



ASN UPENDO VILLAGE

TITLE: ASN UPENDO VILLAGE

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Executive Summary

ASN Upendo Village began the year with the belief and determination to continue providing the much needed services to the people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS in Naivasha Sub-County. This report therefore, covers the activities that were carried out during the months of January and February 2016.

ASN Upendo Village administration and management hired a human resource officer who will be responsible in providing support in the various human resource functions, which include recruitment, staffing, training and development, performance monitoring and employee counseling among other tasks. We had an increase in the number of sponsored children bringing the total number of pupils and students to 206. 10 newly sponsored class 8 pupils were able to join high school.

Among the highlights in the income generating activities department is that: beneficiaries of dairy goat received goats; other clients benefited from the improved chicken project for rearing and home visits were made to different clients.

The dispensary continued providing preventive as well as curative services to both our clients as well as the wider general public. The social services department was able to provide psycho-social support to the support group members and the grandmothers taking care of orphans and vulnerable children.

The pages that follow provide in-depth the various activities that were carried out by the ASN Upendo Village team in the different departments during the months of January and February 2016. We would like to most sincerely thank all our supporters because it is as a result of their generous and noble giving that the lives of people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS in Naivasha has been greatly transformed.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	i
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT	1
INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT	2
Water plant project (Fountain Valley Packaged Drinking Water)	7
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICE	8
Maintenance Department	8
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT	9
NUTRITION DEPARTMENT	1
SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT	2
Grandmothers Project	2
Prevention of Mother to child Transmission of HIV and AIDS (PMTCT) Project.....	4
Support groups	4
Client enrolment	5
Home visits.....	6

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The New Year began on good footing for the department with most of the sponsored pupils/students reporting back to their respective institutions of learning on time. The primary school pupils reported back to school on January 4th, 2016 and those in high school and college/universities reported back on 5th and 6th January respectively. The department in conjunction with the management ensured prompt payment of their school fees to facilitate their timely return to school. Two pupils were newly sponsored at the start of the year courtesy of sponsors from the CUSP sponsorship program.

The month of February was busy with activities as the department made tireless efforts to ensure that all class eight graduates who had qualified to join high school were facilitated adequately to join their new schools. Courtesy of the CUSP sponsorship program, 10 newly sponsored class 8 pupils were able to join high school.



Hence, the total number of pupils who joined high school this year alone is 26. 16 of these were formally under the sponsorship program. One pupil out of the 16 opted to enroll for a technical course in carpentry.

Currently, we have 80 active students in high school. The number of students who graduated from high school last year after sitting for the National exams was 9. Their results for the National exam are expected to be released early in the month of March 2016.

Those who will perform well will be expected to enroll for various courses at the college/university level within the year. Currently, we have 21 active students at college/university level. The sponsorship program is presently having a total of 206 pupils and students.

The table below shows the gender distribution of pupils and students under the sponsorship program as per February 2016.

Type of institution	Boys	Girls	Total
Nursery School	0	0	0
Primary School	41	49	90
Secondary School	35	45	80
Secondary School Leavers	4	6	10
Polytechnic/College/University	16	10	26
TOTAL	96	110	206

Gender distribution of sponsored students at ASN Upendo Village

INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT

The Income Generating Activities department in collaboration with ASN Upendo Village Administration and Management is doing all it can to facilitate clients start IGAs in order to improve their living standards. This is through education, information and giving out different items that are beneficial to them in order to break the poverty cycle. Upendo Village wishes all the clients to live simple and dignified life.

Dairy goats Project

During the period under review, 7 guardians and 8 clients benefited from the dairy goat project. 3 of the goats given out were female kids that had been brought back by the clients who had benefited earlier. The total number of families benefited from the project since its inception currently stands at 355. Three goats gave birth during the period to 2 males and 1 female.



Left: Dairy goat beneficiary with IGAs coordinator and Sr. Agnes Wanja posing for a photo

Improved Indigenous Chicken Project

Under the improved chicken project, 19 clients benefited with improved chicks each person receiving 2 chicks. The chicks were bought from one of our clients. The total number of the families who have benefited from the project since it started is 522. Some of the beneficiaries are very happy and they have made chicken project their source of livelihood/income and this is very inspiring and motivating to other clients to take up this project as a business venture.



