

REPORT



2008

THEME: STOP AIDS: KEEP THE PROMISE | Leadership



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VENUE: St. Camillus Dala Kiye Children Welfare Home,
Karungu Division, Migori District

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

WAD	World AIDS Day
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
AED	Academy for Educational Foundation
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission
ART	Anti-Retroviral Therapy
VCT	Voluntary Counseling and Testing
C-VCT	Couple Voluntary Testing and Counseling
IEC	Informative, Educative and Communicative
PLWHA	People Living With HIV/AIDS
DO	District Officer
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
MOSG	Mercy Orphan Support Group
DKP	Dala Kiye Program
NACC	National Aids Control Council
FBO	Faith Based Organization
CMMB	Catholic Medical Mission Board
MAE	Ministero Affari Esteri/Ministry of Foreign Affairs

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I owe the following organizations much appreciation for their financial, material and technical support towards marking WAD 2008: MAE, CMMB, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), and AED. Special thanks also go to Karungu community members for contributing their hard earned resources to our organization towards WAD 2008 activities

I earnestly acknowledge the skillful stewardship of the organizing committee for the WAD 2008. The team did everything possible to facilitate the successful accomplishments of all the planned activities. All the staff in St. Camillus Mission - Karungu that were assigned responsibilities in various areas deserve to be appreciated for job well done. Their participation optimized our institutional commitment in taking AIDS away from the community.

It would be unfair to forget the involvement of community members, especially in terms of physical participation in mobilization and other field activities. I feel indebted to all the pupils and teachers from the schools that prepared and presented thrilling presentations in various educative activities.

I look forward to a world free of HIV/AIDS.

Blessings

Fr. Emilio Balliana
The Programs Director

INTRODUCTION

St. Camillus Mission-Karungu is a FBO initiated in 1997 by the religious congregation of Camillians (servants of the sick) in Kenya. The organization is comprised mainly of two institutions; a mission hospital (St. Camillus Mission Hospital) and children's care and support center (St. Camillus Dala Kiye Children Welfare Home). The organization is situated on the southern shores of Lake Victoria in Karungu division of Migori district, Nyanza province in the republic of Kenya.

In the hospital, the mission endeavors to compassionately alleviate human suffering and pain by increasing access to quality health care services to the poor, sick, and less fortunate members of the society irrespective of their backgrounds. In St. Camillus Dala Kiye Children Welfare Home, the mission provides humanitarian and development services to orphans and vulnerable children through strategic OVC care and support interventions. All these are manifested in good governance and improved livelihoods of the targeted communities in areas of education, health, food and nutrition, child development, advocacy and HIV/AIDS.

Recognizing that "together we can work towards an AIDS free world," all the 10 projects/organizations under the mission, including the hospital came together and constituted "a World AIDS Day 2008 committee." These projects/organizations represented in the committee worked as a team in pooling together resources and creating greater synergy in marking this year's event. The committee worked towards delivering good news of love, hope and care to God's creation in the midst of the HIV/AIDS scourge.

The 10 projects that were involved included:

- 1. St. Camillus Mission Hospital.**

Provides quality health care services to all community members and oversees the implementation of the following projects:

- 2. PMTCT Project**

Advocates for safe delivery of HIV negative babies by HIV positive mothers

- 3. ART Project (AIDS Relief)**

Reaching clients with Anti retroviral Therapy and general care

- 4. The Pastoral Counseling Project**

Provides counseling services that include spiritual care, psychosocial care and continuous support counseling for the in-patients and out patients in the field

5. The VCT Project

Provides VCT services and helps people to make informed decisions concerning their health in the wake of HIV/AIDS scourge.

6. Hope and Life project

This project has a membership group of people living with HIV/AIDS .The project is currently working with about 1200 members .The project strives to provide an opportunity for collective bargaining power for the members.

7. AWAKE and HAPPEN projects

Focus on HIV/AIDS prevention targeting youths in schools and structured groups in the community.

8. St. Camillus Dala Kiye Children Welfare Home

The projects reaches more than 2500 children from the surrounding communities of Karungu, Kadem, Muhuru, (in Migori district) and Gwasssi (in Suba district) towards improved welfare by mitigating the impacts of HIV/AIDS. This is being realized through the following projects;

- Community-based Care and Support for the OVC project.
- Foster family Care and Protection for the OVC project
- Foster Family Care and Protection for the OVC with special needs project.

9. Mercy Orphan support Group Project

Provides Care and support to 3500 OVC in their village settings through community care and support systems

10. MAE Project

Works to improve the already existing interventions in the areas of PMTCT, HIV/AIDS prevention and general improvement of maternal and pediatric health in Karungu community

WAD 2008 THEME, OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

Theme

For the year 2008 St. Camillus Mission adopted the world AIDS campaign's theme "*Stop AIDS, Keep the Promise.*" This theme is also shared with other stakeholders in Karungu division and therefore not specific to World AIDS Day alone. "Keep the Promise" as a theme clearly demonstrates an appeal to governments and policy makers to ensure that they meet the targets they have agreed to in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The governments of 189 member countries of the UN signed a declaration of commitment in June 2001 to take action on HIV and AIDS in the fields of leadership, prevention, care and support, treatment, reducing vulnerability, and human rights.

