

**QUEEN ELIZABETH MEDICAL FOUNDATION ACTIVITY REPORT ON  
CONDUCTING INTERGRATED HIV PREVENTION AND CHILD PROTECTION  
AWARENESS CAMPAIGN THROUGH DIALOGUE AND DRAMA SESSIONS IN  
SWESWE AND BUKERE ZONES KYAKA II REFUGEE SETTLEMENT**



The images above show QEMF volunteer conducting the community awareness session at Sweswe Kitonzi village on 27th Sept 2024

**LOCATION OF THE ACTIVITY:**

**SWESWE DAM II , KITONZI AND BUKERE VILLAGES  
KYAKA II REFUGEE SETTLEMENT, KYEGEGWA DISTRICT UGANDA**

**FUNDING AGENCY: ALIGHT**

**DATE: 25<sup>TH</sup> , 27<sup>TH</sup> AND 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024**

**PREPARED BY**

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NAME.....

**APPROVED BY**

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NAME.....

## BACKGROUND

Children and adolescents aged 1–19 make up one-sixth of the global population, with nearly 90% residing in low- and middle-income countries, where access to essential health and social services is often limited. In 2018, 1.65 million adolescents worldwide were living with HIV, with an estimated 190,000 newly infected that year. Adolescent girls are disproportionately affected, accounting for 74% of new HIV infections in their age group. While data on antiretroviral therapy (ART) coverage for adolescents is scarce, reports indicate lower access and uptake compared to adults. In 2017, among 40 countries with available data, only 43% of adolescents living with HIV were receiving ART, and viral suppression rates were lower than among adults.

In Uganda, the HIV prevalence among children aged 0-14 is 0.5%, equating to approximately 95,000 children living with HIV. Viral load suppression (VLS) rates among all HIV-positive adults aged 15–64 stands at 59.6%, but only 39.3% for children aged 0-14. These figures underscore the urgent need for targeted interventions.

Child protection in the Kyaka II Refugee Settlement remains a critical issue, with significant gaps in awareness and service provision. This calls for comprehensive sensitization campaigns and improved health service access to safeguard vulnerable children, particularly those affected by HIV/AIDS.

## CONCEPT /JUSTIFICATION FOR THE ACTIVITY

Kyaka II Refugee Settlement in Uganda hosts a population of refugees facing various challenges, including child abuse, limited access to healthcare, education, and social services. HIV/AIDS remains a critical health issue in the community, with stigma and lack of awareness contributing to the spread of the disease. At the same time, child abuse, in various forms, continues to threaten the well-being of children within the settlement.

Despite efforts to combat these issues, gaps in knowledge and understanding persist. A holistic approach combining HIV prevention and child abuse awareness is necessary to address these challenges in an effective and culturally appropriate manner. Queen Elizabeth Medical Foundation Uganda (QEMF), as a lead health implementing community-based organization in Kyaka II, is committed to addressing these concerns through an interactive, community-centered approach.

## ACTIVITY PURPOSE

- ✚ The purpose of this activity was to raise awareness of HIV prevention and child abuse prevention within Kyaka II Refugee Settlement through interactive dialogue and drama performances. The campaign aimed to create a platform for open discussion on HIV/AIDS, child abuse, and associated risks, while

promoting behavioral change.

## OBJECTIVE:

- ✚ To increase knowledge and awareness about HIV transmission, prevention, and treatment.
- ✚ To raise awareness of the signs of child abuse, its long-term effects, and prevention strategies.
- ✚ To engage the community in dialogue about the societal challenges posed by HIV and child abuse and how they can be addressed.
- ✚ To encourage the adoption of preventive measures and early intervention strategies for HIV and child abuse.

## DISCRPTION OF THE ACTIVITY

With support from ALIGHT, Queen Elizabeth Medical Foundation Uganda (QEMF) successfully conducted a comprehensive HIV and child protection awareness session in Sweswe dam I , Kitonzi and BUKERE Villages, Kyaka II Refugee Settlement. The initiative aimed to increase community knowledge about HIV prevention and child protection, particularly among caregivers and adolescents, addressing the rising rates of HIV and child abuse in the area.

The activity was conducted through integrated community dialogue and drama performances to engage participants in a culturally appropriate and interactive manner. Adolescents were educated on HIV transmission, prevention methods like condom use, and the benefits of early testing, including the availability of PEP and PrEP for risk reduction. Emphasis was placed on reducing stigma around HIV and encouraging open discussions on sexual health.

In addition to HIV education, the session covered critical child protection topics such as recognizing signs of child abuse, reporting mechanisms, prevention of teenage pregnancy, and understanding children's rights. Role-playing activities and group discussions were used to foster active participation, allowing young people to openly share their concerns and experiences.

By combining these two vital topics, the program empowered adolescents and community at large with the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about their sexual health while also understanding their rights and how to protect themselves from abuse. The integration of drama and dialogue made the session both educational and engaging, fostering a safer and more informed community for young people in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement



The image above shows QEMF staff organising the participants to get ready for the drama session

### DESIRED RESULTS FROM THE ACTIVITY

- ✦ Increased community awareness and knowledge of HIV prevention and child abuse.
- ✦ More open communication between parents, caregivers, and children regarding risks and prevention of abuse.
- ✦ A reduction in stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS and an increase in uptake of testing and treatment services.
- ✦ Empowered communities that can identify and respond to child abuse cases.

