

**HUMURA VULNERABLE CHILDREN/YOUTH SUPPORT ORGANIZATION  
(HUVUCSO)**

FINAL PROJECTREPORT

PROJECT TITLE "PREVENTION OF MOTHER TO CHILD TRANSMISSION"  
(PMTCT)

Project location Karambi & Kicwamba sub counties.



**JULY2012- JULY 2013**

**HUMURA VULNERABLE CHILDREN/YOUTH SUPPORT  
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## **List of Acronyms**

HUVUCSO – Humura Vulnerable Children/Youth Support Organization

HIV- Human Immune deficiency Virus

PMTCT- Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission

KANCA. -Kabarole NGO'S and CBO's Association

CBO's- Community Based Organizations

NGO's- Non Governmental Organizations

IEC- Information Education Communication

VHT's- Village Health Team

STD's- Sexual Transmitted Diseases

CMT- Community Monitoring Team

AIDS- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

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## 1. Background

Humura Vulnerable Children/Youth Support Organization (HUVUCSO) as a community based organization exists to combat HIV/Aids in the rural communities of the Ruwenzori region. This is in connection with its vision to " **To have an educated, healthier and HIV/AIDS generation and community with a focus on children**". And its mission which states that "*supporting the needy community of children living with HIV/Aids in their education, rights and supporting their house hold income generating activities*" the organization also works to meet the millennium development goal number six which states that "combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases". And its targets are;

- ❖ Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/Aids.
- ❖ Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it.

In the Ruwenzori Portfolio, HUVUCSO works with other partner organizations to address the problem of HIV/Aids in these districts. The organizations are joint effort to save the environment (JESE) and Kabarole NGO's and CBO's Association (KANCA).

These sub counties have a population growth rate of 3.8%, which is one of the highest in Uganda.

Consequently, this high rate of population growth is likely to suffer from HIV/Aids if at all nothing is done to cater for the coming generation in future. As it stands, Kabarole district is leading with HIV/Aids with 11.3%. And is followed by other districts with 9% and these are Kasee, Bundibugyo, Kyenjojo, Kamwenge, Kyegegwa etc.

## 2. Objectives

The overall objective of "prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) in Kabarole district project" was to ensure that encourage every woman to give birth from the hospital so as to reduce the number of children who are getting HIV/Aids from their mothers at birth time.

**The specific objectives were to:**

1. To eradicate the spread of mother to child transmission of HIV/Aids.
2. To encourage the rural community to give birth from the hospital
3. To find the prime reasons why people give birth at home and not to the hospital
4. To find the new innovations together with the community to prevent HIV/Aids
5. To reduce the spread of HIV/Aids in Kabarole district and Ruwenzori region at large

## 3. Methodologies

In order to effectively implement this "prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) in Kabarole district project" HUVUCSO used a house to house exercise and with questionnaire. In addition to that oral methods were also used to get more information on why there is a high spread of HIV/Aids in the rural communities than in town areas. It was found out that poverty in rural communities, alcoholism, poor parenting of children by their parents and use of drugs have exposed the youth to the dangers of acquiring HIV/aids. Through these methodologies, we were

also able to know a variety of reasons as to why many women want to give birth from villages. Impassable roads when it's a rainy season are one of the problems that have caused women to give birth from the villages and thus this ends up causing the transmission of HIV/Aids from the mother to the child. Ignorance of some Batooro people, who still believe in giving birth, from the villages with the help of local people whom they believe in as midwives. These people they don't have skills and the hospital equipment's. Furthermore these local midwives, do not have any medicine they give to babies who have been born by their mothers who are HIV positive as it's in the hospital thus this has increased the spread of HIV/Aids in the rural communities of Kabarole district and the neighboring districts. A credit should be given to Baylor College of medicines and Kabarole district local government and the central government who emphasizing women to give birth from the hospital, but a big number has not yet received these services. For example Baylor College of medicines has trained people who are commonly known as the village health team VHT's to sensitize and create awareness on HIV and PMTCT.

