**PROJECT NAME:** Supporting the unmet needs of orphans and vulnerable children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in Nakawa and Kawempe divisions of Kampala district, Uganda.

**PROJECT SUMMARY**

50 orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) are provided with scholastic materials and mosquito nets to enable them live a healthy life. Their families are also equipped with income generating activities, so that they can earn a living and gain a stable position to support their families. Community awareness raising sessions are conducted to reduce stigma to people living with HIV/AIDS

**PROJECT AREA:**

The project targets orphans and vulnerable children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in Kawempe and Nakawa divisions. The children, their parents or caretakers are under HIV care and treatment in Kiswa and Komamboga health centres.

**PROBLEM EXISTS:**

In Uganda, 1.4million adults and children are estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS according to the UNAIDS spectrum 2016. Out of these, 130,000 are children aged 0-14 years. 5800 deaths among children 0-14 years are caused by HIV/AIDS, while 970,000 children aged 0-14 years are orphaned by HIV/AIDS. These children lack access to basic needs of education, proper feeding and are victims of self stigma and stigma caused by the community. Somero Uganda conducts home based counseling to people living with HIV to provide them with psycho-social support. However these people’s adherence to drugs is majorly affected by the unmet needs that they have. Although they have access to ART, they do not have income generating activities to support their income; hence it is usually hard for them to support their families. The children are the most affected by this situation. In some cases they are living with grandparents after losing their parents to HIV/AIDS, or at times are living with parents who are usually bed-ridden, and are not in position to consistently support their children. These children have unmet needs including feeding and education. It is very hard for these children especially those who are on ART to take their drugs on empty stomachs; hence they end up missing their drugs. This affects their adherence and general well being. Although the Ugandan government provides free primary and secondary education, the children’s education is normally affected by lack of scholastic materials and lunch at school.

**WHAT WE DO:**

Somero Uganda realized that the major reason the orphans and vulnerable children in care do not adhere well to treatment is because of these unmet needs. As home based care is provided to the families of people living with HIV/AIDS, Somero Uganda also conducts identification of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). Their needs are assessed using the Ministry of Gender OVC assessment tool. The OVC are then enrolled for support, including education and psycho-social support. Somero Uganda also trains the household heads of these OVC families in income generating activities of liquid soap making, candle making and baking of snacks. Somero Uganda also conducts sessions to build the life skills of the OVC and also passes over information to the entire community about positive living. This is intended to fight self and community stigma. The OVC will also be provided with mosquito nets as a malaria preventive measure.

Somero Uganda will provide scholastic materials including uniforms, exercise books, pens, pencils and toiletries to the vulnerable children to enable their comfortable stay at school. These will also be provided with lunch, as government provides free universal primary and secondary education but does not provide scholastic materials and lunch. The children will also be given mosquito nets to as a malaria preventive measure. Their caretakers will be trained in income generating activities, so that they can support their families in the long run.

**ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED:**

1. **Provision of scholastic materials-** Uniforms, Exercise books, Pens, pencils, reams of paper and lunch fees are provided per OVC.

**b. Distribution of mosquito nets-** Each OVC is provided with a mosquito net to prevent malaria.

**c. Training in Income generating activities –** House hold heads are trained in income generating activities of liquid soap making, candle making and baking of snacks. They are also trained in entrepreneurship and business management skills. They are trained in four groups of 25 households. Each trained household head receives start up kit of $30.

**d. Community awareness raising sessions-** These are conducted on a monthly basis. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials are designed and distributed during and after the sessions. These include flyers, posters and community art murals that painted on public walls.

**Budget:**

**Items Break up Amount in US $**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item Description** | **Unit cost ($)** | **Quantity** | **Description** | **Duration** | **Total cost ($)** |
| Scholastic materials | 50 | 100 | Children | 3 | 15,000 |
| Mosquito nets | 5 | 100 | Mosquito nets | 1 | 500 |
| Materials to train in Income generating activities | 60 | 4 | Groups | 4 | 960 |
| Start up kits for the trained families | 30 | 100 | Households | 1 | 3,000 |
| IEC materials | 250 | 1 | Pieces | 12 | 3,000 |
| Total |  |  |  |  | 22,460 |