



ASN UPENDO VILLAGE

TITLE: ASN UPENDO VILLAGE

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Executive Summary

ASN Upendo Village has continued to be a haven of hope and love for people living with HIV and AIDS in Naivasha District. This report covers the achievements and services provided to the PLWHA during the months of March and April 2013.

Among the highlights is that we have had an addition of 4 students into the education sponsorship program bringing the total number of students in the sponsorship program by end of April to 175. This is indeed a blessing to these children as they will be able to study without the fear of being sent home for lack of school fees and other basic necessities such as books among other things. It is also such a reprieve for their parents who toil just to provide a meal on the table despite their frail status.

The gender desk department is still making follow up of the 5 cases pending before the Naivasha Law Courts. The income generating project has also been instrumental in empowering the clients. We were able to provide five dairy goats to five families in addition to providing 192 improved chicks to 90 families.

The dispensary has continued to provide the much needed medical services to our clients and the community at large at very subsidized rates where a total of 520 clients were served in the months of March and April. The social services department was able to provide psycho-social support to the support group members, the grandmothers taking care of orphans and vulnerable children, the kids club children, and the discordant couples.

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Education Department

ASN Upendo Village has continued to be a haven of hope to the clients and their households, On 27 March 2013, 27 guardians/parents received Solar Lamps each for use at home and for use by their children to study at home rather than using kerosene which is hazardous to their health. This gesture was greatly appreciated by the parents and we hope that this will help the students improve on their grades at school as they will not have to strain reading using the dim light from the smoke filled kerosene lamps.



Parents/guardians of sponsored children after receiving solar lamps from Upendo Village

Schools were closed on the 12th of April 2013 and students went home for their vacation. They are expected back to school on 6th of May 2013. During this time, we held academic meetings on 19th and 23rd respectively beginning with pupils who are in pre-school to those in class seven. The next meeting was for those who are in class eight to those in college and their parents/guardians attended these meetings as well.



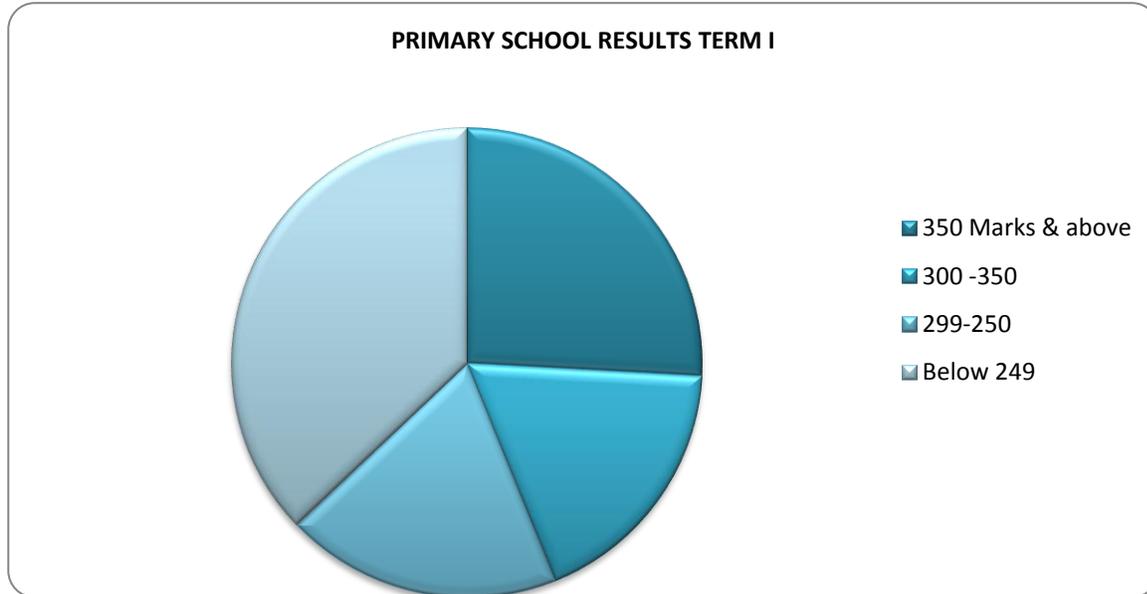
Sponsored students at ASN Upendo Village during the academic day

The students were able to meet the new child welfare officer Mr. Samuel Mwaura Maina who encouraged them on the importance of working hard in school as these formative years of their lives will have a great impact on the kind of life they would live in the future. His experience as a high school teacher we hope will greatly impact the lives of these children.

