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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
LABALU	Lake Basin Land Use
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
HACI	Hope for African Children Initiative
CBO	Community Based Organization
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CRSC	Catholic Relief Services Consortium
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
MOSUP	Mercy Orphan Support Group Project
NACC	National Aids Control Council
FBO	Faith Based Organization

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

With sincerity and faithfulness, I want to thank God for the financial contributions from HACI Kenya through Save the Children Canada, AED, CRS, CRSC, and LABALU. Accept my appreciations for your partnership and selfless support, contribution and participation in marking World AIDS Day 2006.

I want to acknowledge the skilful stewardship of the WAD 2006 organizing committee. In my judgment, the team is unequalled in facilitating such thrilling activities in marking WAD 2006. All the staffs that were assigned responsibilities in various areas deserve to be appreciated for job well done and especially St. Camillus Mission staff. Their contribution, given so willingly and enthusiastically was not only crucial and necessary but also optimized commitment in taking AIDS away from the community.

I feel indebted to all the pupils, students and teachers from all the primary and secondary schools in Karungu division for their commitments and participations in various activities that beautifully blended the days. I want to extend the same indebtedness to the provincial administration protocol and community leaders for their fervent commitments, participation and officiating the days' events. It is also not possible to forget the involvement of community members and their substantial contributions in terms of food items and physical participation. I appreciate all community groups and ball game teams for their skilful presentations.

Looking into the future, I am optimistic that the spirit of partnership will continue to thrive owing to the adage that states, "united we stand and divided we fall" together we shall alleviate the human population from the pains and suffering brought about by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Once again, kudos to you all and May the Almighty God Bless you all.

**Fr.Emilio Balliana**  
**The Programs Director**

## INTRODUCTION

The global AIDS pandemic has caused stinging deaths and sufferings since it first emerged in 1984. All over the world, people from all kinds of cultural and social backgrounds have been both affected and infected by the disease. World AIDS day therefore is a time to pay tribute to those who have lost their lives, admire the bravery of those living with HIV, raise awareness and resources, and highlight the need for a greater global response to the crisis.

St. Camillus Mission-Karungu is a FBO initiated in 1997 by the Religious congregation of Camillians (Servants of the Sick) in Kenya. The organization comprises mainly of three institutions, a Mission Hospital (St. Camillus Mission Hospital), a Children's Care and Support Center. (St. Camillus Dala Kiye Children Welfare Home) and B.L.Tezza Complex Primary & Secondary schools. The organization is situated at 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 11 projects/organizations under the mission, including the hospital came together and constituted "a Worlds AIDS Day 2006 committee. "These projects/organizations represented in the consortium worked as a team (World AIDS Day 2006 organizing committee) in pulling together the resources and help realize 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 11 projects that were involved included:

- o **St. Camillus Mission Hospital.**

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

- 1. PMTCT Project**

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

## **2. ART Project**

Reaching 2129 clients with Anti retroviral Therapy activities

## **3. The pastoral counseling Project**

The project provides counseling services that include spiritual care, psychosocial care and continuous support counseling for the in-patients and out patients in the field.

## **4. The VCT Project**

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

## **5. Hope and Life project**

This project has a membership group of people living with HIV/AIDS .The project is currently working with about1200 members .The project strives to provide an opportunity for collective bargaining power for the members.

## **6. The AWAKE project**

The project focuses on HIV/AIDS prevention targeting youths in schools and structured groups in the community.

## **7. St.Camillus Dala Kiye Children Welfare Home**

Reaching 1800 children from the surrounding communities of Karungu, Kadem, Muhuru, (in Migori district) and Gwassi (in Suba district) towards improved welfare by mitigating the impacts of HIV/AIDS. This is being realized through the following projects;

- Family-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.

## **8. Mercy Orphan support Group Project**

Caring and supporting 3000 OVC in their village settings through community care and support systems.

## **9. HIV/AIDS Prevention, Protection Empowerment Network (HAPPEN) Project.**

Strive to strengthen health and HIV/AIDS programs on prevention and empowerment of the youth in all schools and other structured groups in 5 districts of Homabay Catholic diocese. This includes Suba, Rachuonyo, Migori, Kuria and Homabay districts.

## **WAD 2006 THEME, GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS**

### ***Theme***

For the year 2006 St. Camillus Mission adopted the world AIDS campaign's theme "Stop AIDS, Keep the promise, Focus on Accountability". In the familiar local language the theme was expressed as "Rit Singo! Bed Ja Adiera e Kedo kod Ayaki". This theme sounds a decree to Karungu community that all individuals must remain committed and accountable to every decisions they make at all levels: individual, family or community.

