



HAPPEN ASUMBI DEANERY

HOMA-BAY DIOCESE & ST. CAMILLUS PROJECT
HIV/AIDS PREVENTION, PROTECTION &
EMPOWERMENT NETWORK.

PROJECT TITLE	HAPPEN
NATURE OF REPORT	QUATERLY REPORT 1
PERIOD COVERED	JAN- MARCH 2006
AREA COVERED	ASUMBI DEANERY

INTRODUCTION

Asumbi is one of the biggest deaneries in the Catholic diocese of Homa bay. It consists of six parishes that include, Asumbi, Nyalienga Homa Bay, Mbita, Mfangano and Rongo. Of all these only two parishes are a bit far from the lake while the remaining four are found a long the lakeshore. In most of these parishes that lie along the lakeshore, the impact of HIV/AIDS has been very strong to the parishioners and even the parish priests. Funerals due to HIV have become a common ceremony in the deanery. Several prominent homes have been deserted and many of their children have been divided amongst the relatives while others have been left for the few NGOs and the religious to take care of.

Globally it is estimated that, there exist more than 14 million children below the age of 15 years who have lost one or both parents. 11 million of them are found in the Sub Saharan Countries of which 1.9 million are from Kenya. Over 600, 000 are found in Nyanza province while 400, 000 are from the southern Nyanza – Catholic diocese of Homa Bay.

It is absolutely sad to find that the communities living in these areas still have fears to talk freely about sex and sexuality in relations to HIV infection with their children. This hinders prevention and protection against the epidemic that needs openness in discussions and talking about the facts. Secondly the uptake of VCT is found to be so poor due to the degree of stigma and discrimination that is strongly experienced even in church. Even the small Christian communities and other church members who are expected to express their love to those in need are seen to be disassociating themselves and even point fingers at those people infected thus quickening their death due to stress and lack of hope.

From the UNAIDS it is estimated that nearly 100,117 youths are already infected with HIV in Kenya and looking at the prevalence rates in our area we become so worried because of the kind of life that is lived here. Many people, young or old have no proper information as they shy away from the forums that talk about this epidemic. They also have very many myths that surround the epidemic that make it hard to believe that HIV/AIDS is real. Since the epidemic is very slow in its progression many people get infected unknowingly for they fear knowing their status too while they are still healthy looking.

HAPPEN has chosen a target group that is easy to meet since they are always available and are liable to change if properly empowered with skills and information. They can also become agents of change in the community. There are other NGOs, CBOs, found in different parts of this deanery but most of them

are just dealing with adults who are not ready to change and have valued traditions more than their lives. This has thwarted their progress and even the ones providing ARVs have not achieved much since the change of behaviour and attitudes are not seen in the community yet.

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN THIS QUARTER

Contacts

In this deanery, 37 schools have been contacted these included two secondary schools and 35 primary schools. All the schools contacted are catholic sponsored schools except Homa bay High, which is a public school and two private schools that include St Francis of Assisi from Rongo parish and Lake Ville Academy from Homa bay. The teachers were consulted and an agreement was made on which days and time the volunteers are to visit these schools to perform which activities. This was a form of action plan made between the teachers and the volunteers.

Sensitization

The teachers from the 37 schools and the students were sensitized on the programme's activities that are to take place in their schools. Chances were offered to the volunteers to give a clear public education giving basic facts of HIV, how it spreads, how to prevent it's spread and the need to prevent it from getting into ones blood streams. The names of all the schools that were sensitized are listed in the table at the back page. Peer grouping was as well done during the public education to facilitate good absorption and participation. The youths were grouped in different groups following their ages. In the secondary schools the students were grouped according to their classes.

Training

Mbita and Mfangano had completed training the five schools they first picked, while Rongo had trained four. Asumbi trained her community volunteers late and are still on with the sensitization activity. In Homa bay, there was shortage of volunteers and another training for the volunteers was held. This lowered their progress thus no school had been trained yet. Nyalienga had poor coordination and had to change the parish representative in order to go on better. They had grouped their youths in readiness to training.

During the training some pupils found it a bit difficult to pronounce some words like, *sex* and *sexuality* following the belief that talking openly a bout sex in the community is regarded as a taboo. There was also an assumption that most of the youths have enough preconceived information regarding HIV and AIDS. However when evaluated it was found that nearly 70% of the youths could differentiate between HIV and AIDS. They believed that only those who had shown signs and symptoms are the people who are infected. Most of them believed that young people like them could only become infected if they have sex with sugar daddies or sugar mummies. They assume that with them as youths they are free from the virus. Another wrong idea they had was that healthy looking persons are free from HIV infection. On regarding the side of gender, the youths had believed that women couldn't be the same as men. Girls tend to think that boys are cleverer than them. At the same time there cannot be boy and girl relation ship without sex. It was then seen that if we can allow a healthy boy- girl relationship through the skills learnt our community can develop and can lead a healthy life.