During the period under review, the number of students under sponsorship increased by 4 bringing the total number of student in the sponsorship program to 175. We are very grateful for this sponsorship as we believe these students will get an education which they would have otherwise not have been able to get. This will definitely transform their lives and this we hope will break the cycle of poverty which has pushed many to the streets and complicate the fight against HIV & AIDS.

Analysis of Results

The Pie chart below presents the performance our primary school students in their terminal results of Term I as of 2013.



It is commendable to note that i.e. 23 students (25.3%) of the primary school students did managed to score 350 marks and above in their respective classes. This is very promising especially for those who are in upper primary. Another 16 students (17.6 %) had very commendable results too. They managed to score between 300 marks to 350 marks. It is also pleasing to note that another 18.6% (19 students) managed to score between 299 marks to 250. Additionally, 36.3% i.e. 33 students managed to score 249 marks and below. The Education department shall try to work in conjunction with parents/guardian to help those with less than 249 marks to improve their performance. Generally, it is worthy to note that 61.5% of the students had 250 marks and above out of 500 marks.

Form 1 End of Term Results

The **Table 1.0** below gives an analysis of how the Form 1 students sponsored under Upendo village in various High Schools fared in their end of term examination results of Term 1 year 2013.

Table 1.0

Mean Grade	Percentage (%)
Grade A straight	16.7%
Grade A- to B+	27.8%
Grade B to B-	33.3%
Grade C+	22.2%
Below Grade C	0%
TOTAL	100

The percentage of students with Mean Grade A straight was 16.7% while those with a Mean Grade of A- and B+ were 27.8%. A majority of the students (33.3%) in Form 1 had a Mean Grade B and B- in their end of term results. Generally, it can be concluded that 44.5% of the students managed to score above grade B+ and above. It is also commendable to note that there was no student with a Mean Grade of C and below in Form 1. This group of students looks quite promising if they can manage to sustain this trend of performance up to Form 4.

Form 2 End of Term Results

Table 1.1 below presents an analysis of how the Form 2 students under Upendo village Sponsorship program fared in their Term I results 2013.

Table 1.1

Mean Grade	Percentage (%)
Grade B and above	11.1%
Grade C+	22.2
Grade C	22.2
Grade C-	33.3
Grade D & below	11.1
TOTAL	100

The Form two's performance was not as good as those of form 1 as shown by the table above. A majority (44.4%) of the students had a Mean Grade of C- and below. This group of students requires to work extra hard and get serious in their academic work.

Form 3 End of Term Results

Table 1.2 below gives an analysis on how the Form 3's students under Upendo Sponsorship program in various high schools fared in their Term I/2013 Terminal results.

Table 1.2

Mean Grade	Percentage (%)
Grade A- & above	0%
Grade B+ to B	7.7%
Grade B-	15.4%
Grade C+	15.4%
Grade C to C-	38.5%
Grade D+ & below	23%
TOTAL	100

None of the students managed to score a Mean Grade of A- and above. It is commendable to note that 38.5% of the Form 3 students had a Mean Grade of C+ above. There is a likelihood of many of them gaining university admission if they maintain or improve this trend of performance. A sizeable number (38.5%) have the potential to get a Mean Grade of C+ and above if encouraged to work extra hard.

Form 4 End of Term Results

Table 1.3 below gives an analysis of the Form 4 candidates under Upendo Sponsorship. Those waiting to sit for their Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) this year between October and November.

Table 1.3

Mean Grade	Percentage (%)
Grade A-& above	0%
Grade B+	12.5%
Grade B & B-	0%
Grade C+	37.5
Grade C & C-	25%
Grade D+ & below	25%
TOTAL	100

There is no student among the Form 4's who managed to score a Mean Grade of A- and above. However, it is promising to note that 50% managed to get a Mean Grade of C+ and above. These percentages of students have a likelihood of making it in the KCSE and gain University admission. Another 25% have a likelihood of gaining admission to Technical colleges if they maintain their trend of performance in the KCSE. It is also sad to note that 25% of the total candidates had a Mean Grade of D+ and below.

