



# Alpha Monthly

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## Message from CEO

I recently came across a document that said the total number of humans born since 50,000 B.C. is estimated at 105.7 billion!

The world population has had profound implications for development. A world of 7 billion I must say, is both a challenge and an opportunity with implications on sustainability, urbanization, access to health services and youth empowerment.

In 1989, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Program recommended that, in order to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues in the context of overall development plans and programs and the need to find solutions for these issues, 11 July should be observed by the international community as World Population Day.

The world's population has been increasing steadily over the years, much of this increase is taking place in less developed countries and Kenya is no exception. Kenya's population growth rate of 3 percent per year is threatening the

country's capacity to meet the basic needs of the current population of 40 million people.

About 16 million girls under age 18 give birth each year. Another 3.2 million undergo unsafe abortions. The vast majority - 90 per cent - of the pregnant adolescents in Kenya are married.

But for many of these girls, pregnancy has little to do with informed choice. Often it is a consequence of discrimination, rights violations (including child marriage), inadequate education or sexual coercion.

On the 2013 World Population Day, Omega Foundation and the rest of the world raise awareness of the issue of adolescent pregnancy in the hopes of delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

**WILFRED OWUOR,**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.

## MSH Director visits OF

OF was recently the host of Ms. Kristin Cooney the Director, Country Portfolio at the MSH Center for Leadership and Management (CLM).

The purpose of the visit by MSH was to have a better understanding of Omega Foundation as an organization, to find out progress made as a result of the FANIKISHA support delivered by MSH and other information on Omega Foundation as would be required in the course of the visit.

Ms. Cooney who was accompanied by FANIKISHA Deputy Chief of Party Mr. Martin Oluoch and IS Advisor Mr. Wycliffe Ouma was taken through OF background and its IS success including the affiliates selection process.

Through FANIKISHA support delivered by Management Sciences for Health (MSH), Omega Foundation has realized key institutional strengthening milestones in its leadership and governance, financial, human resources, monitoring and evaluation, and planning and management systems as well as improved advocacy capacity. The organization has also signed a 2 ½ years programmatic grant from the same partner to support service delivery addressing the social determinant of health with interventions focusing on HIV/AIDS through its affiliates.



*MSH Director, Country Portfolio Ms. Kristin Cooney (centre) together with FANIKISHA and OF staff when she visited HOVIC- an OF affiliate.*

"I am glad that IS has had such tremendous effect here at OF and also with your affiliates. I look forward to even more positive feedback when I come back next time," Ms. Cooney expressed.

Kristin supervises several projects in Kenya including, FANIKISHA, The Leadership, Management and Sustainability (LMS) Program Kenya, Capacity Kenya and Measure Evaluation, all of which fall under the MSH Center for Leadership and Management (CLM).

## OF in MARPs sensitivity training



*OF and NOWA Foundation staff keenly follow the proceedings at the MARPS sensi-*

OF in collaboration with LVCT aims to develop an economic empowerment intervention to improve HIV related health outcomes of Most at Risk Populations (MARPs) in Kenya dubbed "The Health and Livelihood Improvement (HALI) Model".

A sensitization training was therefore held to equip participants with knowledge, skills and attitude to effectively respond to the needs of the MARPS .

This training was designed to equip OF and NOWA Moyie Foundation staff with skills, knowledge and attitudes on how to effectively address sexual and reproductive health needs and concerns of MARPs in a non discriminatory way.

There are pockets of population that are made vulnerable to HIV infection due to lack of information and/or access to services. These include, but are not limited to: MSM, FSW, IDU.

Omega Foundation has implemented programs which include livelihood initiatives for vulnerable subgroups and this has led to improved livelihoods/economic empowerment and improved HIV-related health outcomes.

The IGA training will be developed by OF and NOWA Moyie and will include capacity building in leadership and governance, entrepreneurship and development of business plans. All IGA sessions will be delivered by trained OF/NOWA facilitators.

## OF to host HENNET in Kisumu County

OF is the Host of the inaugural HENNET Kisumu County Chapter a position that will see it act as the communication hub for HENNET-affiliated CSOs in the county for the next one year.

This took place during the HENNET Kisumu County forum held in Kisumu. HENNET under the FANIKISHA advocacy project is establishing County HENNET Chapters to align itself under the devolved government. This will ensure HENNET leadership in providing a platform of advocacy for HCSOs at the county level.

In order to have a better understanding of its members' capacity to deliver on one or all of its strategic objectives, the Secretariat has conducted a mapping exercise in all the counties.

The role of the County Chapter will be among others to: Convening county HCSOs stakeholders' forums to discuss issues of interest to the network and strategize on how to

effectively engage the various stakeholders at the county level; lobby for inclusion and effectively participate in various relevant committees of the county; Coordinate participation of HCSOs in various health forums including District (sub county) stakeholders' forums and the County stakeholders forums; Engage duty bearers including the Governor, relevant county executives, county Assembly in evidence based advocacy.