The theme also 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 UN signed 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.

### ***Goal***

To contribute to the work towards an AIDS-free world.

### ***Objectives***

1. Reduce the HIV prevalence in the subsequent years in Karungu division.
2. Improve the quality of life for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in Karungu community.

### ***Expected outcomes***

1. Raised awareness that HIV/AIDS is still with us and has not gone away from Karungu community.
2. Improved health seeking behavior towards HIV/AIDS related health issues among community members.
3. Enhanced Prevention, Control, Care and Support to infected and affected people in the community.
4. Empowered community members to reduce their vulnerability, fight prejudices including stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV/AIDS in the community.
5. Strengthened leadership through networking and collaboration among Community Development Stakeholders to provide sustainable integrated support services to people living with HIV/AIDS and their families in the community.

### *Planned Activities*

1. All HIV/AIDS field workers from different organizations in Karungu Division mobilize and sensitize the community during their respective project field activities on World AIDS Day 2006.
2. At least 1000 community members participate in 2 concurrent 3Km processions from Sori Beach and Oodi beach to St. Camillus Dala Kiye Children Welfare Home
3. 4 identified competent HIV/AIDS community educators, each running a session a day for 3 days, create awareness, educate and demystify myths surrounding HIV/AIDS.
4. 4 identified competent life skills trainers, for at least a session with youths everyday for 3 days impart the skills and knowledge necessary for negotiating and maintaining safe behaviors among youths in and out of schools.
5. At least 10 Qualified VCT counselors provide free Voluntary Counseling and Testing and Couple Voluntary Counseling and Testing services to community members in need of the services.
6. At least 6 senior and 6 junior football teams, 8 volleyball and 8-netball teams register and participate in the World AIDS Day 2006 Tournaments.
7. At least 20 youths register as bicycle riders and participate in the World AIDS Day 2006 Bicycle Riding Competition through 40km route within Karungu division.
8. 1 Holy Mass celebrated to mark the World AIDS Day 2006 opening ceremony for spiritual nourishment to the infected people and their affected family members.
9. At least 150 PLWHA identified in Karungu receive a one time social support services such as a package of supplementary food support.
10. At least 4 education sessions conducted to equip the community members with adequate information & knowledge on the HIV/AIDS care and support services available in Karungu including Home Based Care, PMTCT, VCT, OVC care and support.
11. Over 15 different groups of youths, women, institutions and other mixed special entertainment groups present educative songs, poems, drama and skits.
12. At least 15 key speakers including professionals in medical, education, business, development and church leaders, politicians, provincial administrators, opinion leaders, women leaders, youths and representatives of OVC and PLWHA provide an open forum for addressing typical issues in the community related to HIV/AIDS viz widow inheritance, marriage, fidelity, family, alcoholism, drug abuse, orphans and child abuse.
13. Key participants, 3 best teams in each ball game - Football, Netball and Volleyball and the first 5 best bicycle riders awarded for outstanding performance in the World AIDS Day 2006 tournaments.

## WAD 2006 ACTIVITIES AND ACTUAL RESULTS

### *1. Processions*

This marked the commencement of WAD 2006. The twin processions kicked off at around 8.00 am and ended at about 9.30 am. The starting points of the processions were Oodi and Sori beaches respectively and each was approximated 3km away from the finishing point (St. Camillus Dala Kiye), which also doubled as the venue for the WAD 2006 celebrations. Over 1500 community members and school going children joined hands and participated in these processions. A number of IEC materials were distributed at each starting point to the expectant participants. This was mainly intended to pass information and raise awareness to the local communities on HIV/AIDS pandemic. 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 well-fitted public address system played educative tunes about AIDS and passed pieces of information regarding the events for the WAD 2006. The processions entered the venue of the celebrations at around 9.30 am to a tumultuous reception by the already seated audience numbering hundreds



*Participants of the WAD 2006 take part in procession*

### *2. Opening ceremony*

The ceremony was presided over by the Area D. O's representative and Fr. Emilio Balliana, the programs director of St. Camillus Mission. In attendance were the invited guests, who comprised of representatives of most CBOs, NGOs and government departmental representatives from the division and individual collaborators. A number of participants in various disciplines were also on time for the opening ceremony.

