



ASN UPENDO VILLAGE

TITLE: ASN UPENDO VILLAGE

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SUBMITTED BY: ASN UPENDO VILLAGE, KENYA

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Executive Summary

ASN Upendo Village continues to provide the best services to our clients and spreading the love and acceptance to people living with HIV and AIDS. To some of our clients, Upendo Village is the only close friend they have for having walked with them during their time of need when everyone else seemed to turn their back on them.

This report covers the achievement and activities carried out by our various departments namely, Education, Income generation program, medical services as well as the social services department.

During the period under review, we have had disruption in schools as a result of the teacher strike that lasted for three weeks and the government was then forced to extend the school term for three more weeks. We have also continued to record success with our income generation program where clients have been empowered to be self-reliant.

The medical department continues to provide preventive and curative services to our clients; this was strengthened more with the arrival of the missions' team. During that one week that the mission team was here, more than 800 children and adults benefited with various medical services ranging from deworming to chronic ailments treatment.

The social services department was also able to continue providing psycho-social support to all our clients. The prevention from mother to child transmission program has currently 35 children accessing infant formula milk and this has been proved to be one very good strategy if we are to have a HIV free generation.

We are very grateful to our supporters, donors and our Upendo Village team in the US for their generosity and ensuring that we continue to provide a lasting impact in the community and ultimately transform our society through service to God and humanity.

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Education Program

All primary and secondary school students reported back to school for the third term on 3rd September only to waste a complete three weeks during which teachers in all public schools were on strike. This brought untold stress to the students and parents/ guardians as this is the last term of the year when national exams are normally taken. The term is usually short and hence any time wasted is usually difficult to recover. The students are normally eager to do their best during this term so that they could be promoted to the next class in the next academic year. The teacher's strike was later resolved on 24th September and the Ministry of Education extended the term for three weeks to cover for the time lost during the strike. Hence the schools will now close the term on 23rd November instead of 2nd November.

There was tremendous improvement in the academic performance of the Primary school pupils during last term's exams as displayed in Figure 1. This is attributed to the training given to their guardians to regularly check on their children's academic performance and do everything they can to uplift it.

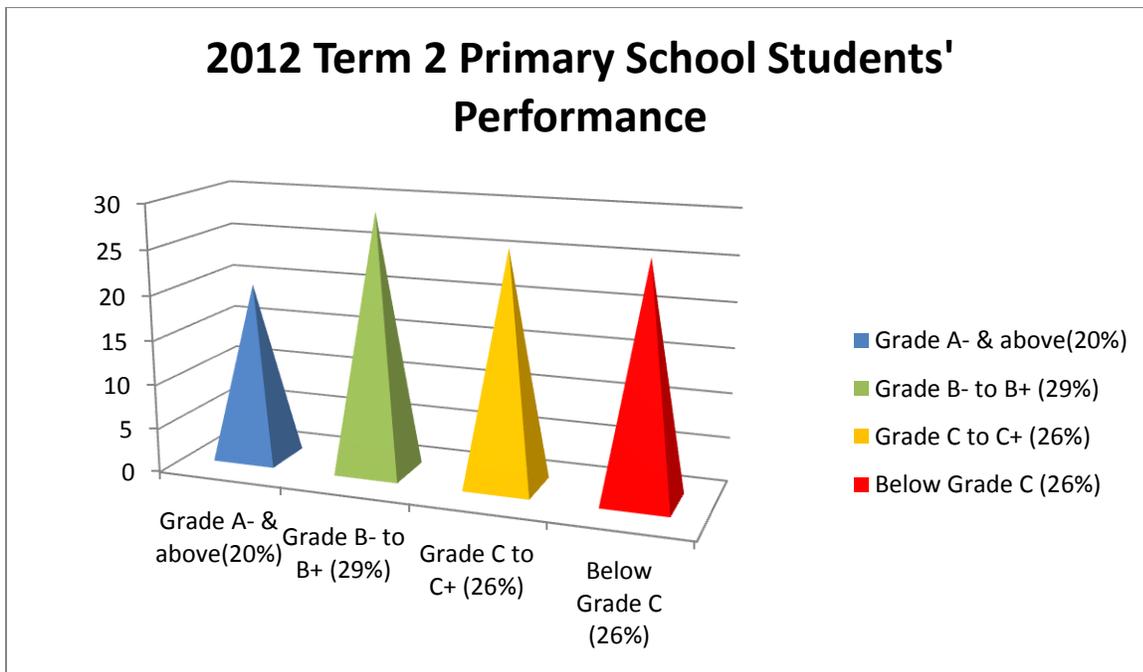


Figure 1: Pie Chart showing percentage pass among sponsored primary school pupils in second term 2012 exams

The secondary school student's performance is however still very low and has slightly declined. A lot needs to be done in this area including individual talks with the students and their guardians.

