



ASN UPENDO VILLAGE

TITLE: ASN UPENDO VILLAGE

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Executive Summary

ASN Upendo Village has continued to live its name by providing love to the community and especially those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. This report covers the activities that were carried out during the months of May and June 2014.

Among the highlight is that all the students under the sponsorship program were able to report back to school for their second term. Prompt payment of their school fees and acquisition of other necessities was effected to facilitate their timely return to their respective schools. Two of the sponsored children graduated from college. The Gender department continued to pursue justice for the victims of gender violence while income Generating Activities Project was able to give 1 dairy goat to one child headed family.

The dispensary continued providing preventive as well as curative services to both our clients as well as the wider general public. We have also installed Hospital management Information System at the dispensary. The social services department has continued to provide psycho-social support to the support group members and the grandmothers taking care of orphans and vulnerable children. It's important to note that these two months marked the end of provision of formula milk from Jose Luis De Barrueta foundation. It is unfortunate that JLDBF ended its funding. As much as we pride in the support we have so far received from the foundation we equally mourn its departure.

The report herein provides an in-depth description of the various activities that were carried out by the ASN Upendo Village team in the different departments during the months of May and June 2014. We would like to most sincerely thank all our sponsors because it is as a result of their selfless giving that the lives of people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS in Naivasha has been greatly transformed.

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Administration Department

The administration department at ASN Upendo village has continued to support all the activities of the facility. In the period of May and June we are very proud to report on the completion of the social services centre building. This is a very big achievement for upendo village in particular because now the staffs have offices where they can work from comfortably. It's also an achievement because we have a counseling room and therefore our clients can be attended in privacy.



From left: The reception, the social services desk, The Education department desk, the project development office, the board room and at the handing over of the building from the contractor.

After the successful approval of the water bottling proposal, we are happy to report that the construction of the building has begun. With good weather and good workmanship, we hope to complete the construction by end of July 2014.



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

During the beginning of May 2014, all the students under Upendo Village sponsorship program at the primary, secondary & college level reported back to their respective institutions of learning for Second term 2014 on the scheduled opening dates. The Primary kids reported back to school on 5th May, 2014. Those in Secondary and College level reported back on 6th May, 2014. Prompt payment of their school fees and acquisition of other necessities was effected to facilitate their timely return to their respective schools.

Currently the number of sponsored students is standing at 192. The sponsorship program is now having 20 students at college level, 61 students in high school and 102 in primary school. The sponsorship program has two kids at Kindergarten school level. We have 7 students currently in the sponsorship program waiting to join College/University. Out the 20 students in colleges, 5 have already graduated this year. We have another 4 students at college/university level waiting to graduate this year.

Type of institution	Boys	Girls	Total
Nursery School	1	1	2
Primary School	51	51	102
Secondary School	29	32	61
Polytechnic/College/University	9	6	15
Secondary School Leavers	5	2	7
Polytechnic/College/University leavers	4	1	5
TOTAL	99	93	192

Table 1: Gender distribution of sponsored students at ASN Upendo Village

It is encouraging to note that the scholarship program has done well in bridging the gender gap both at the primary and secondary levels in line with the Millennium Development Goal -MDG 3 target 4 which calls for the elimination of gender disparity in primary and secondary by 2005 and at all levels of education by 2015. Attempts are also being made to ensure gender parity at the College/University levels.

During the Month of May 2014, two sponsored students; Stephen Njoroge and Simon Mwai graduated after clearing the courses they were undertaking at college. The two were in the same college but studying different courses. Stephen was doing an electrical course while Simon was

doing a tailoring course. Stephen has already secured a job with Kengen (a Hydro power generation company) on contractual basis.



Stephen & his sister Patricia during graduation

Simon on the other hand wants to become self-employed and has started a tailoring business after we acquired for him some tools of trade.



Simon during his graduation



Simon receiving his tools of Trade

Gender Department

The gender desk at ASN Upendo Village has played a great role in supporting gender based violence victims to get treatment and counseling services as a result of the trauma to both victim and guardian. We have continued to assist victims to get justice through the court process by ensuring that the culprits are apprehended and sentenced.

In the months of May and June, no new cases have been reported and therefore this department has been doing more of follow ups on the existing cases.

