



# **ASN UPENDO VILLAGE**

**TITLE: ASN UPENDO VILLAGE**

**PERIOD: JULY- AUGUST 2012**

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

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

**DATE: SEPTEMBER 2012**

## **1. Executive Summary**

At ASN Upendo Village we believe that development of sustainable programs will have a long lasting impact on the community that we serve, that is why we provide a holistic approach towards the fight against HIV and AIDS. This report will therefore highlight the achievements made by the different project during the months of July and August 2012.

As we continue striving to become a global village of love, we realize that engagement of our clients in development of sustainable projects that will have a great impact in their lives is paramount. Such partnerships includes empowering clients with German Alpine dairy goats which after birth the first kid is brought back into the project in order to be given out to another needy family, we have also a vibrant education department as we recognize that education plays a critical role in breaking the cycle of poverty, disease and dependence, as the world goes green, we appreciate the use of renewable energy and to this end we provide to our clients with solar lanterns and ovens which have not only saved them costs of fuel but also prevented disease as a result of the fumes from kerosene.

We have also empowered the clients through provision of interest free loans for business start-up and/or improvement and farming and provision of beehives. We have trained them on craft making where we source for market for the finished products and proceeds from this venture goes directly to the clients. Some of our clients have been able to purchase plots with the proceeds from these income generating activities. We believe in an empowered generation thus reducing new infection, re-infection and dependence through sustainable sources of livelihood.

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## 2. Education Department Report

Two students joined the sponsorship program between July and August. One of these, a male was admitted for post school training while the other, a female is in primary school. One student, who was sponsored in college graduated and got a job in the hotel/ hospitality industry.

The Pupils' Academic Day was held on 14<sup>th</sup> August and the attendance was 89 students accompanied by 72 parents/ guardians. This was followed by the Youths' Academic Day that took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> August. This was attended by 61 students and 40 parents/ guardians. During both meetings the participants were counseled on 'Time Management' and 'Setting of Goals' to enable them to plan for maximum achievement of their various activities in life. Pupils and students were encouraged to work hard in education in order for them to benefit from the sponsorship program. Discipline in all life activities was stressed as an important factor in determining success.

During the August school holidays, students were encouraged to take part in beneficial extra-curricular Activities. They were guided to learn Crafts Making, Beadwork, Weaving, Knitting, Tree Planting and Rabbit Rearing etc. from their parents or guardians who know how to carry out these activities. This would ensure that such arts would be handed down to future generations. Normally students are so busy with curricular activities that they rarely venture into learning of this simple but very essential industrial arts.



*Sponsored children being taught how to make paper mats during the August academic day at Upendo while on the right practicing the art*

### 3. Income Generating Activities Report

The program has continued to sustainably empower the clients with different income generating activities. During the months under review, two families benefited with dairy goats making the total number of dairy goat beneficiaries to 199. We also received two kids from the earlier beneficiaries to be given out to other needy clients on our waiting list. This brings the number of kids brought back to 28. During the two months, 8 goats gave birth to 10 kids. The clients can therefore enjoy the nutritious goat milk.

We had a total of 5 who benefited with interest free loans among this were two grandmas. Three of these clients invested their money in farming while two boasted their small scale businesses. The total number of clients who have so far benefited with interest free loans are 69.

During the month of April, a few clients were given corn and beans seeds for planting. Some of them have since harvested. This provides income as well as food for their families. We have also continued to ensure monitoring of the projects activities through home visits to ensure implementation of all the income generating projects that the clients have indicated a need to get involved with and/or engaged in.

#### Success story

Rehab Muthoni is one of our grandmas who was given corn and beans seeds for planting. She was able to cultivate a four acre piece of land and planted the seeds she got from Upendo Village, unfortunately she ran short of money for weeding and spraying her crops.

