



Alpha Monthly

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 11

MAY, 2013

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Message from the CEO**
- **OF steers Community Health Strategy review**
- **Affiliate selection: OF ready to sub-grant**
- **Comic Relief support comes full cycle**
- **OF governing body undergoes training**

Omega Foundation,
Busia Road, Milimani Est.
P.O. Box 3246-40100,
KISUMU- KENYA.
Tel: 0716 527990
0734 527990
info@omegafoundation.or.ke
www.omega-foundation.org

Message from the CEO

The month of May was OF's busiest this year I must say. At no one time would you find all of us in the same place. We were moving from place to place juggling all sorts of projects irrespective of their locations. People say super humans don't exist? Well, they haven't been to OF!

On the cards this busy month was Community Health Strategy (CHS) stakeholder meetings, affiliate selection process (read: issuance of EOI, physical financial risk assessment to 21 CSO/CBO/FBO and issuance of RFA), Board of Trustee (BOT) training, numerous other capacity development initiatives... you name it!

The CHS meetings held in Nyanza and Western provinces were an eye-opener for OF in terms of policy advocacy which it has never been involved in. OF has also made great strides in institutional strengthening with the tremendous support of FANIKISHA and graduated to start granting affiliates. This is a major milestone that will see us move

from implementers to facilitators of services. It is in this regard that OF working round-the-clock to bring on board affiliates with the capacity to implement its programs.

OF's governing body too was trained on the critical governance role of oversight with the aim of having a professional board devoid of the ever too common urge to get involved in the daily running of the organisation.

On a rather sad note Comic Relief (CR) one of our very first partners will end its five year strategic grant come August this year after a half a decade of nothing but success to write home about. The impact of CR on many a life will eternally remain. Thank you CR!

Finally it is my hope and prayer that the months ahead will bring nothing but success to OF, its affiliates and all its stakeholders.

WILFRED OWUOR,

C.E.O.

OF steers Community Health Strategy review

Omega Foundation as an active partner in the implementation of aspects of the Community Health Strategy (CHS) is engaged in advocacy aimed at increasing awareness and drawing stakeholders into achieving health outcomes outlined in the national CHS. This obligates OF to closely engage with CHWs, CHEWs, CSOs, Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation (MOPHS) and other key stakeholders in gathering experiences and lessons learnt in the current CHS and giving recommendations for the next document.

For this reason therefore, OF in partnership with MOPHS organised meetings for the stakeholders in Nyanza and Western Provinces with the aim of collecting views and opinions relevant in informing the next CHS. The participants armed with knowledge and experience in community health and with the facilitation of Mr. Samuel Njoroge the Deputy Director Division of Community Health Services were concerned about issues such as remuneration and workload viz area of coverage for CHWs, rules of engagement with CSOs, hospitality of healthcare providers and opportunities for training for healthcare providers among other pertinent issues.

The Nyanza meeting was officially opened by the Provincial Community Health Coordinator Dr. Ibrahim Shiwalo and Western Province by Dr. Arthur Andere the Provincial Malaria Coordinator. Both concurred



Participants at the review forum deeply engrossed in a focused group discussion

so that community health could not be ignored if national health indicators were to improve.

"Such participatory involvement of community healthcare providers has been lacking giving rise to friction and tension between the different hierarchies of community health." note Jamal Were a CHW from Mount Elgon

The meetings were made possible with support from FANIKISHA which strives to enable national level CSOs to provide sustainable leadership to deliver on the community health response

Affiliates selection: OF ready to sub-grant

Omega Foundation has successfully gone through the first cycle of FANIKISHA institutional strengthening initiatives and graduated to the second level. The first graduation unlocked receipt of programmatic grants which will be sub-granted to competitively selected affiliates. It is through working with affiliates that OF will be able to effectively reach the set targets. OF recently brought together potential affiliate organisations implementing health projects in the three regions of Nyanza, Western and North Rift in its bid to identify and select partners to deliver its WEZESHA project. OF was fetching partners capable of delivering high quality interventions that will improve quality of life for PLHIV and reduce HIV infection .

In addition to the grants, OF in collaboration with FANIKISHA will provide needs based technical assistance to the selected affiliates.

The meeting was meant to help the potential affiliates to have a clearer understanding of OF, FANIKISHA, Programmatic Grant; and OF to issue the EOI then agree on the next steps.

Omega Foundation will play the role of facilitator

while the affiliates implement activities outlined in accordance to the programs objectives to: improve the uptake of quality clinical services among adults and children, strengthen household capacity to care for OVC, enhance uptake of HIV prevention through behavior change and strengthen the capacity of health care workers for effective delivery of HIV services. The OF affiliates will be free to deliver all or some of the objectives based on their capacity. Creatively handling these objectives will lead to the ultimate goal of FANIKISHA- sustained improvement in the health and well-being of all Kenyans.

The target populations in this program are: the general population, Most at Risk Population (MARPs), Community Healthcare Workers, Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC), People living with HIV/AIDS & TB (PLWHAs) and Affiliates technical staff who will benefit from technical assistance and mentorship.

In a plenary session, the participants were taken through the EOI to clarify any grey areas. The 21 affiliates who were successful after submitting the EOI were the assessed for financial probity. The assessment team comprise OF and FANIKISHA staff. Out of the 21 affiliates 14 were pre-qualified and will be issued with requests for application in June.



OF M&E Officer Cartrine Anyango explains a point during the affiliates selection meeting. With her is OF CEO Wilfred Owuor.

Comic Relief support comes full cycle

Omega's first big time funding is ending this August. The five year project "Social care for PLHW, OVC and Widows" which aimed to reduce HIV incidence, tackle stigma and discrimination hitherto a big hindrance to HIV prevention efforts, and to expand economic opportunities for households is counting gains made. Over 800 thousand people have been reached with essential services. Several orphans, PLWH, and widows having benefited, taken through secondary school, gained vocational skills and assisted to explore livelihood sources. Most importantly, community groups have been enabled to sustain the

a process that involved technical assistance and ongoing support towards building capacity to engage and deliver quality projects. NOWA Moyie is one example that has been nurtured from a self help group serving a sub-location to an NGO with a national mandate.

Preliminary results of the end term evaluation of this grant shares insight on the successes and learnings accrued thereof.

Comic Relief (CR), call it "Strategic Grant", it meant to deliver programs and build institutional capacity of OF and its partners. We are proud to report that these aims have been largely achieved. Thanks CR!

"There is a time and season for everything under the Sun."

-Ecclesiastes 3:1

BOT in training

OF has finalized its board governance manual consequently it engaged its Board of Trustees in a 3 day training clarifying on their roles in organisational governance including; strategic oversight, responsibility on resource mobilisation and allocation, ambassadorial duties for the organisation and overall good corporate performance. Thus training offered the opportunity for reflection and development of structures and instruments to support the board in executing their role.

The board members benefitted from the training which provided insights into establishing adequate safeguards to ensure fidelity of fiduciary obligations and institute credible mechanisms of enforcement of organisational policies.

"This marks the beginning of the board's proper engagement in providing professional oversight," note Geoffrey Yogo a Board member.



A section of OF Board of Trustees and the governance consultant during the training at Sirikwa Hotel, Eldoret.