Humura Vulnerable Children/Youth Support Organization (HUVUCSO) Narrative Report for "Action to end the spread of HIV/Aid's Amongst the Youth" Project for the Period of Jan 2014 – Jan 2015

1) General information

	HUMURA VULNERABLE CHILDREN/YOUTH				
Name of the organisation	SUPPORT ORGANIZATION (HUVUCSO)				
	GA A' A LAI L CHIN/A' II A A A A A A				
	"Action to end the spread of HIV/Aid's Amongst the				
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Project Name.	Youth"				
Project Name. Report prepared by	Youth" HUVUCSO				



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2. DEVELOPMENTAL CONTEXT:

Economic growth and poverty;

Today, Uganda's current development road map is guided by Vision 2040. This Vision Framework provides plans and strategies to operationalize the Ugandan vision which is "A transformed Ugandan society from a peasant to a modern and prosperous country within 30 years" this vision aims at transforming Uganda from a predominantly peasant and low income country. As a community based organization we are working hard, to ensure that the poor people in the rural areas are not left out economically.

To achieve the above targets, the country will have to exploit its enormous and novelty opportunities including; oil and gas, tourism, minerals, ICT business, abundant youthful labour force, strategic geographical location, fresh water resources, industries and agriculture. In this context the people living with *HIV/A*ids should not be neglected, because of having this pandemic but they should have the opportunities to have jobs in these departments like other Ugandans. As these developments emerge in different places of our country, there should be a committee which will be recruiting workers or professional and shall be with the responsibility of protecting children rights (i.e. child labour will not practice).

About 67% of Ugandans are either poor or highly vulnerable to poverty, the expenditure review for Uganda 2012 by the Directorate of Social Protection in the gender ministry has revealed. Dr. Fred Matovu, a senior lecturer of economics at Makerere University, who participated in the review, said the study was aimed at establishing the number of Ugandans who require social protection due to their susceptibility to poverty. Matovu said the 67% represented both Ugandans who spend below the poverty line of \$ 1.20 (about sh3, 170) per day and those who are below twice the poverty line, \$2.40 (about shs 6,340) per day. "According to the World Bank, even those who are below twice the poverty line are likely to fall back into poverty," Matovu explained.

Going by the United Nation's Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), Uganda currently, has 34.5 million people, meaning about 23.1 million are prone to poverty, and about 8.4 million of them (about 24.5%) are trapped in absolute poverty. This one means that the people living with HIV/Aids are among those in the poverty lineage. The level of orphans and vulnerable children will have increased and therefore there is need to work together to reduce the prevalence rate of HIV/Aids especially in Kabarole district which leads all the districts with HIV/AIDS and finding a way of assisting our orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) in their rights, education, access to information etc.

Access to information on the prevention of HIV/Aids in rural areas;

This was done in the rural areas of Karambi and Kicwmba sub counties targeting the youth and the married couples. In order to help them stay faithful and free from HIV/Aids. It was also noticed that most of the youth in the rural areas are not informed or well versed with the use of the condoms, thus there was an increase of *HIV/Aids* in the rural areas than in urban centres. At least 61.5% of the rural youth have no access to condom use due to lack of information on condom use. 20% have knowledge about condom use and 18.5 had no any idea about condom use or do not believe in it at all.

However with the help of the government of the Republic of Uganda, (Ministry of Health) development partners and other civil society organizations. There has been an introduction of safe corners in Hotels and Night clubs where by condoms are given for free. In addition to that other condoms are given from the district Health officers, aiming at reducing the spread of HIV/Aids in Uganda.

CROSSCUTTING ISSUES:

HIV/AIDS Prevalence;

Tables are turning on the Uganda HIV/AIDS success story. The gains made in the last two decades are fast getting eroded by the increasing number of new infections. The Ministry of Health has expressed concern that the country is losing the fight against HIV/AIDS, with the infection rates steadily rising.

