

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2019**



## **ST. CAMILLUS DALA KIYE CHILDREN WELFARE HOME**



**A Compassionate Response to  
HIV and AIDS Impacts on Children**

**January – December 2019**

## **Program Profile**

<b>Organization:</b>	St. Camillus Dala Kiye Children Welfare Home
<b>Program Name:</b>	Dala Kiye Program
<b>Programming Areas:</b>	Orphans & Vulnerable Children (OVC) & HIV/AIDS
<b>Total Target Client:</b>	12,500 OVC & 540 Caregivers
<b>Program Location:</b>	Karungu Division, Nyatike Sub - County
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	January 2019 - December 2019
<b>Reporting Person:</b>	Fr. Emilio Balliana
<b>Designation:</b>	The Program Director

## **Introduction**

St. Camillus Dala Kiye Children Welfare Home is an initiative of the St. Camillus Mission - Karungu. Its initial inception was in 1998 and it was eventually registered in July 2002 with the Department of social Services, Migori County and later with the Children's Department as a Charitable Children's Organization to address the welfare of children.

The program supports orphaned and vulnerable children who have been victims of HIV/AIDS pandemic. St. Camillus Dala Kiye in partnership with different organizations and the local government works with community members who are living below poverty levels and who one way or another were affected by HIV/AIDS.

The overall objective of the Project is to build sustainable livelihoods for the HIV and AIDS affected poor and vulnerable communities specifically improving their socio-economic status. The Organization provides care and support to OVC in the areas of food and nutrition, health, education, shelter and care, child protection, psychosocial support and life skills. To help promote sustainability, the project also rolls out economic empowerment program to the OVC caregivers by providing entrepreneurship and agricultural training and assisting them to come up with income generating activities of their choice.

The program is implementing different OVC projects modeled on School - Based care and Foster Care and Protection for Children with special needs.

### **The physical facilities of the program comprise of the following:**

- (a) An administration block with furnished and equipped offices, meeting room, library, auditorium and washrooms.
- (b) A well-furnished and equipped dining hall with a capacity of 300 children and also housing laundry room and stores.
- (c) Six family houses for hosting 60 children living with HIV and AIDS
- (d) A recreational facility for sports/games for both the children and adults. These include ball games, athletics and bathing.
- (e) A public primary and secondary school (B.L.Tezza Complex Schools) with OVC forming a greater proportion of the total pupil population.

In consistent to the developed goal and objectives, Dala Kiye designs, moulds and implements projects which are child friendly and community-focused, involving and sustainable. All the activities are streamlined to include and serve the rights, needs and improve the wellbeing of the OVC and the community. The projects are comprehensively formulated with a commitment to implement the National Legislations, Policies and Action plans for the protection of the rights of children in Kenya. The program is based on a framework of wide consultative process involving all stakeholders and partners. The program implementation team is headed by the Program Director who is the chief Administrator of all the initiatives of the St. Camillus Mission in Karungu. The team comprises of qualified and competent professionals who are responsible for finance & administration and program development & management.

Currently, the program is designed into two models: -

### **1. School based Care and support for OVC affected by HIV and AIDS.**

This model is designed on the assumption that every OVC has somebody within the community to provide care and support. Hence the project is intended to compliment the efforts of the caring community to provide quality care and support. This was the first project initiated in 1998 and currently targeting over 2200 OVC who have a living and responsible caregiver. The entry point of OVC care and support are the 18 primary schools in Karungu and Gwassi working with Dala Kiye. In this model the program promotes retaining and maintaining the OVC in the guardianship of their extended families while allowing them to attend schools closer to their homes.

### **2. Foster Family Care and Protection for OVC With Special Needs.**

This model targets OVC who are living with HIV and AIDS and are enrolled on ARVs and are apparently under the care of aged or incapacitated caregivers. The project provides an alternative family in which the child will access quality care and protection. Based on the health assessments conducted among the current clients and with the ever-increasing challenging complexities of the needs of HIV positive OVC, the program has already initiated a facility for Foster Care and Protection for such children. 60 children are covered with this care model and in the year 2019, it harbored 40 boys and 20 girls.