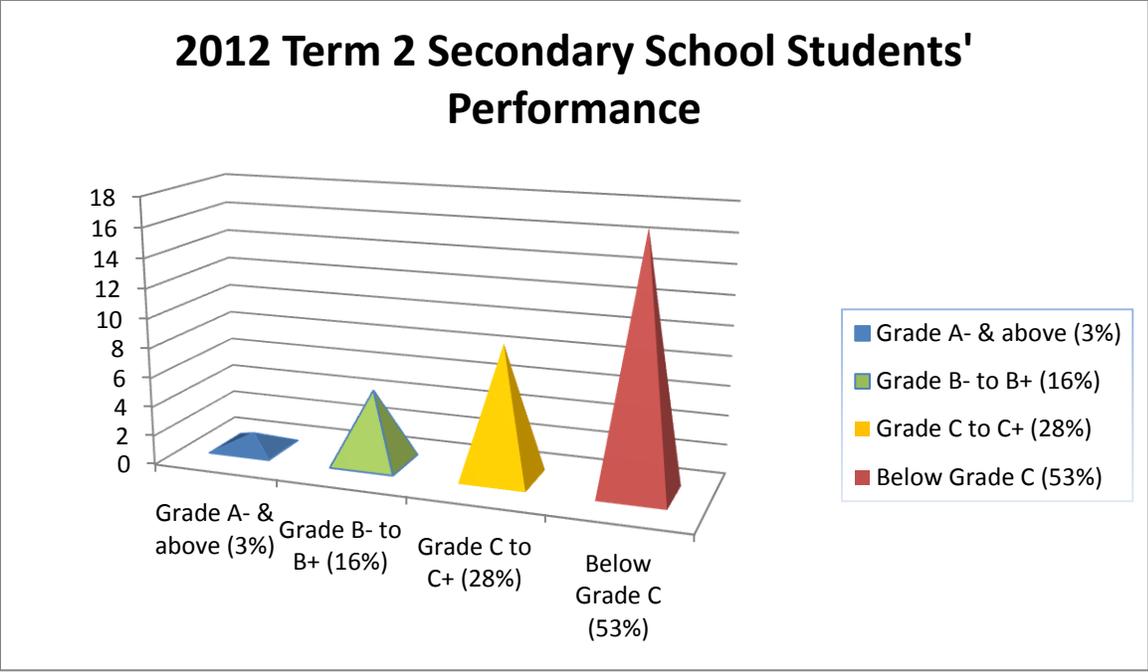


Figure 2: Pie Chart showing percentage pass among sponsored secondary school students in second term 2012 exams

All parents and guardians of primary school and nursery (Pre-school) sponsored pupils were advised to open children’s bank accounts to enable ASN Upendo Village to deposit the children’s monthly allowances directly in to the child’s account. This will enable parents/guardians to be able to account for the money allocated for each child, including any savings left unspent in the account. Such savings would still be used for the particular child’s needs and should be withdrawn from the child’s account after a written notice have been submitted to Upendo village to inform us of the intended expenditure. During the month of October one hundred children’s bank accounts were opened for this purpose and are now in operation. Four children have been unable to satisfy this requirement and ASN Upendo village is assisting to enable all the involved sponsored children to comply.



Left: A client opening a child’s bank account number with CFC-Stanbic bank while on the right clients waiting for their turn to open accounts.

Income Generation Program

The program has continued to empower the clients with sustainable income generation projects which have had a tremendous impact in the community. Several of the clients are now self-reliant as they are able to provide for their families and have reduced social-economic problems to the community.

During the months of September and October, we had one family benefiting from a dairy goat; we have also had nine goats giving birth in the same period. This provides the much needed nutritious milk for the clients and their families.

During the same time eight clients were given interest free loans to boost their businesses and farming. This has proved to be a good strategy as it has greatly empowered clients to have sustainable sources of livelihood.

One client who is involved in bee farming was able to harvest honey during the period under review. Those doing craft making also continue to meet on a weekly basis to work on their crafts and they were able to receive payment for crafts already sold. One of the members of the craft making group- Maria was able to complete constructing a semi-permanent house for her son with the proceeds from crafts.

There are plans of purchasing more chicks for distribution by the end of the year. It has been noted that many of the clients who either are in business, farming, craft making are doing very well.

