

Message from the CEO

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

1. Message from the CEO
2. Distribution of uniforms at Kasirawa
3. RH stakeholders meeting on budget Estimates
4. Health Start: School feedback meetings
5. International Day of action on women's Health celebrations

28TH May marks 29 years since activists attending the 4th international Women's Health meeting in Costa Rica proposed to celebrate the day as the International Day of Action for Women's Health as a means to speak out about Sexual Reproductive Health Rights of women.

Almost 30 years later the full realization of all women's SRHR remain far from being achieved because women's health has often been reduced to a limited understanding of maternal health while overlooking the actual needs of women in their diversity. This has resulted in challenges in recognizing the sexual and reproductive health rights of women that might ensure universal access to contraceptives, safe abortions as well as comprehensive sexuality education for young people among other critical SRHR issues.

While women's health have attained higher international visibility and greater political commitments than enjoyed decades before and with policies and programs to promote healthier lives gender based disparities still exists in Kenya and other developing nations.

Basic health care, family planning and obstetric services are essential for women yet these services remain unavailable to many women in rural and informal settlements in Kenya. Gender-equitable approaches to health are needed to enable women's full participation in the planning and delivery of health services.

As custodians of family health, women play an important role in maintaining the well being of communities. Early unwanted pregnancies, HIV/AIDS and other STIs and pregnancy related deaths account for a huge percentage of the illness burden affecting women.

At Omega Foundation women's health remains a key priority area. The closing the Gap project in it's second year of implementation is an example. We believe that the right to access and information on reproductive health is a right with tangible benefits and ask the county governments to place emphasis on the issue by having budgetary allocations for reproductive health as this would be an investment worth putting money in.

On the May issue we focus more on Reproductive Health. Enjoy the read!

New Member of Staff: Monitoring and Evaluation



Caroline Achieng Osik joins the Omega Foundation team as the Monitoring and Evaluation officer. Before this appointment Osik was the Economic Empowerment Officer at Omega Foundation. She brings experience that spans 5 years in program work and Monitoring and Evaluation.

Caroline holds a B.A in Sociology with I.T from Maseno university and a Diploma in Community Development and Counselling from the Mombasa Polytechnic University. She has had training in Monitoring and Evaluation from Planned Parenthood Global.

Caroline is creative, adaptable and result oriented. Karibu nyumbani Osik.

Kasirawa School Uniforms Distribution

The OF team distributed school uniforms to 104 school children in Kasirawa supported under the Kasirawa ECD Support project. The event held at Koballa primary school was presided over by the Headteacher who was representing the county education office.

Quality education is one of the basic needs of a child. This coupled with health care support ensures the positive growth of a child. At Omega Foundation we believe that education for the Orphans and Vulnerable children remain the cornerstone of any intervention.

The aim of this project is to support retention and transition from the ECD centres. The 104 children supported in this project benefit from ECD education in the following centers: Kobala, Osodo, Lakeview, Joyland, Adita and Happy land. Uniforms were distributed to 86 pupils who had previously had their measurements taken. The remaining will have uniforms delivered at a later date.



Rosila and Boss of OF sort uniforms before they are handed to the children



The county CHEW hands over uniforms to children . Boss from OF looks on

Kisumu County Reproductive Health Stakeholders Meeting on Health Budget

Kisumu County health stakeholders had a meeting with the county assembly Health committee led by Hon. Farida at the Metropak Hotel to discuss the county's budget estimates with regard to health. The meeting was organized by NAYA Kenya the advocacy partner in the Closing the Gap project being implemented by Omega Foundation and other partners. OF was represented by the Advocacy and Communication officer. The speaker of the house was also in attendance.

During the meeting The Kisumu county budget estimates were tabled and analyzed and discrepancies were pointed out. It was noted that more money was allocated to curative services and not to preventive services and the committee was told this needs to be rectified.

The deputy chair of the Health Committee talked about the challenges the committees were having with executive. A lot of the recommendations made to the budget committee were not eventually factored into the budget She stated there was no transparency when it came to the process.