The following were the objectives and results set forth for marking WAD 2008

Objective

To make the world an AIDS free zone.

Expected results

- Increased level of awareness on HIV/AIDS among the local community members. The local community members comprise of the residents of Karungu, Kadem, Muhuru and Gwassi.
- Positive behavior change among the community members.
- Enhanced prevention, care and support to the youth in the community
- Empowered community members to be able to fight prejudices including stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV/AIDS in the community.
- Leadership and community networking perfected in order to reach the most vulnerable groups.

WAD 2008 ACTIVITIES AND ACTUAL RESULTS

1. Processions.

This marked the commencement of WAD 2008. The twin processions kicked off at around 9.00 am and ended around 11.00 am. The starting points of the processions were Oodi and Sori beaches respectively and each was approximated to be 3km away from the finishing point (St. Camillus Dala Kiye), which also doubled as the venue for the WAD 2008 celebrations. Over 1000 community members and school going children joined hands and participated in these processions. The area D.O at Sori beach and the area Chief at Oodi beach respectively flagged off the processions. The participants carried banners, flags and sang songs, which bore educative and informative messages on the HIV/AIDS pandemic. For each procession, a vehicle with a well-suited public address system played educative tunes about AIDS and passed pieces of information regarding the events for the WAD 2008. The processions entered the venue of the celebrations at around 11.00 am to a tumultuous reception by the already seated audience numbering in the hundreds.

2. Opening ceremony

The ceremony was presided over by Fr. Julius Morara, the program's Finance and Administration Director of St. Camillus Dala Kiye. The Assistant Chief of Gunga sub location (a representative of the provincial administration) officiated over the official commencement of the ceremony at the St. Camillus Dala Kiye grounds at around 11.00am immediately after the procession. In attendance were the invited guests, who comprised of representatives of most CBOs, NGOs, individual collaborators, government departmental representatives from the division and. A number of participants in various disciplines were also on time for the opening ceremony.



Attendants of WAD 2008 gather at the Dala Kiye grounds in readiness for the opening ceremony



Children from Dala Kiyе Children Welfare Home present a verse during the opening ceremony

3. Informative, Educative and communicative Presentations

Pupils from 7 primary schools made thrilling presentations ranging from traditional songs and dances to choral verses and skits educating people about HIV/AIDS. A number of community groups including OVC caregivers, support groups and PLWHA groups made fantastic presentations with themes revolving around HIV/AIDS. An open forum for networking and collaboration for all the HIV/AIDS stakeholders in the division was realized as all the informative, educative and communicative presentations majorly focused on:

- Exploring the year’s theme-‘Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise’
- VCT and C-VCT services
- Provision of love and care to those living with HIV/AIDS
- Positive living
- Fighting against stigma and discrimination
- Access to treatment and the availability of ART services
- Care and protection of the orphans and vulnerable children
- Child rights and child protection
- Cultural, social, religious and economic effects of HIV/AIDS
- Strengthening community responses towards mitigating the effects of AIDS.

4. Free Voluntary Counseling & Testing (VCT) Services

This was the hallmark of this year’s event. The exercise was vital in the provision of adequate facts and figures on HIV/AIDS scourge in the region. The VCT services were provided by counselors from St. Camillus Mission Hospital at the St. Camillus Dala Kiyе Welfare Home. VCT services were offered from November 28th – 30th 2008. Every individual was encouraged to appreciate the opportunity and know his or her HIV status. This would in turn enhance working together for the creation of an HIV free community.

The counselors ensured that there was adequate publicity prior to the event and this was reflected by the high turn out of clients during the three days in which the exercise was conducted.

Statistics of the VCT attendants

DAYS	HIV POSITIVE		HIV NEGATIVE		TOTAL	%age Positive
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE		
DAY 1: 28 th November 2008	0	2	42	54	98	2.04
DAY 2: 29 th November 2008	1	1	57	69	128	1.56
DAY 3: 30 th November 2008	3	1	57	89	150	2.66
TOTAL	4	4	156	212	376	2.12

5. Skill Building Demonstrations

Over 2000 people who turned up to mark the WAD 2008 from November 28th – 30th 2008 were able to access information on the 9 different levels of HIV/AIDS interventions under St. Camillus mission. These included the curative, preventive and programming interventions from St. Camillus Mission hospital, ART project, PMTCT/CMMB Project, Hope and Life project, HAPPEN project, AWAKE project, Dala Kiye program, the Pastoral Counseling Project and Mercy Orphan support project. Each of these projects had well developed tents in strategic areas with written and practical displays regarding areas of interventions in the community. Participants who visited any of these tents left with increased knowledge and understanding of the variety of services each project provides to her specific clients. All the tents had at least 2 project staff who were sufficiently prepared to provide elaborate explanations in response to questions and inquiries from participants. The demonstrations facilitated learning for participants to have skills on the continuum of care and support to infected and affected community members. The demonstrations also provided the opportunity to identify the respective organizations that are involved in particular service delivery to the vulnerable community members, the sick, PLWHAs, OVCs and their caregivers within the community. All the visitors to these tents left with a wealth of information on both the service provision and delivery of various projects under the umbrella organization of St. Camillus mission.



