



ASN UPENDO VILLAGE

TITLE: ASN UPENDO VILLAGE

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Executive Summary

We are grateful to God for enabling us to put a smile on the faces of the many families affected by the HIV pandemic in our catchment area. We continued to provide care and support during the period November and December even though this period had quite a number of festivities among which one was the celebration of Kenya's 50th anniversary. These slowed our various activities but we are glad to report that we were able to achieve most of the objectives for the months as highlighted in this report.

Among the highlights is that we had an improvement in the academic performance of the children under the sponsorship program. While the income generating project was able to train 55 clients on different income generating activities in addition to making 5 home visits to assess the progress of those who have benefited from the project.

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 November and December. We would like to most sincerely thank all our supporters and wish them the very best in the new year 2014 and look forward to a continued partnership to transform the lives of those infected and affected by the HIV and AIDS pandemic.

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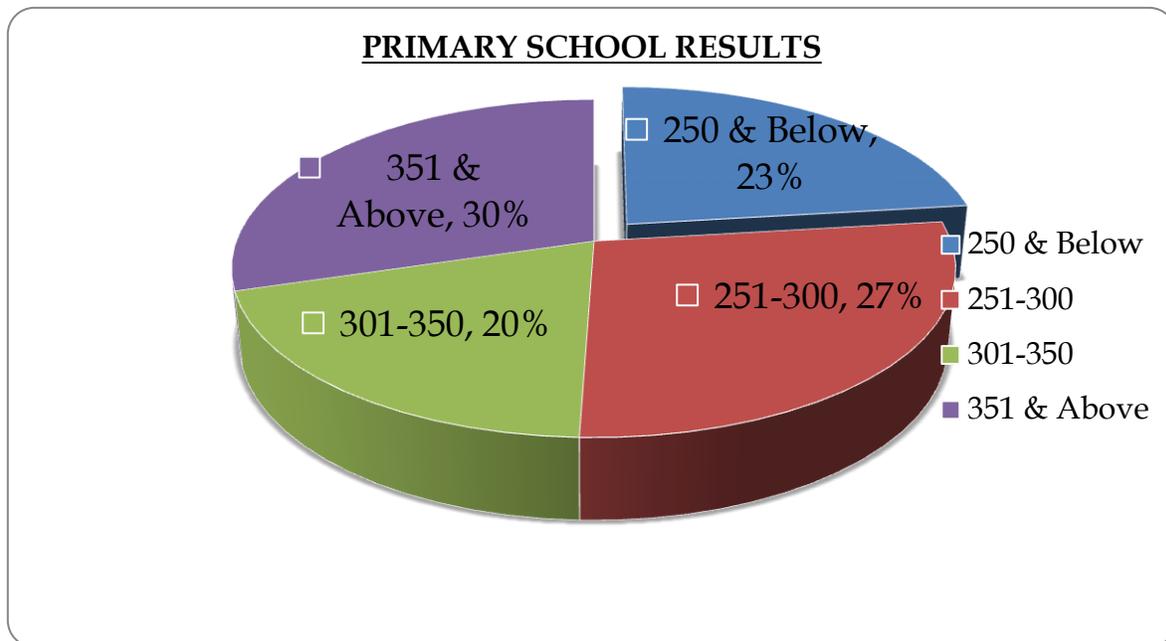
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Education Department

Towards the close of the year 2013, twenty two students under the ASN Upendo Village Sponsorship program sat for their National exams. First, during the month of October, six of our Form Four candidates in various Secondary schools sat for the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education exams (KCSE) to mark the end of their schooling at secondary school level. This exam was closely followed by the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education exam (KCPE) in November. We had sixteen pupils under the sponsorship program sitting for KCPE exams to mark the completion of their primary school education. We had eleven students with 250 marks and above and five getting below 250 marks.

Early during the month of December 2013, the Primary and High school/ College academic days were held consecutively to evaluate the academic performance of students in the sponsorship program across different levels of learning. The Primary pupils' academic day took place on 2nd December with a total of 98 pupils and guardians attending. The High school/College Academic day followed on December 4th with an attendance of 57 students & guardians. However, a number of College/University students could not be able to attend the Academic Day because they were sitting for their exams.

