

WELLS OF HOPE MINISTRIES

BACKGROUND

We are a non-profit making Christian organization based in Kampala-Uganda. We are involved in outreach to people especially children affected by adverse situations, and those who need help, our key concern being people affected by crime such as prisoners, ex-prisoners and families of people in prison especially the children of prisoners. We help people regardless of their religious belief, race.

Our Mission: To create and maintain regeneration in our society, by addressing the needs of our society today.

Our Vision: To create and establish an opportunity for people who are regarded as rejects in society experience a transformation in their lives.

How we started: Francis Ssuubi in Murchison Bay Prison -Luzira, Kampala founded Wells Of Hope Prison Out reach in 2002, where he was an inmate on remand for 68 days. On the 25th of November 2005, Wells Of Hope Ministries was officially launched by **the then Minister of ethics and Integrity Hon. Tim Lwanga.**

Governance

Wells of Hope has a team of Volunteers at all levels that make the dream come true. At the Helm of the organization is the **General assembly** who elect the members on the executive board, then we have the **Board of Trustees** who are founders/promoters, legal custodians of the properties of the organization; they give comprehensive guidance on formation and direction of the organization. We have the **Executive Board** in whose hands is the decision and policy making, staffing and overseeing the day to day running of the organization, next we have the **executive committee** set up by the Executive board, it is in charge of the day today running of the organization.

Legal Status

We are a non-profit making, Christian organization. We are a registered community-based organization CBO and also have registered as NGO

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES FOR WHICH THE ORGANISATION WAS FORMED;

1. To be a catalyst of change and regeneration in our society today by engaging in activities as those that are geared to intervene in situations where people are in dire need..
2. To care and address the needs of prisoners ex-prisoners and their families the sick, and hospitalized AIDS victims.
3. To operate a prison ministry where needs of the prisoners- ex-prisoners and their families will be addressed
4. To support livelihood of poor vulnerable young people by taking them to local artisans to acquire vocational skills training skills in order to reduce the crime rate in Uganda.
5. To Build and operate homes and schools for prisoner's children.
6. To offer welfare services to people who are disadvantaged in society.
7. To cause our community to respond to the needs of people who are suffering and are in dire need.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

WELLS OF HOPE MINISTRIES **PRISONERS LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS** **AND THEIR FAMILIES**

2008 – 09

Kampala, Uganda

Total Number of Direct Beneficiaries: 650



PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project aims to significantly reach out to families affected by crime, especially to children who due to their predicament become vulnerable to many social problems such as HIV/AIDS. The project is achieving this by providing them with quality and affordable education and by carrying out programmes aimed at addressing HIV/AIDS issues among such children. These programmes include prevention, home-based care and handling stigma.

This project also offers Administrative Support which includes paying allowances for staff.

Wells of Hope also aims to make an impact on the growing number of vulnerable young people and out of school children who are denied the opportunity to continue their education and develop their fundamental skills, because a parent has been imprisoned.



PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Overall objective: to significantly reach out to families affected by crime, especially to the children.

Specific objectives:

- To improve the quality of lives of more wives, children and prisoners that are affected by HIV/AIDS through supporting their socio-economic and physiological well-being through prison outreach and home-based care;
- To build the capacity of more families of prisoners and ex-prisoners through education and essential skills training in order to improve economic viability, reduce family disintegration, reduce crime rates and keep children in school.
- To continue sensitizing community leaders, peer educators in schools, and the general public about the plight of prisoners and their families in order to reduce stigma at the community level;
- To support associations of prisoners living with HIV/AIDS in selected prisons of Uganda;
- To help beneficiaries have a sense of belonging and encouragement from others facing the same situation.
- To cater to the beneficiary's psychological well-being through psychosocial support and the facilitation of voluntary counseling and testing services.

OVERALL ACHIEVEMENTS:

- The children and spouses of prisoners living with HIV/AIDS are in a less vulnerable and worrying situation.
- Through psychosocial support our beneficiaries were educated about HIV/AIDS and nine participants including grandmothers were able to go for voluntary counseling and testing. Some children were tested and those who turned out positive were referred to Mild May Aids centre, Aids Information Centre, and Mulago Hospital for testing and treatment.
- We were able to get the targeted beneficiaries under the Income Generating Activities support project and most of them are already enjoying the profits. This has greatly improved living conditions of our beneficiaries in that most of them can now afford basic needs for the children under their care.
- Through our intervention of school fees, income generating activities support, welfare package, counseling, VCT and psychosocial, Grandmothers have been greatly encouraged and motivated in caring for the big numbers of grandchildren under their care.
- The income generating activities have helped to prevent the children and spouses of prisoners living with HIV/AIDS from engaging in jobs that put them at a risk of getting infected with HIV/AIDS hence preventing the spread of the deadly disease.
- Through our intervention, the relatives of the prisoners have come to know that the inmates are still alive and they are able to care and visit them which has brought about reconciliation and those who are HIV+ have been able to disclose to their spouses and relatives.
- Wells of Hope is a link between prisoners and their families which has especially prisoners who were abandoned and living with HIV.
- Under the school fees project, we were able to reach out to all the 120 children. We were able to go deeper into villages in the upcountry side. Due to the consistent flow of school fees these children are assured of school. This has encouraged them and even improved on their performance. It has also reduced on the rate at which prisoners children are dropping out of school.
- The nutritive food supplements have helped to increase immunity of prisoners living with HIV/AIDS and the number of prisoners dying because of HIV/AIDS has reduced drastically.
- We helped to save an abandoned and malnourished child of a prisoner living with HIV/AIDS and placed her in an orphanage.

