



Alpha Monthly

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Message from CEO
- BBC films in Homabay
- Launch of CAC tablets
- CHW review meeting in Mageta
- OVC Counselling

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Message from CEO

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you celebrated the start of 2013 in good spirits with family and friends. Now that we are well into the New Year, it's good to look ahead and think about what this year may bring us. But first, a quick look back!

2012 was quite a year for all of us at Omega Foundation. We've been through many developments, in sometimes less than favourable circumstances. But we've also achieved a lot in terms of our plans.

In governance, OF in its restructuring brought on board two new entrants into the Board of Trustees. These individuals with expertise in law and CSO governance will add into the blend of professionals already sitting in the organisation's governing body.

OF recruited more staff and beefed up the organisational structure to include departments like Communications in order to establish and maintain mutually beneficial relationships with the public.

BBC films in Homabay

Omega Foundation (OF) recently hosted the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in Homabay Town where they took part in filming to profile critical cases of human need.

Filming was mainly on cases of extreme poverty, HIV, child-headed households and malnutrition among children below 5 years.

These films are aimed at fundraising in the UK to help support these families and more through organisations such as OF.

Immunisation outreach in Nyando

Over 100 residents of Nyando district recently benefited from an HTC and immunisation outreach conducted by OF.

The outreach which was aimed at providing basic healthcare services to populations in hard-to-reach areas, over 50 children under 5 years were immunised against measles.

Also among the activities carried out were family planning, malaria control through distribution of

Institutional Strengthening (IS) though continuous was one of OF's major accomplishments in 2012. Through collaboration with IS-oriented INGO-FANIKISHA Project, OF assessed its capacity and embarked on a journey that would see it receive direct USAID funding once its IS capacity was fully strengthened.

Our resource mobilization efforts finally bore fruit with corporate organisations like Equity Bank, Co-operative Bank and Ecobank coming in strongly to provide support OF activities and beneficiaries. This saw OF save on its spending and redirect the funds to other activities.

It is therefore important for us to use our time wisely and move forward as decisively and swiftly as we can in 2013. That will only be possible with your continued dedication, and teamwork. The past few years have had a significant impact on all of us, but I would like to thank you all for your significant support and commitment during these challenging times.

WILFRED OWUOR,
C.E.O.

Recall, Pirates of the Caribbean) who helped promote the filming."I am so impressed with the work that organisations such as OF are doing to help eradicate poverty and HIV," said the actor.

OF in partnership with Maisha Trust Foundation have embarked on a journey to help eradicate HIV, Malnutrition and poverty in the major slums in Homabay Town such as Shauri Yako and Misita. This is not the first time that BBC is filming OF projects over the years OF has been honoured to host many such activities and celebrities among them footballer Allan Shearer and actor Jack Dee. The films will be released in London on Comic Relief's Red Nose night.

Insecticide Treated Nets to children under 5, deworming, distribution Vitamin A and HTC services.

"Thank God these services have been brought close to home. The long distance to the health centre has always stopped me from completing immunisation for any of my children," beams Vera Oluoch a 35-year-old mother of four.

This activity was done in collaboration with Kadinda Health Centre.

OF conducts M&E training

OF in its effort to transform from an implementer of direct service delivery programs to “facilitator” providing funding and technical assistance to its affiliates conducted an OVC focal persons training on data collection tools.

The training was aimed at furnishing CBOs with skills on how to better perform their reporting role.

OFs Data Officer Cartrine Anyango facilitated the training and urged the CBOs to take the reporting element in their project implementation seriously because it was the only way that people out there would get to know of their existence.

In attendance were St. Annes Mwangaza, Awuoth Widows, NOWA Moyie and Kabongo among

others.

The participants were taken through OVC focal person data collection tool –a summary of OVC data collected by Community Health Workers (CHW) for ease of reporting on OVC issues.

“The tool will make our work easier in terms of aggregating the monthly reports from CHW,” said Lorraine Ouko the OVC Focal person for St. Anne’s Mwangaza CBO.

CHW review meeting in Mageta

Mageta Island in Bondo District was the host of Community Health Workers review meeting whose objective was to share ideas, challenges and suggestions and forge a way forward vis avis community health.

The CHW stated the large geographical areas that each had to cover as a challenge citing that this hindered their effectiveness and efficiency especially when dealing with serious cases.

“I now appreciate the fact that CHWs not only concentrate on HIV but all areas related to health,” commented Cornelius Murombedzi the International Programmes Manager at Widows and Orphans who also attended the meeting.

The participants were drawn from Usenge, Mahanga and Mutundu community units of Bondo district .



Participants follow the proceedings at the CHW review meeting keenly

OVC Counseled

Adolcent Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Mageta Island were recently counseled on how to lead meaningful lives and appreciate education.

The training conducted by Maurine Obuya aimed at exposing the young adults to life coping skills that would enable them face life’s challenges through making informed choices.

Issues such as HIV, teenage pregnancy, peer pressure and education were discussed with the participants taking part in focus group discussions.

The facilitator took a mentorship approach to inspire and enlighten the participants on pertinent life issues.

“This is an eye-opener for me and my friends. I will definitely have a different approach to life from now on,” said David Ochieng’ one of the participants.



Youth take part in removal of the water hyacinth in Lake Victoria: The training sensitized the youth on useful ways of giving back to the community.

“Even the smallest act of caring for another person is like a drop of water -it will make ripples throughout the entire pond...”

— Jessy and Bryan Matteo