

Wheels4Life Phase Two Project Report 2018



Implemented by: Union of Hope- Lira

Grant Amount: \$7000.00

Number of Bikes purchase: 78 Indian Bicycles (110Kg) courier

Total number distributed: 80 Bikes (78 W4L, 02 Evans donation)

Date of Handover: 13th January 2018

Beneficiaries: Women and Children HIV Groups

Location: Agwiciri/ Banya Parish (Inomo Sub County- Apac District)

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Project Summary:

Enhancing access to livelihood, health, education and income through Provision of modes of mobility to vulnerable women & Children

Overview

Union of Hope is implementing the wheels4life project in the northern part of Uganda. Wheels4life has donated bikes through Union of Hope across three sub counties in Apac District since July 2011. We have worked with community health workers, village health teams and HIV/Aids counselor since then to distribute bikes to women and children who are HIV positive. Our choice to work with women and children come as a result of War in the north that left many young women rape and children being born with HIV virus during camp settlement. The community settlement has put many women, children and vulnerable women at risk of transmitting virus to their own children during birth.

The situation at hand is that many children live very far from public facilities which are place at the centre of every sub county. The structures of government health system leaves rural women and children at risk, the challenge here was low access to health care, long distances to access health facilities.

With the prevailing number of children being born in the villages, there was also high risk of many children getting expose virus as well as many women and local traditional birth attendance getting expose to the virus. Union of Hope together with Wheels4life has supported the community grass root movement of women and children to have access of transportation to create affordability, access to means of transportation and hence facilitating the high chances of reduction of HIV transmission in the villages and among women, children in the district of Apac and Lira.

The Project goal is to significantly improve good health by encouraging families, individuals, households to attend HIV testing in health center, collect their ARVs in time and communities achieve sustainable access to income, market and social amities. The focus is on four basic outcomes which are;

1. Increased sustainable access to Health Facilities

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2. Increased access to Livelihood and Economic empowerment , and
3. Women, Children attending Voluntary testing and Coping up from HIV/AIDs Stigma
4. Increased number of improve standard of living and income among beneficiary
5. Encourage openness, coping with stigma among family and community members

With the current status in the two district of Lira and Apac where many women are HIV positive, children attracting HIV virus during birth, low access to modes of mobility, long distance to nearby Health facility, low income, low food productivity, low access to market to sell goods among the vulnerable persons which indicates many women, children affected by HIV plight leaving under a very diverse standard of living.

These challenges are as stated below;

- Low access to Social Amenities
- Low income among the women
- Long distance walk on foot to access health units
- Much money spend to hire boda boda
- Low access to health related information/messages that promotes peaceful interaction
- Low level to cope up with HIV status, openness and coping up within family members and communities.

Handover processes and selection of beneficiaries.

Selection of beneficiaries

Union of Hope works with community structures of leadership where local council one and community volunteers identify the beneficiaries to receive bikes and our staff takes all the roles to verify and approved with guidelines of the criteria. We use the selection criteria of rating level of vulnerability, HIV Medical Card, health attendance sheet, home visits to check whether latrines are available in each household. We have work with HIV focal person and the sub county leadership to conduct vetting of the most vulnerable people. We use the household register book in the villages to ascertain the most vulnerable looking at the asset own by each person to receiving the bikes, with this the most poorest and vulnerable people.

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Children have benefited as the core beneficiaries being registered, however the bikes distributed is meant to support the overall family people, care givers and relatives who are considered indirect beneficiaries.

Sustainability training

Union of Hope supports the functionality of local mechanics by providing free trainings to local youths, and women with basic skills to conduct minor repairs in case of any breakage with the bikes parts like fixing brake pads, chain links etc. During this phase two, we trained 5 community youth who will be supporting the repair of bikes at a subsidize costs and they have taken lead in fixing the bikes we donate right from their local communities. We believe this has created employment to youth.

Photos of mechanics after the training and in their new overall



Local government partnership meetings

The consultation meetings has been held with the Sub county chief, local council III and Community development officer as well as all parish leadership to help support the project sustainability through monitoring of the bikes and registering all the bikes distributed to beneficiaries free of charge since our beneficiaries. The Sub County chief has pledged to conduct and facilitate periodic monitoring of the bikes project in all the project locations.

Achievement of the Project since 2011

Through our bike project, the health center has been able to register attendance at the health unit and increased self-esteem among people living with HIV where many are able to cope, and speak freely about their status as well increased access to collect their monthly ARV from registered units.

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The district has also register reduction in the number of the people getting HIV Aids on monthly basis. We are supporting the government to have achieved the goal of 90/90/90 which means (90% of people know their HIV status, 90% of people are on ARVS and 90% has low viral suppressed and can live longer).

Many families have been able to access social services faster, and be able to carry their children to which increased both performance and enrollment in many rural schools

Handover Process and Bikes distribution

A total of **80** bikes were distributed to **11** children who are HIV positive and **79** women who are Widows, elders but are all HIV positive. **Two** bikes were supported by **Evans** from USA who recently visited the wheels4life project site and felt there was need to support as well.

A girl carries her younger brother after receiving the bikes and Women very excited after getting their new bikes



Financial report / updates

- **\$6630** spend for purchasing **78** bikes
- **\$248** for engraving, labeling and numbering of **78** bikes
- **\$167** hire of a truck to transporting carton of bikes to Inomo – shirt
- **\$200** contributed by **Evans** from **USA** to buy additional **2** bikes

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Recommendation

Bikes is a very important asset and a tool which can facilitate development good health and reduce poverty among the communities who are vulnerable particularly children, women and elderly persons who are disable, extremely vulnerable as well those who are affected by prevalence of HIV/AIDS. We have projected that out of 100 households sample 20 households would be found to have a virus in one or two persons representing 70% rate of HIV transmission among children and adults. And so this calls for much support and by donating bikes we are addressing a very critical challenges which is low access to medical facilities due to long distance and lack of means of transportation.

We also recommends for continuous support as our next project is geared towards distributing bikes to many community counselors, HIV focal persons in each parishes and local community health educator to help sensitize many people to attend voluntary counseling and testing at a neaby health unit.

Challenges

- Lack of office space and budget to support overhead
- No paid staff, all are volunteers
- Inadequate running budget to support monitoring of the Mobility project
- High number of beneficiaries registering to be supported with modes of transport
- Level of vulnerability increases dependence syndrome, most of these women can't afford to replace spare parts