



ST. CAMILLUS VCT CENTRE

HALF YEAR REPORT

JANUARY – JUNE 2009



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

HIV/AIDS epidemic has become one of the greatest social challenges facing our generation and the worst public health disaster. It has devastating impacts on economies markets, threatening the security and prosperity of our global society. It is not only a public health issue but work place issue, development challenge and the source of wide insecurity. Its effects are experienced in loss of earnings, loss of skills, reduced productivity and loss of markets as the consumer base is blotted away. We must react to the crisis unfolding. St. Camillus Mission Hospital and MAE (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) project is on the lead in addressing the HIV issue through the introduction of mobile VCT services in hard to reach areas.

GOALS

- To prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS within Karungu division and its environs
- To promote behavior change by creating self awareness
- For those who are HIV negative, safe sexual practice can be reinforced and those found to be HIV positive referred appropriately.

OBJECTIVES

- To have an HIV free society where people can lead responsible lives
- To prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS within Karungu and the surroundings
- To promote behavior change by creating self awareness
- To initiate a routine of VCT services offered to every client that can help reduce stigma associated with HIV infection
- To avert the spread of HIV/AIDS amongst pregnant mothers to their unborn infants through giving information on mother to child transmission of HIV virus

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT

The report unfolds the overall view of the project activities within a period of six months and the strategic plans laid down by the St Camillus Mission Hospital and MAE (Ministry of foreign affairs) project from the government of Italy in addressing HIV/AIDS issues, staffing ,capacity building, challenges, achievements, future plans and clients statistical analysis for the period covered.

INTRODUCTION:

Around the globe and especially in sub-Saharan Africa, HIV/AIDS pandemic is still a health challenge. Human race lives in fear due to its adverse impacts. As a matter of fact, so many are still affected and infected in either one way or the other by HIV/AIDS. This is why the stakeholders have taken a leading role in addressing HIV/AIDS issues which is aimed at prevention, effective care and treatment through the introduction of patient support centers across the country and some other parts of the world. This is seen particularly to countries which are economically handicapped most of which are in sub-Saharan region. The latest HIV/AIDS survey done in Kenya early this year indicates a little decrease of HIV prevalence of 7.1% as compared to last year's 7.8%. and in Karungu and its environs the latest HIV prevalence shows a decrease from 45% last year to 34%, though this shows that there is a little improvement but there is still need to address the HIV issue.

ST CAMILLUS M. HOSPITAL

Located in Nyanza province where HIV prevalence is high among provinces as lastly revealed by the Kenya AIDS indicator, the Hospital and MAE (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) project have enforced their efforts in ensuring that the people along the lake and beyond are saved from the wrath. Many people living along the lake here are peasants who feed from hand to mouth and are relying on fishing and farming with low income due to poor production of farm inputs, and as a result many resort to commercial sex leading to the spread of HIV/AIDS. Therefore this has made the hospital and MAE project start several intervention programs to reduce the spread of the disease. The services that are rendered in VCT have helped stem down the spread of the HIV infections in this area and beyond.

STAFFING

The center has two full-time counselors working hand in hand with clients and with a lot of regards in making sure that there are proper referrals of those who are HIV infected to patient support centers.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity building for this year was attended by one staff who attended a workshop on couple HIV counseling and testing sponsored by NASCOP in Nairobi.

CHALLENGES

1. **DISCLOSURE:** Of course this is still an issue as most of these clients still live in fear and as a result some of them do not want to reveal something personal about themselves.
2. **STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION:** A number of people still have negative attitudes towards HIV/AIDS because of fear.
3. **CLIENT COUPLES** are still few despite the fact that there are two full-time working couple HIV counseling and testing counselors in the site.
4. **CULTURAL NORMS:** There are a number of people who still cling on cultural practices like wife inheritance resulting in HIV transmission

ACHIEVEMENTS

- The already existing mobile VCT services has seen the communities living in hard to reach areas access to VCT services, care and treatment
- Confidentiality within the center has created a conducive atmosphere for clients thus stemming down stigma and discrimination.
- The center has two fulltime trained couple HIV counseling and testing counselors.
- There is great reduction of mortality and morbidity rate due to VCT services since the HIV infected clients get appropriate referrals to the patient support centers (PSC)
- The accreditation of our site by the NASCOP(National AIDS and STI control program)

FUTURE PLANS

- To further intensify mobile VCT services in hard to reach regions within Karungu and its environs for appropriate scale up of the service.
- To continue offering quality VCT services to clients
- To negotiate the introduction of youth friendly center to enable the youths and children access quality services within the site.
- To introduce a video screen watching at the VCT site waiting area to help keep busy clients who have not been served.

The table below gives a statistical summary of the number of clients tested from January to June 2009

MONTH	MALE			FEMALE			TOTAL TESTED	TOTAL POS.	% POS.
	NO. TESTED	NO. POS.	NO. NEG.	NO. TESTED	NO. POS.	NO. NEG.			
JAN.	74	16	58	103	44	59	177	60	34%
FEB	61	20	41	91	42	49	152	62	40%
MARCH	77	25	52	83	31	52	160	56	35%
APRIL	80	21	59	83	29	54	163	50	31%
MAY	69	18	51	72	28	44	141	46	32%
JUN	62	16	46	96	32	64	158	48	30%
TOTAL	423	116	257	528	206	322	951	322	34%

The HIV prevalence as per the clients who attended our VCT from January to June 2009 is 34%.

Compiled and reported by

MAURICE AWUOR
VCT COUNSELOR IN-CHARGE