



ST. CAMILLUS VCT CENTRE
ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT
JANUARY – DECEMBER 2009



BACK GROUND INFORMATION:

One of the greatest health challenges of the age is that posed by the HIV, which is the causative agent of AIDS. Since the first cases of AIDS were diagnosed in USA in 1981, the disease has spread so rapidly that is currently a pandemic of a serious public health importance. The HIV/AIDS pandemic has touched virtually all aspects of society and its reach currently extends to every social institution: families, schools, and communities to private businesses, government establishments and the various uniformed services. Although the infections with HIV have been reported worldwide, sub Sahara Africa bears the greatest brunt of the problem. In Kenya the latest KAIS (Kenya AIDS Indicator Survey) report shows that the HIV prevalence rate is 7.1% from 7.8% last year 2008 and this makes a slight deference in decrease of the prevalence but a lot is still to be done. In Nyanza province the prevalence rate is 15.1% and in Karungu, where St. Camillus M. Hospital is situated, it is 30.3%. St. Camillus M. Hospital and the Italian MAE (Ministero Affari Esteri/Ministry of Foreign Affairs) promoted by Salute e Sviluppo ONG (Health and Development NGO) in conjunction with some other stakeholders have laid down strategies to help curb the scourge.



Fig. 1: HIV test

INTRODUCTION:

HIV/AIDS has become one of the most devastating pandemic ever seen. Not only it is a major health problem but it is also a development problem seriously threatening the economic and social fabric for many developing countries. In the recent past little attention had been done to HIV/AIDS care and prevention in the context of a humanitarian response. Many people live in fear due to its adverse impact, since they are either affected or infected by the virus. Therefore, it has become eminent to address the HIV/AIDS issue in an inclusive effort with a goal of prevention, effective care, and treatment. The Kenya government has done a lot as well as St. Camillus M. Hospital and the MAE project together with comprehensive care centers. HIV is now a forgotten fear, for those who turn

HIV positive take the initiative of change. VCT is therefore a link between HIV prevention, care and support; it improves the quality of life and plays a pivotal role in reducing stigma.

OUR GOALS:

- To promote behavior change by creating self awareness
- To intervene and prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS within Karungu and the environs
- To initiate abstinence among youths and Adults to enable them spell out their thoughts in terms of HIV/AIDS phenomenon
- To obtain equity and equal access for all people demanding VCT services

OBJECTIVES:

- To have an HIV free society where people live responsibly.
- To avert the spread of HIV from mother to child transmission through getting them tested for HIV and delivering to them appropriate information.
- To aim for high quality voluntary counseling and testing.
- To reduce the spread of HIV and AIDS among individuals and couples during (HCT) HIV Counseling and Testing.
- To allow referral and access to a comprehensive range of prevention, care and support services.
- To foster community ownership on VCT services.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The report gives a brief overview of the project for a period of one year, and the efforts taken by the (SCMH) ST. Camillus Mission Hospital and (MAE) Ministry of Foreign Affairs from Italy, project in addressing HIV issues, Staffing, capacity building, challenges, achievements, future plans and clients statistical analysis for the period covered.



Fig. 2: During an HIV test

ST. CAMILLUS MISSION HOSPITAL:

This institution is located along Lake Victoria in Nyanza province where the percentage of HIV prevalence has taken the lead among provinces as was revealed by the Kenya AIDS indicator survey (KAIS) mid this year. The Hospital and Mission of foreign affairs from Italy and some other stakeholders in conjunction with the government of Kenya have established the VCT programs and services, commodity management systems (including drugs), and clinical capacity to manage HIV

related illnesses. A number people living a long this Lake are peasants who feed from hand to mouth and depend on fishing as the source of income and commercial sex to earn their daily bread thus leading to the spread of HIV/AIDS which has lead to the rapid growing population of widows and orphans. The Hospital and MAE have initiated VCT services in order to help stem down the spread of HIV infection in this areas and beyond.

STAFFING:

Currently there are two fulltime working counselors delivering their services to their clients in this site and even in mobile services. They also refer the clients to the community support groups when available or if not, consider facilitating establishment of (a PLWHA 's) people living with HIV/AIDS support groups as appropriate, and finally facilitate formation of post test clubs to enable clients to make positive life choices.



Fig. 3-4: The two fulltime working counselors

CAPACITY BUILDING:

There was no capacity building workshop for the two counselors in the site, although there was a monthly supervision attended by each one of us in Nyarami, Migori. This supervision provided ongoing individual and group counselor support and monitoring of VCT staff performance.

CHALLENGES:

- **Client couples:** - As revealed by the Kenya AIDS Indicator Survey (KAIS) 50% of the couples tested were despondent. The turnout of the client couples is still poor.
- **Counseling room:** - This is small and can't accommodate polygamous families of about four people.
- **Cultural Norms:** - A number of people still cling on cultural practices like wife inheritance despite the information imparted to them on HIV/AIDS.
- **Discloser:** - this is a process, which last for long time depending on the perception of the client. Some clients are still not able to open up to their loved ones after the test.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- The project has managed to reach people in hard to reach areas with VCT services.
- For a VCT site to deliver well it must be regarded by NASCOP through accreditation. Our site has accredited by the NASCOP (National AIDS and STI Control Program).

- The morbidity and Mortality rate has reduced due to the reduced stigma and discrimination among the people.
- Confidentiality and quality services within the site have created the increasing number of clients attending VCT services in our site confirms this.

FUTURE PLANS:

- To farther mobile outreach of VCT services in very hard to reach areas, in the Islands of Lake Victoria like ALURU and KIWA.
- To continue offering quality VCT services.
- Plan to introduce youth friendly center, to help curb the idle youths.
- To introduce Video screen watching at the site waiting area to help keep busy clients who haven't been served and to help equip them with HIV/AIDS Information.

THE TABLE BELLOW SHOWS A STASTICAL SUMMARY OF CLIENTS TESTED FROM JAN – DEC 2009.

MONTH	MALE			FEMALE			TOTAL		
	NO TESTED	NO. POS	NO. NEG.	NO. TESTED	NO. POS.	NO. NEG.	TOTAL TESTED	TOTAL POS.	%POS.
JAN	74	16	58	103	44	59	177	60	34%
FEB	61	20	41	91	42	49	152	62	40%
MARCH	77	25	52	83	31	52	160	56	35%
APRIL	80	21	59	83	29	54	163	50	31%
MAY	69	18	51	72	28	44	141	46	32%
JUNE	62	16	46	96	32	64	158	48	30%
JULY	72	19	53	141	34	107	213	53	25%
AUG	127	24	103	168	45	120	292	69	24%
SEP	79	30	49	116	35	81	195	65	33%
OCT	115	22	93	117	35	82	232	57	25%
NOV	134	34	100	134	35	99	268	69	26%
DEC	65	18	47	90	28	62	155	46	30%
TOTAL	1.015	263	705	1291	418	813	2.306	681	30%

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