## **Key Intervention areas for 2019**

### **Education and Vocational support**

One of the key intervention areas that Dala Kiye has dwelt in is the Education sector. Orphans and Vulnerable children within the community have been reached with provision of school uniforms; ECD levies payments and provision of desks just to mention a few. All these are to provide a safe learning environment for all children and also to reduce absenteeism, transfers and school drop outs. The main focus of this intervention is on child retention in schools. In the year 2019, the following were achieved.

A good number of students were supported in 2019 through payment of school fees and provision of school uniforms to those at secondary level of education. A total number of 75 students were reached where 55 were supported through secondary education in B.L.Tezza secondary school, 6 were supported from other secondary schools and 14 were supported through vocational training centers, universities and colleges.

A total of 2000 OVC were reached with the activity of uniform provision. The number was drawn from the 18 primary schools working with Dala Kiye. On the same note, a total of 463 benefitted from the payment of school levies.

Still under education, 14,203 pupils from the 18 schools within the project coverage area were reached with comprehensive school health education. The education sessions covered topics on life skills, HIV/AIDS, child rights, nutrition and health education. The pupils were reminded of self-awareness and the importance of knowing oneself as an individual, which in turn would improve pupils' self-esteem and reduce cases of bullying and suicidal thoughts amongst pupils. They were also sensitized on values and teachings from the bible, stressing on the same.

Another level of education was on health education. Pupils were taught on good hygiene practices which included hand washing with soap and water, sanitation and hygiene through proper treatment of water, clean classrooms and latrines as well as personal hygiene. They were also sensitized on communicable diseases and their prevention.

### Health Support

814 OVC were referred to partnering health facilities by the health teachers in their respective schools in the whole year and they received treatment and the bills were catered for by the organization. A total of 31 OVC households were at the same time enrolled to the NHIF scheme. A Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) program was carried out in two community units; Ngira and Alendo communities where 19 villages were verified by the MoH and certified ODF (Open Defecation Free). ODF signposts were later erected at the entrance and exit of every certified village. A total of 923 households met the ODF thresholds. The CLTS interventions led to the construction of 411 new latrines in the 2 community units.



The County was supported to establish and develop a county sanitation strategic plan 2020-2024. A Technical Working Group (TWG) of 18 members drawn from Government line ministries and institutions was established for the policy development and finalization, through the County Government support. All these stakeholders' technicians and representatives were mandated with the task to draft the strategy and submit it to the county health executive committee for approval, upon approval by the committee the drafted document would be made available to the public.

5 schools benefited from the construction of VIP latrines of 2 blocks 4 doors each. The schools that benefited included Wachara, Alendo, Kopala, Seka and Lwanda Magwar. These toilets were handed over to the community and school in presence of the pupils, teachers and community members. During the handing over, pupils were briefed on the sanitation and proper use and maintenance of the latrines. The school was also charged with the maintenance responsibility in case of any faults that were not attached to the contractor's work. Still on toilets, siphoning was done to 10 primary schools that had toilet blocks in good conditions but full to the brim. The schools that benefitted included: B.L.Tezza, Kopala, Alendo, Obondi, Agolomuok, Nyatambe, Seka, Sori, Lwanda Gwassi and Otati.



There were 3 major events marked under this area; World Toilet Day, World Aids Day and Global Hand washing Day.

Migori County hosted the National celebrations of the World Toilet Day 2019 with the theme: ***“leaving no one behind.”*** World Toilet Day is a UN observance day commemorated annually to celebrate the sanitation achievement made all over the world and to create awareness on toilet availability and utilization. The celebration was held at Rokere Primary school, Komosimo Nyamosense ward, Kuria west Sub County. The event was attended by approximately 600 participants.

