

ANNUAL REPORT

2016



ST. CAMILLUS DALA KIYE CHILDREN WELFARE HOME



A Compassionate Response to HIV and AIDS Impacts on Children

January – December 2016

Program Profile

Organization:	St. Camillus Dala Kiye Children Welfare Home
Program Name:	Dala Kiye Program
Programming Areas:	Orphans & Vulnerable Children (OVC) & HIV/AIDS
Total Target Client:	12,500 OVC & 540 Caregivers
Program Location:	Karungu Division, Nyatike Sub - County
Reporting Period:	January 2016 - December 2016
Reporting Person:	Fr. Emilio Balliana
Designation:	The Program Director

Introduction

St. Camillus Dala Kiye Program is founded on Christian virtues of love and compassion to deprived and devastated children in the community. The Program is an initiative of the St. Camillus Mission and the surrounding Christian community to address the needs of Orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS.

St. Camillus Dala Kiye works with livelihood challenged communities to assist them in re-establishing control over their own future, promoting self-reliance, enhancing their self-management systems and uplifting their living standards. The organization works with communities and local partners in their quest to support OVC. The Organization provides care and support to OVC in the core 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 programme to the OVC caregivers by providing entrepreneurship and agricultural training and assisting them to come up with income generating activities of their choice. During the process of reviewing her relevance and long-term strategic direction, Dala Kiye appreciated the need to engage in sustainable development, and the need to re-invent holistic approach in her programming strategies which serves to empower communities to engage in uplifting their livelihood in a sustainable way.



Dala Kiye Program emerged from the dumbfounding experiences in the St. Camillus Mission Hospital where patients being admitted were terminally ill AIDS patients and subsequently died leaving behind children. These deaths were/are steadily increasing not only within the hospital but also in the entire community and the numbers of children whose lives are falling apart are also escalating. These children were/are deprived, devastated, prejudiced and subjected to lead lives devoid of human interests. This prompted the initial inception of St. Camillus Dala Kiye Children Welfare Home in 1998 and was eventually registered in July 2002 with the Department of social Services, Migori district as a Charitable Children's Organization to address the welfare of

Children affected By AIDS in Karungu community. Nevertheless, the reality of phenomenological and the socio-economic dynamics in the community have made it necessary to broaden the mandate to encompass community development precepts. The Organization is a non - political and non - profit making initiative. The Program operations depend on both financial and material resources mobilized from individuals and Non-governmental organizations. Through community based needs assessments, projects are designed and developed and sent to donors for considerations. The Organization prepares its financial reports as articulated by the donors accordingly to accredit accountability and transparency. The program is implementing different OVC projects modeled on School - Based care, Community Foster Family 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.

Pursuant to the stated goal and objectives, Dala Kiye designs, develops and implements projects which are child and community-focused, participatory and sustainable. All the activities are mainstreamed to rights-based; community needs assessment and de-stigmatization methodologies. 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. 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 three 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 primary schools 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. Community Foster Family Care and Protection for OVC affected by HIV and AIDS.

This model targets those OVC who apparently have nobody in their backgrounds to care and support them. The project therefore provides an alternative family within the community where such children are fostered and protected. The project has already in place 2 alternative foster families; Bethlehem for girls, and Nazereth for boys. These foster families are within the community with due regard being paid to the desirability of continuity in a child's upbringing in his/her own cultural milieu. Currently the OVC reached are 13.

3. 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.

Key Intervention areas for 2016

Education and Vocational support

Over the years, St. Camillus Dala Kiye has been at the forefront of promoting education initiatives within the project catchment area. These initiatives range from fees or school levies payment to the needy children to massive infrastructural improvement projects such as ECD block constructions and classroom renovations. The actions in the education sector are meant to help retain the children in school and also to help improve the learning environment for the children.

In the year 2016, the programme embarked on a series of activities that helped to boost the education component as one of the key intervention areas. For instance, the organization managed to finish the construction of two ECD (pre – school) blocks of two classrooms each.



These were realized at Agolo Muok and Nyamanga Primary schools. Construction of additional blocks commenced late last year at Aringo and Obondi primary schools.