The staff from ASN Upendo Village gave talks to students and pupils on: teenage pregnancy and its consequences, roles and responsibilities during school holidays among other topics. The pie chart below gives an analysis of the academic performance of class one to seven pupils.



There was a general improvement among the primary school pupils this term in comparison to second term. Whereas last term we had 73% of the pupils scoring 250 marks and above, during third term we had 77% with 250 marks and above. The percentage of pupils scoring 250 marks and below also reduced from 27% to 23%. The provision of solar lamps to pupils without access

to electricity has helped most sponsored pupils to study conveniently at night and hence an improvement in academic performance.

The table 1.0 below gives a brief description of High school performance across all forms.

Table 1.0

MEAN GRADE	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E	TOTAL
Form 1		1	2	2	5	1	1	5		1	1	1	20
Form 2					1	3	2	1	1	1			9
Form 3					1	3	2	2	1	1	2		12
TOTAL		1	2	2	7	7	5	8	2	3	3		41

Generally, across all forms there was no single student who scored a mean grade of A stand as witnessed in Term one results. However, most Form One students seem to have performed quite well with 78.5% of them scoring a mean grade of C- and above. One student in Form 3 did not sit for his End term exams due to sickness. The form four candidates are awaiting their National Examination results in March 2014. All students who had performed well were awarded during the academic day.

Income Generating Activities Program

The program has continued to sustain the efforts of empowering the clients and this effort has recorded remarkable results. During the period under review, 55 clients were trained on different income generating activities and the team was able to visit 5 families who are beneficiaries of the program.

During the period under review 19 clients were trained on goat rearing and after that they were issued with dairy Goats in an occasion that was graced by the Director of Harambee Project Dr. Kathleen Harrison and her husband Dr. John McNulty. The clients were indeed very grateful as this will not only empower them but will also transform their lives. Out of the 19 clients 6 were grandmothers taking care of orphaned children who are on ARVs. We are very sure that goat's milk will be of great help to the children. At the same time four goats have given birth. We continue to receive encouraging feedback from the clients whose goats have given birth of how the goats have been of significant importance to them.

81 clients were trained on chicken keeping and issued with a pair of improved chicks each purchased from the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) and this will be of great help to them. This is a great motivator for the Upendo Village team to see the lives of clients transformed and each dollar utilized to bring lasting change and positively impacting the society.



Medical Department

Introduction

In the months under review, the dispensary has continued offering all the services to our clients and the general public.

The diagram below, represent the number of clients that benefited from our services.

	NOVEMBER			DECEMBER		
	New	Re-attendance	Total	New	Re-Attendance	Total
Voluntary Counseling and Testing	15	0	15	33	0	33
Child Welfare Clinic	5	21	26	37	15	52
Antenatal Clinic	0	2	2	3	1	4
CONSULTATION	100	109	209	67	157	224

New patients were more in the month of November than in the month of December this lowers the revenue as new patients generate more revenue for the dispensary more than the re-attendance clients as those re-attending come for review.

The table below represents the number of clients that benefited from our laboratory services.

TESTS	November	December	TOTAL
Routine Tests	159	190	349
Full Haemogram	11	76	87
Thyroid Function Test	0	2	2
Prostate Specific Antigen test	0	1	1
Kidney Function Test	1	1	2

During the period under review, our Clinical Officer (Physician Assistant) resigned to pursue other opportunities and his position is yet to be filled.

Nutrition Department

The program has been of great help to the clients as they receive nutritional food supplements as well as nutritional information which is very vital not only for those on ARVs but all clients in general. There has also been emphasis on the need to be self-reliant, and this is ensured by engaging them in sustainable sources of livelihood.

During the period under review, the ASN Upendo Village team and the clients had an annual evaluation exercise to review the success and challenges faced during the year and during this time; aspects of Nutrition, Balanced diet as well as Hygiene were discussed. On average, 77 clients benefitted from nutritional supplementation during home visits in the months of November and December. As we continue to wean clients our greatest challenge remains the rising number of clients joining the support groups.

Social Support Services

Support group

The clients have continued to hold their monthly support group meetings and in November they were taught on comprehensive care and support for children living with HIV/AIDS. This topic was felt to be of great importance to both guardians and parents of HIV positive children as well as to those who are not infected. This is because even if a child was born negative he/she can contract the virus through other modes of transmission. Some of the areas covered included; common manifestation of HIV infection, ARV monitoring in children, related side effects and adherence problems and support.

