



FFOU OUTREACH REPORT FOR KASENSERO LANDING SITE HELD ON 28TH FEB TO 2ND MARCH 2022.

INTRODUCTION

Kasensero landing site is located in Kasensero Town Council- Kyotera District part of Buganda Central region and situated along Masaka Mutukula high way 30 kilometers from Masaka City. Kasensero landing site is located 70 kilometers away from Kyotera town and has got a population of 12700. Kasensero has a big number of commercial workers and the HIV Prevalence among these sex workers is 39%. This place has only one government health center III servicing this big number of population.

The National HIV prevalence of 6% in Uganda remains unacceptably high despite the different interventions that have been implemented since the epidemic was detected in early 1980's. HIV started in Kasensero a landing site in Kyotera district Central region of Uganda. To date, fisherfolk community remains to be leading category with high HIV prevalence fronted by Kalangala district with 15-18% HIV Prevalence. There is still a lot of unmet needs in terms of access to HIV prevention and sexual and reproductive health services especially for vulnerable and high risk populations such as adolescents and young people among fisherfolk who are priority populations in HIV response in Uganda. Fisherfolk are engaged in complex sexual networks, involving multiple sexual partners, which often bridge the HIV and other STDs to the general population. In addition Fisherfolk are still faced with a number of barriers in access to services which includes; Sexual reproductive health SRH, Sexual gender based violence (SGBV), punitive legal and social environments, stigma/discrimination and lack of health workers capacity to provide friendly services to Adolescents and young people.

Federation of Fisheries Organisations (FFOU) is concerned about the devastating health of fishing communities due to escalating new HIV infections and high risks of acquiring HIV. Kasensero landing site is one of the historical site in Uganda where the first cases of HIV were revealed, FFOU found it necessary to extend its services in order to curb the new HIV infections and increase access and uptake of HIV and AIDS services.

Health services provided in the outreach:

- 1) Community education and sensitization
- 2) Routine immunization
- 3) Test and treat (ART)
- 4) Hepatitis B testing and immunization
- 5) HIV counseling and testing.
- 6) General OPD consultation, care and treatment.
- 7) Condom education and distribution.

Approach/methodology

The approach used was a District led programming spearheaded by Kasensero health Facility in charge and supervised by the District HIV focal person under the office of the DHO Kyotera district.

FFOU took charge of community mobilisation, Sensitisation and facilitation of the health workers with remunerations.

Community outreach services

14 (fourteen) individuals received HTS services and 1 (one) individual reacted HIV positive which contributed a positivity rate of 7.1%. 1 (one) individual was initiated in care, started on ART (NO- 3249) and linked to Kasensero H/C III. 10 individuals were screened and vaccinated for Hepatitis B. 100 male condoms were distributed to 10 male Individuals. 15 Individuals were screened for STIs and among them, 7 received UTI treatment services.

Summery table indicating the services provided in the outreach;

S. No-	Service	Male	Female	Total	Remarks
1	HTS	7	7	14	7.1 % Positivity rate
	ART initiation	0	1	1	Test and treat done
2	Hepatitis B screening	7	3	10	0% positivity rate
	Hepatitis B Vaccination	7	3	10	100% vaccination
3	M. Condoms distributed (100 pieces)	10	0	10	Consistence Condom education is required
4	STI screening	5	10	15	7 reacted to UTI
	STI treatment (UTI)	5	2	7	7 individuals got treatment
5	Routine vaccination (Deworming and Vit. A)	3	4	7	7 children were vaccinated

Lessons learnt

- Fisherfolk need a lot of peer support in order to fully participate in HIV service
- Many fisherfolk individuals fear to participate in HTS services due stigma
- Fisherfolk have got a poor health seeking behavior and they have little time to access health services at the health centers
- Some of the booming bars in Kyotera district fetch beautiful sex workers who target fisherfolk for sex work business with high risks of acquiring HIV infection.

CHALLENGES

- Rainfall disrupted the entire exercise and it rained heavily from 10: 00am up to 3: 00 pm in the evening which prompted health workers to attend other individuals at the health facility on the following day.
- There was low turn up of clients and some individuals were not bothered about the health services being provided in the outreach due to stigma and ignorance about the services.
- Fisherfolk lack information for HIV prevention and they still have a lot of stigma and not able to engage in HTS services unless more Sensitisation is conducted at community level

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Community mobilization need to be enhanced by peers.
- Routine community Sensitisation and community dialogue should continue in fisherfolk to address stigma and discrimination.
- The community should be sensitized about the available services.
- There is need to strengthen linkage and referral services among the fisherfolk
- Conducting Joint outreaches with partners working in the regions is crucial to improve HIV service access and uptake among the fisherfolk.

Table showing the list of health service providers

NO-	NAME	TITLE
1	Kintu Emma	District supervisor
2	Bahikire Yusita	Clinical nurse/Focal person
3	Kato Francis	Medical Officer/in charge
4	Kabuye Amir	Laboratory
5	Bukirwa Monica	Counselor
6	Byaruhanga Milton	Trainer/site supervisor

Conclusion:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the federation of fisheries Uganda for extending their services to the people of Uganda most especially in targeting the underserved and marginalized fisherfolk. I also thank the DHO, HIV focal person and the health staff of Kansensero Health Centre for the all the support rendered towards the success of this outreach event.

Pictorial:

A health worker conducting community sensitization at Kasensero landing site



HIV counseling and testing being conducted by health workers at Kasensero landing site



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