Mr Musa Bungudu, the UNAIDS country coordinator, says Uganda is the only country in the Eastern and Southern Africa with rising HIV/AIDS infection rates. According to the 2011 National HIV Indicator Survey, the prevalence rates among Ugandans between the ages of 15 to 19 were going up. It now stands at 7.3 per cent and even higher in women at 8.3 per cent up from 6.4 per cent in the 2004-2005 survey. The number of new infections has risen from 124,000 in 2009 to 128,000 in 2010 and approximately 145,000 in 2011. Dr Kihumuro Apuuli, the Director General Uganda Aids Commission, notes that if new infections continue to rise, the HIV burden is projected to increase by more than 700,000 over the next five years. He says about 25,000 babies will be born with the infection each year.

The main form of transmission remain *unprotected sex* and from *pregnant HIV positive mothers to their babies*. Mr Bunguda calls on government to learn from the mistakes made before and pick lessons to forge a way for the country.

HUVUCSO, are operating in an area that has the country's highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rates averaging between 8-11.6%¹. In Kabarole district alone the HIV prevalence rates are at 11.3 according to the district health department and the latest research which was conducted by a group of Dr. Consolata Kabonesa, Dr. Richard Asaba and Dr. Ruth Nsibirano. This group was from Makerere University of gender and women affairs. These alarming statistics means that our efforts to improve appropriate Hygiene and Sanitation standards shall be greatly affected. HUVUCSO is currently mainstreaming HIV/AIDS awareness and Health education in learning institutions and in communities to educate about the prevention of this pandemic.

Gender:

In Uganda, as in many African countries, gender discrimination means that women must submit to an overall lower social status than men. For many women, this reduces their power to act independently, become educated, avoid poverty, and/or escape reliance upon abusive men. Many girls and young women become coerced into sex or can be obliged to trade sex for economic survival. It is common for girls to become sexually active at a much younger age than men, causing the rise of HIV/AIDS to become even more pronounced. Older men are breaking long-established social customs and choosing younger girls to become their sexual partners in order to

avoid catching HIV. In doing so, these men are in fact infecting them with HIV. In some districts, HIV prevalence among 13–19 year old girls is at least 10 times higher than in males of the same age.

It is also recognised that gender related issues like limited access to control of resources; access to appropriate information on the prevention of domestic violence which affects women and children has exposed them to dangers of acquiring HIV/Aids.

The government of Uganda through the Ministry of gender labour and social development has come up with a gender mainstreaming policy to combat gender inequality.

HUVUCSO seeks to revert, gender inequality by working with organised women groups, promoting appropriate, equitable and inclusive technologies for either in schools, communities and households, and mainstreaming the problems with gender inequality which has led to the increase of HIV/Aids.

Advocacy:

In Uganda, access to safer water and adequate sanitation services is one of the social development priorities to reduce poverty and injustices. As articulated in the National Development Plan (2010 - 2015), between $32 - 35\%^2$ of rural and urban populations do not have access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services with a potential to trigger a human rights crisis³.

HUVUCSO is facilitating Sub county advocacy meetings where community advocacy groups meet to share challenges within the struggle to fight HIV/AIDS, and forward issues for action at the district, mainly to the district Health officer and the District HIV/Aids focal person. Through the Coordination committee on HIV/aids we have had meetings and radio talk shows. HUVUCSO is also empowering women and children on their right to go for HIV/Aids check-ups in order to know their status.

Issues from the villages and sub County are then presented to the focal person and the district health officer and partner organizations in this region for their technical and financial support.

In the project area, HUVUCSO advocates for the right to access information on HIV/Aids prevention measures, empowering women to demand for their rights and advocates for the rights of children.

HUVUCSO has been attending several meetings at National level and presenting the problem of HIV/Aids in Kabarole district. These partner organizations are Uganda, Network of Aids Services Organizations (UNASO) and Action for Aids Uganda. Other methods of preventing the scourge of HIV/Aids will be thought of to eradicate the spread of this pandemic.

3) Executive summary

HUVUCSO and its partners have been implementing "Action to end the spread of HIV/AIDS amongst the Youth" and this is the project which was thought of to help in ending the spread of this pandemic, in this region. Other avenues are also in place to help the community, to be prevented from the scourge.