Improved chicken beneficiaries posing for a photo with Sr. Agnes Waema

Solar Lamp Project

29 families with school going children benefited with the solar lamps during the period making the total number of the families that have benefited since this project began to be 212. This is very useful and supportive to them because the students are studying/ learning without hitches and complications in lighting. Hence, we are hopeful that they will improve on their performances.



Some of the beneficiaries of the solar lamp project during the period under review

Craft making has resumed again after a lengthy break and we hope that it will attract many clients and guardians as an income generating activity.



Left: Support group members in a training session on craft making. Right: Sr. Agnes Waema consulting with a trainer on developing the crafts

Demonstration Projects

At ASN Upendo Village there are demonstration projects which are used in educating clients. They include:

Kitchen garden where different types of vegetables are grown.



There are also rabbits, improved chickens, dairy goats and a fish pond.



Fish Pond



IGAs coordinator feeding rabbits at ASN Upendo Village



Left: IGAs coordinator monitoring the poultry at the demonstration farm.
Right: Feeding the demonstration dairy goats

These projects have improved the lives of our clients and they can now put a meal on the table which is very inspiring. God bless our donors.

Achievements

- Clients who attended workshop training on Bee keeping in Baraka Molo were issued with full harvesting gear/ kits which will ease the honey harvesting process.
- 616 tree seedlings were planted during the period by different clients at their homesteads in all the support groups.

Challenges

- One goat died during the period under review and the cause was not established though the veterinary doctor had already visited and gave a correct prescription three times.
- The poultry structure at ASN Upendo Village is not up to standard for rearing modern improved chicken and therefore it requires modification and renovation.
- The fish pond also needs to be refurbished and repaired. Currently, there are no funds set aside for this project.

Way forward

- Close monitoring of the projects
- Lobby, advocate and mobilize more clients and guardians to start income generating projects so as to empower them economically.

Water plant project (Fountain Valley Packaged Drinking Water)

Achievements

So far the market has been responding quite well owing to dry season in the months of January and February. Most of our customers are by now quite aware of our brand and majority have remained loyal and even introduced us to their friends. This has enabled us grow our market share and hence our customer database has grown tremendously. The management has taken this up as a challenge and in response they have employed two hardworking water attendants to work at the water plant. This has greatly improved water production and therefore minimized uncertainties of failing to meet customer demands.

Challenges

- Lack of a bigger truck to enable us ferry water to some market places when the demand is high.
- Competition from other bottlers as new brands keep on coming up every other day and sell at lower prices to dominate the market
- Some customers have raised concerns with the poor standards of bottles that we use for packaging our product. However, the management is aware of some of these concerns and it is looking forward for a lasting solution to this problem.

Recommendations

- The management should look into expanding the market share by using distributors at different regions and towns.
- Enticing our loyal customers with rewards once in a while (for instance, giving free gifts to some of our customers). A good example is giving out dust coats branded the name “Fountain Valley” on it as a marketing strategy.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Maintenance Department

The project development office has been working hand in hand with the maintenance team. During the period under review, the Kitchen and Dining project continued with minimal challenges under close supervision by the Clerk of Works who is a member of the maintenance team. Regarding the Kitchen and Dining project, the department has been keen on ensuring accurate and timely progressive reports are presented and sent out to the respective stakeholders.



Kitchen and Dining Project at ASN Upendo Village Naivasha

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

ASN Upendo dispensary been one of the major departments under the umbrella of ASN Upendo Village has experienced drastic increment of clientele during the period under review. This is attributed to introduction of the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) in the month of January whereby, the dispensary was able to register many clients who can now access outpatient services at the health facility.

Services Offered	January 2016	February 2016	Totals
Outpatient Department (OPD)	387	603	990
Child Welfare Clinic (CWC)	58	59	117
Antenatal Clinic (ANC)	11	6	17
Comprehensive Care Clinic (CCC)	17	15	32
Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT)	33	38	71
Laboratory Tests	408	461	869
Cervical Cancer Screening	0	0	0
Physiotherapy	1	0	1

Top Ten Institutional Diseases

1. Upper Respiratory Infections
2. Diseases of the skin
3. Pneumonia
4. Joint disorders
5. Hypertension
6. Diarrheal disease
7. Diabetes Mellitus
8. Urinary Tract Infection
9. Eyes infections
10. Typhoid fever

NUTRITION DEPARTMENT

As the year begins, ASN Upendo village has continued to provide nutritional supplements to the clients who attend different support groups.

