

MERCY ORPHANS SUPPORT GROUP PROGRAM
C/O ST.CAMILLUS DALA KIYE CHILDREN WELFARE HOME
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OVC Project

ANNUAL REPORT

April 2018 – December 2018

ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

AAC	Area Advisory Council
ART	Anti Retro-viral Therapy
CAP- YEI	CAP Youth Empowerment Institute
CBO	Community Based Organization
CCO	County Children Officer
CHV	Community Health Volunteer
CIDP	Community Integrated Development Plan
CPARA	Case Plan Achievement Readiness Achievement Assessment
CPIMS	Child Protection Information Management System
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CSI	Child Status Index
DA	Data Assistants
DCS	Department of Children Services
DREAMS	Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS free, Mentored and Safe
FACES	Family AIDS Care and Education
FA	Field Agent
FAS	Field Agent Supervisor
GOK	Government of Kenya
GRA	Graduation Readiness Assessment
HH	Household
HES	Household Economic Strengthening
HPVT	Household Prioritization Vulnerability Tool
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HTS	HIV Testing and Services
LCHV	Lead community health volunteer
LDP	Link Desk Persons
LIP	Local Implementing Partner
MUAC	Mid Upper Arm Circumference
MWENDO	Making Well-informed efforts to Nurture Disadvantaged OVC
MoALF	Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries
NHIF	National Health Insurance Fund
OLMIS	OVC Longitudinal Management Information System
OTZ	Operation Treatment Zero
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PSS	Psychosocial Support
QI	Quality Improvement
SCCO	Sub-County Children Officer
SMILER	Simple Measurement for Indicators for Learning and Evidence based Reporting
SILC	Saving internal leading communities
SIMS	Site improvement management systems
SOP	Standard Operational Procedure
SSN	Social Security Net
VTC	Vocational Training Centers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

INTRODUCTION

Mercy Orphans Support Program was established in the year 2000 as a community based organization (CBO) working with rural communities in Karungu Division in Nyatike Sub County of Migori County. Mercy Orphans Support Group Program supports rural communities through a wide range of development projects designed to improve the health, quality of life and self-reliance of households living with OVC and the community as a whole.

During the period 2016/2017, the organization successfully implemented PROSPER , THRIVE II and currently MWENDO OVC Program which is a five-year project (May 09th 2017 - May 08th 2022) cooperative agreement between United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) projects in Kachieng, Kanyasa, Muhuru and North Kadem wards with a targeted projection of 9,139 OVC .

The approach targets to move away from long-term support and service provision to Case Management, a strengths-based and resiliency-focused approach, with more of a concerted effort to contribute towards the global effort to reach UN 95-95-95 viral suppression, evidence based impact on OVC families, consistency in data collection, interpretation and analysis to facilitate enhanced decision making relevancy, timely, context-sensitive and cost-effective.

ORGANIZATION COVERAGE AREA & WORK FORCE

The organization covers Kachieng, Kanyasa, Muhuru and North Kadem Wards in Nyatike Sub County in the vast Migori County with 6,327 OVC supported by 3,440 caregivers in equivalent number of households . We have 119 CHVs who support in identification, enrollment, providing services, referrals and monthly follow ups in the households.

MOSGUP VISION

To be an organization that promotes improved livelihoods and equal opportunities to the OVC and community

MOSGUP MISSION

To initiate an effective community response to bring about holistic development of the OVC to participate in community development

Overall MWENDO Technical Approach

- Strengthening the HIV and support systems to help the region attain the 95-95-95 targets
- Adopt a comprehensive Case Management Approach as key entry point to service delivery
- Focus on sustainability, graduation plans that promotes Social Behavior Change (SBC), Strengthen DCS structures and Child Protection Information Management system (CPIMS)
- Responsive targeting of the beneficiaries 326,000 OVC & 90,000 households and special attention to adolescent girls and children living in the streets and age appropriate

Sub Purpose I: Increased access to health and social services for OVC and their families

Health and Nutrition

During the period under review, 119 CHVs conducted nutrition education and counseling through household visits to 6,327 OVC and MUAC assessments targeting the 320 OVC under 5 years, 234 HIV positive OVC and expectant mothers in the project with no case of malnourishment being reported.

Viral load monitoring was conducted for 59 PLHIV OVC, where 4 were found to be of high viral loads therefore referrals were made to the facilities for clinical observations. Knowledge of status was a key messages to the teens thus eligible cases prototype screening, counseling and testing was done to 53 where only 2 turned positive, referred and linked to care and treatment.

The period under review also saw continued creation of awareness, sensitization and general health talk sessions to 25 HIV positive OVC during clinic days, while peer OTZ sessions were conducted with 38 PLHIV peers attending, with topics revolving around, importance of support groups, Self-esteem, life skills, adherence and HIV mitigation.