The objectives of this project include:

- 1. To improve the welfare for 17,940 beneficiaries by promoting appropriate and to ensure that at least 21 primary schools have sustainable access to information in regard to prevention of violence against women and children in a gender and environmentally responsive manner.
- 2. To improve the prevention of HIV/Aids mitigations for 17,940 beneficiaries in this project, in 24 primary schools by promoting desirable HIV/Aids prevention practices and appropriate technologies in a gender responsive manner.
- 3. To train the project beneficiaries on the prevention of violence against women and children in families and around the communities.
- 4. To bring hope in the lives of those taking anti-retroviral or the people living with HIV/Aids through encouraging them to participate in any viable activity to earn a living.
- 5. To build the capacities of members of the health clubs, the school patrons and the school management committees to effectively keep on the candle, for fighting HIV/Aids on in all these communities in our scope.

This report covers activities that have been implemented during the period of October 2014 to March 2015. The reporting period of October 2014 – March 2015 coincided with the world aids day celebrations which were celebrated in Fort Portal in Kabarole district in Uganda.

These are the activities which were implemented.

- Training of Communities and target schools on the prevention of HIV/Aids.
- Formation and training of school Health Clubs
- Facilitating pupils to develop Artwork materials on Hygiene and Sanitation
- Radio Talk Shows on HIV/Aids prevention and Violence against women and children.
- Participatory monitoring sessions
- Working with schools to have a free HIV/Aids generation.
- Working with schools to have a happy generation which is free from violence against women and children.
- Training of Women groups in the prevention of violence against women and children and all forms of child abuse and HIV/Aids mitigation measures. (VAWC)
- Advocacy meetings on girls stay in schools.
- Facilitating school Health clubs with Poems and drama, all aiming at extending the massage of the prevention of HIV/Aids and violence against children and women.

Report Details:

Follow-ups on the prevention measures & the new innovations in preventing the youth from acquiring the pandemic in schools & in communities using the *soccer gatherings* "Action to end the spread of HIV/AIDS amongst the Youth".

A soccer gathering on (ASHDY) is an innovative approach that was adopted from one of the workshops organised by HUVUCSO, in doing this the organization was looking for a new innovative Idea / approach which could help and extend the massage of HIV/Aids prevention measures, targeting a big number of beneficiaries of which are the youths. This method was first thought of in early December 2013. It is an approach that increases participation of pupils, teachers, parents, social workers, civil society organizations, politicians, all head of departments and all the local people in the efforts to fight HIV/Aids, violence against women and children.

During this reporting period, HUVUCSO attended a meeting that was organised by the district Health officer, which was aimed at planning for the new preventions of HIV/Aids and other related diseases. The meeting was in Booma, in the office of the District health officer. In preparations for the Aids day celebrations. HUVUCSO organised the *soccer gatherings at the village level, as a community based organization*. Competitions were involved in by the two sub counties of Karambi and Kicwamba sub counties. And in these the participants were schools, communities and CSO's.

Girls' football teams were selected with the help of the school sports teachers and Health patrons. The teams were given names related to the project "ASHDY." The selection criteria were based on voluntarism, and personal hygiene of the candidates. Personal Hygiene was considered because the players of the teams were to act as role models with ability to influence the health behaviour of fellow pupils. Selected teams were trained on "ASHDY." using Participatory of Group Focused Discussion Tools (PGFT) and regular reading of information education on communication (IEC) materials on the prevention of HIV/Aids and Stopping Violence against Women and Children (VAWC).

Football equipment was procured, and **ASHDY** messages mainly targeting the prevention of HIV/Aids and O&M of **ASHDY** facilities were developed by the pupils – (these developed messages acted as themes and new innovations in the campaign of fighting HIV/Aids, during the competitive football matches). Some of the developed messages were: - **My time to stop the spread of HIV/Aids**, (this message set to be said when celebrating the goal) for Handball, they were using abstinence and faith full to my partner, were the messages at the playing rounds which we used. Competitions between the teams were held and before the beginning of every football match, and at the end, **ASHDY** messages were delivered to all present – including pupils, parents and teachers, CSO's, and all the people present (spectators, trainers and participants).

Follow up on previously triggered Communities/villages

HUVUCSO, with support of sub county staff and VHTs followed up on the 4 previously triggered villages of Nyamitoma, Humura, Nyakasanja and Karambi in Karambi Sub County. The follow-up mission was to assess the spread of HIV/AIDS and violence against women and children and assessing the hygiene and sanitation status in each village as well.

