



# ALPHA MONTHLY

JUNE, 2016

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Message from the CEO
- Health start Launch
- CR Grant
- New Interns

### Message from the CEO

Education is a key driver for poverty reduction. It can prevent the transmission of poverty between generations. Receiving minimum education has a positive effect on health, nutrition, economic development and on environmental protection. World over, no country has succeeded to develop without educating her citizens. Education is important for wealth creation.

Universal primary education is central to the fight against poverty. Through basic education populations of poor and marginalized people learn more and within this context the cycle of poverty can be broken. In fact, education is the social institution that reaches the largest segment of the population with the goal of guiding it through a systematic learning process.

Poor children have numerous disadvantages in relation to their better-off counterparts. They are usually less healthy, their language skills less developed (a factor that has negative influence on school achievement), and they are generally less well equipped - socially, emotionally and physically to undertake a school program. If their disadvantaged position and different day-to-day experiences are not taken into account by school education, it is no wonder that they are unable to benefit fully from the school system. Provision of non-academic support and security is essential in order to contribute to their total wellbeing and success in life. Moreover, dialogue and cooperation with parents and families should improve their participation and performance in education.

For the education system to truly respond to the needs of poor children and to contribute to wealth creation in communities and society at large, it needs to take the issue of poverty into special consideration in the planning of educational services. Essentially, it has to stress the preparation of all children to achieve at school, and empower them by heightening their awareness of their rights and responsibilities, their abilities, and enhance their self-confidence to enable them to improve their lives.

Omega Foundation continues to implement programs aimed at bridging the gap in education and ensuring that there is Education for All as envisioned in some of policy guidelines.

### Comic Relief Transitional Grant

Omega Foundation through Widows and Orphans International received a one year transitional grant from Comic Relief.

The grant seeks to enhance opportunities for adolescents, young men and women to access HIV services in Kisumu county.

The grant has 4 intervention areas HIV prevention care and treatments, Economic empowerment, Advocacy and Capacity Development. OF, Port Florence Community Hospital and NOWA will jointly work to implement the project.

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The health start project was launched at the PawTeng Primary school, Nyangoma zone Nyando Sub County, Kisumu County on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2016. The

The project that is a coalition between Omega Foundation and Ogra Foundation and funded by Child.org is based on the Kenyan National School Health Policy and international frameworks designed to improve the educational opportunities for children.

The program will impact upon nearly 15,000 pupils, parents and management from 25 schools within Muhoroni and Nyando sub-counties in Kisumu County. Mainly focusing on strengthening school systems, capacity building and effective data capture.

The Muhoroni Sub county director of Education Janet Otieno commended the approach Health start program has taken to start school mapping from the County level, to sub Counties, Zones and finally to schools. They are sure the schools identification has been done based on facts and evidence found during the school mapping exercise. The initiative has been hailed as the best way to address children's health and Education needs in the community.

In the same month, OF trained the Board of Managers from the 5 clusters on Governance. The aim of the training was to ensure the BOM understands their role in the implementation of the Health Start Project.



Pawteng Primary school students entertain guests during the launch of Health start project



George, BOM training facilitator engages the team in a dance during training for Angoro cluster

## Launch of the Kisumu County FastTrack Plan

The NACC launched the Kisumu county FastTrack plan to End HIV/AIDSs amongst Adolescents and young people at the Aca-cia Premier Hotel. The chief guest was Mrs. Olivia Ranguma the county first lady. Omega Foundation was represented by the Advocacy and Communication officer.

The plan comes after research shows that 1 in every 3 new HIV infections are among young people. 51% of young people do not have knowledge of HIV transmission. 13 thousand children are infected annually with young women being more affected.

The plan hopes to reduce the new infections amongst the youth by 2017. The county director of Health Dr. Dickens says that the adolescents are now a key population in Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS. The county has set up 12 YFS centers and 500 health workers have been trained in adolescent care.

The launch was graced by adolescents, adolescents living positively and other civil society organizations working in the county.

The council also launched the Kenya Aids Strategic plan. The county was tasked to come up with a Technical Working Group to implement the plan as the country strived to go to zero infections.

## New Interns

The Aga Khan Academy Mombasa sent 2 attaches to Omega Foundation as part of their community service program. The program aims at equipping students with skills beyond the classroom. The two students are Zahra Ahmed and Ivy Akinyi.

Also in the same month we received 3 students from Harvard University in their study Abroad Kisumu Program, the 3 students. The program seeks to explore diverse approaches for using innovations and technologies to foster transformative and sustainable healthcare improvements in Africa. Closely mentored student teams design, develop, and test their own innovations.

The project the students will be undertaking is designing a program to facilitate male involvement in Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS by using sports.

The students hope to learn from Omega Foundation and help set up a program to help OF engage more men in its health intervention programs in the CTG and CR project.

## Stefanie Vicari Families Visit

Through the Stef project, OF reaches out to four families with health care, livelihood, legal and Education support. Rosila Waringa distributed foodstuff and scholastic materials to the Stefanie families of Milka Ochola and George Amadi.

Both families are doing fine and were happy for the continuous support from Omega Foundation.



Beryl receives foodstuff from Rosila



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