



**Youth and Women Empowerment (Yawe) Foundation in
Partnership with Perspektive für Kinder**

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**FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND ART DELIVERY TO ADOLESCENTS ON
HIV TREATMENT WHO COULD NOT PICK THEIR MONTHLY ART
REFILLS IN BUHINGA, KABAROLE AND VIRIKA HOSPITALS.**



Introduction

Uganda is among the countries in the world struggling to contain the spread of covid 19 in the population. After Identifying the cases in the middle of March 2020 the Government of Uganda adopted the Worldwide approach/strategy of containing the spread of the virus commonly known as “Lockdown” This means freezing of all means of transport and closing down schools, and markets. In Uganda, the lockdown of covid19 created challenges among Adolescents living with HIV/AIDS

who had appointments to collect their ARVs drugs in Kabarole district. Restricting movement of people in order to contain the virus led to a big number of young people living with HIV/AIDS fail to pick their next anti-retroviral treatment.



Youth and Women Empowerment (YAWE) Foundation teamed up with the above mentioned hospitals and carried out an activity of delivering ARVs to some homes of these affected adolescents.

During our one week intervention, we managed to reach 54 adolescents out of 60 targeted.

In Buhinga hospital out of 30 targeted we reached 24, Virika 19 out of 20 and Kabarole 11 out 11.

In addition most vulnerable families continue to starve without appropriate meals ever since the outbreak of covid19. In these families they are clients with special needs and terminal illness whose lives have been seriously affected by hunger problem. In the same week YAWE managed to reach 201 people and provided them with food items such as Maize flour (posho), salt, cooking oil, rice and matooke.



Methodology

Home based delivery model, all Clients were reached at their homes with the food aid package since our vehicles were cleared by the district Covid 19 task force to move.



Objectives

- To reach out vulnerable families with special need clients and provide them with food supplies.
- To deliver life sustaining essential drugs to adolescents on HIV treatment in 3 facilities of Buhinga, Kabarole and Virika.

- To promote the social economic welfare of the vulnerable and key populations such as commercial sex workers, disabled and adolescents on ART.

Description

During the week of 20th to 25th April 2020, we had all our efforts combined together and carried out activities of food distribution and ART delivery. Earlier before that week, we visited the 3 facilities and worked hand in hand with focal people to identify those adolescents who had missed appointments in this period of Covid19 and also came up with more lists of special needs clients who benefited from our food distribution program. On Monday of 20th we started with a special launch ceremony led by Deputy Resident District Commissioner accompanied by LC5 Kabarole District Chairman Honourable Rwabuhinga Richard Abooki, District Health Educator Miss Kemigabo Catherine and Nursing officer Counselor Atwooki Nyakana Jeniffer who legally gave us mandate to distribute food and deliver HIV treatment. Later on there was packing of drugs and food items which were delivered.

The remaining days of Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday we deliberately began distributing food items and delivering ARVs to adolescents and ended up reaching 54 adolescents on ART and 201 vulnerable people in food support.



Achievements

Mobilization was effectively done through proper systems of effective communication in identifying the beneficiaries.

Teamwork was highly reflected in all areas of implementing team and facilities administration hence strengthening partnerships.

A bigger number of clients were well served that is 54 adolescents out of 60 and 201 people benefited from our Food supply program.

There was timely reporting of what had been implemented in the course of work.

A moderate facilitation was provided to enable smooth running of the above mentioned activities.

Challenges

Wrong phone numbers which caused unnecessary delays in locating some of the adolescents on ART.

Missing locator forms in most clients files which made accessibility to their right home addresses difficult.

Some clients used wrong names which made us take long time in the field looking for them.

Some clients were not comfortable with us bringing those drugs to their homes an indication of stigma. They would deliberately refuse straight away on calling them.

Some clients have not disclosed to their treatment supporters which limited dropping drugs at their places.

The food items were not enough to serve all the needy people we had on our lists. Many others were left starving.

Recommendations

- Updating of all clients' files with right phone numbers and proper addressees for easy identification which should be done at hospital level.

- Routine home visits should be done especially to children and adolescents. This will make work easier next time and enable smooth running of activities.
- Psycho educating our clients more on stigma related topics and use of testimonies or motivational speakers to reduce high stigma levels in some clients.

For our sponsors:

We appreciate the care and support, thank you so much although the need were much we were able to reach those we can and if possible we reach more remaining families in the beginning weeks of May as lockdown continues.

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