Also, last year, Dala Kiye gave out school uniforms to 2,000 orphans and vulnerable children drawn from the 18 primary schools that are partnering with it. A further 500 orphans in ECD (Pre – school) received school levies support to help retain them in school. In secondary school level, 78 children were supported in B.L Tezza Complex Secondary. Out of this number, 18 of the children sat for their final Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examinations. 3 others were supported to pursue their education in other secondary schools. 2 OVC were supported with fee in special schools, 12 in vocational training institutions and another 8 in colleges and universities.



The interventions in the education sector also targeted the teachers in both pre – school and primary school. Dala Kiye partnered with the ministry of education officers at the sub county level and rolled out a curriculum development workshop to 161 teachers. There was also refresher training for 40 pre – school teachers. In line with laying a stronger foundation for pre – school children, the organization under a two year partnership with St. Anne’s Montessori

College in Nakuru continued to roll out Montessori curriculum training to 18 pre – school teachers that were selected from the partnering schools.

The method embraces a learner friendly approach with more emphasis placed on the practical life experiences. It embraces the principle of experimental learning (learning through experiments)

Lastly, under this support area, Dala Kiye distributed 220 learners desks to three primary schools that were in dire need of the desks.

All these key interventions have helped improve greatly the children’s attitude towards learning as they have a safer and conducive environment for learning. The initiatives have helped to ease the burden out of the shoulders of caregivers considering the fact that a good number of them live below the poverty level and to most of them, raising resources to facilitate these massive infrastructural developments in schools are a big challenge.



Health Support

Another key intervention of Dala Kiye was health support that mainly targeted orphans and vulnerable children enrolled in the Program. Major activities under this line are medical support through the payment of medical bill to OVC upon receiving treatment. The facilities computed bills on a monthly basis and forwarded to Dala Kiye for payment. The facilities that partnered with the organization were St. Camillus Mission Hospital and Karungu sub – district health Centre. Other health facilities were in Seka, Nyamanga, Lwanda Gwasssi, Lwanda Magwar, Otati and Riat. 1,673 children benefitted from the initiative.

The program also managed to enroll 33 OVC households in national health insurance scheme. This targeted the OVC who were exiting the project and it was meant to enable the children to access quality health care long after they have exited the project.

There were also a number of initiatives that sought to improve level of understanding of the beneficiaries on health related matters. The organization facilitated health education sessions to class 4 to class 8 pupils of all the 18 primary schools working with the programme. This in turn benefitted 3,444 children and a further 610 caregivers. Some of the areas covered during these sessions focused on hygiene and environmental health.

The Programme also spearheaded practical measures to ensure that environmental health and hygiene were improved in the schools.

There was very close monitoring to assess the usage of waste management bins and hand washing points that were erected in all the 18 primary schools. The Organization also commenced the construction of two blocks of four doors each of ventilation improved pit (VIP) latrines. This was being done at Paulo Odendo Primary school.

18 teachers drawn from the 18 schools received comprehensive training on health related matters. The sessions were facilitated by officers from the ministry of health in Nyatike Sub County. The training was meant to help the teachers to be able to detect early enough when the children are ill and do referrals to the nearest health facility.

In line with this area of education, the Organization also mobilized the community to celebrate Global Hand washing day 2016. The occasion was marked on 15th October 2016 at Dala Kiye grounds. The main focus of the day was to educate the participants on the need to wash their hands with clean water and soap especially before and after handling food, after visiting the toilet, after handling animals and after attending to a sick relative.

Food and Nutrition Support

The main activity that was implemented under this intervention area was the school feeding programme that targeted the children enrolled in B.L Tezza Complex primary school. It involved the provision of breakfast and lunch during the school days i.e. Monday up to Friday. A total of 245 children benefitted from the feeding programme.

Another activity under this support area was nutrition education that was rolled out to the children and the caregivers in all the 18 schools. The sessions were facilitated by the Nutritionist. In total, 3,475 children and 664 caregivers were reached. The education mainly aimed at awareness raising on healthy eating behavior.