Part of the crowd partaking of the skill building demonstrations on the stage

6. Celebration of the Holy Mass

Mass was celebrated on the final day of WAD 2008 (Sunday, November 30th 2008). The director of Dala Kiye, Fr. Emilio Balliana, presided over the mass owing to the fact that St. Camillus mission is a Catholic faith based organization. Fr. Balliana led the congregation of approximately 1500 people in praying for the sick, orphans, those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and the economically deprived members of the society. The mass began at 10.00am and lasted for about 90 minutes. It was also attended by particular groups of PLWHAS, OVCs, caregivers and a multitude of invited guests.

7. Provision of Meals and Refreshments

No meals were served during the celebrations. However, refreshments were provided to all participants during the three days of World AIDS Day. The essence of providing refreshments to participants was to motivate and encourage them in the participation of planned activities.

TABLE INDICATING THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE FED DURING WAD 2006

DAY	No. of Participants Served
DAY 1: 28 th November 2008	823
DAY 2: 29 th November 2008	1050
DAY 3: 30 th November 2008	1200
TOTAL	3073

8. Ballgame Tournament

An important way of passing information is through sports involvement. There are already established teams for participating in various games like volleyball and football. All these teams were invited as stakeholders to compete and provide entertainment to those who attended the occasion.

During the three days in which the tournaments were held, three winners from each category walked away with cash prizes ranging between 1000/= to 10000/=.

As the tournaments progressed, the attendants were encouraged to go for VCT and get to know their status. IEC materials were also issued to both the participants and those in attendance.



Part of the action during the WAD 2008 football tournament

The winners of this year's tournament were as follows;

Category	Winner	2 nd Position	3 rd Position
Senior Football	Gunga F.C	Sori F.C	B. L. Tezza F. C
Junior Football	B. L. Tezza Primary School	Rabuor P. School	Obondi P. School
Junior Netball	B. L. Tezza Primary School	Kopala P. School	Rabuor P. School
Junior Volleyball	Kopala P. School	B. L. Tezza Primary School	Rabuor P. School

9. Provision of Red Ribbons, Lottery Tickets and Lottery Draws

This exercise ran concurrently with other events. A number of individuals in the community and St.Camillus Mission were charged with the task of dispensing this very important activity of WAD 2008. The individuals were basically tasked with selling lottery tickets to various people at a rate of 20/= . To every ticket that was sold, a red ribbon was issued to the buyer of the lottery ticket free of charge.

The drawing of the lottery tickets was held on the final day of WAD 2008 (Sunday 30th November 2008) from 4.30pm-5.30 pm. Over 50 prizes were won with the first lucky number walking away with a he-goat.

10. Closing Ceremony

All the WAD 2008 came to an end on Sunday, November 30th 2008 around 5.30p.m with a ceremony that was attended by hundreds of people from all walks of life. The ceremony was presided over by Fr. Emilio Balliana, the Programs Director.

As part of the closing ceremony was the awarding of the lucky numbers from the various lottery tickets. Mr. George Ariya of Dala Kiye and Mr. George Muga of ART facilitated this exercise.



The team manager Gunga F. C. receiving their cash prize and trophy



The grand winner of the lottery receiving her prize

The following events took place during the closing ceremony;

- Entertainment by various groups
- Awarding of various winning teams in different categories
- Announcing and awarding of the lucky winners in the lottery drawing

CONCLUSION

St. Camillus Hospital in Karungu marked World AIDS Day for three consecutive days in November 2008. The purpose of the event was expressing solidarity, commitment, hope,

compassion and assistance to PLWHA, OVCs and their caregivers. The Mission adopted the theme, “Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise” to keep alive the fact that AIDS is still with us and will continue to wreck havoc unless we keep the promises which were made at all intervention levels.

Because HIV/AIDS still remains a threat to Karungu community, St. Camillus Mission has always taken a leading initiative in marking World AIDS Day since 2001. This demonstrates concerns and commitments to the combat against AIDS in the community. Based on the activities accomplished during the three days of marking WAD 2008, it is apparent that:

- Awareness among community members that HIV/AIDS has not gone away from our families was raised.
- Health seeking behavior among individuals, families, youths and women, especially regarding HIV/AIDS has improved.
- Community members are readily taking up the initiatives to enhance HIV/AIDS prevention, provide appropriate care and support PLWHAs.
- Vulnerable community members are subsequently being empowered, especially the PLWHAs and are commendably braving the heartbreaking challenges emanating from cultural, social and economic prejudices.
- Strategic interventions are available for the young people to have access to the information, education and services necessary to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection.
- Interventions are available to reduce the proportion of infants getting infected with HIV by increasing access to services, which prevent mother to child transmission.
- Access to antiretroviral treatment to PLWHA in the community is steadily increasing

However, it is very necessary to recommend that many more resources be set aside if the already set trends of intervention are to overcome the besetting challenges. The sustainability of all these quality services takes great effort. We therefore endeavor to keep our promises in the midst of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.