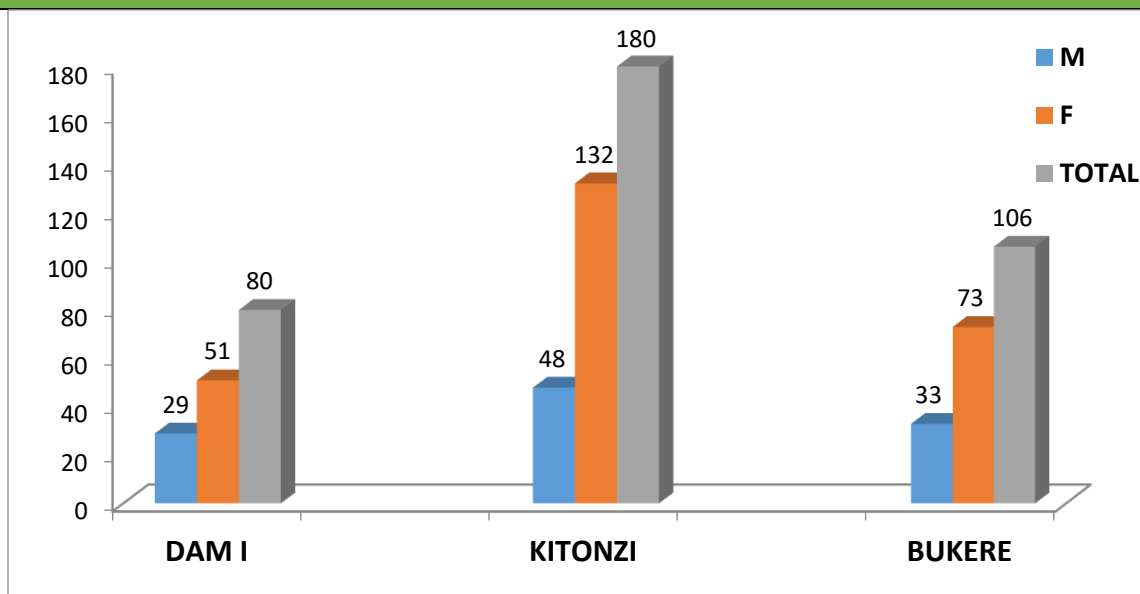
### SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

PLANNED OUTPUT	ACHIEVEMENTS	REASONS FOR VARIANCE
Conduct 3 dialogue sessions about HIV prevention and child abuse	3 dialogue sessions conducted	Achieved as planned
Perform 2 drama sessions for awareness	3 drama sessions conducted	Achieved as planned
Reach 270 community members (parents, caregivers, children)	366 community members reached	Higher turnout than anticipated due to the demand for knowledge
Distribute 600 condoms to the eligible participants to prevent HIV acquisition and unwanted pregnancy	980 condoms were distributed	high demand for condoms

## SUMMARY OF PARTICIPANTS BY NATIONALITY AGE AND SEX

NATIONAL				REFUGEE			
< 18YRS		>18YRS		< 18YRS		>18YRS	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
00	00	00	00	53	123	57	133

## SUMMARY OF PARTICIPANTS BY LOCATION AND SEX



## KEY ACTION POINTS FEEDBACK FROM THE PARTICIPANTS

- ✦ Participants expressed a strong desire for more frequent HIV and child protection awareness sessions. Regular community dialogues, particularly involving youth and caregivers, would reinforce the messages and increase long-term impact.
- ✦ Adolescents recommended establishing a peer-led education system where young people are trained to serve as ambassadors of HIV prevention and child protection within their communities. This would create a sustainable model for spreading awareness and empowering youth to take leadership roles.
- ✦ Participants highlighted the need for more accessible HIV testing and child protection services, including confidential counseling and referral systems. Funding would enable
- ✦ Participants suggested that more visual aids, leaflets, and interactive tools would help reinforce the messages on HIV prevention and child protection, especially for those with limited literacy.



The image above shows HIV Prevention awareness session conducted on 25<sup>th</sup> Sep 2024 in DAM I village

### CHALLENGES

- ✦ High turn up of the participants who were attracted by drama performance and our refreshments could not cover all of them.
- ✦ Girls in the reproductive age were requesting for sanitary pads which we could not provide.
- ✦ Some adolescents were requesting to be trained in vocation skill after realizing that the high prevalence rate in for HIV was much linked to poverty

### LESSONS LEARNT

- ✦ Addressing sensitive topics like HIV and child abuse requires culturally appropriate methods. The use of drama and dialogue resonated well with participants, helping to break down barriers and foster open discussions
- ✦ Involving young people as peer educators or facilitators proved effective in encouraging more open dialogue, particularly among adolescents. Youth are more likely to engage with their peers on sensitive issues.



The image shows the use of Visibility and professional presence of our staff during field activities

OTHER EVENTS



group discussin for only women in the reproductive age in DAM I



Dialogue with caretakers on child projection in Bukere



The image above shows the drama group presenting a play about how child abuse and domestic violence can lead to HIV aquision



HIV awareses campaig in KITONZI viallange



Group discussion with thw care takers on child protection