



Newsletter

Young Women Campaign Against AIDS

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Message from the Executive Director



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During this quarter, YWCAA has successfully implemented a number of activities that have positively impacted lives of women and men of different ages, and from diverse backgrounds ensuring no one is left behind in our push for equality and social justice for all. Since the Aug 2018 elections , Kenya has remained on top gear in terms of political realignments with focus on future leadership with the two years presidential term ending in 2022. The effect of corruption and accountability on usage of public resources continue to have an adverse effect on Kenyan's economy, with most affected being the majority poor across the country. The effect of global warming and climatic change have led to poor predictability, wrong choice of agricultural products and poor yield. This has impacted negatively on to agriculture which is the main corner stone of livelihood in Kenya. This has also had adverse effect on YWCAA's target groups, with many of them forced to engage in risky means of earning extra in order to afford basic needs. Despite all the hardship, grandmothers and vulnerable young women continue to remain pillars in communities where HIV/AIDS has swept hundreds of thousands young able men and women.

Through the YWCAA's Grandmothers-Led Movement Building program, and promotion of a Gender Based Violence free environment for young women, YWCAA has impacted lives of hundreds of thousands women of all ages; through advocacy. YWCAA recognizes the need to involve men of all ages and of diverse background in advocating for equal rights and social justice for all. The success that we boast of is as a result of the spirit of partnership and collaboration that YWCAA continues to enjoy from the gate keepers at the community level, Civil society organizations, sub county authorities, and other community networks such as GBV activists, Community Health Workers (CHAs) and Community Health Volunteers (CHVs). Through these networks, YWCAA has highlighted cases of social injustice, particularly those affecting women, young people and the vulnerable and we have witnessed prosecution of such cases in YWCAA project areas. Thanks to the YWCAA's peer to peer education program that has sensitized the community on how to report and refer cases, particularly Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV).

The organization continues to implement its Communication Strategy and this has led to YWCAA's visibility through the social and traditional media, and continues to see progress in communicating its work, and reaching out to a wider coverage, including potential donors.

We appreciate the support that, we as an organization has receive from our partners, allies, friends and relatives in transforming the society by creating and nurturing a better generation that is prepared and equipped to face challenges brought about by the New World Order and its effects.

By Ms. Peres Abeka



1. Community Sensitization and OVC Feeding Program



2. Community Monthly GBV Stakeholders Meetings

This activity is organized annually by the BAWA and grandmothers groups in collaboration with the YWCAA and well-wishers to commemorate the World AIDS Day that is marked every 1st of December. In December 2018, the OVC feeding program was organized at Mukuru informal settlement in Nairobi, Rabuor-Kisumu County, Oyugis-Homabay County, and Vulueni-Makueni County. The aim of this activity is to help the BAWA/grandmothers to forge a bond with the community and reach out to those people living with HIV/AIDS, nurture a steady and more responsible community through supporting & encouraging education, sensitizing the youth and Children on HIV prevention, elimination of GBV, access to information on SRHRs and stop abuse of Drugs and substances. YWCAA reached over 2000 people directly and thousands others indirectly in these communities through this public event. The activity has also increased YWCAA's visibility, its partnership and collaboration with like-minded stakeholders in the community and sensitize the community on how to mitigate socio-economic effects of HIV.

YWCAA in collaboration with other community partners continues to facilitate community monthly GBV stakeholders meetings in its 4 Nairobi project areas (Mukuru, Kibagare, Kibera and Kawangware). The aim of these meetings is to strengthen the partnership and collaboration efforts and offer a platform for proper coordination of delivering services to the vulnerable in the marginalized communities. In January 2019, the YWCAA representatives attended a multi-sectoral community gathering that was organized by GBV activists from Nairobi at Mukuru Starehe Sub County. Among the participants were representatives from the Nairobi Children department, Community Health



Workers (CHA), 10 representatives from different Civil Society Organizations working in Starehe Constituency, Community Health Volunteers (CHV) and the paralegal department. In addition, these meetings have enable stakeholders to discuss ways of strengthening the multi-sectoral approach in curbing the rising cases of rape and child defilements in the area.



These dialogue meetings also provide a platform for YWCAA to gather community feedback through the GBV advocates on cases related to GBV; data & information on GBV within the informal settlements; and expand its visibility through increased number of partners and enhanced networking & collaboration within Starehe, Dagoretti and Westland Sub-county. Worth noting is that some members of YWCAA beneficiaries, the Bar Waitresses (BAWA) and grandmothers group are part of the CHV network within their communities.