This program has been core to our services because we recognize that anti-retroviral drugs alone without proper balanced nutrition cannot yield the desired results in the fight against HIV and AIDS

The nutritional supplements have been of great help to our clients and also children infected by HIV and AIDS.

During the months of January and February, the department educated our clients on how to take good care of our kids who are infected by HIV and AIDS.

Areas of discussion included:

- ❖ Proper meals to feed to these kids.
- ❖ Taking care of their body hygiene.
- ❖ Measures to be taken in order to avoid food contamination which can result into opportunistic infections .e.g. diarrhea

During the month January we received a donation of 2 bales of maize flour and 1 bale of baking flour from a well-wisher. This benefitted 3 needy clients who approached Upendo Village in need of our support.

Support group attendance in the month of January and February 2016

Name of the support group	January	February
Mai- Mahiu	44	57
Karai	77	87
Mirera	76	68
Town	38	36
Total	235	248

All support group members who attended support group meetings during the period under review benefited from the nutrition supplements under the nutrition department in collaboration with the social welfare office.

The nutrition department also managed to provide nutritional supplements to 37 grandmothers during the period under review during their support group meetings.

Our way forward is to continue empowering our clients to be self-reliant and not only to depend on us for food, as well as encouraging the stigmatized clients to accept themselves so as to live positively.

Challenge

Due to the economic constraints facing our country, one of the largest flower farms in Naivasha (Panda flower farm Ltd) which has been supportive for quite some times reduced the ratio of donation they were giving out to ASN Upendo Village from 800 Kgs of maize flour every month to 200kgs.

SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Grandmothers Project

During the period under review, the project continued to support grandmothers taking care of the orphans. The monthly meetings offer therapy to the overwhelmed grandmas who juggle between their frail health and taking care of the orphans and vulnerable children. The grandmothers engage in farming, running and managing small businesses and some do casual jobs to make both ends meet. In January 2016 grandmothers meetings, they were taught and facilitated on caring for the young ones who are living positively.

In February 2016, they were taken through tuberculosis. Tuberculosis is the most important opportunistic infection associated with HIV and AIDS. With proper treatment, tuberculosis can be cured, even in People Living with HIV and AIDS. The disease is spread through cough and sneezing. The main causative organism is mainly a bacterium called *mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

In February 2016, one of the grandmothers, Ruth Nyambura was weaned from the project. Her grandson Peter Ndiragu is a beneficiary of ASN Upendo Village sponsorship program and currently he is working and supporting her grandma. We have so far recruited a new grandmother to replace her.