World AIDs Day is an event that is celebrated every year all over the world for over 30 years since its inception. This celebration is done to create awareness of the disease (AIDs). The 2019 Kenya adopted theme was ***“Towards Universal Health Coverage: Communities united for a free HIV generation”*** and it was marked at Dala Kiye grounds where approximately 1000 people attended.



Global Hand washing Day is an international hand washing promotion campaign to motivate and mobilize people around the world to improve their hand washing habits. The 2019 theme was *'clean hands for all'* and the venue for the event was at Sare grounds in Awendo Sub-County of Migori where approximately 1000 people attended.



### **Food and Nutrition Support**

Food is the backbone of a human wellbeing. A healthy diet is important in the overall growth of a child. In this regard, the school Based Feeding Program targeted OVC enrolled in B.L. Tezza Complex Primary School and it catered for breakfast and lunch to the OVC in B.L. Tezza primary and included supper for the foster children. An average number of pupils (from ECD to standard eight) who benefitted from this program were 174 (99 boys and 75 girls). This included the 60 foster children.

The contribution of the community was in the form of firewood used to prepare the food. The caregivers also supplemented the effort by providing the children with supper and feeding the children during holidays. A nutrition assessment was then carried out to all the children who benefitted from the feeding program and it was ascertained that all pupils were normal according to the calculations of Standard Division Chart.

It did not only stop at feeding, a nutrition education was also carried out to the pupils and they were taken through the importance of nutrition and how good nutrition practices affect our health positively. Pupils were asked to mention some of the locally available food found within their communities and the benefits of each to the body. They were encouraged to make use of the locally available food for proper growth and proper concentration in class. They were also taken through food preparation and preservation methods. Pupils were encouraged to each have a kitchen garden around their homes and plant locally available food as well as rearing animals for food.

There were community dialogue sessions within the 18 schools where caregivers/ parents discussed different issues on exclusive breastfeeding, immunization for children under the age of 5, personal hygiene and handling of food and water. In the same regard, a total number of 14 Health Facilities and caregivers from the 18 primary schools were reached with health talk education focusing on dissemination of the practices with high impact nutrition interventions. 588 clients were reached during the entire sessions. The Health Facilities reached were Lwanda, Kipingi, Agenga, Watho-onger, Riat, Got-kachola, Kituka, Bande, St. Camillus Mission Hospital, Nyamanga, Kabuto, Karungu Sub-District Hospital, Otati and Othoch Rakuom Dispensary. To support the same, there was also distribution of High Impact Nutrition Intervention (HiNi) booklets where a total number of 540 caregivers in 18 schools received the booklets.



In the same area, there was also a Radio Campaign on Good Nutrition Practices focusing on Pregnant, Lactating Mothers and Children who are Under Five years of age. The campaign was done in 5 days in the month of February 2019.

The strategic areas of focus were Improved Maternal Nutrition-Focusing on increased coverage of iron/folate and post-partum vitamin A supplementation, emergency nutrition support to vulnerable populations and pre-concept, Improving Infant and Young Child Nutrition – with focus on improving rates of exclusive breastfeeding, optimal complementary feeding for children 6 to 24 months and addressing critical micronutrient deficiencies, Micro-Nutrient Deficiency Control with increased access to micro-nutrient supplements for children age 6 to 59 months, Infant and Young Child Nutrition in difficult circumstances including IMAM support for infants, young children, pregnant and lactating mothers, Infant Feeding and HIV – ensuring optimal infant feeding, nutrition and care to minimize the risk of mother to child transmission of HIV

### **Psychosocial support and HIV and AIDS education**

Under HIV/AIDS education, pupils were taken through the meaning of HIV and AIDS, they were also taken through ways of taking care of people living with the virus, and they were also sensitized on how to take care of themselves. The same talk was held with the community members who were advised to shun from retrogressive cultural practices like wife inheritance and polygamy which encourage new HIV infections. Project social workers conducted psychosocial counseling to households, stressing on child rights and child responsibilities while at school and at home. Forms of abuse were also highlighted and how to handle such cases. They were made aware of organizations that can help handle cases on abuse.