3. Peer Education Outreach

YWCAA in partnership with the Stephen Lewis Foundation rolled out the “Peer Educators community outreach exercise” conducted by the BAWA and grandmothers trained peer educators.



35 BAWA and grandmothers with basic literacy skills were selected and trained on communication skills and how to engage different groups of people in the community to have an effective outreach. The main aim of the activity is to strengthen the grandmothers led community movements that will hold duty bearers accountable when rights of the less privileged are infringed. For the past six months, the peer educators have made over 400 trips and reached out to over 5000 people in the respective communities in all of YWCAA's project areas. The activity has also led to improvement of reporting on the new HIV infections, GBV cases among other social problems faced by the vulnerable in the community.





Achieving a sustainable, self-reliant and an accountable community is the one of the best ways to achieve zero HIV/AIDS related deaths, end gender based violence related cases, preserve our precious ecosystem (environment) and develop a stronger future with youths able to own and practice the sexual reproductive health rights without stigmatization and discrimination of any nature as well as end the negative and harmful cultural practices and stereotypes.

4. YWCAA A lot Jarire Monitoring & Evaluation Visit



The YWCAA M&E team carried out a monitoring and evaluation exercise to evaluate the progress of the Alot Jarire's grandmothers group in Rabuor-Kisumu County in February 2019. The main objective of this activity was to find out the impact of the ongoing project of strengthening grandmothers-led community movements. The project is in partnership with the Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF).



To strengthen this, the grandmothers have been conducting peer educators community outreach to sensitize the community on use of movement building as an advocacy tool to address the social community challenges. Worth noting is that the grandmothers continue to practice various savings and loan schemes like table banking that support them and their households to access soft loans from the group kitty to boost their Income Generating Activities (IGAs). Through this, the grandmothers-led households have been able to access ARVs, food, school fees, medical services among others.



In addition, they also practice merry-go-round scheme amongst to support themselves during hard economic times. These best practices have seen the grandmothers' lives and that of their household improve remarkably.

5. African Women Development Fund YWCAA Monitoring & Evaluation visit



The interim capacity building officers from African Women Development Fund (AWDF) one of the partners to the YWCAA visited the organization during the month of February 2019. The aim of the visit was to review the impact and progress of the Maanda women leadership and governance journey of the coaching project that ended in December 2018.



The YWCAA team shared the successes, challenges and the lessons learnt from the program, at the individual, organizational and the community level and proposed the recommendations that could strengthen similar programs in future. YWCAA shared insight on the Resource Mobilization activity supported by AWDF and organized by YWCAA in the month of October 2018, and other new strategies adopted to support the organization mobilize resources for sustaining its programmes.



The team also reaffirmed their commitment to further build on its internal systems and to enhance her partnership and collaboration. On the list of priorities for YWCAA, was to facilitate the change to a more inclusive and simple to understand name that would allow her to comfortably work on HIV and focus on other issues as well that contribute to new HIV infections such as SRHRs, SGBV, gender and human rights more vividly.



6. The Stephen Lewis Foundation Monitoring & Evaluation Visit

A representative from the SLF visited YWCAA in March 2019 to review the progress of the ongoing project (Strengthening the grandmothers-led community movements).



and BAWA affected and some living with HIV/AIDS are benefiting directly, 1640 OVCs benefiting and over 20,000 reached indirectly.

During the session, we learnt that there is a more comprehensive way to treat, prevent and care for HIV/AIDS. This research (“Undetectable equals Untransmittable also known as U=U campaign”) has been proven and evidence accumulated by the CDC and YWCAA will embark on sensitizing the community on this to end stigma and discrimination.



The YWCAA team shared the impact of the activities in this project, that is, community outreach by the grandmothers peer educators which has enabled them sensitize women, young people and the vulnerable on how to use movements as a tool for advocating for their rights, access to information on HIV prevention, elimination of GBV, Drug & Substance abuse and knowledge on SRHR especially to young people, the Orphaned & Vulnerable Children (OVC) nutritional support which is provided on monthly basis among others. The BAWA and Grandmothers led households are also strengthened by the Community Revolving Loan fund and the weekly mentorship and coaching sessions by YWCAA staff. Through the project, at least 205 grandmothers





Partners