Dala Kiye also initiated kitchen gardens as a pilot project in three schools namely Agolo Muok, Bondo Kosiemo and Lwanda Gwassi. The one at Lwanda Gwassi registered remarkable progress with the produce from the farm being used to initiate a breakfast programme for the children in pre – school. The schools were supported with farm inputs to be able to jumpstart this activity. Monitoring on the activity was carried out with the project staff.

Shelter and Care Support

St. Camillus Dala Kiye Children Welfare Home is registered with Ministry of Labor, social security and services as a charitable children's institution (CCI) taking care of children living with HIV and AIDS. The model of care is known as foster care for children with special needs. With that model of care, the Program managed to take care of 60 children. The 60 children were under the care of 12 foster mothers. Another model that was adopted that is related to the first model is the one for community foster care. In community foster care model, the orphans and vulnerable children who had no stable caregiver at the community level were identified and put into a rental premise under the care of two foster mothers. The community family house was known as Bethlehem. A total of 13 children benefitted from this care model that provided a secure place

for the children to live in while accessing basic necessities like food, clothing, health care and education.

Dala Kiye also constructed 20 semi-permanent houses in the community to help caregivers who had dilapidated shelters. The shelters were spread across Karungu and Gwassi communities.



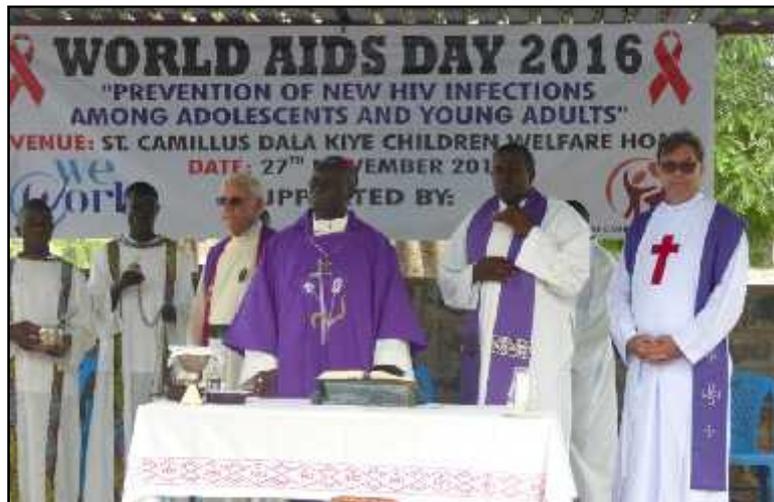
Psychosocial support and HIV and AIDS education

Psychosocial support helps vulnerable children and their caregivers to cope with mental and emotional challenges. Children face illness and often suffer as a result of the death of parents. Psychological effects of these problems may make it hard for them to take part in everyday activities such as going to school. To address the psychological needs of OVC, Dala Kiye facilitated group guidance and counseling sessions for OVC enrolled in the program. 994 children and 280 caregivers drawn from 18 primary schools were reached with the intervention.

The other key activity under the intervention area was HIV and AIDS education that was rolled out in all the 18 primary schools. The activity was facilitated by the staff in conjunction with the teachers of the respective schools who had also been trained to be able to implement the activity in their schools. The education sessions reached the children from class 4 up to class 8. Topics covered included meaning of HIV and AIDS, modes of transmission, prevention strategies, management of HIV and AIDS and its socio-economic impact. In the end, a total number of 3,784 children were reached. After the education sessions, 40 pupils in each school were identified and assisted to form peer clubs. Overall, 18 peer clubs were established. Informative and educative materials were also distributed in all the schools to help add into the children's body of knowledge. During school days, a further training was offered to 90 peer educators to help boost their understanding and impart on the leadership and communication skills. The trainings were carried out in two sessions; the first session of 45 educators was in May while the second session of another 45 educators was in the month of November.

World AIDS Day 2016 was celebrated on 27th November 2016. The theme of the year's celebration was; "Prevention of new HIV infections among adolescents and young adults."

