



# **ASN UPENDO VILLAGE**

**TITLE: ASN UPENDO VILLAGE**

**PERIOD: September-October 2013**

**SUBMITTED TO: UPENDO VILLAGE, NFP, USA**

**SUBMITTED BY: ASN UPENDO VILLAGE, KENYA**

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## **Executive Summary**

We are privileged to contribute to the family of God through providing services to the people Jesus called “the least of these”. As a village of hope and love to the people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS, we find great joy in the work we do as we see frail and clients on the verge of death rise from their beds and begin supporting themselves and the members of their households. This report covers the achievements and services provided to the PLWHA during the months of September and October 2013.

Among the highlights is that we now have a total of 183 children under the sponsorship program. These children are the beneficiaries of a love sacrifice from donors who give \$828 yearly to ensure these needy children get an education.

The gender department was able to provide support to clients and follow up three cases pending before court. While the income generating project was able to provide interest free loans to three clients bringing the total of those who have received interest free loans to 116.

The dispensary got a boost from consultants from the Joliet Mission team who visited in the month of September for two weeks and managed to see 384 and performed 79 surgeries. 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.

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## Education Department

At the beginning of September 2013, all the students under ASN Upendo Village sponsorship program across all levels of learning reported back to their respective institutions of learning for third term on the scheduled opening dates. The Primary kids reported back to school on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Those in Secondary and College levels reported back on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Prompt payment of their school fees and acquisition of other necessities was done to facilitate their timely return to their respective schools. The new term saw two of our sponsored students, transferring from their former school to new schools due to various reasons.

Currently the number of sponsored students is standing at 183. Within the same period, another two students were sponsored under the CUSP program. The sponsorship program is currently having 21 students at college level, 51 students in high school and 106 in primary school. The sponsorship program has 5 kids at nursery school level.

Type of institution	Boys	Girls	Total
Kindergarten School	1	4	5
Primary School	50	56	106
Secondary School	25	26	51
Polytechnic/College/University	13	8	21
TOTAL	89	94	183

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

## College Graduation

Recently in the course of the month of September we attended the graduation of Lydia Mumbi- one of our sponsored students at Laikipia University. She was doing a two year Diploma course in Business Management where she graduated with a Credit. The staff at the education department represented the staff members of ASN Upendo Village at the graduation ceremony. However, in the evening the other staff members also joined Lydia and her family at their home to celebrate with them. Below are some of the photos taken during the occasion.



Photo 1: Sr. Florence & Lydia



Photo 2: Colleta, Lydia & Sam



Photo 3: Lydia & Upendo staff

### **Visit by Education Coordinators**

A planned visit by the Education Coordinators, Mary and Karen in March 2014 has been postponed to a later date which is yet to be communicated. Among other activities, the Education Coordinators in their planned tour had anticipated carry out a photo club activities and even enroll more new members. Currently the youth photo club has a total of 13 members.

### **Gender Department**

In the period under review, we had three cases that were before the courts. Two cases of defilement and the other one is a land dispute involving one of our clients – a grandmother who unfortunately passed on a few months ago and her grandson who wanted to forcefully inherit her parcel of land. The son is however following up the case with the support of ASN Upendo Village.

Hearing was on 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2013 and the case was adjourned until 20<sup>th</sup> of November to allow for the advocate to investigate threat messages sent to the complainant. The other two defilement cases pending before the court are yet to be determined

## Income Generating Activities Program

### Loans and Goats:

The program continues empowering the clients for the sustainability of the projects. In the month of September and October, three clients benefited from interest free loans making a total of 116 families who have benefited with the project since it started. These clients utilized the money in various income generating activities.

During the period under review, 7 goats gave birth to 9 female kids and 4 male kids making a total of 13 kids so far, 211 families have benefited with the project and out of these families 17 are grandmothers who have orphans on ARVS.

### Success story: Jackson Kaniu

Jackson is a 44 years old man residing in Maimahiu and a father of a two year old child. He knew his status in the year 2010 and has since been living positively. He and his wife joined the Maimahiu support group and it is in this meeting that they were enrolled into the ASN Upendo Village program.

He was very weak then with only a CD4 count of 137; he now has a CD4 count of 656 which drastically improved when he began his ART. He is a very active member of the support group which saw him elected as the chairman of the group.



*Jackson and Stephanina (IGA Coordinator) at his shoe shop*

When he regained his strength, he began a small business of selling second hand shoes beginning initially with only four pairs of shoes. He then requested for an interest free loan of Kshs. 10,000 from Upendo Village which he was given in the month of May 2013. This amount of money has greatly helped him as he has since expanded his business and also bought materials for repairing shoes and now he is running the business with his wife earning an average of Kshs.6000 per month. The family is very grateful for the support they have received from Upendo Village both financially and moral support.