For the financial year 2016/2017 the county has a budget of Ksh. 10.1 Billion . The health docket has been allocated Ksh. 2.3 billion out of which Ksh 1.6 Billion will go to recurrent expenditure, Ksh 61 Million will go to preventive and health services while 834 million will go towards curative and rehabilitative health services.

The stakeholders will present memoranda to the county executive before the budget reading is done.

Health Start: School Feedback Meeting

After mapping and selection, the HealthStart project hit the ground running by holding a series of feedback meetings with the Head teachers and school Boards of the 25 schools that the project would be implemented in. The schools are in the Nyangoma nad Awasi clusters. The meetings were held at the Marvel Hotel, Ahero.

The aim of the meeting was to sensitize the selected school heads and Boards of Management about the project objectives and orient the school boards about the school audit tool that will be used during the project period.

Participants were hopeful that the project would bring better performance in the sub county and strengthen relationships among the education stakeholders in the region. Rosila Wringa led the meeting sfrom Omega Foundation.

The project will impact on nearly 15,000 pupils, parents and management from 25 schools within Nyangoma zone (and Awasi zone(Angoro and Ayucha cluster) located in Muhoroni and Nyando sub-counties in Kisumu County, focusing on strengthening school systems, capacity building and effective data capture. The objectives of the project are drawn from the Kenyan National School Health Policy and international frameworks designed to improve the educational opportunities for children.



Participants after the feedback meeting at Marvel Hotel, Ahero.



Rosila of OF and David from Ogra Foundation take participants through the project objectives

CTG Annual Review

The Annual Closing the Gap Project organized by Planned Parenthood Global at the Sarova Panafric. The meeting brought partners from Botswana, Kenya and Uganda.

The meeting was about sharing best practices to scale up uptake of reproductive health services. Omega Foundation had a key poster presentation about task shifting to optimize the use of the Demand Creation Team in creating access to Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives and Comprehensive Abortion Care services. The team led by the Head of programs, Harun Kodiaga also showcased the Youth Friendly services and the Youth Peer Provider Models as successful avenues for increasing uptake of Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives amongst the adolescents and the youth.

During the Quarterly Review Meeting held at the beginning of the week on 17th May, Omega Foundation scooped the first position for quality service provision.

The Omega Foundation team comprised of Harun Kodiaga the Head of Programs, Petronilla Omollo the Human Resources officer, Celine Odipo the project officer, Peter Willybroad and Lillian Owino as representatives for the Youth Peer Providers. The CEO, Wilfred Owuor was a panelist during this years meeting.

International Day of Action for Women's Health

On 28th May we joined other Health stakeholders in celebrating the International Day of Action for Women's Health by walking from the Kisian junction to the Ojolla Sub County Hospital grounds along the Kisumu– Busia highway.

The theme for the day was *“Wadagi tho mag mine kanyuol”* to mean we say no to maternal deaths. The procession was flagged off by the C.E.C Health, Kisumu county. The chief guest was her Excellency, Hon. Ruth Odinga , the deputy governor Kisumu county.

Hon. Ruth instructed the C.E.C Health to ensure that the matter of Community Health Volunteers are looked into since they did a lot in preventing maternal deaths and were at the fore front passing information on matters health within the community.

Debra from Omega Foundation said that Women's health issues cut across a wide range of areas. A lot of focus has been put to end maternal deaths yet the issue of access to family planning and reproductive health services was a means to end maternal deaths and could also mitigate against a lot of issues affecting women's health. Her sentiments were echoed by Dr. Khizra the Kisumu West Sub county Reproductive Health Coordinator who said that there is need for us to focus on family planning especially amongst the adolescents to prevent unintended pregnancies, fistula and maternal deaths. She also talked of the rising issues of cervical cancer and urged women to go for regular checks to catch the disease early enough and prevent deaths.

There was a minute of silence and candles were lit in memomry of the 56 mothers that lost their lives while giving birth in the previous year. Trees were also planted to serve as a constant reminder that 56 was a big number to lose during delivery.



Omega Foundation CHVs during the procession on the International day of action for women's health



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