The campaign looked at ways to improve prevention strategies, identifying key areas among specific groups of people who are vulnerable to transmission – adolescent boys and girls and young women and men in particular. Among those present was the Bishop of Homabay Diocese Most Rev. Phillip Anyolo, visitors from different health institutions working within the diocese that included Asumbi, Mirogi, Ombo, Rakwaro, Golgotha and St. Camillus fraternity. Teachers and pupils from neighboring schools, OVC and caregivers were also present.



Child Protection

Initiatives under this intervention area were meant to address issues on child rights and protection. A series of activities were undertaken to help realize this objective. The program had child right sensitization sessions with teachers and caregivers in all the schools working with the project. The sessions were meant to build the capacity of the children handlers to be able to provide adequate and quality care to the children.

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Dala Kiye also facilitated all the three meetings of Karungu Ward area advisory council (AAC), a body that brings together all stakeholders that work in the area of child care and protection within the ward.

To help mobilize the larger community into child protection issues, the Organization marked two open days that brought the community members together. World Orphans Day was marked on 7th May 2016. While the Day of the African child was marked on 16th June 2016



These occasions were made successful through the support and collaboration of our partners. Lastly, in this area, the organization assisted 78 orphans and vulnerable children to acquire birth certificates. The registration process was done at Migori and Mbita.

Economic empowerment to caregivers

The main aim of this intervention area was to help build the capacity of the caregivers to be able to take care of the orphans and vulnerable children under their care. This they did first by organizing themselves into caregiver support groups. The groups benefitted from entrepreneurship training that was facilitated by the economic officer. After the trainings the groups submitted business plans to Dala Kiye for support consideration. As at the end of 2016, the organization had helped establish 36 caregiver support groups that are engaged in a number of income generating activities such as table banking, horticultural farming, livestock rearing and events management. All the groups received material and technical support from the Organization.



Networking and partnership building

St. Camillus Dala Kiye also collaborated with We World, Kenya Red Cross, Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries, Ministry of Health and Ministry of education to roll out a European Union funded project; Enhanced maternal and child nutrition in Migori County through a multi-sectorial approach: political commitment at county level and population awareness raising. This project was launched on 14th September 2016 on Dala Kiye grounds and it was directed at reducing the number of stunted growth in children and helps educate mothers on matters of nutrition. Since the launch, the project has reached out to the community members via different initiatives like; Breastfeeding week, Malezi Bora campaigns (*proper child upbringing campaigns*), World Food Day, Training of 14 caregiver groups on entrepreneurship and training on food and Nutrition security in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Health at the county, sub-county and zonal levels.



Accomplishments

1. Health care services provided to 1,673 OVC enrolled in Dala Kiye Program to improve their physical health status. 33 OVC households were enrolled in National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF)
2. Psychosocial support services administered to 994 OVC and 280 caregivers enrolled in Dala Kiye Program to improve their mental health status.
3. 2 meals a day provided to 245 OVC enrolled in school-based feeding program in B. L Tezza Complex primary school to improve their nutritional status, school attendance and academic performance. Pilot kitchen garden initiated in three schools namely Agolo Muok, Lwanda Gwassi and Bondo Kosiemo.
4. At least 3 meals a day provided to a total of 60 OVC living with AIDS enrolled in 6 foster families in Dala Kiye and 13 OVC enrolled in Bethlehem foster family to ensure that they receive regular meals and improve their health and nutritional status.
5. School fees support provided to 81 OVC to ensure that they access secondary education, retain them in school and improve their academic performance
6. 2 OVC who are 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.
7. 12 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.

8. College fees provided to 8 students to enable them access education in various institutions of higher learning.
9. Foster care services provided to a total of 73 OVC enrolled in foster family care to ensure that they are protected and access services for continuity in social reintegration within family settings in Dala Kiye and community settings in Nyatike community.
10. HIV and AIDS education provided to 3,784 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.
11. 161 primary school teachers and 40 pre-school teachers provided with training on curriculum development.
12. 220 school learner's desk provided to 3 different primary schools.
13. 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.
- Establishment of community structures such as caregiver support groups brings about project sustainability.

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 to a joint effort.

Report prepared by

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