Of the 4 villages that were triggered during the period of Jan 2014– Jan 2015, 2 have been followed up as well to ensure that there is a formation of women's rights clubs, on violence against women & children. During the follow up sessions, onsite support in terms of advice and demonstrations were provided to the households depending on the needs to stop violence against women and children at a household level.

During the next reporting period, more follow up will be made to ensure that the action plans developed by the respective villages at the end of each triggering session are implemented as this will result in the right method of eradicating the spread of HIV/Aids and violence against women and children.

Training of Women groups, Communities and target schools on prevention of HIV/AIDS and violence against children and women.

Two women groups have been trained in the prevention of HIV/Aids and violence against women and children and these include Rubingo women group in Rubingo village in Rubingo parish and Karambi women group in Karambi parish. The two women groups are found in Karambi Sub County. Each women group consisted of 25 members thus making a total of 50 women, who gained skills in the prevention of HIVAIDS as well as prevention violence against women and children in societies. (Capacity buildings were given), the trained women were also facilitated to develop action plans for promoting/training in the prevention of all forms of domestic violence and HIV/Aids mitigation measures at village levels.

At community level, women from 7 villages were trained in the prevention of domestic violence, and the focus was on violence against children and women. 649 women from the two sub counties of Kicwamba and Karambi are being targeted to be trained in this regard of HIV/Aids and prevention of women and children from violence.

In schools, 4primary schools of Kabahango primary school, Mukumbwe primary school, Karambi primary school and St. Peters and Paul school were trained in the prevention of HIV/Aids and in this we were targeting the teenagers because they are sexually active. The purpose of working with primary schools is to see that the pupils get involved in the awareness of HIV/Aids mitigation measures and prevention of violence against women and children.

Formation and training of school Health Clubs

Four schools Health clubs in four primary schools have been formed and these are: Kabahango, Mukumbwe, Karambi and Buhinga Primary schools. Have been formed and trained in their roles and responsibilities. Each School Health club has been supported to make an action plan on how to improve on disseminating information on the prevention of domestic violence, especially violence against children and women, as well as HIV/Aids mitigation measures. In addition to that the groups were also given capacity building in the areas of child protection. And the school patrons and teachers were part of these trainings and took the responsibility of monitoring and evaluation of these clubs.

It was agreed; at the end of the meetings that the next capacity building will involve the PTA members to ensure they work with the school to address the problem of child protection together in the schools.

Facilitating pupils to develop Artwork materials on HIV/AIDS mitigation measures

HUVUCSO facilitated the development of Art work materials and essay writing competitions in 5 target schools of St. Peters and Paul, Mukumbwe, Kabahango, Karambi & Gweri primary schools. The competitions were aimed at triggering the children's imagination of what an ideal school looks like in terms of preventing the child abuse, domestic violence as well as prevention of HIV/Aids. The essay and Art work competitions also triggered pupils to share their experiences in terms of their involvement in the *ASHDY project*. They compared *ASHDY* at school, community level and at home. Pictures/ drawings illustrated how a violent farther at home disturbs children and their mother and end up spending nights outside. And this exposes children to bad situations especially girls who are raped, face sexual harassments, beaten, take un wanted pregnancies, acquire HIV/Aids etc. And all these affect children psychologically and mentally which leads to their poor performance at school.

Best art pieces and essays were displayed and read respectively to participants of the world water sanitation day celebrations. They were awarded gifts as a motivation as well.

Radio Talk Shows

During the period of Jan. 2014 to March 2015, HUVUCSO, hold several radio programs of which all were aiming at reducing the spread of HIV/Aids and stopping domestic violence and child abuse. Each programme took 30 minutes on a local radio station called Life FM in fort portal municipality in Kabarole district. Given the availability of funds, we will continue to implement other activities on this project so to reduce on the impact of HIV/Aids and Violence against children (VAWC). Other reports will be made as well to assess the projects output.

Other two advocacy radio talk shows were conducted on this radio station in Kabarole district. These radio programs were intended to create communities awareness on the "Action to end the spread of HIV/AIDS amongst the Youth project" (ASHDY). This it included initiatives/activities, target areas, implementation strategy, target outputs, and community's/stakeholders roles. Service providers were asked to consider gender, have equity and inclusion when delivering these services. The radio programs also brought on board other technical officers, both from academic institutions and other NGO's around, to discuss and address issues of the relativity between HIV/Aids and violence against women and children. (VAWC).