Gender Department

The Gender Department has continued to provide support to gender based violence victims and during the months under review, the gender officer followed the pending cases in court and there are 5 cases pending before the court.

In the month of April, one defilement case was reported to the department of a seven year old girl at Maimahiu. The culprit was arrested and the case is before the Naivasha Law courts.

We continue to do awareness campaigns in the community and to raise issues regarding the dangers of gender based violence and to give information on what is to be done whenever members of the community get a report of such cases. There is however still a lot more to be done as ignorance and cultural practices hamper these efforts of ensuring justice for the victims.

Income Generating Project

The Income Generating Project is doing its best to see to it that our clients life have improved. This is not only to the clients but also to the grandmothers and uncles who are taking care of the orphaned children. Our wish is that all those we working for will be self reliant one day in accordance with our goal. We are happy to report that this is happening and many lives have been changed.

During the period under review, four clients and one grandmother benefited with a dairy goat each. This brings the total number of families who have benefited from the project to 195. In November last year, we ordered 200 improved chicks from K.A.R.I and in the month of March we brought the chicks and a total number of 78 families benefited with a pair each. Also 12 grandmothers benefited with 3 chicks each bringing the total of the families who have benefited with the chicks to 90. Eight drowned when we had floods here before we could give them out. This brings the total number of the families who have benefited with this project to-date to 401.

In the year 2012, another project of issuing the solar lamps to our clients was initiated and in the period of March - April, 27 families benefited with solar lamps bringing the total number of those who have benefited to 59. With the available funds, we plan to benefit 67 more families with solar lamps by the end of May 2013. However the need for these lamps amongst our clients is enormous and funds permitting, we would love to scale up this project to benefit more and to conserve the environment in addition to prevention of illnesses due to the highly toxic fumes produced by kerosene lamps.

We also gave interest free loans to three clients and two grandmas from the grandma support group some of whom wanted to improve their farming and the others wanted to boost their businesses. Also during this period, craft makers received their revenue from the sale of crafts and majority of them used the money they got to buy seeds for planting.

Success Story: Grace Mumbi Njenga

Grace Mumbi Njenga is 41 years old. She is a single mother of one and she also takes care of her niece whose mother died as a result of HIV/AIDS related illnesses.

Grace is doing business and in the year 2011, she took an interest free loan from Upendo Village and after training on small and micro enterprise management, she was able to improve on her business. She worked very hard and using her earnings from the business, she was able to buy a piece of land and repaid her loan. She is currently doing farming in addition to her business. She is just one among many clients who have had their lives transformed by ASN Upendo Village and our happiness is to see such clients engaging in sustainable sources of livelihood. This we believe is the best gift we can ever give to our donors.



Medical Department

In the month of March and April, the dispensary had been running smoothly with both pharmacy and laboratory doing well.

In the months under review, we were able to offer services to the following clients;

SERVICES	MARCH	APRIL	TOTAL
Antenatal	3	7	10
Child welfare clinic	20	25	45
consultation	202	232	434
V.C.T	16	15	31

In the months of March and April, the laboratory was able to carry out the following tests:

Tests	March	April	Total
Routine tests	180	179	359
Full heamogram	14	24	38
Thyroid function test	2	0	2
Prostate specific antigen	4	3	7
Kidney function test	2	2	4

Social Support Services

Kids Club

On 16th April we held a kids club meeting at Upendo village and 39 kids turned up with their parents/guardians. The guardians had a good time to share their experiences in bringing up these HIV positive children. It was very encouraging to know that most of the children adhere to medication and were in good health and those above 13 years know their HIV status. We divided them into three groups; guardians and parents, teenagers and kids eleven years and below. They were taken through adherence to Anti retro -viral Therapy, sexuality & stigma and talents development consecutively

Discordant Couples Seminar

On 30th April we had a seminar with the discordant couples (where one partner is HIV positive and the other is not). Eight couples turned up and we had an open discussion on discordance. The participants were active throughout the sessions asking questions. This helped them to be equipped to cope with the challenges they face as couples. They had a reflection from the book of Isaiah 41:9-12 which emphasizes on God's love to the people of Israel. This was a way of renewing their vows and commitment to each other. At the end of the day Sr. Florence expounded on the need to understand each other's weaknesses and strengths. She also encouraged them to be appreciative of each other and the importance of treating each other as lovers. This left the group smiling and talking in high spirits. They promised to encourage their friends on the importance of attending these seminars as a source of psychological and emotional support.

