



ASN UPENDO VILLAGE

TITLE: ASN UPENDO VILLAGE

PERIOD: January- February 2014

SUBMITTED TO: UPENDO VILLAGE, NFP, USA

SUBMITTED BY: ASN UPENDO VILLAGE, KENYA

DATE: MARCH 2014

Executive Summary

ASN Upendo Village began the year upbeat 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 2014.

Among the highlights is that we had an increase in the number of sponsored children bringing the total number of pupils and students to 193. The income generating project was able to train 262 clients on different income generating activities during the support groups in addition to benefiting 11 families with dairy goats.

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 2014. We would like to most sincerely thank all our supporters 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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Education Department

The New Year, 2014 began smoothly for the majority of the students under the sponsorship program as they reported back to their respective institutions of learning. The primary and the Kindergarten pupils reported back to school on 6th of January while those in high school and college/universities reporting on 7th and 8th January respectively. Prompt payment of fees and acquisition of the necessary supplies was ensured for all high school and college/university students to facilitate their return to school. An increase in the number of sponsored pupils at the primary level was also witnessed with 6 newly sponsored pupils at the beginning of January being enrolled into the sponsorship program.

The month of February was a hectic one for the department as it went on to ensure that all class eight graduates who had qualified to join Form 1 in high school were facilitated adequately to ensure their smooth transition to high school. Seventeen students in total joined different high schools within the country. Twelve of these were previously under the sponsorship program while five were newly sponsored. As a result the total number of high school students under the sponsorship program now stands at 61 from 51 last year.

Seven students graduated from high school in 2013 after sitting for their National exams, however, their results for the National exam are yet to be released. The department is expecting their results on the 3 of March this year. Those who will perform well among them will be expected to join college/universities. Currently we have 20 students at college/university level. The sponsorship program is presently having a total of 193 pupils and students. The table below shows the gender distribution of pupils and students under the sponsorship program.

Type of institution	Boys	Girls	Total
Kindergarten	1	1	2
Primary School	49	54	103
Secondary School	30	31	61
Polytechnic/College/University	13	7	20
Secondary School Leavers	3	4	7
TOTAL	96	97	193

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

Gender Department

Gender department has continued to provide support to the gender based violence victims. The department is currently following up four defilement cases pending before the Naivasha Law Courts and one case pending before the high court in Nairobi where the hearing has been set for the 1st of April 2014.

The department plans to continue with the awareness campaigns in the community and empowering the community with information on how to handle various gender based violence situations and how to seek justice.

Income Generating Activities Program

The program has been instrumental towards ensuring that the clients are engaged in sustainable sources of livelihoods. This continues to be done through provision of dairy goats, chicken, beehives, and interest free loans which they get to start small businesses as well as for farming. The department has also been able to provide various trainings to the clients.

During the period under review, eleven families benefited from the dairy goats project. Of the eleven, three families have children who are on ARVs and this would be of great help to them once the goats give birth as goat milk has been documented to be very nutritious. The total number of families who have so far benefited from the dairy goats project is now at 252.

The department was also able to visit five families and trained 262 clients during the support group on the importance of income generating activities.



Stephanina (IGA Coordinator) on the right posing for a photograph with the beneficiaries of the goats in January.

Medical Department

The dispensary has continued offering services to our clients, the community around and the public in general. There have been frequent meetings since the start of the year to ensure maximum utilization of the clinic and the Laboratory.

The diagram below represents the number of clients that benefitted from our services in the month of January and February.

Services	JANUARY 2014			FEBRUARY 2014		
	New Patients	Re-attendance	Total	New Patients	Re attendance	Total
Voluntary counseling and Testing	6	17	23	3	18	21
Child Welfare clinic	5	20	25	13	22	35
Antenatal clinic	3	5	8	1	7	8
Consultation	260	25	285	166	42	208

The table below represents Laboratory tests that were performed during the period under review.

TESTS	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	TOTAL
Routine Tests	244	252	496
Full Haemogram	58	37	95
Thyroid function Test	0	0	0
Prostate Specific Antigen	2	2	4
Kidney Function Test	2	0	2

There has been a slight increase in the number of tests performed at the laboratory as a result of the community sensitization exercise as well as collaboration with some of the health care service providers.

Nutrition Department

The department has continued to ensure that the clients get the requisite nutritional information as well as nutritional supplements as we appreciate the fact that nutrition is a key component in restoring the health of people living with HIV and AIDS.

During the month of January and February the clients had their four support group meetings and have continued to encourage each other in their day to day lives. They also received nutritional supplements which have proved to be of great help to the clients' majority of whom are now strong and this has encouraged others who were not coming out as a result of stigma to join the support groups.

We continue receiving more new clients during each support group meeting in dire need of our services. We are happy to report that during the period under review we had no bedridden cases and therefore our nutritional supplements in addition to the Anti-Retroviral drugs have made a big difference to the lives of people living with HIV and AIDS. During this period, we managed to provide nutritional supplements to an average of 129 clients from each support groups.

Due to a multi-faceted approach used by ASN Upendo Village to provide the services, the clients have appreciated the empowerment through sharing of vital information on various issues affecting them as well as through the various income generating activities. We however continue educating our clients on disclosure, good health and hygiene and continue encouraging them to live positively.