Consultative planning and review meetings

Consultative planning and review workshops have been held with stakeholders especially with the sub county staff that is the LC3, community development officer, health assistants, sub county chiefs and counsellors on the progress of project interventions. Changes on the project interventions have been embraced and a new working document

is in process to be adopted and shared with all stakeholders for monitoring and evaluation purposes of our projects in our scope.

Participatory monitoring meetings

Two quarterly monitoring sessions for each of the two sub counties were conducted in January2014 and February 2015. The monitoring exercise involved the boards and management of HUVUCSO and a few technical persons from the sub county, schools and partner organizations.

The monitoring involved field work, where participating parties moved through the field to check on the work done, interviewed beneficiary schools and communities and then later held a debriefing meeting where areas for improvement were highlighted and strengths appreciated. Suggested strategies of implementation are being put to action in this period.

Training of PTAs on O&M of Action to End the Spread of HIV/Aids amongst the Youth

PTA and school administration have been mobilised and trained in Operation &Maintenance of this project. 4 training sessions have been conducted in schools of Karambi, Kabahango, Mukumbwe and Kasusu Green Hill Primary School respectively. Operation and maintenance plans have been developed for all the 4 schools and sources of funds have been identified to facilitate the process. The operation and maintenance plans now will be acting as a working document to generate funds for O&M implementation and other activities as identified by the schools.

Training of HIV/Aids, violence against women and children prevention in Schools & communities

8 HIV/Aids violence preventions were trained in Kabahango P/S, Mukumbwe P/S, Karambi P/S and Kaguma P/S in Karambi Sub County, were formed and trained in the prevention of HIV/Aids and domestic violence. During these trainings, pupils and community members together with the community village health team (VHT) were equipped with the skills in the management of creating humour in the message they extend to the listeners in regard to the prevention of HIV/Aids and violence against women and children.

Inter school HIV/Aids & VAWC drama competitions

HUVUCSO in collaboration with primary schools of Kabahango P/S, Mukumbwe P/S, Karambi primary schools organized interclass competitions aimed at disseminating information on eradicating the spread of HIV/Aids and violence against women and children in schools and behaviour change among the surrounding communities.

The guidance of the Patrons, music and other teachers at the respective schools, the interclass competition to eradicate HIV/Aids and VAWC was organized where performances were made before pupils, teachers and some parents and other distinguished guests. These performances included songs, plays, folk songs, traditional dances and poems under the theme "United to fight HIV/Aids and Violence against"

Women and Children". Pupils used creative songs, poems and drama skits to display appropriate practices in the prevention of HIV/Aids and violence against women and children to their fellow peers, relatives and guardians. The best pupils and class were selected and given prises ranging from books, pens, mathematical sets, and foot/net balls as motivation for best performances.

Advocacy meetings on girls stay in school at parish level and school level

One advocacy meeting was conducted Karambi parish and 4 advocacy meeting on girls stay in school was conducted in Karambi, Kabahango, Mukumbwe and St. Peters respectively. At the schools, the school management committee, school administration and Parents teachers association discussed the challenges of girl child education and had strategies of countering the challenges. The parish leaderships working on formulating by laws that will strengthen on girls stay in schools. But the challenge faced there is that the parish is not well resourced to perform these duties, hence there was need to work together with CSO's to address it better. The parish level together with the schools have a harmonised strategy on girls stay in school and have a collective responsibility of countering girl child drop outs in the parish.

Development of IEC materials;

Participatory meetings in the 03 target beneficiary schools of Mukumbwe, Kabahango and Karambi primary schools, were organised and 25 members of the school health clubs facilitated to draw gender responsive visual aids (art work materials) that depict the common bad behaviours, of teenagers how they get attracted to boys and end up in sexual intercourse, which put them in danger to acquire HIV/Aids. These visual aids drawn by the health clubs, members were developed into child friendly IEC materials are being used for sensitizing other pupils on HIV/Aids mitigation measures and prevention of violence against women, children as well as children rights.

