

**PROJECT TITLE: "Creating Access for Mobility to HIV Positive patients in fishing communities".**



*Thank you, Stanly Hall, for your support of us.*

**WHEELS4LIFE WORKS IN NORTHERN UGANDA THRU THE UNION OF HOPE A COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION**

**52 BIKES DISTRIBUTED TO HIV+ CHILDREN AND WOMEN GROUPS IN AYABI TOWN COUNCIL & AYABI SUB COUNTY**

SEPTEMBER 2023.

The health system in Uganda is structured with health facilities starting from the local council one system who are called Village Health teams whose primary role is to report cases, support vaccinations at village levels, and sensitize communities on health prevention measures, the second structure Health Centre II, operates at a parish level which means they served average population of over 3000 people.

Ayabi Sub-county/town council is surrounded by Lake Kwana covering about 6 landing sites with different commercial activities such as sex workers, fishing, commercial bars, existence of street children. Due to these mobile activities, the number of HIV virus transmissions has increased among the active sexual age bracket of 18 to 55 years and there has been a high number of cases of HIV transmissions among children at birth, and this has reduced the chances of many young adolescents living to achieved potential opportunities due to stigma, living in denial and failures for parents to disclose their HIV+ status to their loved ones. Most of the HIV+ patients people in the Ayabi Community live at an average income level which creates an economic social gap, and with stigma caused by their HIV+ status, they are left struggling to acquire the needs that are required for daily necessities.

An average person in the community has to walk on foot to collect the ARVs from the Health facility about 8-12km away on a monthly basis, these communities are peasant farmers who depend on agricultural activities or production to make ends meet.

Wheels4life has for the past 10 years distributed bikes to different communities in northern Uganda. The focus of the distribution is to increase access to mobility of HIV+ patients, school-going children, and community health workers. W4L works through a local partnership with Union of Hope a community-based organization that supports HIV+ women, children, and elderly in the communities of Lira, Apac, and Kwana to have access to modes of transportation

Bicycle ownership across the region is paramount because of all average members of the community.

The Project works with local government leadership in the identification of the beneficiaries meanwhile Union of Hope conducts verification and confirmations of the right names of people who should benefit from the bikes. We make careful selections of the right people who are very poor to receive the bikes especially those who are HIV+ with consideration for those who live 10-15k away from health facilities, and school-going children who are HIV+.

W4L volunteers together with mechanics assemble all the bikes at a central workshop before the distribution takes place, all the beneficiaries are trained on simple bike repair skills as part of facilitating sustainability and continuity of all bikes running throughout the year to support the families

Union of Hope leadership on behalf of W4L purchased the bicycle model that has its spare parts available in the local markets. While the preparation for distribution awaits, each member are mobilized to form women's groups with local leadership

The groups have been very successful because each group leader is trained in group dynamics, management, and leadership styles. Each group leadership has to establish Village savings and loan associations(VSLA) where each member is able to save money as part of being able to buy spare parts in case the bike breaks down.

The bikes distributed will support HIV+ persons to create access to markets, increase farming productivity, reduce the burden of walking to see a doctor at health facilities as well improve participation in social amenities such as attending community meetings, gatherings, church prayers.

## **Financial reports – Stanly Hall donations**

On 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Wheels4life made transfers of **\$5,000** to Union of Hope through the Project leader to procure the bikes on behalf of the W4L. **52** Nice Indian imported bikes were purchased at a cost of **\$4,888** while **\$158** was spent on engraving and labeling the bikes. Our mechanics always ensure all bikes are assembled from the workshop and then packed in the lorry for distribution. Union of Hope together with group leaders ensures all bikes are transported to near central locations as part of building a sense of belonging and reducing the burdens of walking long distances to receive the new bicycles.

**Gratitude:** We continue to thank Wheels4life and its supporters for their kind support towards our community projects, we very much appreciate the choice and trust that has been built. We will continue to ensure all the grants sent are used to serve the community.

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