FEDERATION OF FISHERIES ORGANISATIONS

(FFOU)

REPORT FOR KALANGALA DISTRICT HIV CAMPAIGN

In joint collaboration with Buganda Kingdom and Uganda AIDS Commission and

"Male engage to block HIV Tap"

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Background

The Kingdom of Buganda in partnership with Uganda AIDS commission organized a mass HIV prevention campaign in Kalagala district from 1st to 6th July, 2022. The Kingdom of Buganda and Uganda AIDS Commission in partnership with HIV implementing partners took initiative to reach out the vulnerable and hard to reach fisherfolk with combination HIV services. Several services were offered to the People of Kalangala district through targeted medical health camps organized strategic areas congregated by fisherfolk and key populations in both rural and urban places. The following are the series of services provided to the people of Kalangala.

1. HIV counseling and Testing services plus referral.
2. General Medical Care.
3. Mosquito Net Distribution.
4. Blood Donation.
5. Sexual Reproductive Health Services.
6. TB screening.
7. Condon education and distribution
8. Sensitization on Behavioral Change and communication
9. Cervical cancer screening
10. Family planning
11. Dental services
12. Aye services
13. Circumcision
14. Covid 19 Vaccination

CAMPAIGN THEME

"Men taking lead in prevention of HIV and AIDS to close the tap of new HIV infections"

MAIN OBJECTIVE

To create awareness about stigma and discrimination due to HIV/AIDS and discouraging negative cultural Norms and social practices that contribute to the spread of HIV and Aids in Kalagala district.

Outcomes

1. Increased HIV and AIDs awareness among the fisherfolk and high risk groups
2. Newly identified HIV positives started on ART (Test and treat)
3. Increased number of fisherfolk enrolled in care (ART)
4. Attitude change and reduced HIV stigma and discrimination among the fisherfolk and other high risk groups
5. Increased referral and linkage for HIV/TB services.

FFOU activity participation during the weekly HIV campaign

1. Ekyoto

A fire camp locally known as ekyoto was held at Kasekulo-Banga to senstise about 200 youth/young people, 50 women and 63 men on HIV prevention and fighting against stigma and discrimination. Health workers and expert clients spearheaded HIV education and Senstisation of the mass. Men involvement to block HIV tap was key in regard to the main theme of the event. Majority of the target beneficiaries were students, women and men from Buganda Kingdom. Below picture shows the members Members attending Ekyoto. FFOU brochures were distributed to memebrs who were present on Ekyoto.

2. Kyagalanyi landing site HIV campaign

Peers educators from Kyagalanyi landing site spearheaded community mobilisation thus creating high demand for HIV services during the campaign. The turn up of community members was overwhelming and over 432 community members received a combination of health services. All the services were supported by the district health workers who were on ground providing different category of health services. Below is a group photo of peer educators from Kyagalanyi landing site during the massive HIV campaign.

3. HIV camp held at HC IV -Kalangala Town council and Katikiro Visit.

FFOU National programme spearheaded HIV community sensitization at Lutoboka landing site to prepare the community to participate in the organized camp medical camp. The meeting targeted 20 peer educators and some trainees of the BDS project funded by GIZ-RFBCP. Issues discussed includes; condom education/demonstration, male involvement to close HIV tap, positive living and fight stigma and discrimination.

The medical camp organized at H/C IV was linked to Lutoboka landing site and Peer educators from Lutoboka landing took initiative to mobilise the fishing community who turned up in big numbers during the medical camp. The peers supported by the FFOU National programs Coordinator were able to lead Condom education and distribution together with the district medical team. Over 5000 male condoms were distributed among 65 youth, men and women. Below is pictorial for HIV cap at Kalanga H/C IV.

4. Stakeholder meeting held at county headquarters.

The stakeholders meeting engaged over 200 people among cultural leaders, business community, DLG, political leaders, local leaders and the community members. Leaders in their respective offices were given opportunity to address the congregation.

The LC V chairperson- in his remarks, he requested the government to include VHTs on remuneration and also requested the government to increase the district's annual budget. He highlighted on the HIV results from medical camps and reported newly positives identified from different landing sites. He further requested the government and all development partners to continue supporting the district and organise more medical

camps to reach other areas which were left out due to inadequate resources and logistics.

Katikiro of Buganda thanked the stakeholder who contributed in various avenues to make the event a success. He emphasized on health as the main key for everyone to succeed in life. He cautioned security men who go on beating fishermen to be sanctioned by RDC who are in charge of district security. Violence always cause people to get tired of the governing regime and thus not good. Leaders were requested to integrate health issues in their daily work. Finally he promised to come back to Kalangala in October to promote coffee development.

Finally the Hon. Minister of state for president Milly Babalanda in her remarks, appreciated Buganda Kingdom and all stakeholders who contributed to the event. She thanked the president and NRM leadership for the commitment shown in the fight against HIV and AIDS. She pledged total government support towards the health sector. She commended the role of male engagement to meet the 90/90/90 targets. Services like HTS, ART and EID were emphasized on by the minister as major arms to reduce new HIV infections in Uganda.

Pictorial of HIV medical camp

Katikiro being ushered at H/C IV in kalangala town council

Condon education being conducted by a peer in Lutobka landing site during community mobilisation

FFOU peer supporting condom distribution at H/C IV camp in Kalangala Town council

Health workers providing combination of health services to the community

Lessons leant;

1) Many landing sites and Islands need to be targeted with combination HIV interventions to increase access and uptake of HIV services.
2) Some of the landing sites are linked with HC II which don't provide comprehensive HIV services
3) Many key HIV partners fear to reach the hard areas like landing sites and Islands due to high risks of water transport.
4) New cases of HIV were identified with recent concluded medical camps and more effort is required to scale up these interventions to other landing sites.
5) Stigma and discrimination is still in many communities and more Senstisation is required

Challenges;

a) Inadequate logistics and supplies to reach all the targeted medical camps
b) Health workers were not facilitated during the camps
c) Stakeholder's participation and sharing designated roles was not clearly addressed by the organizing team
d) Community participation to access and uptake HIV services especially HTS and ART is still low and this calls for massive awareness and education.

Recommendations;

1. Consistence flow of combination HIV services is highly required and equity distribution of services in landing sites, Islands and other hotspots
2. More resource mobilisation for HIV services is required especially targeting fisherfolk who are underserved priority population
3. Networking among partners need to be strengthened at all levels of implementation
4. More community Senstisation is required in the fishing community to improve on attitude change and social behavior change and communication.

Conclusion.

Fisherfolk needs a lot of attention in HIV prevention basing on their high HIV prevalence. Comprehensive HIV services need to be scaled up in all hard to reach areas in order to curb escalating new HIV infections.