

KIPAWA YOUTH VOLUNTEERS ORGANIZATION

Outreach volunteer programme in Bungoma &–Butere Mumias District, Western Province, Kenya:

Introduction:

The outreach programme was started by Benjamen and Jimmy in May 2006. The Western Province of Kenya has a high HIV/AIDS infection rate. Nearly a half of all newly infected adults are women, yet these very women are the traditional caregivers and takers. Benjamen and Jimmy decided that visiting schools, churches, women's groups, youth groups, and chief's gatherings to discuss prevention measures was the best way to effectively combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

The programme also involves face-to-face counseling of the infected persons and follow up counselling to the affected families, voluntary counselling and testing. This involves taking the clients to Government hospitals for Elisa tests since we don't have the facilities necessary for these services.

We also provide training of peer counselling at all levels so that infected and affected persons may communicate with one another in their native language. To achieve this we hold regular seminars lasting one week to train peers to a standard at which they are able to hold a one day seminar at grassroots level, passing on the information they have acquired to their community.

Broad objectives of Outreach programmes:

Creating HIV/AIDS awareness through education and communication to facilitate behaviour change as well as addressing the preventative aspects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Training of HIV/AIDS educators in the rural areas of Bungoma and Mumias–Butere Districts, and counselling of the infected and affected in view of offering assistance to those in need, especially women, the youth, orphaned, and grandmothers, who are very often left in charge of the orphans. Proclaiming that there is need for transformation of traditional cultural practices and beliefs in order to reduce the rate of HIV/AIDS infection and its rapid spread.

Alleviate poverty by creating small-scale Income Generating Activities (IGAs) and economic empowerment programmes for women. This will be achieved through intensified Information Education and Communication (IEC) with campaigns, training, workshops and seminars held at grassroots level in the two districts.

Specific objectives:

To reduce the vulnerability of woman and the youth to HIV/AIDS infection by improving their health education, economic prospects and their legal status, in an effort to reduce the alarmingly high death rate in the two districts.

To set up a strong prevention and education programme in our geographical coverage to support and facilitate HIV/AIDS activities.

To encourage families affected by HIV/AIDS to come and share their experiences in caring for People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWAS).

To encourage PLWAS to form post-test clubs and share their common experiences to enable them to live positively.

To create awareness in the un-reached community, which comprises about 30% of the area.

To train HIV/AIDS counsellors, AIDS, TOTS, peer counsellors in schools, colleges, churches and the local community.

To train Community Based Health Workers (CBHW) to deliver home based care for PLWAS.

To train traditional birth attendants on how to conduct safe deliveries by using sterile equipment.

To create acceptance of PLWAS, as well as their families and neighbours, from the stigma that is still attached to the virus in the provinces.

STRATEGIES

To provide community training and IEC materials through workshops, seminars, youth rallies, talks and folk media festivals.

Constituting a multi-sectional HIV/AIDS collaboration, including the Provincial/District administration, Ministry of Health and other Governmental/ Non governmental organizations operating within the province.

Training AIDS counsellors among Church workers, opinion leaders, youth and women groups in the two districts.

Empowering the youth and women economically and educating them on their rights.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Through our IEC, the Outreach Volunteer Programme expects to achieve reduced levels of ignorance concerning HIV/AIDS and increased knowledge and awareness, as well as demythologising and correcting the harmful rumours that still surround HIV/AIDS infection today.

Improved care and support services for the infected and affected persons, psychologically, socially and economically.

Improved capacity building of local organizations to manage and implement support and prevention services.

An established system through which PLWAS and the affected families will be assisted.

Motivated communities capable of ranking and prioritising their felt needs.

A well-coordinated multi sectional network for the programmes sustainability.

PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

A) CARE

Counselling of the infected and affected families and individuals by the Church workers and the community volunteers.

Creation of HIV/AIDS awareness and education.

Treatment of opportunistic infections in PLWAS by our small team of doctors.

Training the affected families and persons on Home Based Care Skills through our programme coordinators and the pastors we are networking with.

Provision of nutritious food, crucial for the immune system in fighting the virus, for PLWAS.

B) SUPPORT

Provide education and information concerning HIV/AIDS to the affected families, friends and neighbours to reduce stigma and / or rejection of the PLWAS in the community.

Training the women on Micro-enterprise services and establishing revolving loans amongst them.

Establishing non-formal education to make the community understand the resources they have and how to use them to uplift their living standards.

Starting Income Generating Activities.

Introducing the community to micro financing organizations.

C) PREVENTION

KIPAWA intends to use conventional AIDS prevention and control measures such as early diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Behaviour change strategies and condom promotions/distribution to the community and to social places e.g. beer halls, schools, bars, nightclubs and other public places.