### **Child Protection**

There were sensitization talks held with parents of 18 target schools through (Long Distance Sponsorship) LDS program. Discussions were based on the absenteeism and transfer rates of pupils where major inputs were taken from the parents on how such could be controlled.

A total of 18 Children Governance Council were established within the 18 schools in the program. The council constitutes of school officials; a population of 444 in total with 214 female and 230 males. The council constitutes of the school officials who were elected by their fellow pupils at the beginning of the academic calendar of 2019. The council encourages child participation in political, cultural and social aspects.

The initiation of Area Advisory Council groups both at the wards and locations have ensured continuous meetings where members deliberate on issues associated with child trafficking, child labor, defilement cases and other emerging issues.

Child protection is a broad and involving area. In the year 2019, priorities were also focused on children with special needs where a total of 339 Caregivers (63 males and 276 females) were reached with the sensitization talk on issues affecting these children and their rights to attend school and be free from any form of abuse. The parents were linked with the Ministry of Education and Area Resource Centre officers who took the caregivers through different types, kinds, identification and prevention or management of disabilities.



Screening and assessments were done to the children living with disabilities and they were given referral forms to different level 4 and 5 hospitals and special schools and also advised to follow through registration with the National Council for Persons living with Disabilities.

In the same year, two community open days were marked, World Orphans Day was marked on 7<sup>th</sup> May, at St Camillus Dala Kiye Grounds and Day of African Child was marked on 14<sup>th</sup> June at St Camillus Dala Kiye. In all the occasions, close to 4000 people attended the celebrations. World Orphans Day was meant to draw attention to the plight of orphans and to celebrate them to have positive well being in the society. The Day of The African Child was celebrated to honor the children of Africa with an aim of addressing the challenges and problems faced by the African Children



### **Economic empowerment to caregivers**

The project is more interested in the economic sustainability of the households caring for the orphans and vulnerable children. In this regard, the caregivers were supported with income generating activities' materials which they had been using to make produce that help them and the OVC. In 2019, all the caregiver groups which had been supported with IGA materials (Income Generating Activities) had exchange visits amongst themselves to learn from each other.

## **Accomplishments**

1. Health care services provided to 814 OVC enrolled in Dala Kiye Program to improve their physical health status. 31-- OVC households were enrolled in National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF)
2. 2 meals a day provided to 174 OVC enrolled in school-based feeding program in B.L.Tezza Complex primary school to improve their nutritional status, school attendance and academic performance.
3. At least 3 meals a day provided to a total of 60 OVC living with AIDS enrolled in 6 foster families in Dala Kiye
4. School fees support provided to 55 OVC to ensure that they access secondary education, retain them in school and improve their academic performance
5. 1 OVC who is physically handicapped supported with school fees at special schools for the physically handicapped to access special education; retain them in school and gain basic literacy and survival skills.
6. 6 OVC supported with vocational training fees and other vocational training expenses to attend technical training institutions, gain technical skills in various trades and contribute to their ability to improve their livelihoods.
7. College fees provided to 7 students to enable them access education in various institutions of higher learning.
8. Foster care services provided to a total of 60 OVC enrolled in foster family care to ensure that they can access education, nutritional meals and are enrolled drugs.
9. Comprehensive school health education provided to 14,203 OVC enrolled in Dala Kiye Program to enhance knowledge and skills for prevention and protection against HIV/AIDS infection among OVC and their care givers and hygiene and sanitation.
10. Dala Kiye was at a position to interact with her partners through the monthly newsletter, **'Milome'**

## **Lessons Learnt**

- Continued spirit of networking and collaboration is a key attribute to organization success.
- Child protection programs that give children platforms to express themselves uplift children's self esteem

## **Recommendations**

- The community members need to be actively involved in the care of orphans and vulnerable children.
- The care of orphans and vulnerable children need a joint effort.
- Children should be given more opportunities to express themselves
- Community members should be educated more on partners roles within schools for smooth working relationship

## **Report prepared by**

George Anyanga  
Program Coordinator