As reported in the last report about the four cases of defilement and one case on rape, all this cases are preceding at the Naivasha law courts. In all the cases no judgment has been delivered.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Court proceedings are no longer taking time because Judicial System has changed a lot.

CHALLENGES

We are facing a big challenge in the courts because of frequent transfers of the judges. For instance, two of the cases which were due for judgment have to be restarted because the magistrates who were handling them were transferred. Despite the fact that there are records of the proceedings, the defendant's lawyers have ordered that they start afresh. From our end we see this as a delaying tactic to prolong the cases.

INCOME GENERATING PROGRAM

The Income Generating Program is still bringing meaningful transformation to the lives of our clients and their families. During the period under review, the following activities were carried out.

DAIRY GOATS.

One child headed family benefited with a dairy goat. The goat's milk is important because it will help in boosting their immunity.



Sr.Florence hands over the goat

Six goats given to clients gave birth and the families are enjoying the goat's milk. Some are selling the milk and thereby giving them some additional income. However, the milk production is not high due to the dry spell that is being experienced in the region. The average milk production is one and half liters per goat per day.

During the period under review, the department visited five families to monitor the progress of the program. The findings from the visits revealed that the projects of dairy goats, chickens, business and farming were doing well. However, it was noted that lack of rain has caused a decline in productivity for those clients engaged in farming activities. Despite the weather challenges, active clients have managed to sustain their farming activities and continued to benefit from them. 382 clients and 25 guardians were trained on the importance of income generating activities during support groups attended.

The following table shows the activities as per the support groups

Support Groups	May	June	Total
Maai Mahiu	----	49	49
Mirera	87	---	87
Karai	72	69	141
Town	58	47	105

Medical Department

In the months under review, the dispensary continued to provide preventive and curative services to both our clients and the general public. The table below shows the different services that were provided.

SERVICES	MAY	JUNE	TOTAL
Antenatal	2	0	2
Child welfare clinic	52	31	83
Consultation	309	260	569
V.C.T	19	30	49

The table below shows how clients utilized laboratory services:

TESTS	MAY	JUNE	TOTAL
Routine Tests	268	245	513
Full Haemogram	58	21	79
Thyroid Function Test	1	0	1
Prostate Specific Antigen test	1	1	2
Kidney Function Test	1	4	5

ACHIEVEMENT

- The staffs in the dispensary are getting acquainted with the new hospital management information system.

CHALLENGES

- There has been continued challenge of the services that are not offered at the dispensary like a dental unit, ultra sound but with the rooms that were created after moving the admin to the social welfare building with availability of finances these services can be offered.
- There has been notable drop in antenatal because of the free services at the government hospital and reduced costs in the other private facilities.

Nutrition Department

The nutrition program has been core to our services because we recognize that anti-retroviral drugs alone without proper nutrition cannot yield the desired results in the fight against HIV and Aids is to be enhanced.

At ASN Upendo village we have continue to provide nutrition supplements to weak clients and children infected by HIV and Aids to ensure they regain their strength.

During the month of May and June clients were reminded on the importance of taking a balanced diet and also eating the locally, cheap and available food. The aspects of living in a clean environment and improving personal hygiene were stressed.

Through the efforts of the administration and the well-wishers, we managed to feed an average of 275 people during the period under review.

The table below shows, the Bi-monthly attendance:

Name of the support group	May	June	Average
Mai-Mahiu	64	55	60
Karai	89	71	80
Mirera	78	88	83
Town	57	56	57
Total	288	270	275

Social Support Services

May – June 2014

Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT)

The above program was started in February 2009. Jose Luis De Barrueta Foundation funded for the purchase of formula milk, water filters, thermos flasks, monthly transport and snacks for the mothers, CHWs trainings, stationeries and facilitators fees and salaries for two staff members. Through the support of JLDBF we have managed to support babies of 0 to 9 months and thereafter wean to unimix porridge. However, in February this year the foundation stopped funding for the formula milk, water filters, thermos flasks and salary for one staff.