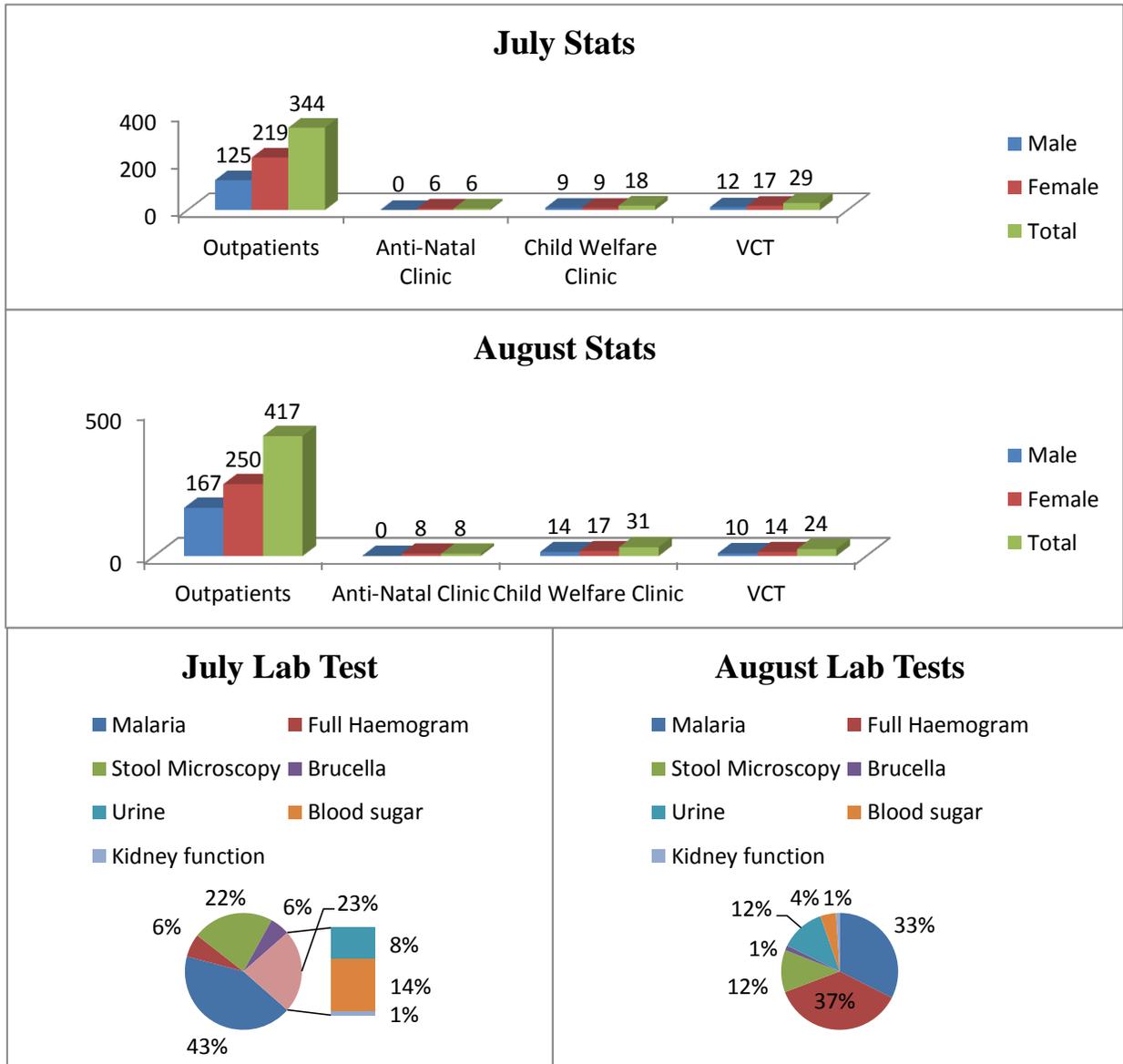
Realizing that this would result in losses, she came to Upendo and requested for an interest free loan for the purpose of weeding and spraying her crops and Upendo was able to grant her the money. She has since been able to harvest four and half bags of beans and is yet to harvest her corn. She sold three bags of beans to Upendo for its nutrition program and kept one and a half bags for her use. This is such an encouragement to the others.