Success story: Joseph & Mary Maina

Joseph and Mary are active members of Karai support group. They joined Upendo Village in the year 2006 the same year they got to know their status. They were both very weak but Upendo Village supported them physically, spiritually and also psychologically.

They are currently engaged in farming onions and vegetables in their four acre piece of land. They have planted onions on three acres and vegetables on one acre. They borrowed an interest free loan from Upendo Village to continue their farming and this has been of great help to them. They have since been able to repay half of their loan in addition to sustainably continue with their farming.

Upendo Village continues to do monitoring and evaluating the progress they are making and also to keep encouraging them. It is evident that even with little resources a lot can be done to bring a lasting impact in the lives of people.



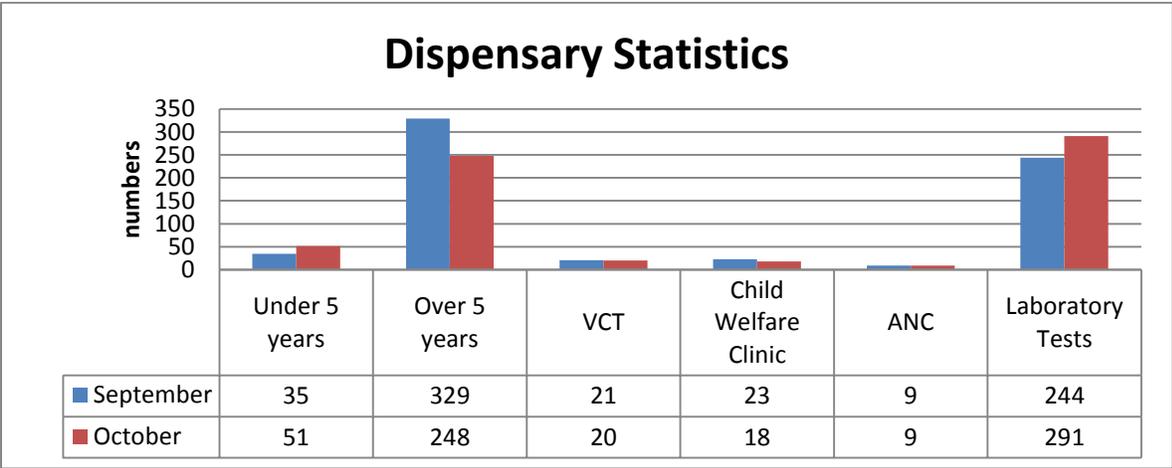
Joseph and Mary at their vegetable garden while on the right they are showing Stephanina Kuria (with bag) some of the onions harvested from their farm.

Some of the clients who were engaged in farming activities did not get a good harvest due to an unknown virus that attacked crops especially corn in Naivasha and other parts of the country, there are some who had planted corn but did not harvest anything at all. The clients have been advised to plant different types of crops so that in case one variety fails, they do not get adversely affected.

Medical Services

The dispensary has continued to provide preventive and curative services to the clients and the wider community. During the months of September and October, it has been observed that the main conditions which patients presented with at the dispensary were diarrhea, upper respiratory diseases, diabetes and hypertension and skin infections.

Diarrheal diseases increase has been attributed to contamination of water as a result of rain as many of the people in Naivasha area rely on boreholes/wells for their water. Pneumonia, common cold and Asthma were some of the respiratory conditions seen.



In the month of September, a mission team led by Dr. Vic Trinkus accompanied by Mary Jane, Dr. Diane Fabrizius and Josephine came to Upendo Village for one week to provide medical services. They were able to see 177 patients who came to the dispensary with different conditions.

They also got a chance to visit the Maimahiu internally displaced people's camp and were able to see 150 patients. The team was also able to deworm over 500 children and 400 adults. This was much appreciated as these IDPs hardly get any medical services partly because of their social-economic status.

The coming of the medical team has always been a blessing both to the patients as well as to the medical team at Upendo. The team from the US does not only provide medical care for the patients but also it is an opportunity for education and consultation for our team at Upendo Village for which we are very grateful.



On the left Drs. Vic and Diane seeing patients at the IDP Camp while on the right, Mary Jane and Josephine triage patients at the IDP Camp. Below patients waiting for their turn to be seen.

Social Support Services

The social support services team continues to provide psycho-social support to all our clients and to facilitate support group meetings where clients meet to discuss issues affecting them.

Programs under this include: - community health workers network, support group meetings, grandma program and prevention from mother to child transmission of HIV and AIDS.