In December an evaluation exercise was carried out and the clients expressed their gratitude as the majority felt that they have had a positive impact from the topics that they have been taken through as this has greatly helped them live positively as well as enhance behavior change. The team was able to visit 15 homes during the period under review.



Patricia (staff) shares food supplements during home visits.

Kids club

The aim of this club is to provide psychosocial support to HIV positive children and their families. The meeting provides an opportunity for HIV education and fostering of friendships to reduce stigma in the community and also enable children to live positively and productively. In the month of November we held the meeting and the turn up was excellent; 73 and 62 kids and caretakers respectively attended the meeting.

The children were divided into two groups; those below eleven years enjoyed drawing and playing while those above eleven years and their caretakers were taken through the topic of identity. The topic was to help them understand who they are irrespective of their HIV status. They were also reminded that HIV positive children can lead perfectly normal lives thanks to advancement in medical treatment.



Left: Teens in a discussion while on the right kids playing assisted by Sr. Juliana



Sr. Agnes Waema teaching the kids club children on how to make rubber bands bracelets.

Grandmothers Project

ASN Upendo Village has continued to offer support to the grandmas taking care of the HIV orphaned children. During the period under review two meetings were held where the clients were taken through the topic of high blood pressure. The team highlighted on risk factors, symptoms and treatment. It was very interesting to learn that some of these medical conditions can be avoided simply by doing exercises and having good nutrition. In December we did the annual evaluation and we were glad to receive a positive feedback that the services provided by ASN Upendo Village have had a great impact in their lives.

We were privileged to have students from Marist University where one of our sister (Agnes 2) was schooling come to visit us and during their visit, we had a grandmothers support group going on and they were very excited to join them and here they share their experiences and encouraging each other.



Grandmothers, Sr. Agnes 2 and the students from Marist University posing for a photo at the end of the support group meeting.

PMTCT Project

The PMTCT program continues to serve HIV positive mothers who opt for exclusive replacement feeding. Since the year begun we enrolled 26 babies on formula milk. Many people are embracing the program unlike before when social stigma was high. One of the major achievements noted during the period under review was that the government of Kenya acknowledged that provision of formula milk to children born by HIV positive mothers is a better strategy for reducing transmission of HIV and AIDS to the new born babies. As a result of this, the government of Kenya is now providing us with infant formula milk through the Naivasha District Hospital. This is a break through for us as we had challenges with the public

health facilities which would encouraged our PMTCT mothers seeking to deliver in their facilities to breast feed. Due to this development, the donor has since withdrawn the funding for provision of infant formula milk.

During the period under review November and December 2013, we enrolled 7 mothers on formula milk, and 8 more were expectant mothers. There were three babies who were weaned during this time and the monthly therapy support group meetings were held where the clients were taught on ART adherence and Nutrition.

Community Health Workers

The community health workers continue to offer psycho social support to the vulnerable people living with HIV/AIDs and the affected. During the period under review, a team of 15 Community Health workers made 212 and 163 home visits respectively to the infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. We held two meetings with the team whereby they reported on their field work and thereafter handed their reports to the Social Welfare office.

Youth Awareness

In December the social department was invited by a neighboring parish to enlighten the youths on the following topics; Vocation and HIV/AIDs. On the latter the team covered its prevention, testing, modes of transmission, symptoms and treatment. The church leadership thought it wise to have their youths taught on the various topics in order to influence behaviour change and to help them avoid the many dangers they may expose themselves to. A total number of 90 youth were in attendance.



The social welfare staffs pose for a group photo with some of the youths

World Aids Day

Theme: Getting to Zero. Zero discrimination. Zero new infections. Zero Aids – Related deaths. ASN Upendo Village this year planned to celebrate the day at Karagita, south Lake Naivasha. This was a strategic point because it brought together many of our clients who work in the flower farms. Our community health workers also helped in mobilizing other people and the approximate number of people who came for the celebration was about 200.

The procession was flagged off by the area chief from his office and we headed to Karagita shopping centre. We made stopovers to address the public on the world Aids day theme and how they can contribute towards prevention, reducing new infections, discriminations, Aids related deaths, and how to cope with the pandemic.



Left: Area chief flagging off the procession while on the right, Clients marching towards Karagita town where the celebrations took place.