Achievements

- ❖ The community health workers have been empowered with the skills needed to support people affected and infected with HIV and Aids. In addition, they have been taught on First aid and other terminal illnesses like cancer and diabetes.
- ❖ The project has benefited 331 healthy babies with formula milk; only 8 babies turned HIV positive. This can be attributed to the fact that they were already exposed to the virus when we enrolled them
- ❖ The National Hospital Insurance Fund has benefitted nine mothers who delivered in the public and private health facilities and settled hospitalization bills for 7 mothers and six babies
- ❖ Provision of thermos flasks and water filters ensured enhanced hygiene and readily available warm water for the preparation of baby feeds
- ❖ The monthly health education talks promoted good health to both mothers and babies, reduced social stigma and infant mortality.
- ❖ The flower farms, health facilities, individual people contributed in ensuring the prevention of mother to child transmission by referring their employees and the public to access formula milk at ASN Upendo Village
- ❖ ASN Upendo Village won recognition from the National AIDS and STD Control Programme (NAS COP) when the Nutrition Program manager made a visit on 5th April 2011 to our facility to see what we do. The efforts bore fruits when the government through NAS COP started giving formula milk to facilities for babies born of HIV positive mothers. When JLDBF stopped funding for formula milk, the foundation coordinator in Kenya introduced us to NAS COP and we have been getting milk from the government hospital in Naivasha
- ❖ The community around is aware of our PMTCT services as a result of the vigorous awareness campaigns we did in flower farms, churches and during World Aids days.

Challenges

- ❖ Individuals in public health facilities are treating formula milk as a nutrition supplement, therefore still encouraging mothers to breast for some time before switching to formula milk hence posing a risk of mother to child transmission
- ❖ There is still stigma in a few newly tested mothers
- ❖ The withdrawal of Jose Luis De Barraeta Foundation will present a funding challenge in the PMTCT programme. As much as we pride in the support we have so far received from JLDBF we also mourn its departure
- ❖ JLDBF felt that the foundation could not duplicate its services when the government was doing the same. All the support from the foundation ended in June 2014
- ❖ We received a second blow in May 2014, when the Naivasha District hospital informed us that the supply of formula milk from NASCOP has been suspended since the devolved government will take care of its own budget. It is unfortunate because our county did not allocate funds for the above commodity therefore implying that exclusive replacement feeding is dying slowly.
- ❖ We are in dilemma not knowing what to give to babies born of HIV positive mothers

Way forward

- ❖ We hope to continue with exclusive replacement feeding as the best option if we get another donor

Grandmothers

ASN Upendo village has continued to be a source of hope and support to grandmothers who feel encouraged and relieved whenever they hold their monthly meetings. Bible sharing and prayers before their meetings helps them grow in faith and trust in God who never leaves them alone in their daily struggles in caring for the orphans.

In the month of May they were taken through health education. They were advised on cleanliness at home especially when handling food for this reduces the spread of diseases and germs. They were also taught on how to keep their hands clean before preparing food and after visiting the toilet. They were encouraged to be carrying clean handkerchiefs with them and also to ensure their grandchildren have them too. They also learned on cleaning vegetables in running water if possible and not to overcook them because this destroys most nutrients.

During the month of June the group was taught the problems associated with old age. This includes; loneliness, losing teeth, weak eye sight and forgetfulness among others. They were encouraged to eat balanced diet so as to uphold a healthy body.

Support groups

Upendo Village has continued to offer services to clients which are essential to positive living. During the period under review the four main support groups held two monthly meetings and discussed the following:

Gender based violence. They discussed types of Gender based violence, factors contributing to Gender based violence and legal actions. It was reported that 21% women experience either physical or sexual violence but in most cases they are not reported. The group was taken through the factors that contribute to Gender Based Violence such as culture, poverty, alcohol, illiteracy, conflict, disability among others.

The group was also given a talk on maintaining CD4 count, good adherence, avoiding stress, balanced diet, taking a lot of water etc. Clients were also informed that the CD4 count test will be replaced by viral load test which is better and helps to monitor adherence.

Day of the African Child

This celebration is held on every 16th day of June. This year we joined other stakeholders in Naivasha district in the celebrations at the Administration police ground in Naivasha town. The theme of the day was child friendly, quality, free and compulsory education for all children in Africa



Day of Arican child



Sr. Juliana attending to a client