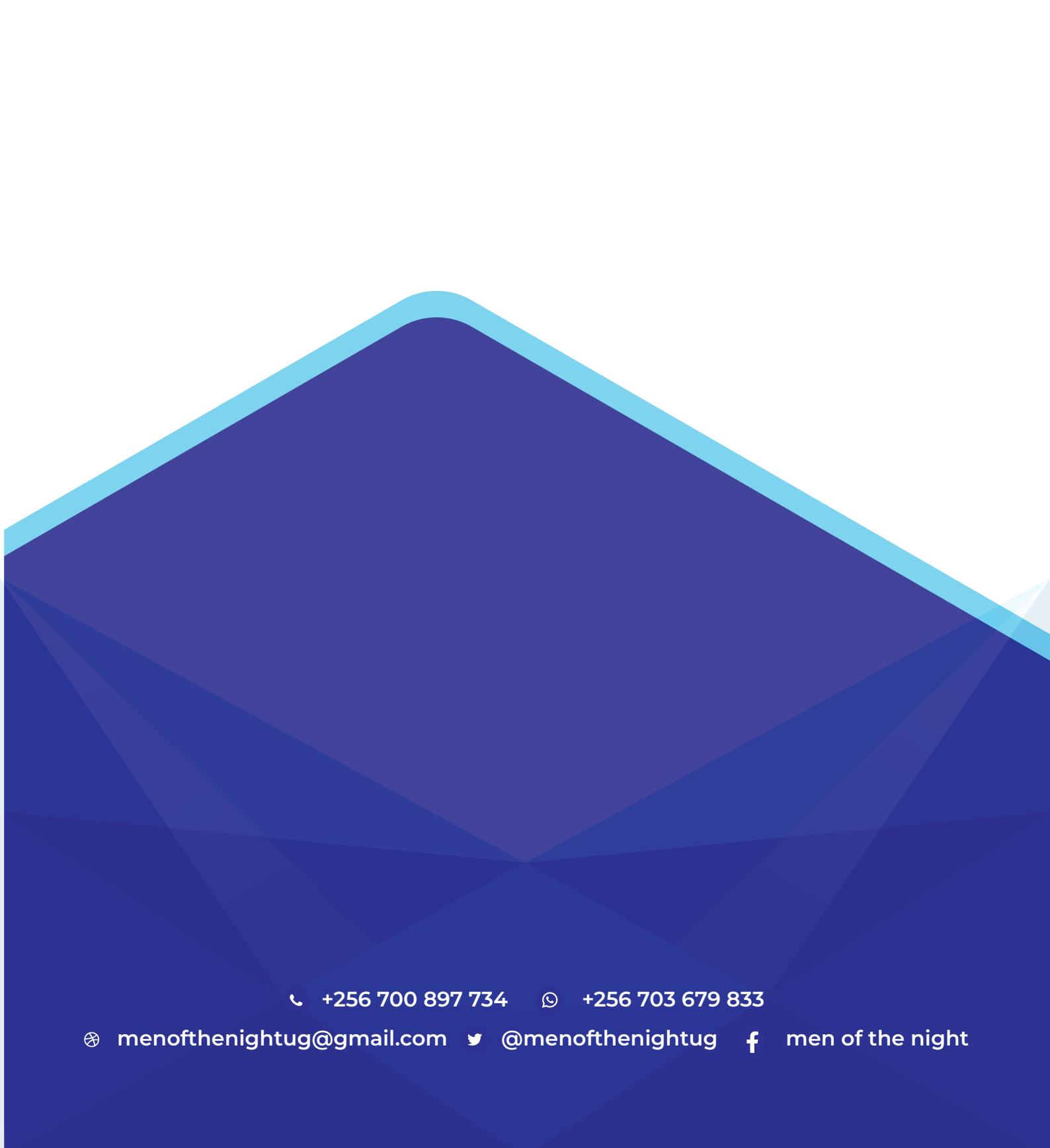
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Please feel free to add any other thing that you feel may have been important but has been left out.

Lastly, please provide recommendations that may be relevant to this research.

End by thanking participants for their participation in the FGD and encourage them to continue learning from each other beyond today. Emphasize some of the learning that you yourself have gotten as a result of the session. Remind them that, MONU will reach out when final report is done and complete.





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