

REPORT FOLLOWING PHC ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT UNDER MBALE PONT COVERING A PERIOD FROM JULY 2006 – MARCH 2007.

Introduction:

Mbale PONT is a net work trust between Mbale Region and PONTPRID Wales UK. It started in-2004 NOV with link between the 3 Organizations of SAO, FDNC and UWCM working with communities in Mbale Region (Bududa, Manafwa and Mbale Districts)

Among the net work activities, Primary Health Care was one of the key intervention point with focus on Malaria control. In line with the government strategy mosquito nets distribution, data collection and epidemiological disease Surveilence, training of health workers have been activities run across the Mbale Region amongst the 3 organization above.

Objective: The Net work trust efforts are geared towards Poverty Eradication amongst the rural communities through reduced disease burden at household level.

Planned activities	Target	Achieved target	Variance	Comments
Distribution of mosquito nets	2700 Nets	1950	750	Funds for the last quarter not yet released
Training of CHPs level one of FDNC & UWCM	50 CHPs	45	5	The family pressures could not allow the 5 to continue with the training.
Training of OPL Health workers SAO,FDNC and UWCM	90 OPL Health workers	20	70	Resources available could not allow us train all the 90 OPLs at ago
Data collection & Compilation of SAO,FDNC & UWCM	3 organizations	2	1	FDNC is still building capacity in data collection
Refresher training of OPL Health	90 OPL Health workers		90	Proposal on this has been developed by , will be sent to all partners for discussion
Equipping of OPL	90 OPL Health workers	20	70	Trained members were equipped with bicycles and OPL kit.
Orientation of OPL to health units and sub	90 OPL Health workers	20	70	All trained OPL Health workers have been

county leadership				oriented and now effective in health units and their communities.
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Changes/Outcome:

Following the activities carried out, many changes have been observed as below:

The community health workers are now able to help their communities in problem identification, prioritisation and solving this has been so due to improved communication skills acquired during the trainings conduct they can now say we can compare to the past where they used to wait for the government to decide for them.

Community members can now smile and confess that there is chance to save and invest in viable ventures which has led to increased income at household level this has been so due to reduced morbidity rate in pregnant mothers and infants which used to take the highest percentage of income.

Family relation ships have greatly improved as compared to the past, this has been realized due to effective community Education by the OPL Health Workers most especially on gender issues, 3 women and 5 men were able to testify before the Public during our review meeting with them in Bubutu Sub County that we used to walk in darkness but now with the knowledge and skills we have got we now know how we can relate with our partners.

When we interacted with the schools in some communities where the nets were distributed the teachers have noticed great improvement in school attendance by pupils which used not to be there, and were able to echo that if all people get nets we believe there will be great change in the standard of living schools visited included; Musiye P/S.

The in charge of the Health units of Busiu HCD, Makhonge HC III, Busano HC III, Bubutu HC III, Malaria cases at the OPD has drastically reduced, we are now embarking on other Chronic diseases like TB, Cancer and Immunization Programs. A case in Point is Bubutu HC III where now OPL are helping in out reaches on immunization and HomaPack distribution.

All the in charges gave the same message that if intensive community Education and follow up with support from the OPL Health workers and CHPs we are going to register a drastic change in Mbale Region.

At household level in the sampled homes visited, there has been great improvement of their sanitation this shows that the CHPs (Community Health Promoters) are doing good work.

At the organizational level, this program has created and strengthened our relationship with the government Health Sector. This has been evidenced by the effective Government involvement in all activities carried out by the PHC Department of Mbale PONT Sub Committee.

Challenges:

- Selection criteria of community health workers by the sister organization has been a big challenge during facilitation whereby catching up became a big problem.
- Increased demand for mosquito nets is a big challenge to the organizations involved.
- Delayed release of funds for training and other PHC activities.

Recommendations/Suggestions

- Special arrangement be made to train the OPL Health workers and some active CHPs in effective data collection and management of health information system and epidemiological disease surveillance system.
- Special fund be put on effective supervision and follow up on the Health workers activities for impact at community level by the PHC Committee and the District Health services.
- FDNC to get a technical staff to be in charge of PHC activities under the net work trust for effective service delivery.

Lessons Learnt

- Collective response to problem solving is a key to development
- Disease burden at house hold level can be mitigated through effective community education by the community's own resource persons (CORPS).
- Strong net working system is a pull factor for community development.
- Community space for dialogue at all levels of implementation promotes spirit of ownership.

Conclusion ;

With your continued support we look forward to having more changes towards improved health at house hold level.

Compiled by

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