The following activities took place in the sequence outlined below during the opening ceremony that started at 10.00am and ended at around 12.30p.m:

- Opening prayers led by Fr. Emilio Balliana- The programs Director
- Opening remarks by WAD 2006 committee chairperson
- Speeches by several invited guests
- Entertainments (songs, plays, kits and verses) by pupils from different primary schools in Karungu Division and other guest performers.
- Personal testimonies of life experience by a number of people living with HIV/AIDS
- Educative and sensitizing speeches by invited guests representing health, education, youths, women, PLWHA, social & culture and religious interests
- Closing speech by a representative of the area D.O.
- Meals and refreshments for over 2000 invited guests and participants



*Attendants of WAD 2006 gather at the Dala Kiye grounds in readiness for the opening ceremony*



*It is all song and dance to mark the official opening ceremony of WAD 2006*

### ***3. Informative, Educative and communicative Presentations***

A total of 13 invited primary schools in Karungu division participated in WAD 2006 activities as from 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2006. The pupils from these schools made thrilling presentations ranging from traditional songs and dances, choral verses and skits educating people about HIV/AIDS. A number of community groups including OVC caregivers, support groups and PLWHA groups and a CBO; Sally Orphanage made fantastic presentations that their themes revolved 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 mainly 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
- Prevention, care and support to PLWHA
- Fighting against stigma and discrimination
- Access to treatment and the availability of ART services
- Care and protection of the orphans and vulnerable children
- The children rights and child protection
- Cultural, social, religious and economic effects of HIV/AIDS
- Strengthening community responses towards mitigating the effects of AIDS.



*Children from Sally Orphanage educating participants on HIV/AIDS and situation of orphans in the community*

#### 4. Free VCT services

This was the hallmark of this year's event. The exercise was vital in 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 St. Camillus Dala Kiye Children Welfare Home. The exercise was on as from 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2006. Every individual was encouraged to appreciate the opportunity and know his or her HIV status towards working together for the HIV free community.

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



*Participants of the WAD 2006 line up to visit VCT*

#### Statistics of the VCT

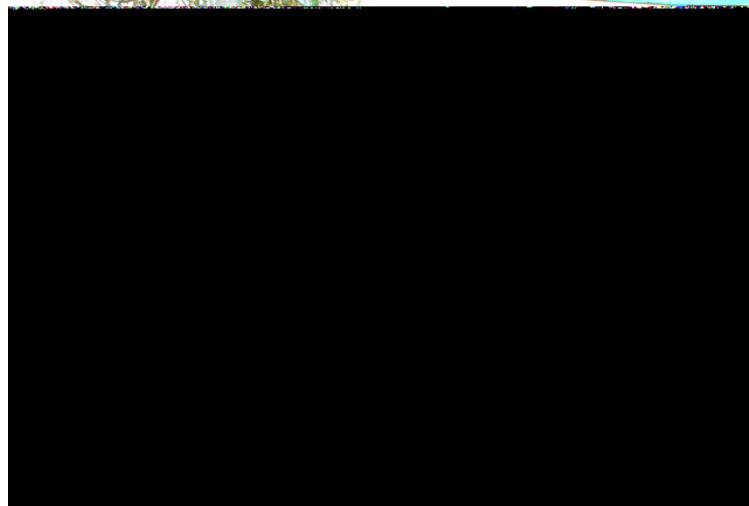
DAYS	HIV POSITIVE		HIV NEGATIVE		TOTAL
	MALES	FEMALES	MALES	FEMALES	
DAY 1: 1/12/2006	7	21	62	58	148
DAY 2: 2/12/2006	6	12	64	69	151
DAY 3: 3/12/2006	7	9	73	53	140
TOTAL	20	42	199	180	441
	62		379		

#### 5. Skill Building Demonstrations

Over 2500 people who turned up to mark the WAD 2006 as from 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2006 were able to access information on the 11 different levels of HIV/AIDS interventions under St. Camillus mission. These included the curative, preventive and programming interventions from St. Camillus Mission hospital, ART/CRSC project, PMTCT/CMMB, Project, Hope and Life project, HAPPEN project, Awake project, Dala Kiye program and Mercy Orphan support project. Each of these projects had well set respective 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 staffs that were sufficiently prepared to provide elaborate explanations in response to questions and enquiries from participants. The demonstrations eased the process of imparting knowledge to the 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.



*A project staff prepares one of the exhibition stands*



*Participants of WAD 2006 pay close attention to a project Staff when they visited MOSUP project stand*

## ***6. Bicycle Riding Competition***

This year's event was characterized with a lot of pomp and colors. The event was marked on the final day of this year's WAD (Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December). It attracted a total of 15 participants, all male from Karungu division where the event has a good history. IEC materials were distributed to all the cyclists-orange t-shirts as part of the start-up preparations. The participants had adequate preparations prior to the competition and this guaranteed the spectators a mouth-watering encounter from the various participants.

