
Strengthening Families for Provision of Quality Services to Children Affected by HIV and AIDS in Uganda

Presentation by:

**Oketcho John Francis,
Executive Director, FOC-REV**

Presentation Content

- HIV and AIDS Situational Analysis
- Background to FOC-REV
- Programme implemented in 2009
- Programme results (2009)
- Best practices
- Lessons learnt
- Challenges
- Way Forward

Background

- HIV prevalence has stagnated at 6.4% (National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan, 2007/8-2011/12)
- 135,300 new infections annually of whom 19,500 are children (UHSBS, 2005).
- 940,000 people living with HIV/AIDS, 130,000 are children (Ministry of Health, 2009)
- 77,000 deaths were reported annually (UNAIDS and Ministry of Health, 2008).
- Most the 2.3 million orphans are a result of HIV/AIDS (NSPPI 2004/5-2008/9)

Background continued

- 60% of children living with HIV/AIDS are in need of ART without which they will die before 2 years of age (National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan, 2007/8-2011/12)
- 1 out of 3 children that need ART receive it
- ART for children is still largely urban centered
- 90% of the children get HIV through MTC transmission (MOH PMTC Policy)
- Most health workers have inadequate knowledge and technical skills of HIV/AIDS in children

Friends of Christ Revival Ministries

- An indigenous, not for profit, non-political, charitable, Non-Governmental organisation
- Founded in 1999 by Christian volunteers of Friends of Christ Revival Ministries (FOC-REV) due to a crisis caused by HIV/AIDS and poverty
- **FOC-REV Mission** is *“to work with the rural poor marginalized in improving their livelihoods and increase self-reliance through provision of education support, health services, and advocacy/networking work with stakeholders that enable quality and equitable service delivery”*

Programmes implemented in 2009

- Health and HIV/AIDS
- Orphans and other Vulnerable Children
- Prevention and Mitigation of Gender Based Violence
- Covered 5 districts; Apac, Amudat and Nakapiripirit in North, Busia and Bugiri in Eastern

Programme Goals

- Improve socio-economic conditions of 25% OVC through increasing access and opportunities for livelihoods of OVC households
- Improve social welfare conditions for 20.8% OVC through enhancing empowerment of caregivers and communities to both provide and promote children rights
- Increase proportion of babies born to HIV positive mothers, who receive ARV prophylaxis from 5% to at least 80%.
- Ensure that 80% of children born to HIV positive mothers access ARVs for PMTCT

Strategies

- Social mobilization of OVC caregivers to facilitate acquisition of skills and accessing to resources
- Home based HIV/AIDS care and support
- Enhancement of children participation and involvement in planning and in making decisions that affects them
- Targeting OVC households as opposed to individual children
- Training duty bearers to facilitate provision of quality and access to services
- Development of referral systems for complimentary services

Program Results for year 2009

- **32.6%** of 5,749 OVC received 3+ services that included health, education, psychosocial, child protection and food
- 4,620 OVC supported to rejoin formal education
- Reduced child abuse reported cases by 50% through establishment of Parish Child Protection committees
- Increased OVC reached by 804 PLHAs
Community PSS counsellors from 3,242 to 7,123 children

Program Results continued

- 32.6% of 5,749 OVC targeted by programme were referred for other health services
- 60% of 5,749 OVC households on programme had increased food production especially in the pastoral communities
- 95% of 5,749 OVC on programme reported reduced malaria cases through using LLTNs
- Reduction by 50% of AIDS - related reported cases among OVC reduced at both clinic and outreach sites