Challenges

- Most of the clients are not able to get permission from work to attend these seminars
- Some couples don't live together due to work locations.
- We have few couples who have separated
- There is still stigma especially with men who are HIV positive.

Support Groups

We have held monthly meetings with the support groups for the last two months where a total of 271 clients attended the therapy meetings. We enrolled 11 new clients who were referred to us by the Community Health Workers (CHWs). During these meetings, we covered a topic on Herbal medication which was a challenge among the clients. Some had misconceived ideas that herbs cure Aids but they were reminded that so far no cure of HIV/AIDs has been discovered

and therefore they need to ensure they adhere to their Anti-Retroviral drugs as this is so far the only scientifically proven remedy for reducing their HIV viral loads.

During the period under review we only managed to visit 11 families. This was due to heavy rains which made several areas impassable. Most of those we visited were PMTCT mothers who needed our urgent support especially of formula milk and thermos flasks. We also visited those who were very sick.



Left: Kids enjoying porridge during their kids club meeting while on the right, a group photo of the discordant couples and ASN Upendo Village social services staff. Bottom left: Home visit with one of our sponsor.

		New Enrolled March-April 2013		
		March	April	Total
HIV Positive	Women	11	10	21
HIV Positive	Men	0	3	3
HIV Positive	Children	0	1	1
Total		11	14	25
On ARVs	Women	8	9	
	Men	0	2	
	Children	0	0	
Total		8	11	

PMTCT Project

The program is geared towards the prevention of HIV/AIDs. During the period under review, March and April we enrolled 3 expectant mothers on the program. In March and April we enrolled 2 new mothers on formula milk respectively. We are also sad to report that on 23.04.13 we lost one baby to pneumonia. The team visited the family to console them and the baby was buried on the 24th of April 2013.

In March and April the following topics were taught respectively, weaning the baby, hygiene and environmental health. Panda flowers invited us to create awareness on HIV & AIDS and also to sensitize their employees on exclusive replacement feeding. On 17th of April 2013 the team went to Panda flowers to provide information on the above topics in addition to highlighting the services offered at Upendo Village. We were able to reach 495 women and 75 men respectively.

Infant Formula Milk Data			
Year 2013			
S. No	Particular	March	April
1	No. of Infants accessing "Infant Formula Milk"	18	17
2	No. of Infants Weaned	7	3
3	No. of Expectant Mothers	8	6

Table 1: Number of infants accessing formula milk

Infant Formula Distribution				
Year 2013				
S. No	Particular	March	April	Total
1	No. of tins distributed at meeting	75	60	135
2	No. of tins distributed at a later date	32	41	73
	Total	107	101	208

Table 2: Distribution of Formula milk



A PMTCT mother with her baby, enjoying formula milk at ASN Upendo Village

Community Health Workers

The 15 CHW's continue to offer social support and therapy to our clients. During the period under review, the team made 132 and 186 visits respectively. The CHW's meetings took place on 26th March and April 2013 respectively. They shared their field experiences and handed in their reports to the Social Welfare office.

During the month of March, the Community Health Workers did a one week training where they were taught on Pneumonia, Drugs and Substance Abuse, Nutrition, Prostate Cancer, Development Milestones in children, Stress Management, PMTCT, First Aid, HIV and AIDS in children and Ante-natal and Post natal care.



Left: Community Health Workers in a training session while on the right a group photo after the training.

