

**YOUTH AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT (Yawe) FOUNDATION
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PERSPEKTIVE FÜR KINDER (AUSTRIA)**



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END OF NOVEMBER 2022

PART 1. Community Based Health Care program.

Number of homes visited 22

During the month of November we managed to do the following home and school visits.

We visited Joseph who studies at Good shepherd primary school in P.5. Joseph happily smiled upon seeing us and reported how he likes school due to special needs care and inclusive education. Joseph was able to count from 1 to 50 properly, spoke good English and drew for us pictures. He also reported how his favourite subject is English and is studying to become a Doctor. The school administration reported how Joseph is bright and disciplined student. Her mother who also works at the same school as special needs caretaker reported how is proud of his son to be perusing studies despite of his disability and is committed to see him go up to University.



Joseph happily smiling as he poses in her wheelchair at school

On the same day we visited Hadiyah who studies at the same school (Good shepherd) to pay her school fees. Hadiyah is our newly enrolled student on sponsorship program with lower limb paralysis. Hadiyah and her mother had got a lot of worries about continuity of her studies after her former sponsors terminated her contract. Yawe was able to come in and take her up thus causing big happiness and hopes in Hadiyah dream. Hadiyah is in primary five, very bright in class and wishes to become a doctor as well. Hadiyah expressed sincere thanks to Yawe foundation for responding positively on his request and promised to study very hard.



Hadijah posing before the camera at school

In the same month we paid school fees for Gloria who studies at Gweri Primary school. Gloria was found in class properly seated in her CP chair. Her teacher reported the CP chair and a wheelchair has given her a convenient environment at school. Also her performance in class is improving slowly due to the convenience and inclusion in the school.



Gloria posing for the picture in her classroom

In the same month we visited Simon and Cathy who were found home with their house help. Simon was still recovering from his long sickness. Cathy was found well. We did counting from 1 to 20 with Cathy and drew some pictures using her feet. It was amazing to see Cathy used her feet to hold pencil and draw though he lack some accuracy. From our analysis Cathy at this stage would benefit from Special needs education.



Cathy drawing pictures with her feet

Part 2 Psychosocial Activities Every Saturday

On 19th /Nov/2022, and 26th /Nov/2022, Kabarole Unique Stars in conjunction with Youth and Women Empowerment, managed to conduct a youth Psychosocial Saturday at our center as usual that every Saturday is our Psychosocial day. On the first day was the very colorful since the year started, because on this day we carried out a number of activities and 28 youth who turned up, and the next one we had 20 youth just because of rain our program for these two days was as follows;

NO	ITEM	TIME	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
1.	Arrival and registration	9:30am-10:20am	B. Sarah
2.	General cleaning	10:20am-11:00am	K.Y. Darren

3.	Health talk	11:00am-12:30am	K.Y. Darren
4.	Brass band training	12:30pm-2:00pm	K. Chrispus
5.	Lunch	2:00pm-2:30pm	Yasin Darren K
6.	Saving and credit	2:30pm-5:00pm	Kenneth & Anthony
7.	Band rehearsals	5:00pm-5:20pm	Interaction

We started with the general cleaning of the center, which was led by the Youth Focal Person, Mr. Kasaija Yasin Darren.



Youth cleaning the center

Health Talk

This was followed by the Health talk where we shared the future plans and challenges that lead to poor adherence.

Adolescents reported that side effects, drug palatability and pill burden are a hindrance to adherence. Others said that some of the medicines have a terrible smell and they could not take them. They feel like the medicine is “torturing” them. they indicated that taking the pills every day and on time was very difficult since ARVs do not result in a cure. The many tablets, the unpalatable taste, the size and color caused a lot of distress. One Youth said, ***“There are some ARVs that are big. They may tell you to swallow 2 in the morning, 2 in the evening. ...How can I swallow these drugs for the rest of my life? Moreover, I am not going to change my HIV status. That is why some stop taking ARVs.”***

Addressing Challenges with Adherence.

The Youth again indicated that there was no adequate psychosocial support to meet the needs of teenagers about adherence especially for those who attend boarding schools and take ARVs.

The Youth reported that peer support groups are very supportive of adherence. Presence of counselors and caring health workers also helps them to adhere to their medication.



One of the youths sharing about challenges leading to poor adherence

Brass band training

We did our training which was very booming and heavy, where most of the Youth participated and enjoyed. The training was led by Kasaija Yasin The Brass Band trainer.



Brass Band Training at the center with 22 youth.

Lunch during Psychosocial Days has been a Challenge due to the increase in price of Posho and beans. However we managed by substituting Lunch with Porridge and Mandazi which we bake from our Bakery.

Review of the day



The youth shared how they felt about the day, some said that, they were happy to have their Saturday to back to normal; others said that, they were happy to see each other again after a long period of time, because they have been to school. Others said that they have learned how to overcome some of the challenges in life, not to be spoon feed all the time.

Part 3 Social Enterprise center

We are happy that our construction resumed and now we are nearly completion of plastering inside the first floor inside and outside walls. The budget for work through December is still available and it is our hope that by end of December we shall have completed the round beams and start on the roof.

The visit of YAWE Director to Europe:

YAWE Director had the opportunity to visit Germany and Austria from 12 to 26th November during his visit he interacted with different friends of YAWE and built new network lay sustainability strategies.