Social Support Services

Support Groups

ASN Upendo Village has continued to provide to clients services which are crucial in achieving the 6th millennium development goal which is; combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. We have also continued to raise awareness in the community on stigma and discrimination that will enable people living with HIV and AIDS and their families to be treated with dignity.

During the months under review the support groups have held their monthly meetings where on average the attendance was 258 clients. During their meeting in January, they held open forums which were geared towards helping them set the year's resolutions. They also submitted their suggestions on topics they would like to be taught during the year.

In February, the groups had annual elections to elect office holders as per the bi-laws governing their group activities. Members of the different sub-groups also gave their report on the progress of the sub-groups and we are happy to report that majority of the sub-support groups are doing well. An example among many is one known as Karati honey land, the group is registered with the Ministry of Social Services and they have a bank account. They started a revolving fund project whereby members access soft loans to boost their businesses. This is a great step towards sustainability. The department was able to visit 13 homes during the period under review.



Left: Patricia enjoying lunch with some of the support group members. Right: Sr. Juliana during one of our home visits.

Grandmothers Project

In the month of January the grandmothers reviewed their constitution where one of the resolutions was to use some money from their savings account to buy household utensils in the month of March 2014 for each member. They also agreed to continue banking the monthly contributions for use in case a need arises.

The grandmothers have really been supportive of each other and during this period they were able to contribute Kshs. 800 to support one of their members who had a grandchild who was admitted in the hospital. We are happy to report that the child was discharged and has recovered well.

In February the group was privileged to have a visitor from Jiendeleze Empowerment program (an NGO) who enlightened the grandmothers on how they can benefit from the recently launched loan facility for groups by the Government. She took them through the process of registering a group, the amount they need to have to obtain a loan and repayment conditions. Members were delighted and said they will discuss it further amongst themselves.



Left: Patricia discussing some issues with some of the grandmothers after a meeting while on the left are Sisters Florence and Juliana admiring one of the grandma's baskets.

PMTCT Project

The PMTCT project continues to play an important role in the lives of babies born of HIV positive mothers. Since the inception of the program in February 2009, the program has benefitted 326 babies on formula milk. We acknowledge the support from Jose Luis De Barrueta Foundation for funding the program's activities which includes the purchase of infant formula milk, thermos flasks and water filters. The foundation also provided funds for snacks and transport for the PMTCT mothers during their monthly meetings, premiums for the National Hospital Insurance Fund, and monthly allowances for the community health workers who journey with the people, affected and infected by HIV/AIDS.

Due to the uptake of this noble and practical strategy by the government, the foundation has reduced by nearly 70% its funding towards this project. We are now receiving infant formula milk through the government run Naivasha Sub-County Hospital. The foundation has indicated to us that funding for the project will be ending in the month of June this year.

During the period under review, January and February 2014 we had 25 babies on formula milk. We are sad to report that we lost one baby in February who died as a result of pneumonia. In January and February, we enrolled 6 new babies on formula milk.

Below is the infant formula milk data;

Infant Formula Milk Data			
Year 2014			
S.No	Particular	January	February
1	No. of Infants accessing “Infant Formula Milk”	25	25
2	No. of Infants Weaned	0	0
3	No. of Expectant Mothers	5	6



Community Health Workers

The community health workers continue to support people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and the orphan and vulnerable children. They also played a role in counseling and referring to us the HIV positive expectant mothers who opt for exclusive replacement feeding. During the period under review, a team of 15 community health workers made 196 and 157 home visits respectively. We held meetings with the team on 31.01.14 and 28.02.14 whereby they shared their field experiences and submitted their January and February reports to the Social Welfare office.

Achievements

- ❖ 326 babies have benefited from the infant formula milk
- ❖ Nine mothers have benefited from the National Hospital Insurance Fund premium payment which enabled mothers to be able to deliver in the health facilities to avoid the dangers of home deliveries. Three mothers have seen their bills settled by the fund and two babies also benefited as the fund paid for their hospitalization costs.
- ❖ Provision of thermos flasks and water filters ensured hygiene and readily available warm water for the preparation of baby feeds.
- ❖ The monthly health education talks have promoted good health for mothers and babies, reduced social stigma and mortality in infants.
- ❖ The community health workers' trainings have empowered CHWs with the skills to enable them counsel and offer psychosocial support to the people infected and affected by the epidemic hence an improvement in the quality of life for the people living with HIV and AIDS.
- ❖ Enhancement of collaboration between ASN Upendo Village and other organizations within our catchment area. Some of these organizations have supported the work of ASN Upendo Village and also referred their employees living with HIV and AIDS to access infant formula milk at ASN Upendo Village.
- ❖ ASN Upendo Village won recognition from the National AIDS Control Council (NACC) when its team made a visit to our facility to see what we do. The efforts we have made convinced the Ministry of health that exclusive replacement feeding prevents mother to child transmission and the government is now providing formula milk to HIV exposed babies.

Challenges

- ❖ Some health facilities are 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
- ❖ End of funding for the program.

Way forward

- ❖ We will continue to advocate for exclusive replacement feeding to prevent mother to child transmission
- ❖ We hope to continue with the PMTCT program and hopefully find support
- ❖ Continue providing Psycho-social support to the PMTCT mothers
- ❖ Strengthen collaboration with the government run PMTCT Program