

HELP MISSION DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACTIVITIES 2008-2017 IN YOUTH POLYTECHNICS

When HMDS started working with Youth Polytechnics in 2008, we found out that young people lack correct and comprehensive information on key Reproductive Health issues including HIV and AIDS and harmful cultural practices. This was due to the fact that; encounter barriers in accessing Reproductive Health (RH) lack of essential health knowledge and services, lack of access to youth friendly services, lack of knowledge on where to access services and backward cultural and religious practices. These made young people more vulnerable to sexual abuse and violence, STIs including HIV, planned pregnancies, FGM, early and forced marriages. During our discussion with the youth, we found out that parents lack capacity to communicate with their children on sexuality due to cultural norms. Also, youth spent most of their time in school where parents think that they should learn life skills education program that can provide this.

During year 2008 -2011 Help Mission Development services Implemented Reproductive Health in 12 Youth Polytechnics both in Nakuru and Baringo County under the Project “Tumaini La Vijana” (TLV) - Hope for the Youth which included Girls Clubs and HIV/AIDS project activities. The beneficiary Youth Polytechnics in Nakuru County were: Nakuru YP, Dundori YP, Subukia YP and Molo YP. In Baringo, we had 8 YPs which benefited namely: Mogotio YP, Kabimoi YP, Cheberen YP, Majimoto YP, Kituro YP, Ochii YP, Marigat YP and Nginyang YP. The total population reached was 1,544 youth (997 boys and 547 Girls).

During the period 2011-2013 we had Vijana Na Ujuzi (Youth with Skills) Project that catered for six Youth polytechnics namely; Njoro YP, Kakoto YP, Saptet YP, Ndumdam YP Cheptuech YP and Rongai YP. With a population of 589 (305 boys and 284 girls).

MAKA (Masomo Kwa Ajira) Project was implemented for a period of three years -2015-2017. We had three polytechnics under MAKA project with a population of 181 youth, 97 girls and 84 boys. Lion Hill YP, Rongai YP and Kware YP.

Ujuzi Kwa Vijana project was implemented in one institution- Piave YP in Nakuru County that incorporated reproductive health.

The goals of the activities to YPs in these periods of 10 years were:

The main goal of the activity was to improve the access to quality Knowledge and services on reproductive health for young people in these learning institutions.

1. The knowledge on how they can get access to contraceptives services and other materials and items that are necessary for their wells being as far as reproductive health is concerned.

2. To equip them with Knowledge of Gender Based Violent GBV in the society and provide knowledge to them on where they can get services required. – Rescue centers, police among other services.
3. To improve their knowledge on HIV/AIDS, STIs, STD.
4. Provide free guiding and counseling and HIV/AIDS testing to them.

ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PROJECT ACTIVITY.

1. We reached 2,374 youth in 24 youth polytechnics 1,429 boys and 945 girls.
2. We held 24 HIV/AIDS Campaigns in comprehensive with GBV (Earlier and forced marriages and FGM) campaigns in the project areas.
3. We successfully had 216 peers to peer guiding and counseling at youth friendly environment.
4. We had good networking with both youth offices and public health facilities in the project areas.
5. 1,180 youth participated in free counseling and testing on HIV/AIDS and STI/STDs.