George Yawe Director Enjoys a Happy moment with Perspektive fuer Kinder team in Innsbruck on 13th November 2022



George the Yawe Director with Returned volunteers and the Director of VUGA after the Seminar in Leipzig Germany on 20th November 2022.



Akora George Yawe Director with other Participants after receiving Certificate after Partners Conference in Berlin Germany on 21 st November 202.

THE 8TH ANNUAL YOUTH CONFERENCE HELD FROM 28TH NOVEMBER TO 2ND DECEMBER HELD AT Yawe FOUNDATION 2022

Introduction

Every year Yawe Foundation and Kabarole Unique Stars (KUSA) organizes a conference that brings together hundreds of youths living with HIV for 5 days residential conference. During this conference they are a number of activities that happen such as candle light, full day sessions about stigma and discrimination, disclosure, Formation of healthy relationships, adherence, etc, World AIDS day and Key stakeholders and politicians giving speeches. Yawe Foundation started as a community based organization in 2000 by a group of youth and women. Since its inception Yawe has been involved in activities directly targeting the youth and other vulnerable people in the community. It has a revolution idea of organizing the youth, women and other vulnerable people under one forum to promote HIV/AIDs awareness campaign and encouraging activities of self reliance through capacity building in entrepreneurship and business management. Yawe Foundation unites young people living with HIV in their umbrella organization known as Kabarole Unique Stars Association (KUSA). This provides a platform for people living with HIV/AIDs to address their psychosocial challenges to improve their quality of life and contribute to the reduction new HIV infection and HIV related death.



This year we had a successful 8th annual conference after taking 2 years without due to Covid 19 restrictions that limited such big gatherings. The conference was held YAWE main offices in Rwengoma that brought 215 youths from 28th November to 2nd December from Fort Portal, Kabarole and Bunyangabu health facilities. The theme for the conference was **“HIV Prevention and Adherence is my responsibility”**. This year it was not easy to mobilize local support for the Conference but we managed to get a few conference partners like Wethungerhilt and KAAT Belgium,

Objectives

- To bring together young people living with HIV for a common goal of strengthening their network and building relationships.
- To learn from each other through sharing testimonies, peer to peer counselling and focus group discussions.
- To participate in world national big events such as candle light and World AIDS day that gives a big representation to stand in solidarity with those who died of HIV/AIDS and stand with those who are living with it.
- To elect new leadership among the young people living with HIV through partnership formation.
- To equip the young people living with HIV with opportunities of talent promotion and skills development.



Chief guests posing pictures with youths during world AIDS day for Fort Portal City held at Kazingo Primary school Fort Portal.

Methods used.

Brainstorming

Testimonies

Asking questions

Focus group discussions

Description

Day 1

The youths arrived from different health facilities and were welcomed by peer leaders alongside some staffs headed by facility in charge Keneth, Tonny and Edita. The youths elected their own leaders and later went for personal management and had supper.



The Youth arrived in the evening and elected their leaders

Day 2

This was a day of learning which started with welcoming and introductory remarks from the Executive Director Mr George William who talked about treatment challenges and employment. This was followed by Fort Portal City HIV/TB Focal person who talked about HIV prevention and control strategies, reinfection, adherence followed by other STIs in relation to condom promotion, EMTCT, Drug abuse and entrepreneurship and skills development. It was climaxed by talent show from the youths.



KUSA president addressing the youths

Day 3

The main event was candlelight where we remembered those who died of HIV/AIDS and stood in solidarity with those who are living with HIV. The event took place in Fort Portal City old taxi park where we had ecumenical prayer and guests from the leadership of Fort Portal City and district. Religious fraternity was well represented and there was sharing of testimonies, match procession and lighting candles. There were free HIV testing and counseling services as well.





Different pictures from the candle light activity above

Day 4

Yawe took the lead in participating in World AIDS day in the two areas namely Kabarole district, and Fort Portal City. The theme was “**ending inequalities Among Adolescent Girls and Women**”. Kabarole is ranked 2nd in the whole country at 14.6 prevalence and this led to a call to increase our efforts to revert the trend of new HIV infections. Our participation was highly felt and appreciated by the guest of honour and other key guest around. The youths shared testimonies and committed themselves under their slogan HIV stops with me.



Chief guest, Director Yawe posing with the youths(left) and right Director Yawe giving a speech during World AIDS day.



Yawe drama group presenting during World AIDS day

Day 5

The conference was officially closed by Fort Portal City Member of Parliament Hon. Alex Ruhunda who at the same time celebrated his birthday with us. The Member of Parliament awarded scholarships to the youths to study in Information technology and Director Yawe called upon the youths to be goal oriented.



Hon. Alex Ruhunda officiating closure of the youth conference and celebrating his birthday

Achievements

There was effective mobilization whereby we had a huge number of youths turning up to 215 compared to 150 we had earlier targeted.

There was good team spirit that enabled smooth running of activities at all points

There was narrowing/bridging of the knowledge gap as youths attentively listened and asked questions about the many topics that were taught

There was proper time keeping that enabled starting and ending on time throughout the conference

The youths were equipped with opportunities of skills development and talent promotion

There was identification of new leaders who can champion as HIV activists in risk reduction through behavior change and prevention modalities.

There was good facilitation and welfare for both participants and facilitators.

Compiled by **Yawe team.**