*Clients making jewelry at Upendo Village while on the right clients with two goats that were returned to Upendo to be given out to other needy families.*

#### 4. Medical Services Report

The dispensary has continued to provide preventive as well as curative services to both our clients and the Naivasha community at very subsidized prices. During the month of July a total of 276 laboratory tests were performed, 93 of which were Malaria test and 10 people tested positive for malaria. During the month of August a similar trend was noticed with 97 Malaria test performed and 7 of those test were positive. A total of 408 tests were performed during this period.



## **5. Social Services Report**

The social services report will encompass reports from the general support groups, the grandma project, nutritional supplements, Kids' club report as well as the prevention from mother to child transmission of HIV and AIDS project report.

### **5.1 Support Groups**

The four support groups have continued to meet every month and on average a total of 347 members participated in the support group meetings for the months of July and August. We have however noted that the number has dropped as we had on average 400 members in the previous months. This has been attributed to some of the members getting involved in income generating activities which makes them miss the meetings. We have however continued to emphasize that support groups are very essential especially on the premise that unity is strength and the role this therapy support groups play in restoring hope, forgiveness and confidence going forward.

The nutrition program has been of great help to our clients. . It has recently been observed that bedridden cases have reduced as a result of good nutrition. Many of the sub support groups have continued to register as independent self-help groups. This is a step in the right direction towards independence and sustainability. During the months of July and August, the topic for discussion was about the challenges they undergo as People living with HIV/AIDS.

### **5.2 Grandmas Project Report**

The project is now one year old and has had a great on the lives of the grandmas. It has also encouraged them as they feel that they have someone by their side to help them with the heavy burden of bringing up their orphaned grandchildren as a result of HIV/AIDS. This social support network has helped them to become a united team and this is manifested by the contribution they make if one of them is undergoing any difficulty. Seventeen home visits have been made in the months of July and August where we have witnessed that they have implemented the knowledge acquired from the small & micro enterprises trainings they attended last year and the beginning of this year.

Some of them have been able to record success as they have food for their grandchildren and some have been able to earn some income through doing business. Participation in their monthly meeting is high and this has helped them to open up and share without any fear of victimization.

It is worthwhile to note that the group has now opened a bank account where they are contributing small amounts of money for saving.

### 5.3 Kids club

Kids club is a program that was initiated by Upendo village to be able to take care of the needs of the HIV+ children. This program aims to provide counseling, therapy support as well as provide encouragement and mentorship to these children in addition to having them come together to play together and have fun at upendo while being encouraged on various topical issue about life.

This program happens thrice in a year during school holidays in the months of April, August and December. The clubs activities provide children with an avenue for self-expression and promote wellbeing. The quarterly meeting provides an opportunity for HIV education and fostering of friendships to reduce stigma in the community. The main objective is to share their experiences, access counseling as this rekindles their hope in life.

The August meeting's turn up was impressive; we had a total of 92 children and their guardians. The children were divided into two groups based on their ages. Teenagers discussed the challenges they face as young people living with HIV/AIDS and also drugs adherence. While the children enjoyed songs and storytelling; parents met separately to discuss issues relevant to caring for children who are HIV+. One of the kid's club members encouraged the others to have hope as he has now completed his high school and now waiting to join college in the coming year.



*Social work staff distributing corn and beans seeds for planting. Some of the clients have had a good harvest from these seeds while on the right, Sr. Juliana emphasizing a point during one of the support groups.*

#### 5.4 Prevention from Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) Project

Prevention from mother to child transmission of HIV and AIDS project has continued to provide lifesaving infant formula milk to the children born of HIV + mothers. During the period under review a total of 465 tins of infant formula milk were distributed to the babies.

Currently there are 31 children accessing the milk and we have 21 who have been weaned onto other foods after attaining the age of 9 months. Since the inception of the project, on 8 children have tested positive and this is attributed to the getting exposed to the virus either during delivery or some other form. The majority (281) however have tested negative, this is such an encouragement to Upendo Village as we strive for a HIV free generation.



*Bridget (Right) educating a mother on how to prepare infant formula milk while on the right PMTCT mothers taking a group photo after their monthly meeting.*