Challenges

- Some of the mothers fail to turn up for the monthly meetings due to constraints at work
- Mothers getting conflicting information from facilities which discourage them from accessing formula milk once the mother delivers only to refer them for the milk when the mothers are returning to work
- Referral of expectant mothers when they are in their final trimester hence they cannot benefit from the National Hospital Insurance Fund which covers all the maternity and admission bills. The fund becomes effective when a needy mother enrolls once she is confirmed expectant or three months to delivery

Achievements

- The mothers who have been counseled and opted for Exclusive Replacement feeding embrace the program, show commitment and appreciate Upendo Village for the support they have and continue to receive.
- A good number of facilities, CHW's and our clients refer expectant mothers to us.

We are happy to report that the program has made an impact on the people we are serving. It has promoted health and child survival hence ensuring a HIV free generation.

Grandmothers Project

Upendo village has been a source of hope and support for the grandmothers who shoulder the burden of bringing up the orphans with challenges despite their old age. In the month of March they expressed the need to learn on how to deal with teenagers since most of their children under their care are of this age. They were advised to be listening to their teenagers and also to be patient with them. Some of them had cases of misunderstanding due to lack of knowledge that teens are at the age of searching identity and they feel they know it all. They were advised to be consulting social workers at Upendo village or counselors for advice.

The grandmothers also expressed their need to the social office to offer counseling to their children who are benefiting from sponsorship and are not performing well to know the importance of such sponsorship.

In the same month we were able to visit 5 grandmothers who had started Kitchen gardens and we were impressed that they were doing well. We also had 10 grandmothers who received 3 chickens each. They expressed their gratitude to Upendo village.

Challenges

- Some grandmothers reported that some of the chicken they received had died.
- Those who are doing farming explained the loss they incurred with the crops due to heavy rains. Their crops were washed away by floods
- One grandmother said her chicken were stolen.

- We have one grandmother who has been very sick for a long time; we have visited her several times and encouraged her.

Internally Displaced Person's Training

During the month of April, ASN Upendo Village embarked on a training program for the Internally Displaced Persons. The training was geared towards empowering and sharing knowledge and information regarding HIV and AIDS prevention and care in addition to other pertinent issues such Drugs and Substance Abuse, how to initiate Income generating projects, life skills, behaviour change among others.

The training model involved class room sessions, group discussions as well as questions and answer sessions. The training was structured and divided into three groups of participants namely the leaders of the IDP camp, adults and the youth and the plan was to reach out to about 3600 people.

During mobilization and sensitization, we held meetings with the leaders and key people in the camps who intern agreed to help mobilize the members of the camps for the training. We made follow-up meetings to ensure the information has reached out to all the members of the camps. During the first training day for the IDP leaders, we had a total of 52 leaders who attended the training surpassing the target of reaching out to between 30-50 leaders.

Following this good turnout, we realized that the motivation was that they were expecting to be paid allowances to attend the training. This issue only came up during the day of the training and was never mentioned during the previous meetings that we held with them nonetheless we did not have such a budget as we had only a limited budget to implement the training.

We therefore encountered several challenges implementing this program amongst which we realized that in addition to the demand for allowances, there was infighting amongst the leaders each trying to prove to the others that they have control over the groups which translated to sabotage of the training. It was also planting season and several members of the IDP camps were being hired to plant and weed the gardens around them and therefore majority of them preferred to go to the farms instead of attending the training sessions.

In a nutshell, we were not able to meet the objective of reaching out to the 3600 people due to the challenges above. We however successfully trained 20 leaders and 18 youths who completed the training as envisioned and we hope that they will in turn be peer educators in the 10 IDP camps.



Left: The leaders in a training session while on the right youth



Left: Some of the leaders displaying their certificates of participation while on the right, youth in a training session.

Floods

On 9th of April 2013, there was a heavy down pour which flooded the nearby dam bursting its banks and came through the school next to us and destroyed our perimeter fence. The flood waters filled our fish pond and drowned all our chicken. It also destroyed the crops that we had planted for demonstration in addition to contaminating our underground water tank.

We have since initiated discussions with the neighboring school and the community so as to find a permanent solution to this problem. In addition to this we have rebuilt our wall and reinforced it to avert future destruction by the floods.



Destruction of the wall and crops and on the right below water in the chicken coop where all the chicken drowned.