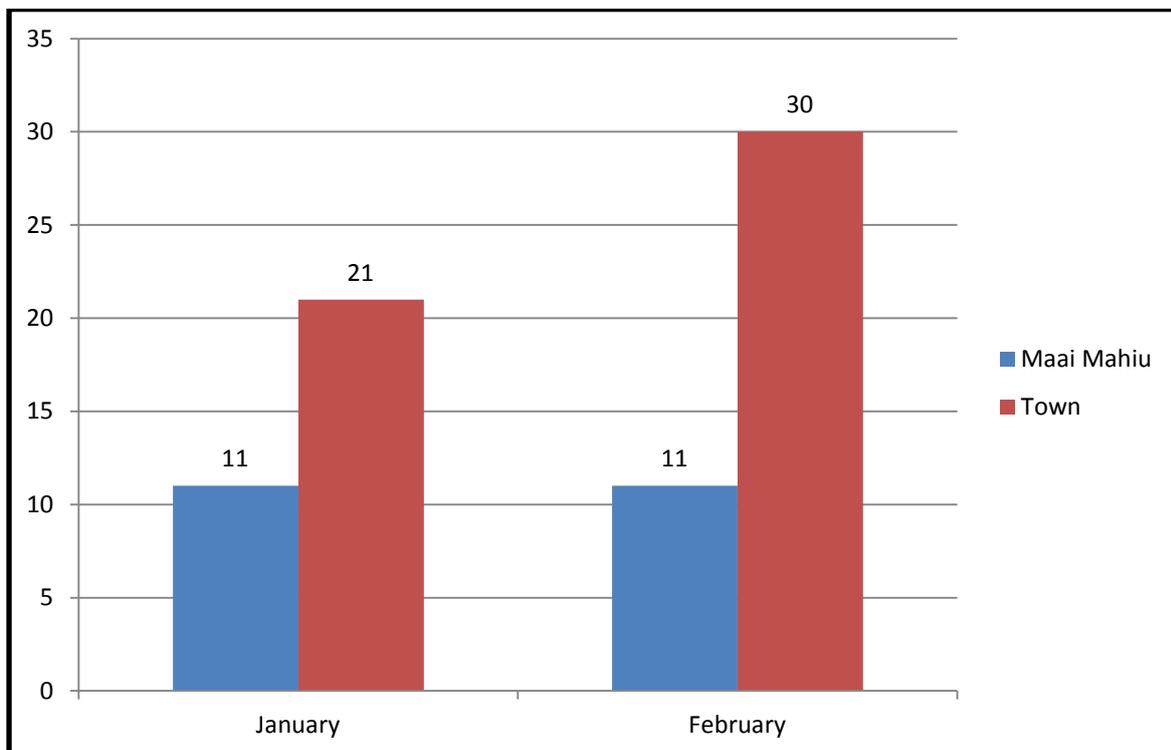


Ruth Nyambura appreciating Brigid Muasa for the support she has received from ASN Upendo village

The table below shows the attendance of both Town and Maai Mahiu grandmothers during the period under review.

Attendance

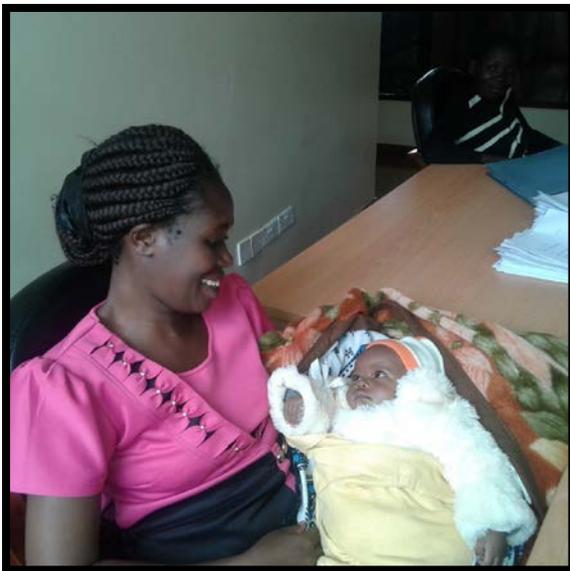
Month	Maai Mahiu	Town
January	11	21
February	11	30



A table showing the attendance

Prevention of Mother to child Transmission of HIV and AIDS (PMTCT) Project

The PMTCT project continues to support exposed babies with infant formula milk. Initially, the project was funded by Jose Luis De Barrueta Foundation from the year 2009 to 2014. Currently, ASN Upendo Village is the only organization supporting mothers who opt for exclusive replacement feeding in Naivasha sub-county. The project has not only given the mothers an option to other feeds but reduced mortality in babies below the age of 5 years. In January 2016, we enrolled 2 babies and currently we have 6 babies on formula milk and five expectant mothers.



Left: A PMTCT mother waiting to be served at the social welfare office. Right: Mother posing for a photo with a tin of formula milk.

Support groups

Our support groups bring clients together to overcome seclusion and be able to share experiences as well lessening the sense of isolation. In January 2016, the support group members were facilitated on caring for a child with HIV and AIDS as well as providing balanced diet to these kids.

In February, all the four groups were taught on opportunistic infections, its management and when to seek help. In February 2016, we lost two clients. One of them Florence Wairimu (a mother of a sponsored child Regina Magiri) was admitted in the hospital for a period of three weeks and she died of opportunistic infections. The second client, Salome Muthoni had a

chronic skin condition for years, she was admitted in the hospital but her condition deteriorated and she died.



