

PRECIOUS TEARS INITIATIVE ORGANIZATION

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Precious Tears Initiative is a community-based organization started in the year 2004 to address the challenges of HIV/AIDS and poverty that is facing the grandmothers, teenage girls and women the in society. Precious Tears creates a platform for dialogue and interaction to grandparents, teenage girls and women to share their life challenges in the society and help them for quality leadership and sustainable development.

Our current focus is to ensure that orphans and vulnerable children are supported with basic needs and to increase women's participation in leadership, governance and decision-making in Nyanza Province in order to promote attainment of economic independence and full awareness of their rights.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Peer educators training in HIV/AIDS to 16 community own resource persons



Youth participants pictured during the training

1. Formation of Children support forums

Children Clubs from 7 Primary schools were supported to participate in Psychosocial support activities a total of 66 children (males, 33 females 33) participated.



Breaking the Ice- playing games in different circles (children, youth and adults)

2. Psychosocial support

Children were provided with PSS at school and at the home front. 1,324 orphans received Psychosocial support services (708 male, 616 female).

A total of 22 head- teachers (20 Males, 2 females) and education officers attended the training which was opened by the Divisional Officer, (chairperson of the divisional Area advisory Council).

Increased capacity of vulnerable children, families and communities to mobilize and manage internal and external resources needed for quality care and support for children and families affected by HIV and AIDs- Home based care and support.

The community has embraced banana growing and the PSS assistants in a chief's baraza sensitized 162 community members on banana growing and some of them requested for the banana suckers. The project has begun initiating linkages with other stakeholders. Cash transfer process has also been scaled up by the government to South Ugenya and there is hope that some of the BB beneficiaries will also benefit from it.

Results of Activities and Outcomes

- Child participation promoted through forums created for them
- Forums for PSS volunteers to create awareness of banana growing to support OVC provided by various local administrators
- Banana production expanding beyond area of coverage as many organizations working with children replicating banana production through caregivers e.g. ANPPCAN in lower Ambira
- Head teachers and education officers trained in PSS including an officer from a neighboring location.
- Youth enthusiastic to volunteer services during holidays to support the community (including university students on holiday)
- Scale up of some BB interventions such as economic empowerment and PSS by PSS trained teachers transferred out of the coverage area and also other organizations.
- MVC spending their time in a more desirable way by concentrating on banana growing and expansion at home especially during the school holidays
- The BB project participated in the Divisional child protection network forum
- Networking links created with other organizations during the 'World AIDs day' which will enhance sustainability during the 15 months cost extension

5.0 Challenges and Constraints

- Demand for the services within and outside the area of coverage
- Consolidating sustainability initiatives
- Convincing the volunteers that there are other forms of motivation other than being paid money

6.0 Lessons Learnt

- The community appreciates economic empowerment activities.
- Economic empowerment should target and involve both adults and children.
- Guardians relationships with orphans have improved as a result of support reaching the households through the children (particularly feeding programme and economic empowerment)

Essential Services

Service/Indicator	Actual Reached	Comments/notes
Food	2,081	Feeding support in schools 2,074 (feeding program) and 7 (2 female and 3 males) supported with supplementary feeding
Protection	117	Supported Divisional child protection network forum
Health care	102	100 MVC girls supported with sanitary towels 2 males linked to health Centre for medication
Psychosocial support	1,324	PSS provided to children in schools through children's clubs in schools and homes
Economic opportunity/strengthening	110	Through OVC, caregivers supported with banana suckers.
Education/Scholastic materials'	12	Geometrical sets, pencils, rulers as motivation for participation in various activities during the children's fun day
Participation.	105	Children Participated in build up activities in preparation for 'World AIDs day'

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