



ACTION FOR RURAL WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT (ARUWE)

CREATING HIV AND AIDS AWARENESS IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

THROUGH ARTS IN MULAGI SUB COUNTY, KYANKWANZI DISTRICT

END OF PROJECT REPORT

SUBMITTED TO THE US MISSION UGANDA

YOUNG AFRICAN WOMEN LEADER'S FORUM



Action for Rural Women's Empowerment (ARUWE) received support from the US Mission to create HIV/AIDS awareness through ARTS in Mulagi Sub Country, Kyankwanzi District. ARUWE is working with a team of 50 vibrant youth from St Joseph Senior Secondary School Vvumba to spread the message to schools and the entire community. US Mission supported ARUWE with \$ 4,403.

In the last quarter of this project, ARUWE carried out 4 outreaches in schools and community. Approximately 500 school children in 2 schools and 700 Community members were reached in the 4 outreaches.

Through the entire project, 6 schools and 6 community have been reached, more than 1828 school children were reached through the school campaigns, and 1498 community members through the community campaigns. Four outreaches were carried out per quarter beginning with the second quarter of the project. The youth club worked tirelessly hard throughout the entire project but did not neglect their studies. Out reaches were scheduled not to interfere with students' studying time.

Out reaches carried out:

Name of school / Village	Approximate Number of people reached
Kiboga Parents Senior School	300
Kikabala Primary School	280
St Joseph Aid Society School, Kigando	150
St Charles Lwanga, Mulagi	268
Bamusuuta C/U Senior Secondary School	500
St Joseph Senior Secondary School Vvumba	330
Mulagi	200
Butemba	670
Kiboga town council	200
Nakabiso	100
Mugereka	230
Kikabala	98
Total	3362



The ARUWE youth club participating in a traditional dance



The youth club presenting a dance and a skit in a song



The youth group presenting at a democracy fair held at Kiboga Town Council, a community member joins them in the song.

Impact

The community has become more aware of the importance and the availability of Voluntary Counseling and Testing. It should be noted that it is still not so common for people to go voluntarily for testing in a health centre or a hospital under normal circumstances. There is therefore more need for awareness and Voluntary Counseling and Testing campaigns especially in rural communities. As a result of this project, ARUWE has developed a working relationship with Nalinya Health Centre 111 to carry out VCT. Nalinya HC111 will offer kits and its qualified personnel to carry out the VCT while ARUWE will organize awareness and logistics as resources are available.

The students were glad to put their leisure time to productive use that was beneficial to their community. The group has received recognition both on sub county and district level. The LC5 chairperson of Kyankwanzi district recognized the contribution of the youth group to the community in creating HIV/AIDS awareness. The group was given an opportunity to present at the day of the senior citizens in Uganda hosted at the Kyankwanzi district headquarters on 1st October 2012, presided over by the prime minister of Uganda. We were honored to crown up the project in such a powerful way. The occasion was attended by over 600 people.



The Life Club performing in a song



The Life Club performing a song and a dance



The Life Club performing a song and a dance

Observations

Contrary to years back where people were unwilling to know their sero status, people of all genders are willing to know their status. This especially applies to men who in time past chose to remain ignorant about their status.

Community awareness campaigns in HIV/AIDS especially through arts were effective in disseminating information. This is because they are entertaining and participative yet at the same time make it easy for people to understand the topic of interest. Therefore ARTS are a very efficient way of disseminating information especially with crowds.

School children from ages 10 and above are increasingly becoming aware of HIV/AIDS. This enables them to protect themselves from infections or know how to cope. In addition, involving youth in HIV/AIDS campaigns is effective in the saving of the young generation.

The role of community health structures as leadership in creating awareness and prevention in HIV/AIDS cannot be underestimated. Community health educators needed to continually be supported to carry on this work in their communities.

One of the most important measures to reach “*new zero infections*” as the slogan is subsidizing the price of condoms or availing them to especially the rural people.

Overall the project achieved its aims of making community of Mulagi Sub County more aware of HIV/AIDS by working through young people as change agents.





ARUWE is grateful for the support from the US Mission to keep the sensitization campaign about HIV/AIDS in our rural communities and giving the youth a chance to be at the fore front of this crusade. We believe that people both young and old need to continually be educated about the HIV/AIDS to foster behavior change.

This report has been written and compiled by

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