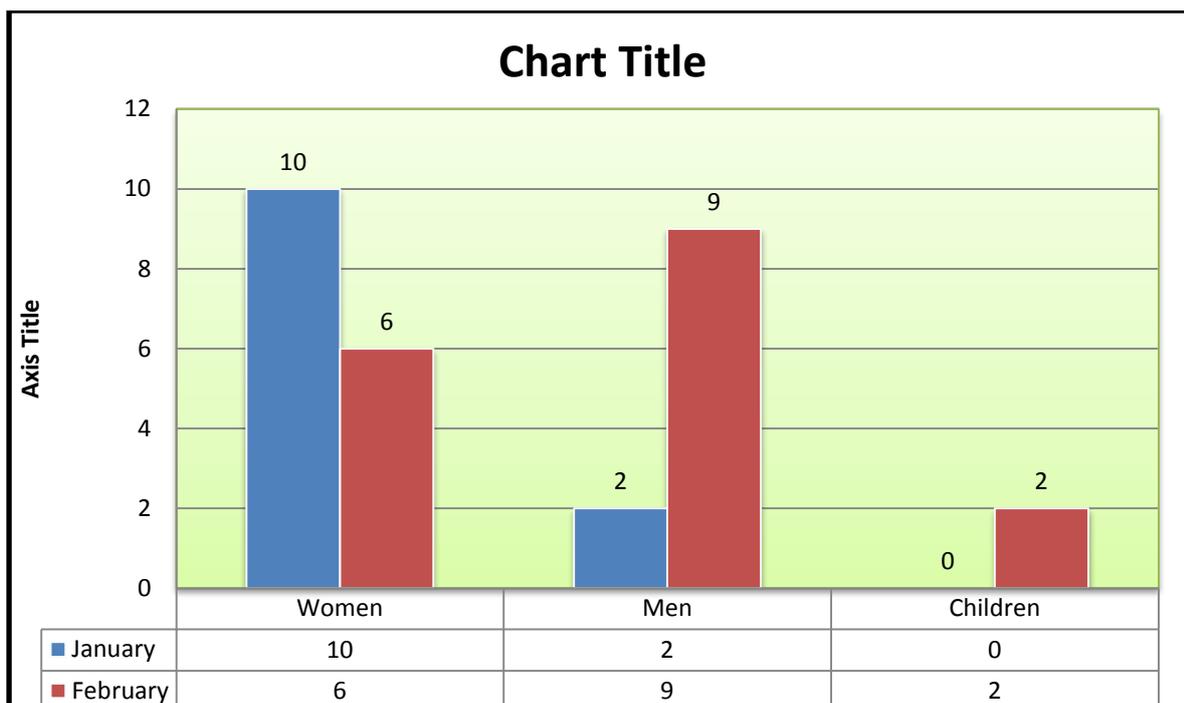
Left: Clients line up to get food. Right: Clients being served by their fellow colleagues

Client enrolment

The Social Welfare office is an entry point for clients after they are referred by the community health workers, health workers from other institutions and the community. We continue to enroll clients who test HIV and AIDS positive and are in dire need of psychological support. During the period under review, the department enrolled 2 children, 11 men and 16 women all HIV positive.

The table below shows the number clients enrolled and cumulative totals since the inception of the project.

Clients Served	January 2016	February 2016	Total	Cumulative
Women	10	6	16	2,139
Men	2	9	11	740
Children	0	2	2	320
Orphan vulnerable children	24	31	55	6,115
Household members	6	10	16	289
Total	42	58	100	9,603



Home visits

Home visits are a crucial aspect and function in ASN Upendo Village strategic plan for they help the social welfare department staff members to know the right direction to take in the effort of reducing the spread and effects of HIV and AIDS within Naivasha sub-county. During the month of January the department made 3 home and 3 hospital visits respectively. In February, the social welfare department made 1 hospital and 8 home visits. During the visits, we encountered 2 clients admitted in the hospital but unfortunately, they lost the battle to HIV and AIDS related illnesses. Some of ASN Upendo Village staff visited the families to comfort them and even attended their burials/funerals.



Brigid feeding the late Salome Muthoni in the hospital