Community Health Workers

The creation of a community health workers network has been a very effective strategy in reaching out to clients, doing follow-ups as well provision of support services to clients. This

strategy is also effective in collection of data and a channel for community mobilization and sensitization.

Upendo Village has fifteen community health workers who volunteer their services to ensure clients are given the requisite support in addition to assisting in identification of new clients. During the period under review, the CHWs attended two meetings in which they presented their data as well as giving feedback on the clients they had visited.

A refresher training was organized for the CHWs from the 9th -12th of October at the Tabor Hill Spiritual Centre in Nyahururu. They were trained on the rights of people living with HIV and ADIS, breast and cervical cancer, arthritis, prevention among the HIV positive, urinary tract infections and sexually transmitted infections and prevention from mother to child and anti-retroviral drugs.



Community health workers during the training and on the right posing for a group photo.

Support Groups

The four support groups continue to meet on a monthly basis to encourage each other and also share some of the activities that the sub-support groups are doing. There are some sub-support groups that have registered their groups and this gives them a platform for organizing their activities as well as be able to fundraise for their projects. As a registered group, they are also able to open a group's bank account where they can make contributions and save in their account.

The support groups have been discussing the topic of challenges faced by people living with HIV and AIDS and were able to conclude the topic in September. Among the weighty issues that came up include disclosure to their families especially the children, they feel that they could easily be misunderstood and also fear of rejection. The other issue was on property- family members share the property of the deceased living children in poverty. They were however

encouraged that it is very important to write a will as this will ensure their property goes to the intended people.

During the month of October, Upendo Village organized a session where an organization called African Center for Rights and Governance (ACRAG) gave a talk to the members of the support groups regarding human rights as well as legal procedures. They also entertained the groups with poems and drama on the issues of human, employee and children's rights. This organization is partnering with Upendo Village to provide legal advice and human rights issues to our clients.

Success story: Nyakihi sub-support group of Karai support group

This group is now one year old and comprises of 30 members, 24 women and 6 men living in Kinungi area. This group registered their group and opened a bank account where they put in their money for savings. The group members contribute 150 shillings each where they save Kshs 100 and use the other Kshs. 50 as a revolving fund popularly known here as "Merry-go-round".

The group has been very supportive of each other during sickness and death and this was evident early this year when they lost one of their members. The group contributed money to go towards buying school uniforms and books for their departed member's children. They also have been making visits to the children to ensure they are doing well.

In the month of September, the group decided to construct a pig's shelter as they plan to keep pigs as an income generating project for the group. The group is now in the process of purchasing pigs to begin this project.



The pig's house constructed by the Nyakihi sub-support group and on the right members of the group.

Grandma program

The grandmothers continue to receive psycho-social support from Upendo Village. They have their regular meetings where they discuss issues affecting them thus encouraging each other through sharing experiences they have had in supporting and raising their orphaned

grandchildren. During the month of September the grandmothers were taught on how to manage funds and budgeting. This was of great help especially for those engaged in small economic activities and those who have borrowed loans to start or improve their business.

They continue to appreciate this support and one of them (Rehab Mungai) got some money recently from Upendo Village to construct a store for her corn as she got a good harvest. The rest are involved in different activities ranging from small and micro businesses to farming. This has provided a great reprieve to them as they are able to take care of themselves as well as their grandchildren.

PMTCT

The project takes care of babies born of HIV+ mothers by providing infant formula milk for nine months, Thermos flasks, water filters and also pays for their National Hospital Insurance Fund premiums to encourage them to deliver at the hospital. So far the project has taken care of 289 children and only eight have tested positive. This is attributed to the babies coming into contact with the mother's body fluids e.g during home deliveries.

Currently we have 35 children benefiting from the infant formula milk. The mothers and their children attend a monthly PMTCT meeting at Upendo Village where they get trained on various topical issues that would empower them to take good care of their children and during the month of September and October they were taught on dehydration and how to raise up children one is able to provide for.

According to the WHO PMTCT Strategic Vision 2010-2015, an estimated 430, 000 children were newly infected with HIV in 2008, over 90% of them through mother-to-child transmission (MTCT). Without treatment, about half of these infected children will die before their second birthday. Without intervention, the risk of MTCT ranges from 20% to 45%. With specific interventions in non-breastfeeding populations, the risk of MTCT can be reduced to less than 2%. We are glad that we continue to make a contribution towards a HIV negative Paediatric generation.

Infant Formula Milk Data			
Year 2012			
S. no	Particular	September	October
1	No. of Infants accessing "Infant Formula Milk"	35	35
2	No. of Infants Weaned	1	1
3	No. of Expectant Mothers	8	6