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PROJECT TITLE

“ENHANCED VOICES AGAINST AIDS INFECTION (EVAIN)”

ACTIVITY: BASELINE SURVEY 2016

ACTIVITY REPORT

SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RUFI-U is nongovernmental, nonprofit community based organization that was founded to empower the communities to fight against diseases ,poverty and promote human rights through providing opportunities for information accessibility; with an aim of having a health, informed and self sustaining communities capable of fighting for their own rights.

Under her thematic area of health, sanitation and disease awareness, RUFI-U carried out a simple baseline survey in June 2016 in area of Nyamwamba Division Kasese Municipality, targeting 100 households to ascertain the level of AIDS/HIV prevalence, peoples' awareness about HIV/AIDS and other diseases, information accessibility about AIDS/HIV and other diseases and HIV/AIDS control measures available to the people of Nyamwamba and how easily the measures are applied.

Therefore the purpose of this is to give a broader prospect of the simple baseline survey findings and analysis to avail theorized information to the different relevant stakeholders.

The baseline survey which was targeting 100 households using random sampling, we were able to reach 61 households. Due to the urban set up of Nyamwamba division, the households reached are the house and as such we picked one respondent from each house to have an even result and the following were the results/findings.

HIV/AIDS prevalence.

Most people are aware of HIV/AIDs as a serious, incurable sexually transmitted disease; but also aware of other STDs like syphilis, gonorrhoea, Candida. 79% of the population ranked AIDS as the biggest threat to the lives of the people of Nyamwamba Division. Other STDs like syphilis, Gonorrhoea, Candida are also prevalent in the areas of Acholi quarters, Kizungu ,Nyakasanga lower taking the percentages of 6.5%, 3.2%, 4.9% respectively

However, 6.5% of the population did not know about the prevalence of the STDs. This is unfortunate for the population of threatening the population in which these ignorant people are leaving. This calls for an intensified means of sensitization to the people/ communities about diseases.

On average AIDS is most prevalent among the youth with 62.4% followed by married couples making 44%, children 28%, single 35% and the elderly 12.1%.

Information accessibility about HIV/AIDS & other diseases.

The means through which the communities /people of Nyamwamba access information about pertinent issues and or diseases especially AIDS/HIV and other diseases are visitation to the health centre, listening to radios, internet/social media, and church and through friends.

60.2% of the population of Nyamwamba Division –Kasese Municipality access information about HIV and other diseases from Kasese Municipal Health centre IV. This is one of its kinds in the Division; a fact that makes the means of information accessibility not reliable compared to the general population who require the service.

26.2% use radios; this leaves the 73.8% of the population without radio accessibility unattended to.

More worrying is the 6.5% of the population who do not know how and where they can access information about AID/HIV and other diseases. Therefore this has left a reasonable section of the population ignorant about the killer diseases and thus putting their lives at risk.

AIDS/HIV and other STDs control measures

Just like people are aware of HIV/AIDS and other STDs; they are aware of some of the control measures, however, the problem remains the accessibility of services and information.

For example 81.9% of the respondents averred that they access condoms which is one of the preventive measures, from health centers, but there is only one health centre from which they access the service; and therefore others have opted for drug shops which often closed when condoms are needed and or even have no licenses to operate and have expired products; this puts the lives of people at great risk; There should be a substantive means to avail condoms and other disease preventive measures to the people of Nyamwamba.

75.4% use condoms while 24.5% do not use them at all. This means that if the means of availing condoms is not worked on, the 75.4% would join the 24.5% this creating a more risky situation.

6.5% say that they are not aware of where to access condoms while 41% have never been trained about condom use. This implies that meanwhile condom use is the most preferred means of preventing HIV/AIDS and other diseases; the accessibility of information about how to use and find the same still remains a problem.

Other means of AID/HIV and other STDs' control as suggested by some of the respondents;

- ❖ Training the community especially the youth about condom use
- ❖ Stop sharing sharp objects
- ❖ Avoid receiving gifts from strangers
- ❖ Providing sex education to people above 13 years
- ❖ Always testing for HIV/AIDS.

81% of the population has at least tested for HIV/AIDS status once; and 16% have not tested adding that they fear; while 2% are not aware that they need to know their status. Therefore an

intensified call for people to continue and or go for HIV/AIDS testing and training about preventing the same should be done.

Other institutions/organizations in the community of Nyamwamba working on the fight against AIDS/HIV and other diseases as identified by the respondents in our simple survey are; Act For Africa, NAYODE, Majruda Company and Kasese Municipal council health centre IV.

Challenges.

- ❖ Lack of facilitations for RUFU – U staff in, during and after field work.
- ❖ Ignorance of the population about pertinent issues, thus making them miss-take us for money giving out organization.
- ❖ Language barrier – some of the respondents could neither understand English nor Kiswahili or English which are the fluently spoken languages by our officers.
- ❖ Some of our targeted respondents had no time for us as they were having other personal commitments.

Recommendations

- ❖ RUFU –U should engage different relevant stakeholders to intensify sensitization against HIV/AIDS and other diseases and fundraise for the facilitation for her staff.
- ❖ Conduct trainings/works to bring on board other unaware persons.
- ❖ RUFU –U should identify spot points in the division and carry out door to door delivery of condoms and information about the use of the same.
- ❖ There should be condom boxes from which the population should access condoms other than running to a far away health center or a closed drug shop.

Conclusion.

A baseline survey that was intended to ascertain the level of HIV/AIDS prevalence in the communities of Nyamwamba was successfully conducted to its conclusion and the results show that AIDS/HIV is the most threatening diseases rated at 79% and the use of condoms as the most preventive means the population is aware, which is however hard to get/access.

Therefore condom supply at RUFU - should be a pre requisite and training people especially the youth about the use of the same, as this would prevent even other STDs like Candida, syphilis and gonorrhoea as pointed out in the survey.

ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME
HIV	HUMAN IMMUNE VIRUS
RUFU-U	RURAL FOCUS INITIATIVE UGANDA
NAYODE	NATIONAL YOUTH ORGANIZATION FOR DEVELOPMENT
STDS	SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES