



MISSION MILESTONE WOFAK NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO- 2018 quarter one newsletter.



On behalf of WOFAK Board and management, I wish to thank all those who have been reading our articles and those who have been able to give feedback on the newsletter. WOFAK wishes

to also thank our partners who have walked with us through this journey of having universal Health care for all at affordable cost, enhancing access to information by our beneficiaries, ensuring nutritional support and overall ensure that WOFAK lives to our mantra of “BEYOND HIV”

In the last year we managed to work with a number of partners towards attainment of our vision for an AIDS FREE SOCIETY WHERE WOMEN, YOUTH AND CHILDREN LEAVE IN DIGNITY. Key among the partners we worked with are AMREF Health Africa in implementing the pilot Community Systems strengthening project in Kwale County, Kenya Red Cross society, European Union who have funded the Nutrition project in Homa Bay, Plan international supporting the Nilinde OVC project in Kwale County, SRHR Alliance, AIDS Fond, Stephen Lewis Foundation, UNAIDS and IMA supporting the Afya Jijini project. We also in a special way thank the national government agencies like NACC who have been instrumental in supporting our projects and the County Governments of Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, Kwale and Homa Bay through their respective departments of health.

Finally WOFAK will soon be launching their 2018 -2022 strategic plan which will be anchored on the following five key pillars.

1: Health and wellbeing - where we intend to Empower women, children and young people to access affordable quality and comprehensive health services and to challenge the structural causes of vulnerability to HIV and other non-communicable diseases.

2: Governance – we will Ensure Increased Participation of women and young people in decision-making processes that impact on their health and livelihoods and to demand for accountability of state institutions in the delivery of quality, gender-responsive public services.

3: Social Justice - Empower women and young people to challenge gender inequality, sexual and gender based violence, and to tackle stigma and discrimination in all its forms

4: Economic Empowerment - Support and empower women and young people with skills in micro-enterprise development and entrepreneurship for wealth creation and sustainable livelihoods

5: Social Protection – we will provide social protection, care and support to **5,000** most vulnerable women, elderly caregivers and children living with and affected by HIV&AID.

Dorothy Onyango(OGW)



Inspire, Transform and Connect the HIV Response

Annette, 23, a single mother, conceived immediately after completing high school, was forced to take care of her baby as her parent sourced for money so that she could further her education. However, due to the heavy responsibility of taking care of her other six siblings, Annette's aunt suggested marrying her off to one of her relatives.

Annette then moved to the city to seek out companionship and support her baby. She found herself pregnant in the first year of marriage, and on the 3rd trimester, she started her Antenatal Care visits at Baba Dogo Health Centre. With the current requirements of Prevention of Mother to Child HIV Transmission, where all women are tested for HIV on their first ANC visit, Annette went through the test. Before her marriage she had tested severally and the results were negative, therefore she had nothing to fear, forgetting that, she did not know her husband's status.

She went through the pre-test counseling at the ANC, which was followed by HIV testing, the result interpretation was Positive hence the counselor requested for the second test. The second test was also positive. In the post test counseling, Annette was advised to start on the ARV medication in order to prevent infection to her unborn child.

She shared the information with her husband as requested by the counselor, but on receiving the

Annette found refuge from one of her church member's home who later secured for her casual labour in the local industries where she is still based. She is grateful for the support she is getting from the comprehensive care centre in terms of psychological, medical and sometimes nutritional support and from WOFAK who have enabled her to share experience with other young positive women. She is also part of the youths who have been recruited for vocational training where she will acquire skills in dress



Accelerating the reduction of TB, Leprosy and lung disease burden

The goal of this project was to contribute towards accelerating the reduction of TB, Leprosy and lung disease burden through provision of people-centered, universally accessible, acceptable and affordable quality services in Kenya.

Andrew* a TB client with positive from Mwangwei was not able to receive treatment from Mwangwei dispensary as it was not functioning. With the help and support of the Sub-County TB and Leprosy Coordinator (SCLTC), the Community Health Volunteer (CHV) and the Community Health Extension Worker (CHEW) from Mwangeni were able to refer him to Vitsangalaweni dispensary. Andrew's sputum tested positive and he was put on TB treatment immediately. The CHV offered Directly Observed Treatment (DOT) to Andrew. A home visit to Andrew's home was conducted by the field officers together with the CHEW. Here, contact tracing was done and Andrew's uncle tested positive for TB. Andrew's uncle was then put on treatment and health education was given to Andrew's household (his uncle, mother and Andrew). The health education was important as Andrew's mother sold palm wine (Mnazi) and the chances of spreading TB were high since customers shared bottles and straws. The CHV offered Andrew continuous support once he tested HIV positive. The facility in charge of Vitsangalaweni Dispensary also offered support by calling to remind Andrew on clinic days.



SCLTC attaching CHVs with TB patients for DOT support during support supervision



Ongoing CHVs monthly feedback meeting with Sub county

Improve the welfare and Protection of Children affected by HIV and AIDS

Nilinde supported birth certificate registration for Orphans and vulnerable children below five years achieving 79 %. This achievement was attributed to great role played by the Community Health Volunteers and focal persons in mobilizing, educating and encouraging caregivers on the importance of birth certification registration. Plan International Kenya has other community projects that are operational in the county. USAID Nilinde through WOFAK built on these networks and partnerships and held community sessions close to the locals where caregivers live. This was in partnership with the Civil Registration office, Plan International Kwale Office and the Chief's office through the local administration department. These sessions were able to mitigate concerns often raised by caregivers on long distances covered to reach the civil registration office. As a result, a total of 299 children were supported with birth certification.



One of the CHVs (Mwanaisha) Displaying copies of Birth Certificates for OVCs.



Improving Nutrition for Women and Children

Improving nutrition for women and children project has continued to create a positive impact on maternal and child nutrition in Homa Bay and Suba of implementation. The multi sector approach that has been embraced by the implementers has enabled integration of activities that do not only benefit mothers and children but the general population as well. On the other hand, co-financing with other projects like GUSO/PITCH has enabled execution of the same activities with less resources while at the same time reaching out to a bigger and diversified scope of beneficiaries. Collaboration with key stakeholders including the county government and partners implementing nutrition project and related projects has farther propelled the project to greater heights as it has ensured that the project gets the necessary support from the county.

Over the last one year, the project has implemented a set of activities which revolve around three key result areas that define the objectives of the project: enhanced mobilization and political commitment from county government to maternal and child nutrition, increased uptake of nutrition services among women and children and strengthened expertise of health officers and knowledge base on nutrition. The activities that were carried include:

- Support review meetings
- Integrated outreaches in Homa Bay and Suba
- Supporting commemoration of nutrition action days/WAD
- Training of CHVs /CHEWs
- Procurement of MOH data tools (MOH 704)
- Held a partnership forum with MOH stakeholders.
- Supporting of continuous medical education in Homa Bay Sub County
- CNAP development
- Recruitment of mother support groups
- Training of local/school based nutrition champions
- Roundtable meeting.

The activities in Result area 1 (enhanced mobilization and political commitment from county government to maternal and child nutrition) focused on strengthening the role of communities, CSOs and other stakeholders in meaningfully engaging with decision makers at county level and holding them to account.

Result area 2 (increased uptake of nutrition services among women and children), had a direct impact on the nutrition status of women and children at individual level and leads to their improved dietary intake and health status. Through intensive nutritional education and practical guidance, the Action changed the attitudes and knowledge levels of mothers and their children for them to adopt appropriate dietary and micronutrient intake practices for optimal health. Health workers (CHVs, CHEWs and facility-based health workers) received training, equipment and commodities to provide high quality services both at community and health facility levels. They benefited from a set of capacity building activities, which included training, sensitization and mentoring sessions. CHVs and CHEWs were empowered with improved knowledge and skills, which will in turn increased their confidence in their ability, morale and recognition by the community. CHVs play a big role in counseling, educating and giving practical advice to women of reproductive age and promote nutrition seeking behavior. They also reinforce referral systems to and from the health facility.

Result area 3(strengthened expertise of health officers and knowledge base on nutrition) contributed to increased knowledge base and information availability to nutrition stakeholders both at National and County levels for decision making. Health workers have improved capacity on data collection, analysis, interpretation, storage and dissemination. The overall data management leads to a better understanding of nutritional needs of women and children and provide evidence for better allocation of nutrition and health budgets.

This is a project supported by Stephen Lewis Foundation in Homa Bay County. The project supports a number of activities which directly impacts on the lives of grandmothers and OVC's. These activities enable the grandmothers to provide for their grandchildren.

- Annual Basic education support (School Fees and Uniforms)
- Daily psychosocial support
- Annual Vocational Trainings

Basic Education and School Uniform Support

The main aim of this activity was to increase retention in schools, encourage good performance, and self-esteem. About fourteen, seven male and seven female, orphans and vulnerable children were able to benefit from the basic education. Twelve OVCs were provided with school uniforms in order to increase regular attendance, good performance and retention in school.

Daily psychosocial support and counselling

There were follow up home and hospital visits to grandmothers headed house hold. This was in order to provide psychosocial, Emotional and adherence support services to grandmothers and OVC. The main aim for this activity was to improve relationships between the grandmothers and OVC. This was also to improve care at home for OVC by offering emotional support through engagement with grandmothers. 630 home visits were conducted

Counselling sessions were conducted in order to support the psychosocial and emotional needs affecting the grandmothers and OVC.

Vocational Trainings

Vocational training enriches an individual's skills enabling them to carry out certain activities to add value to their life. Institutional visits were carried out to monitor and encourage OVC on Vocational training. At least seven OVC were benefited from this for vocational training. They were enrolled in embroidery, mechanics and tailoring.



OVCs empowerment meeting

The activities conducted during the period 2016-2017 have yielded good results. There has been an improvement of school retention and performance of OVC, coping mechanisms have improved due to the psychosocial support and counseling sessions,.