



REPORT ON HIV/AIDS ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN KOTIDO TOWN COUNCIL IN THE FIRST QUARTER FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 2014



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INTRODUCTION:

HELPCHILD- KARAMOJA (HCK) is a registered community based civil society organization operating in Kotido district with her head office in Kotido town council. HCK has a broad spectrum of interventions in the areas affecting the most vulnerable in society. These include children, women, people affected and infected with HIV/AIDS, the youth and the elderly. HCK was thus formed to respond to the challenges facing the youth, the elderly, women, and children and improve their well being, address issues related to gender inequality as they constitute a greater percentage of the most vulnerable and the most excluded groups in society.

OBJECTIVE

To equip the community with the knowledge and skills on HIV/AIDS preventive measures.

ACTIVITIES

During the months of January to March, HCK endeavored to fulfill her quarterly and strategic plan by implementing HIV/AIDS activities within Kotido Town Council which was the area of focus during the first quarter of 2014. In this period, HCK was able to reach 3 parishes of Narikapet, Lopedur, Kotido Central and was as well in position to conduct a dialogue meeting with Kotido district health workers to ensure improved and quality HIV/AIDS service provision in the health units and to ascertain the extent to which the local community is responding towards HIV/AIDS services in the health units within the district. The aim of this dialogue meeting was to enable HCK realize the existing gaps and plan to participate in its fulfillment.

In carrying out this activity, and achieve the above stated objective HCK was able to reach and deliver the following HIV/ AIDS information to the community.

- ✓ Sensitized the community on the basic facts about HIV/AIDS (difference between HIV and AIDS, the myth about HIV and AIDS, the modes of HIV transmission etc), managed to reach 200 people in lopedur parish.
- ✓ Conducted Counseling and guidance in the community of Narikapet using door to door approach, 60 households were reached.
- ✓ Sensitized the community of Narikapet on social cultural drivers of HIV/AIDS transmission and was in position to meet 320 people.
- ✓ Conducted 1 Dialogue meeting with the people living with HIV/AIDS at Lopedur parish, 8 women and 2 men were met and information given was on how to live a positive life.
- ✓ Invited and facilitated the dialogue meeting with the district health workers, 10 health workers from different health units attended.

Activity: carry out HIV/AIDS sensitization campaigns and dialogue meeting with the community and district health workers.		
Output:	Outcome:	Lessons learnt;
75 community members sensitized on HIV/AIDS in 3 parishes within Kotido Town Council and 1 dialogue meeting	-increase in the number of youth seen going for SMC -increase number of community members attending to VCT and	-there is an improved livelihood of the PHAs after exposure. -Positive change in attitudes within the community

<p>conducted with the district health workers.</p>	<p>HCT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Increase percentage of pregnant mothers attending EMTCT and anatal care services in health units from 40%-60% according to the DHO's report. -10 community members were in position to publically testify their HIV+ status- the concept of positive living. -increase number of HIV+ clients attending to ART in health units according to DHO's report -Community leaders/elders involved in passing information on HIV/AIDS during clan meetings and traditional ceremonies-“Nyakiriket”. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Alcoholism is viewed as a threat, a factor leading to the wide spread of HIV. -Forced marriages and courtship rape reduced -Improved HIV/AIDS services in health units.
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An elder passing out HIV/AIDS prevention information during the clan meeting

CHALLENGES

- Inadequate finance to effectively carry out all HIV/AIDS activities
- Difficulty in staff transportation, one motorbike is not enough to transport all staff to the field.
- A lot of expectations and demands from the communities yet HCK has inadequate funds.
- Difficulty in community mobilization

- Cultural rigidity to change especially on social cultural elements that leads to the spread of HIV/AIDS.

WAY FORWARD/RECOMMENDATION

- Monitoring and supervision on HIV/AIDS activities should be done.
- The district officials should be trained on HIV/AIDS planning and budgeting to enable HIV/AIDS be included in the district development plan
- The community should be mobilized on HIV prevention and response
- The district council and political leaders should engage HIV/AIDS during their community work
- The youth should be provided with development activities so as to enable them be committed
- There should be harmonization of partner work plans for effective implementation of HIV/AIDS programmes to avoid duplication of activities
- The community should be mobilized to ensure participation and use of sub county based community development workers for implementation of HIV/AIDS activities.
- The youth groups should be strengthened through capacity building and entrepreneurship training

CONCLUSION

The activities were successfully conducted, the community wished that, HIV issues in Kotido could be handled using strategies and recommendations above. The community has often appreciated the work of HCK and their efforts in carrying out the activities without resources, and in ensuring that Kotido and Karamoja as a whole is free from HIV/AIDS epidemic.



A meeting of a group of women engaged in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Kotido rural