During the forum facilitated by Morris Odhiambo of CLARION, I Choose Life was elected as the Chapter's Chair and International Medical Corps as the Treasurer. Together with OF, they will co-ordinate the chapters activities.

## OF trains groups on horticulture

Omega Foundation organized a one day horticulture training with a specific interest in tomato farming as a means to curb the knowledge gaps identified in one of OF's affiliate groups- Songhor Mennonite support group .

The group has been engaging in a number of income generating activities, among them: Local poultry keeping, goat rearing and sweet potato farming.

OF aims at increasing livelihood opportunities for underserved communities and operates under the principles of being people centered, dynamic, multi-level and ultimately aims to achieve sustainable livelihoods. The rationale behind this is that these initiatives provide new skills, services and financial opportu-

nities to local communities with the will to develop. With grants from OF the Songhor-Mennonite support group opted to venture into a high value crop and made a unanimous decision to try tomato farming. This training therefore was timely and need-based, meant to serve a guide to the groups and to avoid losses due to trial and error.

The participants were urged to hold on to this venture, it was noted that although tomatoes require averagely high input costs than any other vegetable crops, if grown correctly, these costs can be offset by very lucrative profits, provided yields are at least normal based on the fact that there is tremendous market demand for quality tomatoes.

**LOL:) On an Office Notice board:**

**PERSONAL DAYS:**

Each employee will receive 104 personal days a year. They are called Saturday and Sunday.

*"Coming together is beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."*  
-Henry Ford.

## OF Participates in Revised CHS drafting

Following the Community Health Strategy stakeholders review forum that took place throughout the country, a review forum of the same was recently held to among others issues ensure quality implementation to articulate competencies and standards required for quality practice compensation of community health workers.

Speaking at the workshop the Head of the Division of Community Health Strategy Dr. David Mwitari said the revised strategy would address “difficult” areas such as HR, Finance and devolution.

The strategy shall also enable the CHD and partners to streamline resource mobilization and allocation mechanisms and resources mobilization and allocation mechanism and modalities.

It also emerged that there is a shift from communicable to non-communicable diseases as well as there is need to have health financing in all departments. The revised document will serve to strengthen and sustain knowledge management and learning at all levels of Community health.

In her closing speech, Prof. Miriam Were of UZIMA Trust said that community health was very important in the reduction of maternal mortality, child mortality and improvement of health in general. “This (Community Health Strategy) is the genesis of all forms of health interventions thus should not be taken for granted”.

The workshop participants were drawn from GOK/MOH, PIMA, The Aga Khan University, World Vision, I Choose Life Africa, MSH, NEPHAK, WOFAK and Omega Foundation.

## PPFA: Service providers trained

OF recently trained 10 clinicians and nurses from five districts of Kisumu County on long-term family planning methods. This training was in line with OF's role to deliver quality family planning services including long-term methods.

The training which was made possible with support from the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) that is in partnership with OF to provide reproductive health (RH) services in Kisumu County in two health facilities for the next two years.

The general objective of the training was to equip the

participants with knowledge on the anatomy and physiology of the male and female reproductive systems and the administration of different RH methods.

PPFA has enabled OF to hire more health staff to enhance RH. The staff include two nurses: Caroline Malone and Mary Awuor and two clinicians: Sharon Awino and Duncan Ogallo.

Facilitators for the training were drawn from the Ministry of Health



*OF Board Chairman, Julius Gwada presents a certificate of participation to one of the participants at the training.*

## KOFUP Trustees visit Kobala Education Centre

Kenya Orphan Fund and Uganda Project (KOFUP) offers nutritional and educational support to pre-primary school pupils at Kobala Education Centre. This project was initially managed by Badilika Wings of Hope a CBO till last year when OF took over the management from the community.

Recently, KOFUP trustees were at the project for a monitoring visit to assess the effect that change management has had on the school. Each year, the trustees visit the KOFUP-supported projects for similar reasons. This was the first visit since OF took over the school's management.

During the visit the following achievement were noted: the health of the children had improved; all the children had received school uniforms; children were active and looked happy; and the funds were well managed.

“OF has brought visible change to the school- its amazing,” Brendan Benette- one of the trustees.

The trustees also approved the implementation of K sh 20,000.00 business plan budget developed by OF to act as a sustainability plan for the project.

The trustees however made it clear that they would continue to support the project as an early childhood development centre with hope that the children would be transitioned to public primary schools.

To which they remarked “we wish OF came earlier, we would have achieved a lot.”

KOFUP trustees are a group of professional in the UK that have come together to mobilize resources to support the needy families in Kenya and Uganda.