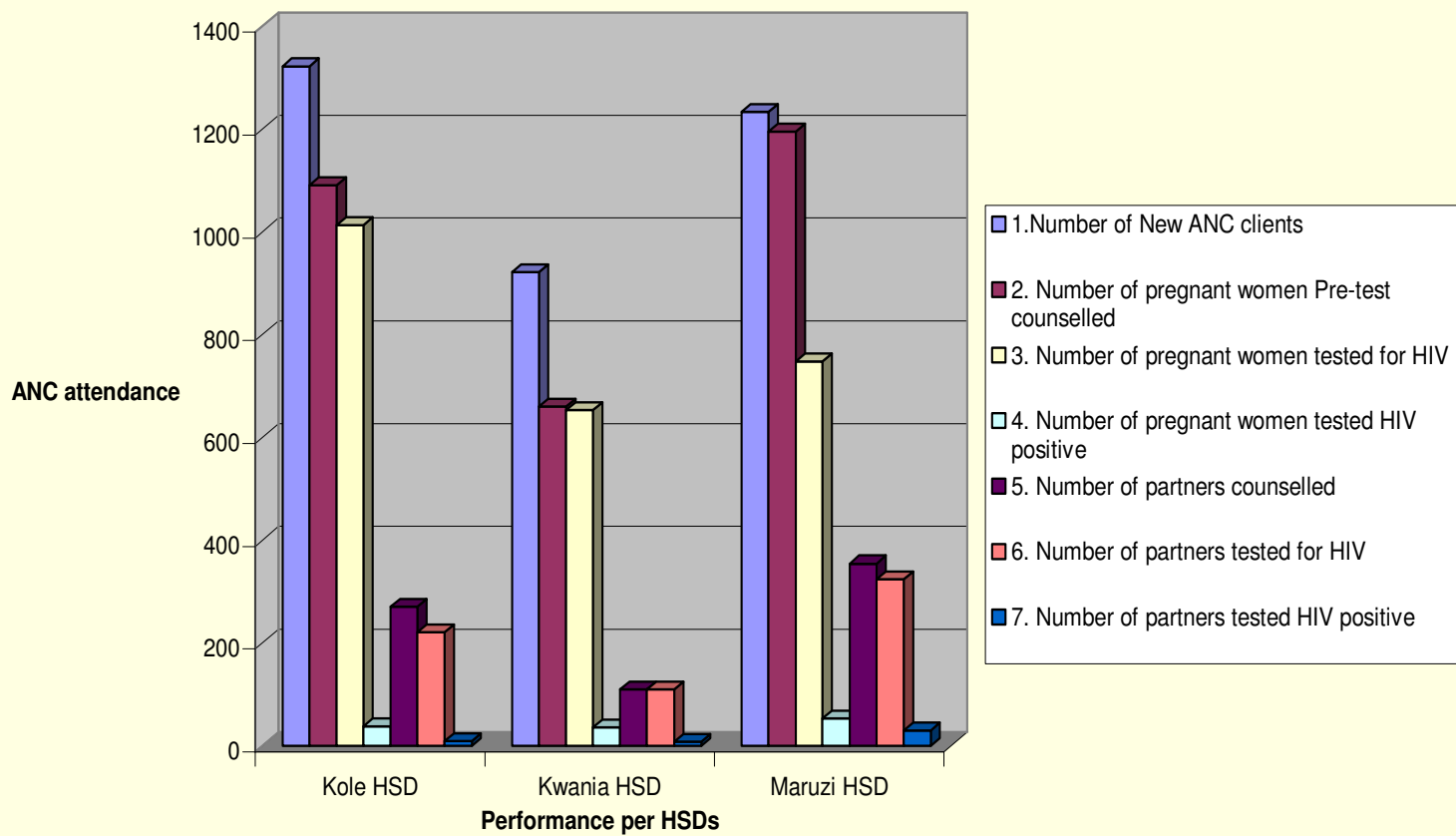
Program Results continued

- **67%** children born to 3,363 HIV+ mothers tested for HIV
- **5.6 %** of children born to 3,363 HIV+ mothers tested +ve for HIV
- **26.3%** of 170 HIV+ children accessing ART
- **38.7 %** of 20,720 pregnant women given ARVs for prevention
- **50%** increase (3,379) couples receiving HCT through outreaches sites

Community Needs Assessment



HIV counseling and testing services Jan-Dec 2009



Best Practices

- Technically guided trainings of OVC and their caregivers is a good practice for effective capacity building and skills as a means of sustainability
- Community outreach sites & household based HIV/AIDS services results in increased access
- Programmes with stigma reduction component highly attracts OVC caregivers to increasingly access HIV/AIDS services
- HIV/AIDS integrated programmes with referrals facilitates children and families to widely access services in rural areas

Challenges

- Mobility of pastoralist communities constrains consistency of service provision
- Fear of self-disclosure for HIV+ mothers prevents children accessing HIV services early
- Short-term funding curtails sustainability of HIV services to children and their households
- Low level involvement of males in HIV/AIDS and OVC interventions
- Poor/negative male attitude towards involvement in ANC & HCT services to support their partners

Lessons learnt

- Many beneficiaries demand for family planning services along side PMTCT service delivery.
- Communities highly appreciate the use of drama groups and PHAs in PMTCT community sensitization.
- Stigma is still a barrier to accessing HIV/AIDS or PMTCT services among OVC and caregivers
- Involvement of local leaders facilitates social mobilisation among low literacy communities.
- Pastoral communities require customized interventions
- Majority (75%) of OVC caregivers are female thus the program took consideration the AIDS gender dimension

Way forward

- Strengthening public-private partnerships with supportive development partners
- Strengthening the self-financing capacities of FOC-REV and its local partners groups/structures
- Scaling up integrated HIV/AIDS community based interventions that target households

Acknowledgement

- Local Governments of Apac, Busia, Bugiri, Amudat and Nakapiripirit
- Civil Society Fund of Uganda AIDS Commission
- GOAL Uganda
- United Nation Children Fund (UNICEF)
- Family Health International (FHI)
- American Jewish Worldwide Service (AJW)
- Firelight Foundation

Thank you

**Executive Director,
FOC-REV-MINISTRIES**

P.O Box 6 Busia (U)

Tel:+256-772-647011

**[E-mail:foc_rev@yahoo.com/
ed@focrevministriesug.org](mailto:foc_rev@yahoo.com/)**

[Website:www.focrevministriesug.org](http://www.focrevministriesug.org)