Encouraging voluntary testing and referral of STD cases to special treatment health units.

D) PEER EDUCATION

In a bid to promote change in sexual behaviour, KIPAWA'S Kenyan staffs have decided to identify a person to person communication approach using a socially acceptable and innovative communication channel. KIPAWA emphasizes and encourages a use of peer influence to promote change in sexual behaviour patterns.

The peers are recruited amongst the woman and the youth in the province. They are then trained in STD/AIDS education, counselling and care. The peers, together with kipawa staff and international volunteers, then educate and counsel the groups using innovative approaches e.g. drama, songs, skit (role plays), folk media festivals, focus group discussions, puppetry and art.

E) TARGET GROUPS

- i. People living with HIV/AIDS and the affected families.
- ii. The youth aged 14 – 25 years
- iii. Community leaders

- Primary / secondary school teachers
- Parents
- The youth
- Traditional healers, traditional birth attendants

For the year beginning 2007- 2008, our outreach programme intends to cover 41 groups including schools, youth groups and faith-based organizations. Through this programme we aim to reach over 300, 000 people.

	Group	Facilitator	Distance in Kms
1	sagana Catholic youth with about 100 youths	Local & International volunteers	5 kms
2	Webuye Baptist Church – Traditional birth attendants	Local & International volunteers	40 kms
3	St. Lukes Kilimo Self Help group	Local & International volunteers	18 kms
4	riandira Primary School	Local & International volunteers	25 kms
5	Namulungu Secondary School	Local & International volunteers	51 kms
6	Koyonzo Secondary School	Local & International volunteers	35 kms
7	South End academy	Local & International volunteers	11 kms
8	Sagala Catholic Church	Local & International volunteers	57 kms
9	Eluanda Catholic Church	Local & International volunteers	40 kms
10	Shikondi Youth Group	Local & International volunteers	35 kms
11	Shikondi Women Group	Local & International volunteers	35 kms
12	Mianguli Baptist Church	Local & International volunteers	67 kms
13	Lubinu Primary School & community	Local & International volunteers	70 kms
14	Mwichina Primary School	Local & International volunteers	56 kms
15	Makwara Primary School	Local & International volunteers	70 kms
16	Kabula Secondary School	Local & International volunteers	7 kms
17	Bunambobi Community	Local & International volunteers	35 kms
18	Mwiruti Secondary School	Local & International volunteers	12 kms
19	Etete Secondary School	Local & International volunteers	38 kms
20	Lubanga Secondary School	Local & International volunteers	69 kms
21	Watoya Market	Local & International volunteers	8 kms
22	Marko Market	Local & International volunteers	65 kms
23	Faith church Bungoma	Local & International volunteers	11 kms

24	Chebukaka Grils Secondary school	Local & International volunteers	17 kms
25	Buchifi mixed School	Local & International volunteers	28 kms
26	Butobe Anglican parish youth	Local & International volunteers	32 kms
27	Lubinu youth organization	Local & International volunteers	70 kms
28	Musikoma Youth center	Local & International volunteers	11 kms
29	Shianderema youth group	Local & International volunteers	78 kms
30	mtitu Women group	Local & International volunteers	121 kms
31	Kabula – mwendo women group	Local & International volunteers	5 kms
32	Butobe Parish	Local & International volunteers	32 kms
33	Webuye – Malaki women group	Local & International volunteers	70 kms
34	Ejinja women group	Local & International volunteers	60 kms
35	TOT Course for peer counselor – Musikoma youth center for 5 days.	Local & International volunteers	11 kms
36	Namachanja high School	Local & International volunteers	15 kms
37	Butobe Clinic	Local & International volunteers	32 kms
38	Marko clinic	Local & International volunteers	60 kms
39	Chwele girls high school	Local & International volunteers	27 kms
40	Busia Catholic church	Local & International volunteers	90 kms
41	Muanda Episcopal church	Local & International volunteers	44 kms

REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS:

We encourage first time kipawa volunteers interested in the Outreach Programmes to get involved in the HIV/AIDS Awareness and Education aspect of the programme under the guidance of the local staff in the above schools and communities. However, those who strongly feel that they can contribute positively in the other programmes are advised to go through our programme components before deciding their contribution.

- **CARE**
- **SUPPORT**
- **PREVENTION**

- **PEER EDUCATION**

Volunteer Medical students:

Are encouraged to come and support the care programmes. Our team of 3 Doctors will ensure that the volunteers are accorded the best services they need.

Anyone interested in participating in the Outreach programme needs to contact his or her local Red Cross and undergo an AIDS Instructor training course. For Red Cross locations in your area pleas