Key challenges;

It was found out that in some schools, especially government aided schools under Universal primary education. Most of these pupils do not complete primary level, due to the problem of *child mothers in schools* (unwanted pregnancies was found increasing in rural primary schools). HIV/Aids were found increasing in the youth and young married couples and domestic violence which disturbs children and their mothers as well. We handled many cases in this regard, together with the offices of community development officer, probation officer and the child and family protection unit

The main problem is that we don't have enough resources, to enable us do this work for long in these areas where we identified these problems.

D) Contribution the project has made so far to the overall project objective;

The overall project goal was "to have a happy generation of youth free from HIV/Aids and free from violence against women and children"

Harmonised strategies on girls to stay in schools have been thought of by both the parents & the technical staff members of Karambi Parish. Once adopted it will be acting as working document for the parish and school management. A collective responsibility has been created to prevent more dropout rate of girls in schools and increase the rate at which girls report back to schools. Football for inter school competition have supplemented on pupils co-curriculum activities and at the same time improved their writing skills as they are compelled to write essays and messages based on themes. The pupils have developed spirit of feeling concerned on fighting the issues of HIV/Aids and domestic violence. They are motivated to work hard and win prizes, thus eradication in the spread of HIV/Aids and domestic violence's which affect both children and their mothers.

4) Description of objectives/activities for the current reporting period:

Objectives	Planned activities	Implemented activities	Actual out puts	Remarks & variance
Objective1. To train people young and old in HIV/Aids mitigation measures. Objective2. To train schools in the prevention	 Training of school health clubs in fighting HIV/Aids Creating awareness and sensitizing the community on prevention of violence against women and children. 	trained in child friendly manner. 20 sensitizations and creating a wareness campaigns conducted in Karambi and	5health clubs comprising of 75 members of school health clubs (40 girls and 35 boys) have been formed and functional, equipped with the skills of prevention of HIV/Aids.	Each school Health club developed an action plan on the prevention of HIV/Aids.
of violence against women and children. Objective 3. To work with schools, parishes and churches to protect the children rights.	Training of health clubs, who will work with village health teams to combat HIV/Aids in communities.	health and club patrons were trained	7 female and 7 male teachers were trained and are responsible for coordination and mentoring activities in the prevention of domestic violence and HIV/Aids prevention measures the targets are primary schools.	HUVUCSO plans to train trainers of trainers who shall take the responsibility of providing technical support to the trained patrons as well as training and orienting new patrons in cases of transfers.
	Training of Women groups on HIV/AIDS prevention. Training of women groups to know their women & children rights.	groups in Rubingo parish in promoting the women rights and children rights.	20 women were trained in the regard of children and women rights, in Rubingo Parish.	This activity is ongoing as more villages and schools are being reached. HUVUCSO, plans to train and orient VHT's to conduct periodic follow-up and monitoring of the schools and households to get involved in the meeting at the village level on HIV/Aids preventions, child protection, prevention of violence against women and children

5) Project management and administration (including monitoring, evaluation and networking)

i) Monitoring and evaluation;

In this reporting period HUVUCSO undertook a review of her monitoring and data collection tools to reflect outcome measurements, field testing of the tools were conducted and a database to analyse and store the collected information developed. 2 field monitoring visits were conducted to the target project areas particularly in the primary schools of Mukumbwe, Kabahango and Karambi primary schools.

The monitoring visits were also aimed at documenting and capturing changes and outcomes of the project. Key observations and findings from the field were documented and shared for planning, reporting and learning purposes.

ii) Project review analysis;

During this implementation period, a joint project planning meeting with senior managers and implementing staff of HUVUCSO, was conducted to review the success of implementation of the project planned outcomes, reviewing the implementation strategies and critically analyzing project implementation challenges. Budgets and plans were revised and clear outputs and performance targets set for each activity to be implemented.

iii) Personnel and staffing;

Three new staff members have been recruited to support the Project implementation.

iv) Staff capacity building;

An internal write-shop was organised and facilitated by a consultant to enhance the staff capacity in documentation and writing of quality case studies for sharing. Two project staffs were involved and documented a case on violence against women and children (VAWC) and what was causing the highest rate of HIV/Aids in Kabarole district. In addition, an internal capacity building session on gender action learning was also conducted for entire HUVUCSO.