

ST. CAMILLUS VCT CENTER

2006



SUMMARY

VCT is a newly introduced programme in ST Camillus M. Hospital. Along with other programmes that have been in place before, its introduction is basically to help fight the escalating HIV/AIDS whose prevalence still remains very high in this region of Kenya.

GOAL

The main goal of Voluntary Counselling and Testing is to prevent the further spread of HIV/AIDS and improving life quality for those already infected by understanding their own life through behavioural modification, having knowledge of their sero-status. In other words VCT is a tool for behaviour change in the community.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- The centre is in its third month of operation and so far has one of the highest attendances in the whole district of Migori.
- A good number of youthful clients are willingly attending the centre.
- Services are at least accessible and affordable unlike other years back.
- Mobile VCT in schools has enabled school going children to know their HIV/AIDS status at an early age leading to positive behaviour change.
- Confidentiality within the centre has helped reduce stigma at the work place leading to many people willing to know their status. Apart from those working at the hospital the community around are willingly coming without fear.

OBSTACLES

- Many parts of the rural areas still remain underserved leading to many people living without knowing their HIV status.
- Some clients still take a long time before coming for VCT leading to late knowledge of their HIV status. This results in some coming at the 4th stage leading to high mortality.
- Lack of resources to help facilitate full mobile VCT to the community.
- Myths and misconceptions surrounding HIV/AIDS.
- Culture and cultural aspects i.e. use of condoms while playing sex does not fully fulfil traditional requirements.

FUTURE PLANS

- Improved sensitisations on VCT to the community to enable more people attend VCT services.
- To promote mobile VCT to the areas that are inadequately served.
- Improve network with other stake holders working in HIV field to asses' strengths and gains.
- To maintain and improve quality to the clients attending VCT i.e giving accurate results to the clients.