One health outreach was conducted in North Kadem Ward with a target of 1,202 OVC and their caregivers, where 991 OVC attended and were given the following services, 236 OVC vitamin A supplementation and growth monitoring, 55 treatment of minor childhood ailments, 43 HIV risk screening and testing to reduce morbidity and mortality rates among infants



Education and vocational training

High vulnerable households and their OVC were targeted with services to enhance enrollment, retention and eventual transition in school levels, where payment of school fees to 131, provision of uniforms 279, and provision of sanitary towels to 915 girls was done.

Psychosocial care and Support

Household Assessment to enhance emotional wellbeing of OVC was conducted by CHVs during household's visits, where a total of 6,327 in 3,440 Households were provided with psychosocial counseling and life skills.

Shelter and Care

The period under review saw Social workers, LCHVs/CHV conduct assessments at household level to ascertain presence of an adult that offers constant care and support, where there were no cases of neglect, exploitation and abuse reported that needed immediate intervention and linkages.

Sub Purpose 2: Strengthened capacity of households and communities to protect and care for OVC

Household Economic strengthening initiative

In an effort to support income generating activities, livelihood support within low, moderate, high households as well as support food security interventions. A total of 21 caregivers were supported with tissue cultured bananas, 14 caregivers with pawpaw (sunrise variety) and 167 with poultry (improved Kienyeji breeds) while 9 high vulnerable households were enrolled in MWENDO emergency fund (Ksh 2,000 per month) for a period of six months to help cater for their most urgent and basic needs.

Field agents supervisors continued to offer coaching and mentorship to SILC agents, who conducted sensitization and creation of awareness to care givers and their households on SILC and other economic strengthening initiatives. In total there are 73 SILC groups which have started savings with 1,507 members supporting 2,467 OVC which are 75% of the SILC group annual targets of 96 SILC groups. The SILC groups mobilized savings of Ksh 3,161,420 and issued loans of Ksh 3,610,480 given out to members to cater for their basic need.



ECD and Positive Parenting

In an effort to facilitate caring and positive relations between caregivers and their teens, three caregiver's forums were held in Kibuon, Kakello Kakoth and East Kanyuor where 107 caregivers attended. The topics discussed were, family counselling i.e. HIV management, importance of viral load monitoring, adherence counseling and support, positive living and MWENDO project overview.

Sub-purpose 3: Strengthened child welfare and protection structures and systems for effective responses in targeted sub-counties

In an effort to facilitate coordination, efficiency and comprehensive service delivery informed by sustainability approaches beyond donor funding some key collaborative activities were conducted.

Commemoration days

Partners came on board for commemoration days, where two community open days were marked, World Orphans Day was marked on 7th May, for the sub county at St. Gemma girls' secondary school, and Day of African Child was marked on 14th June at St. Camillus Dala Kiye. World Orphans Day was meant to enhance participation of communities support to orphans together with knowledge and understanding of challenges facing orphans. The Day of the African Child was meant to enhance knowledge and understanding of challenges facing African children and the plight of vulnerable children.

Stakeholders Meeting

During the reporting period we supported one stakeholders meeting in Sori during the MWENDO inception ,aimed at creating participation and ownership for program, which was attended by 23 participants drawn from Nyatike and Suna Sub-Counties where:

- It was concluded that in order for the program to be responsive and efficient, eligibility criteria should be adhered to.
- Recruitment should be done and considerations to be given to native OVC and not those conspicuously out of coverage area as it's been the case.
- Mapping of other stakeholders to enhance leveraging was important as it was evident that we have key stakeholders that are not detailed and known on what they are exactly doing to facilitate on resource mobilization.

Capacity Building Sessions

During the reporting period various capacity building sessions were held for both staffs and volunteers to bridge the gaps identified during periodic capacity assessment sessions. The following were conducted quality improvement, link desk, protection and child safe guarding, Case Management, Shujaa (SINOVUYO) teen curriculum, Picture impact and SILC data monitoring training. All these trainings helped in improving the delivery of key project intervention areas.

Divisional Area Advisory Council Meeting

Complementing government and local structures within the community necessitated incorporation of locational area advisory council in service provision, where 2 staff and QI coach attended two quarterly a divisional area advisory council meetings in Sori. The main aim is to address protection issues affecting the children and ways of mitigation as well as resource mobilization, mapping and building of networks and mutual partnerships among stakeholders.

Seventeen member locational quality improvement team was formed from the larger team with an aim to be trained within the next reporting period to champion quality improvement activities in program interventions.

Lessons Learnt

- We have learnt that households have their strengths and weakness and thus with the approach on case plan management that individualizes needs of OVC a lot of expectations would be dealt with as service delivery will be based on responsiveness, efficiency and accurate resource allocation.

Report prepared by

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