All these corrections were made during the trainings and the youth admitted that they are start breaking the silence from their families where they would like to pass the information to their parents and relatives thus making everybody responsible over their own bodies and promoting good quality of life.

Follow-ups

The parish representatives together with the community volunteers have been revisiting even the trained schools to assess how the trained peer educators are continuing with the education to their fellow youths. Secondly the schools that were left pending are as well visited now and again to see that every activity is done.

Coordination and networking

The group Volunteers from all these parishes have coordinated with their **parish priests** in their daily duties. Some have also collaborated with other diocesan integrated development activities like the **civic education** programme during the celebration of the World Women's day.

In Homa bay they are collaborating with **Upendo women group** in some activities that lead to protective and preventive measure on HIV/AIDS. Others are also trying to make linkages to avoid duplication of the same activities on the same targeted population.

Obstacles

- ❖ Time that was given in some schools was insufficient that prompting several visits in a particular school.
- ❖ Some parishes complain of the schools being scattered thus thwarting their teamwork.
- ❖ Support given from the parishes is insufficient.
- ❖ Lack of reference materials
- ❖ Laxity was seen in the volunteers due to lack of motivation.
- ❖ There is lack of identification tool.
- ❖ There were inadequate materials supplied.
- ❖ There was poor communication between the school administration and volunteers and therefore a school may be visited only to find that there is a another activity done in the time for HAPPEN.

Future plans

- ❖ To reach at least ten school before the end of the next quarter.
- ❖ Organize for edutainment activities for the youths to facilitate active participation.
- ❖ Organize for quarterly meetings with the volunteers and parish priests in the deanery to discuss on how to develop the project.

PARISH	SCHOOL	Contacted	Sensitized	Peer formation	Trained	Follow up	Retrained
MBITA	1. Nyamanga Primary	x	x	x	x	x	-
	2. Kianyumba primary	x	x	x	x	-	-
	3. Gingo Primary	x	x	x	x	x	-
	4. Obambo Primary	x	x	x	x	-	-
	5. Kakrigu primary	x	x	x	x	-	-
MFANGANO	1. Kitenyi Primary	x	x	x	x	x	-
	2. Misori Primary	x	x	x	x	x	-
	3. Wamai Primary	x	x	x	x	-	-
	4. Sena Primary	x	x	x	x	x	-
	5. Soklo Primary	x	x	x	x	-	-
ASUMBI	1. Asumbi mixed primary	x	x	x	-	-	-
	2. Nyaundho Primary	x	x	x	-	-	-
	3. Marindi primary	x	x	x	-	-	-
	4. Kuna primary	x	x	x	-	-	-
	5. Ndiru Primary	x	x	x	-	-	-
	6. Kachar Primary	x	x	x	-	-	-
	7. Orero Primary	x	x	x	-	-	-
	8. Aluor Sango Primary	x	x	x	-	-	-
	9. Koyoo Primary	x	x	x	-	-	-
RONGO	1. Rongo Primary	x	x	x	x	-	-
	2. St. Francis Academy	x	x	x	x	-	-
	3. Opapo Primary	x	x	x	x	-	-
	4. Kangeso Primary	x	x	x	-	-	-
	5. Kwoyo Primary	x	x	x	-	-	-
	6. St. Mary's Nyang'ao secondary	x	x	x	x	-	-
NYALIENGA	1. Nyalienga Primary	x	x	x	-	-	-
	2. Ligisa Primary	x	x	x	-	-	-
	3. Godkado primary	x	x	x	-	-	-
	4. Kawiya Primary	x	x	x	-	-	-
	5. Ngulu Primary	x	x	x	-	-	-
HOMA BAY	1. Makongeni Primary	x	x	x	-	-	-
	2. Shauri yako Primary	x	x	-	-	-	-
	3. Lake Ville Academy	x	x	x	-	-	-
	4. Homa Bay Primary	x	x	-	-	-	-
	5. Lake Primary	x	x	x	-	-	-
	6. Arunda primary	x	x	-	-	-	-
	7. Homa Bay High	x	x	-	-	-	-

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