## Medical Department

In the table below shows how clients benefited from different services:

SERVICES	SEPTEMBER	OCTOMBER	TOTAL
ANTENATAL	2	3	5
Child welfare clinic	33	36	69
Consultation	545	267	812
V.C.T	15	24	39

## Laboratory

A total of 313 tests were done in the month of September and 229 in the month of October. The clinic saw an increase in the number of patients seen especially in the month of September which is attributed to the visit by the Joliet team. The dispensary has also during the period under review initiated some internal control measures which are geared towards improving efficiency in stock control and management.

## Nutrition Department

During the period under review, the clients had their four monthly support group meetings and have continued to encourage each other through experience sharing and this has proved to be of great help to them all.

We are grateful to Naivas supermarket for extending their kindness to us and donating some food items to us. They included maize flour, rice, sugar, cooking fat and many household items which have been very beneficial to our clients as they complement the nutritious food supplements they receive from Upendo Village, 31 families benefited from the donation and they highly appreciated.

In the recent past we had noted a decrease in the number of clients in the support groups. We are now happy to report the number has begun going up as a result of our follow ups and use of the community health workers. We also had one of the support groups doing an exercise session to demonstrate to the others that this is an important factor in having good health.

*The table below shows the bi-monthly attendance:*

	September 2013	October 2013	Average
Maai Mahiu	66	64	65
Karai	99	85	92
Mirera	76	84	80
Town	48	60	54
Total	289	233	237

## **Social Support Services**

### **Support Group**

During the months under review we have continued to uplift the lives of the HIV infected clients in our catchment area. We have also continued to hold monthly meetings and the attendance on average was 73 people in each support group. During the meeting, some of the topics covered were sexually transmitted infections and adherence because of the newly enrolled clients and also as a reminder to the rest. Also covered was the importance of support groups. These meetings are also very important as the clients' share the experiences and how they have been impacted by support groups, in fact one lady shared that they met with her husband in the support group.

### **Grandmothers Project**

The project has continued to offer support to grandmothers as caretakers of orphans. Although, they accept the care giving role and also appreciate our assistance, it is fraught with difficulties. Thus to meet the various needs we took them through discipline as a topic. Bearing in mind that these grandmothers were already done with bringing up their children sometimes they tend to be lenient when it comes to disciplining children.



Left: Maai Mahiu grandmas with Sr. Juliana during a meeting while on the right Town grandmas distributing cereals assisted by as some of the members of the Joliet Mission Team.

### **PMTCT Project**

During the period under review, we enrolled 2 expectant mothers and 2 mothers in the program. We had an average of 16 children on formula milk and are expecting the number to rise as we have 8 expectant mothers already enrolled. During this period, we weaned 1 baby who had reached 9 months from formula milk.

These mothers continue to hold their monthly meetings and they were taught nutrition and explained to the feeding guide and preparation of formula milk. We are sad to report that in the month of September, we lost two babies one as a result of complications of having an enlarged heart and the other due to Malaria. We visited the two families to comfort them.



*Staff giving a PMTCT mother milk as the baby looks on*

Infant Formula Milk Data			
Year 2013			
S.No	Particular	September	October
1	No. of Infants accessing “Infant Formula Milk”	15	16
2	No. of Infants Weaned	1	0
3	No. of Expectant Mothers	8	6

*Table 1: Number of infants accessing formula milk*

## **Community Health Workers**

### Refresher Training

The training was held at Tabor Hill Spirituality Centre from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>. A team of 11 community health workers left ASN Upendo Village on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2013 for a 3 days training. They were accompanied by 2 staff members of Upendo Village who were the coordinators of the training.

We also had 3 professional facilitators who took the group through the following topics;

- Stroke
- Childhood diseases
- Bereavement in children
- VCT importance in HIV and Aids prevention strategies
- Infectious diseases
- Interpersonal relationship/communication
- High blood pressure
- HIV care and treatment for children

On 25.10.13 we held a meeting with a team of 15 community health workers. They said the knowledge gained in the training will be beneficial as they continue to support the infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. They handed in their field reports at the end of the meeting.



*Above left: One of the CHWs doing a recap while on the right participants in a group discussion*



*A group photo of the participants, ASN Upendo Village Staff and the facilitators.*

## Joliet Mission Team

In September we were privileged to have the Joliet team (comprising of medical and construction volunteers) with us and we managed to visit 19 families. It was during these visits that 9 needy children got sponsorship from some of the members of the Joliet team. The construction team cemented four houses in which they had helped put up earlier on.



*Left: All smiles as an orphan child gets a sponsor from a member of the Joliet Mission team while on the right Upendo staff & visitors at one of the IDP camps*

Some of the Joliet team members together with few staff members from ASN Upendo Village were also able to visit 15 families who are beneficiaries of the income generating program and the visitors were highly impressed and appreciated the work Upendo Village is doing for the community.

The Joliet Mission Team who in addition to providing medical care to 384 clients, they were also able to share vital information and support to our clinical staff at the dispensary. They were able to work at the government run Naivasha District Hospital where they performed 79 surgeries 58 being major cases and 21 minor. These surgeries were both general surgery cases as well as Obstetrics and Gynecology cases.