## 5. Conclusions and Recommendations

In order to promote and protect our children and all the people of Kabarole district from acquiring more HIV/Aids and other sexual transmitted diseases (STD's), there is need to:

- ❖ To create more awareness and sensitizations in the rural areas so as to eradicate the spread of the scourge of HI/Aids
- ❖ Forming a team which will work with schools and in the communities to talk about behavioral change
- ❖ Have radio programs at least four times per quarter of the year.
- ❖ Develop information education materials (IEC) which are in Rutooro language, so that people who don't know English could read Rutooro and get the message on HIV/Aids.
- ❖ Have drama groups in both in schools and around the communities while expressing the message on the prevention of HIV/aids in English and Rutooro languages.
- ❖ To have a HIV/Aids focal person at village level local council one, who will always encourage the people in the village prevent themselves from the scourge of HIV/Aids.
- ❖ Have radio spot messages, emphasizing people to go for checkups before any sexual intercourse with their partners.
- ❖ Have posters, brochures and all other readable materials both in English and mother/indigenous languages on HIV prevention.
- ❖ Have a by law which stops the local midwives from emphasizing women giving birth in the rural communities. Because it puts the danger on high risks of children to acquire HIV/Aids from their mothers.
- ❖ Have group focused discussions on the prevention of HIV/Aids would help pupils and youths in communities of Kabarole district
- ❖ NGO's and CBO's in Kabarole district need to work with new innovations of HIV/Aids prevention and sexual transmitted diseases (STD's).
- ❖ Have a distributor of condoms, new information about the prevention of HIV/Aids to the youth, young couples and the general public.
- ❖ Have the youth and the general public wear T shirts; which contain the message behind them, encouraging people to Abstain, Be faithful and Condom use.

## **6. Group focused discussions**

While conducting this project, many and a diverse of projects have been reached on to discuss with the youth about finding the prime methods which could help to prevent the scourge of HIV/Aids in the rural communities. The main purpose for formulating these group focused discussions were to exchange ideas with the local people in the rural areas to give us their concerns on the prevalence of this pandemic and give us possible methods they feel could work better than the normal methods we have been implementing to fight HIV/Aids. These new methods which were discussed are to be used as the new innovations in our struggle to fight HIV/Aids. Some of the HIV/Aids mitigation measures which were suggested to reduce on the scourge of HIV/Aids were to go back to our tradition and these are; oral sharing of information at night (Hakyoto), growing children while checking their virginity and regular dialogue of children with their parents about the dangers of HIV/Aids and having sexual intercourse at an early age. Those were some of the methods which were suggested to reduce on the problem of the spread of HIV/Aids and these were innovative ideas which were thought of and will work hand in hand with other methods have been in existence such as creating awareness and sensitization in rural areas, holding radio programs and disseminating news on social medias about how to protect from HIV/ Aids and encouraging people to go for checkups before any sexual affairs.

### ***6.1 Field Visit***

This was done on a quarterly basis to ensure that the projects objectives are achieved in the time frame of the project. The project sites were at Mukumbwe, Karambi and Karambi primary schools. The project was also implemented in communities targeting the general public and these are some of the places which were visited on. Rubingo, Kiryantama, Humura and Gemi Kicwamba. In order to engage the community in this struggle of fighting HIV/Aids, **HUVUCSO** trained community monitoring team (**CMT**) to help us realize our project objectives and our organization mission, vision and our core values.

### ***6.4 Emerging issues***

Among the emerging issues which were talked about in the discussions are Pornography, social media, internet. With these merging issues, the parents were condemning internet cafes and social media to have also spoiled their children with obscene photos and messages. For example the video which was up loaded on you tube, twitter, face book and in the press giving the details of musician Luzinda

Desire about her “*Kitone*” life and his Nigerian boyfriend, the story of Mweruka the news anchor at Bukede television in Kampala.

There was another burning issue which emerged in the discussions and this was that some primary teachers in the rural communities are luring their daughters they teach in class to use for sex. And due to the weak minds of these teenagers/pupils, because they are young and sexually active they want to taste and in this process they end up getting HIV/Aids from some of their teachers.

Sharing of bedrooms with children, in the rural communities has caused incest problems. This is common in places where a single room is rental and is shared by the parents, children and may be a house maid or relatives of a wife. Many children have acquired HIV/Aids from their siblings. For example while implementing this one year project we reached Kababopi Leticia a woman in the rural communities who is renting and in the rental hose there is a shop and the bar. Her children have been exposed to this condition and her daughters have aborted as many times. This social life has also exposed children to the dangers of HIV/Aids in this area.

## **7.0 CHALLENGES FACED**

## **8.0 CONCLUDING REMARKS**

The project was timely to enhance the knowledge of the people of Kabarole district and build capacity of community monitoring teams in villages and in schools on new innovations of preventing the spread of HIV/Aids in Kabarole district. Participants developed strategies and action plans to implement in reducing the scourge of HIV/Aids in Kabarole district.