

WORLD AIDS DAY 2019



THEME

“Towards universal health coverage: Communities united for a free HIV generation”.

VENUE

ST. CAMILLUS DALA KIYE CHILDREN WELFARE HOME
GROUNDS

DATE:

1ST DECEMBER 2019

Acknowledgement

I would like to appreciate all those who participated and made World AIDs Day a success. Thank you to the children, caregivers and the community members for entertaining the audience with plays, songs and skits that was educative as well as informative and in line with the theme.

I would also wish to thank the guests present, the community leaders, friends of Dala Kiye, community leaders, stakeholders for your positive response towards our invitation; this shows the love that binds us together in oneness.

I would also wish to extend my gratitude to the Dala Kiye staff members who worked tirelessly to see that the day was a success; this wouldn't have been possible without your team work as well as organization skills. Thanks

Am honored and thankful to our partners for their financial support, I sincerely extend my gratitude to the We World Foundation for their immense support and other organizations that chipped in to support us financially, God richly bless you.

To crown it all, I thank the Almighty God for his strength and wisdom through it all.

Fr. Emilio Balliana



Introduction

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). According to World Health Organization (WHO), “37.9 million people were living with HIV by the end of 2018. 79% received testing, 62% treatment while 53% had achieved suppression of the HIV virus with reduced risk infecting others”, however there are still millions of HIV patients who still do not have access to tests, treatments and medications for HIV. In the year 2017 according to Kenya AIDs Indicator Survey (KAIS) there was an approximation of 52,800 new infections across all ages, 44,800 among adults aged above 15 years and 8,000 aged below 14 years. Of the total estimated new infections Migori County which is affiliated to St. Camillus Mission Hospital had 2,814 new infections. Kenya has continued to see a sharp decline in its incidence due to various interventions that has helped in achievement of suppression of the virus, however there is still need to reach the zero viral through different interventions put in place.

It is because of the above that we as Dala kiye in collaboration with We World Kenya Foundation, and other stakeholders such as St. Camillus KARP project, Mecry Orphans support group, St. Camillus Mission Hospital and friends of St. Camillus Mission Karungu gathered at the Dala kiye grounds to celebrate the occasion and create awareness. The 2019 Kenya adopted theme is **Towards Universal Health Coverage: “Communities united for a free HIV generation”**.



Dala kiye grounds was well set with tents mounted on strategic points and chairs properly arranged in readiness for the event. The banner was also placed in such a way that everyone would read and internalize the message; t-shirts were also worn by participants and staff members with the message indicating the theme of the occasion. Children, caregivers and community members arrived at the ground as early as 9:30 am and joined with the rest of the congregation.

Holy Mass began at 10.00 am with foster children and their guardians leading the Mass through song and dance. Holy Mass was presided over by Fr. Emilio and concelebrated by Fr. John and Fr. Gabriel. Fr. Emilio in his sermon spoke about the rising prevalence rates of HIV in Migori and Homabay County despite the awareness created by organizations, He urged the congregation to join together in fighting the disease since it affects us in one way or the other. Most of us are either affected or infected by the disease. He also urged the congregation to help each other by showing love and kindness and live our lives in a manner that brings glory to God. After Mass Fr. Emilio acknowledged the presence of the guests visiting, he recognized diocesan health coordinator Sr. Gaudencia from Angiya parish, sisters from St. Joseph Ombo hospital, Mirogi Health centre, Kiranda parish and community leaders. He also welcomed all the children, caregivers as well as the community to the occasion and urged them to work together in helping curb the HIV menace and be examples to the young generation.

The master of ceremony then took over, he welcomed all to the occasion, he then gave directions on different tents and what each tent does. Entertainments began. First on centre stage was a girl from Nyamanga primary school with a poem on HIV, the poem was an eye opener to those who live engaging in risky behavior since the consequences of such behavior lead to suffering and death. The Operation Triple Zero (OTZ) group who were children from Dala kiye foster home who help pass the message on proper medical care in order to achieve zero viral load guided by KARP Project followed on stage with an educative song on how to hold each other's hand and offer help and encouragement to those infected and affected by the virus in one way or the other and to live positively regardless of one's status. Sori caregivers also presented a beautiful skit on people affected and infected with the virus and how the disease is killing and leaving children orphans and forcing them to become household heads at a very young age, this in the end forces the girl child to early marriage.



In between a series of entertainments from the pupils, there was a testimony from a member of the OTZ club which is mentored by the KARP project. She gathered courage to speak about her status as being HIV positive, something that most people do not find easy talking about due to the stigma that comes with it.

She spoke boldly on how she was born with the virus and has lived with it for many years. In her speech she said that she takes medication on time, eats a balanced diet from locally available foods, exercises, drinks water as well as relaxes her mind from negative thoughts. She urged those present to speak boldly about their status and live positively. She also stressed on some of the risky behaviors among the youth and married couples and warned them about the consequences of such risky behavior.



As entertainments were ongoing, there were people lining up at the Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) tents to know their status and receive counseling services. Both old and young visited the tents and were optimistic. The staff offered the services needed in adherence to their work policy conduct. A total number of 25 people (5 male, 15 female) were tested with all the tests turning out negative, this indicating positivity towards fighting the HIV virus.

At 1pm. Lunch was served. Those present were served with refreshments which included soda, bread, biscuits and sweets while invited guests took their meal at the dining hall. There was heavy downpour but this did not deter the event from continuing.

After lunch there were a series of games taking place alongside other activities. The most loved games kicked off. Male football first competition which was between Karungu FC vs Nyamanga started off the ball games as the spectators took to their seats and stayed glued to the game, the game was tough and they finished with 2-0 goals respectively. The second match was between Rabuor FC vs Nyamanga who played aggressively. The match was enjoyable though with lots of challenges encountered, the match ended with 2-0 goals respectively. The third and last football match was between Rabuor vs Karungu Fc who showed their skills on the field with lots of fun moments and drama as well, the match ended with a tie for both teams.

Then came the pail balancing from 7 women who had to fill their buckets with water and balance it on their heads as they raced from a distance of 100metres, a lot of skills were required here, they did it so well but there had to be a winner. Evita Anyango from Agolomuok took the mantle. Lastly there was a tug of war from two caregiver groups who comprised of 10 members each, they were to pull their opponents through to their side using a rope, the game was fun since it was muddy and hence required lots of skills, the women pulled the rope as people cheered them, finally after dancing in the mud, Lwanda Magwar group emerged winners



As the day came to a close, local gospel artists as well as other artists entertained people with songs that saw the crowd sing and dance. The event ended at 5.30 pm with presents being awarded to the best performers under different categories, the most encouraging performers were on essay writing about the role of communities in curbing the HIV virus menace in order to achieve a zero viral load. This was being overseen by staff members. People left at their own pleasure. The occasion was a success.

