

2.OVC and Grand mothers' support

OVC Formal Education Support

- › Identify, assess and recruit OVC for school support
- › Follow up of OVC in schools to check on their attendance and performance
- › Conduct family visits and follow up orphans that need psychosocial support (PSS)
- › Hold workshops on HIV and AIDS awareness plus career guidance for OVC
- › Conduct community/Guardians meetings to share information on child care and self sustenance

Grandmothers' care and support

- › Sensitize local leaders and other stake holders
- › Facilitate grandmothers to form solidarity groups for peer support
- › Conduct trainings for the contact grannies and local leaders in basic skills like herbal medicine use, counseling, first aid, group dynamics etc
- › Conduct home and group visits for support supervision
- › Conduct bereavement counseling sessions
- › Provide medical care, food supplements and other materials like beddings, clothing and household utensils
- › Construct and repair of houses and toilets for needy grandmothers

3. Self Help Group (SHG) Concept:

- › Sensitization and formation of new SHG
- › Training of SHG and CLA on various social and economical issues
- › Formation of Cluster Level Associations (CLA)
- › Training Community Facilitators (CF) on the SHG and CLA Concept
- › Organize staff, CF and CLA for experience sharing programmes
- › Monitoring and supervision of SHG and CLA
- › Linkages of SHG and CLA to other institutions

Achievements to Date (2007)

- › There is a remarkable improvement in the living conditions among the targeted beneficiaries/ communities; 2000 OVC have been trained in modern agriculture and significant long term impacts have been realized socially and economically.
- › The programme has established a gallery where products of the MFS trainees and pass-outs' are marketed.
- › As a result of the PSS, many OVC have managed to cope and deal positively with their multiple problems; from the acquired life skills in BCP/C, many OVC are identified as role models for young people in the community/they serve as behavior change agents; many OVC who have graduated in various courses in formal education are able to support their families; 100 grandmothers and 400 orphans are currently benefiting from the OVC and grandmothers' support project and through groups, poor women have developed solidarity and have come to realize the importance of working together, they feel loved and cared for



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ORPHANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMME



A cross section of interventions by the programme to support OVC to acquire a sustainable future

BACKGROUND:

The orphans and family support programme is one section of Kitovu Mobile AIDS Organization (popularly known as Kitovu Mobile). It was established in 1988 to address the needs of people living with HIV and AIDS (PLHA) and their families. This was basically done through school support to orphans, construction and repair of houses, providing household materials plus income generating activities (IGA) for needy families. From 1988 to 1997, this programme was supporting over 8000 orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) at various levels of education as well as offering school support in form of construction and repair of school buildings, training school teachers and provision of school IGA. This support was however cut drastically in 1997 with the introduction of Universal Primary Education (UPE). Since then, the number of orphans supported in formal education has been reducing year after year due to financial constraints.

In 1998 Kitovu Mobile introduced the Mobile Farm Schools (MFS) approach to train Teenage school Drop Outs (TDO) in Modern Sustainable Integrated Organic farming skills. Since its initiation to date (2007), over 2000 teenagers have benefited directly with approximately 12000 indirect beneficiaries. Its impacts have been clearly studied, evaluated, documented and replicated in other parts of the world.

In an effort to empower and emancipate the poorest among the poor and uplift their common voice, a Self Help Group (SHG) concept was introduced in 2004 as a pilot project to cater for the needs of poor women. To date (2007), 42 SHG have been formed benefiting 585 women and 2340 Children.

In 2006 another project was initiated targeting grandmothers who experience multiple sufferings as a result of HIV and AIDS pandemic; grief, isolation, trauma, burden of caring for many grandchildren/orphans within an environment characterized by extreme poverty. In such cases, grandmothers have been found to be more affected than their counterparts, the grandfathers.

Vision Statement:

The vision statement of Kitovu Mobile is to see an empowered community with the ability to cope with HIV and AIDS and its impacts.

Mission Statement:

The mission statement of Kitovu Mobile is; To improve the quality of life of people affected by HIV and AIDS through working with communities in the areas of Prevention, Care, Support and Capacity building thus fulfilling the words of Jesus *'I have come that they may have life, life in its fullness (John 10:10)*

Motto:

Kitovu Mobile's Motto is "We Care"

Programme Goal:

Improve capacity of the people affected by HIV and AIDS to address the psychosocial and economic consequences of HIV and AIDS.

Specific objectives

- 1) Improved agricultural production and use of available natural resources among households of orphans and other vulnerable children that have dropped out of school within the four targeted districts
- 2) Strengthened ability of the target group to deal with psychosocial and economic consequences of HIV and AIDS and to control its spread

Target Groups:

- Orphans and other vulnerable children
- Teenage school dropouts
- Grandmothers
- Poor women
- Community Volunteers.

Programme Activities:

1. Mobile Farm Schools (MFS)

In the current MFS approach, each group of trainees (TDO) stays in the programme for four years and the training is undertaken in four phases as below:

Year One

Two weeks per month residential intensive training covering:

- › Modern integrated sustainable organic agricultural skills
- › Craft making and simple home economics
- › Counseling skills and services; HIV and AIDS awareness, Behavior change process and communication (BCP/C)/ Education for Life (EFL)
- › Home visits to provide support supervision and assessment of trainees' performance
- › Financial and material support to put into practice the taught skills
- › Extra-curricular activities – games and sports, music, dance and drama

Year Two

Specialization in agricultural skills within groups:

- › Formation of Mobile young farmers' Groups (MYFG)
- › Facilitate MYFG to prioritize areas of specialization and conduct training
- › Identify/Train Community facilitators
- › HIV and AIDS awareness, BCP/C/EFL; Counseling skills and services
- › Facilitate MYFG to register as Community based organizations (CBO) and open up bank accounts; introduce a credit and saving scheme in the MYFG

Years Three and Four

Group intensification and withdrawal

- › This includes group intensification and focuses more on consolidating the groups, giving start-up funds plus linking them to government institutions and other NGOs. The successful trainees graduate with a certificate of completion after completing year four; the MYFG are handed over to the community and the programme withdraws from that area