The competition was flagged off by the area D.O. at 8.30 am amid cheers and ululations from the spectating crowd who had gathered to witness the start of the event. The starting point was at Sori market and it covered a distance of 72 km. The organizers of the event were at every check point to ensure that the cyclists adhered to the laid down guidelines and to ensure that no incidences of malpractice was witnessed. They were also adequately furnished by first aid kits to attend to any cases of accidents and general injuries in the course of the competition.

Presents were awarded to the top five finishers in the following descending order; a brand new bicycle, bicycle frame, two bicycle wheels, two bicycle tyres and two bicycle tubes.



***It is a cutthroat encounter between the various competitors  
In the WAD 2006 bicycle riding competition***

### ***7. Celebration of the Holly Mass***

The mass was also celebrated on the final day of WAD 2006 (Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>). Fr. Julius Morara and Fr. Alex presided over the Mass that was attended by over 2500 people in praying for the sick, orphans, those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and the economically deprived members of the society. The mass kicked off at around 10.00am and lasted for about 90 minutes. It was also attended by particular groups of PLWHAS, OVCs, Caregivers and invited guests including collaborators from Karungu division.



*Children celebrating the Holy Mass*

### ***8. Provision of meals and refreshments***

Every event in Karungu has to have a social aspect where people gather and share over a meal. The essence of providing meals and refreshments to participants was to motivate and psyche them for participation in the planned activities. The exercise was observed for the entire period of WAD 2006 and an estimated total of 10,520 people were fed during the entire period of WAD 2006.

### ***9. Ballgame Tournament Matches***

Sports prove to be a very important way of passing information especially football. There are already established teams for participating in various games like volleyball, football and netball. All these teams were invited as stakeholders and as a result 4 volleyball teams, 6 netball teams and 6 senior 6 junior football teams took part in the events.

During the three days in which the tournaments were held, a total of 12 football matches were played and the first three winners walked away with prizes ranging from set of games kit, trophies and balls among other prizes. As the tournaments progressed, the attendants were also encouraged to go for VCT and get to know their status. IEC materials were also issued to both the participants and those in attendance.

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

- Boys' senior soccer: Sori United F.C.
- Boys' junior soccer: Rabuor Primary School
- Netball: St. Camillus Netball team
- Volleyball Boys: Oyugis Highlanders



*Part of the action during the WAD 2006 football tournaments*



*Part of the action during the WAD 2006 volleyball tournament*



Part of action during the WAD 2006 netball tournament

### ***10. 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 2006. The individuals were basically tasked with selling lottery tickets to various people at a rate of Kshs 20. To every ticket that was sold, a red ribbon was issued to the buyer of the lottery ticket free of charge.

The draw of the lottery tickets was held on the final day of WAD 2006 (Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2006) as from 4.00 pm - 5.00 pm. Over 100 prizes were won win the first lucky numbers walking away with a he-goat.

### ***11. Closing Ceremony***

All the WAD 2006 activities came to an end on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2006 at around 5.00 pm at a ceremony that was attended by hundreds of people from all walks of life. The ceremony was presided over by Fr. Emilio Balliana.

The following events took place during the closing ceremony;

- Entertainment by various groups
- Closing remarks by the various invited guests
- Awarding of various winning teams in different categories
- Material assistance to PLWHA and OVC
- Announcing and awarding of the lucky winners in the lottery draws

Fr. Julius Morara finally closed with a word of prayer at around 5.00 pm.

## CONCLUSION

Since 2001, St. Camillus Karungu has been marking World AIDS Day for at least 3 consecutive days as from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2006 which is the official day for marking the event worldwide. The purpose of the event is expressing solidarity, commitment, hope, compassion and assistance to PLWHA, OVC and their caregivers. The mission adopted the theme, "Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise, Focus on Accountability" to keep live the fact that AIDS is still with us and unless we keep the promises we made at any intervention level, we will all get devoured.

Because HIV/AIDS still remains a threat to Karungu community, St. Camillus Mission has always taken a leading initiative in marking WAD through out the subsequent years. 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 2006, 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 PLWHA.
- Vulnerable community members are subsequently getting empowered, especially the PLWHA and are commendably braving the heartbreaking challenges emanating from cultural, social and economic prejudices.
- Networking and collaboration revival is eminent in the near future among HIV/AIDS stakeholders in Karungu community.
- 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 a lot more resources be set aside if the already set trends of intervention would survive the besetting challenges. The sustainability of all these quality services remains a monster even as ranks close to build familiar supportive community structures. We therefore endeavor to keep our promises in the face of HIV/AIDS pandemic.