- We held the first camp of Children of Prisoners; we were able to know our children. We sensitized them on issues to do with HIV/AIDs, encouraged them, supported them morally and also were able to see the impact of the support they are receiving from the project.
- Ex-Prisoners who have been released have been helped to continue receiving treatment even after they have been released through initiatives of referring them to treatment centres. Also these ex-prisoners have been encouraged to disclose their sero-status to their spouses.
- The Monitoring and Evaluation we did helped us to ensure that we were meeting the target group and delivering services according to the work plan and thus meeting the intended objectives.
- We were able to successfully give out a well fare package to children which included blankets, mosquito nets, panties, shoes, scholastic materials, and clothes. This has improved on the health of these children
- The bond between wells of Hope and the beneficiaries has grown stronger as we have continuously interacted with them. This has given these children a sense of belonging and uplifted their self esteem.
- Wells of hope has gained a lot of trust and confidence in the prisons and the community. This can be shown by the fact that the care takers and the inmates entrusted their children to our care during the three day camp with ease. Also the Prison department gave us the permission to take the children of prisoners to see their parents. This is some thing that has never happened because children are forbidden to enter the Ugandan prisons.
- Through Wells of Hope intervention, the community is becoming aware of the plight of prisoners children and is getting concerned.
- Through the children's choir the children are able to advocate for them selves and express the plight of prisoners' children. This has enabled them build on their talents.

WELLS OF HOPE **IDENTIFYING OF ADDITIONAL BENEFICIARIES**

2008 – 09
Central, South Eastern Uganda

Wells of Hope was able to identify a total of 38 new inmates representing 38 new families and 60 new children and who are benefiting from the Project.



Betty Belinda-Wells of Hope Social worker - in the field

Procedures undertaken

Working through the welfare department of the prisons, WOH was able to present the beneficiaries with Wells Of Hope Prisoners Education Support Project forms to fill in(See appendix 11). These forms helped WOH to attain detailed information concerning their families. This information was then used as guide in tracing for these families. Apart from the information given by the inmates on the forms, the inmates were also interviewed.

The families of the inmates were also interviewed during the on site visits. The beneficiaries were involved in the process of selecting the beneficiaries, because we sensitized them and they themselves advised us on the beneficiaries.

The category of inmates that were considered as beneficiaries were those living with HIV/AIDS, those on death row (condemn) and some few convicted inmates. The beneficiaries were from the following prisons; Upper Prison Luzira, Murchison Bay Luzira, Luzira Women Prison, Jinja Main prison and Jinja Women Prison.

The families of the beneficiaries selected were those that reside in the following districts; Kampala, Wakiso, Kayunga, Jinja, Iganga, Pallisa, Kamuli, Kaliro, Budaka and Mbale.

WELLS OF HOPE
EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT (SCHOOL FEES) TO CHILDREN OF
PRISONERS

2008 – 09

Central, South East and North Eastern Uganda

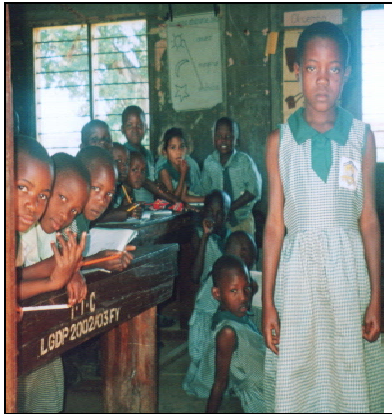
Number of direct Beneficiaries: 120



PROJECT GOALS:

- To build the capacity of more families of prisoners and ex-prisoners through education and essential skills training in order to improve economic viability, reduce family disintegration, reduce crime rates and keep children in school;
- To provide children of prison with quality and affordable education.
- To make an impact on the growing number of vulnerable young people and out of school children who are denied the opportunity to continue their education and develop their fundamental skills, because a parent has been imprisoned.





ACHIEVEMENTS:

WOH has been able to support a total of 120 children. There has been a great reduction in the vulnerability of children of prisoners especially girls. Some of the girls who had dropped out of school were being forced into marriage at a very young age. Given the fees contribution, the girl child can now realize the dream of attaining an education. The children are also assured of continuity in education. This has led to a reduction in the rate of school drop outs. Prisoners living with HIV/AIDS no longer worry a lot about their children because they are now sure their children are at school. The fees burden that the care takers had particularly the grandmothers has also been lessened. Besides this, most of the prisoners' families now have a positive attitude towards education.

WELLS OF HOPE

WELFARE PACKAGE DISTRIBUTION TO CHILDREN OF PRISONERS

2008 – 09

Central, South East and North Eastern Uganda

Number of direct Beneficiaries: 120



GOALS:

- To improve on the living conditions and health of the children by providing them with blankets and mosquito nets.



ACHIEVEMENTS :

Reduced cases of children falling sick as a result of malaria. Children who had never used blankets and mosquito nets now have their own. There are also reduced opportunistic infections especially for the children who are living with HIV/Aids. The risk of children being attacked by various opportunistic infections such as Malaria, pneumonia among others have been reduced since they will now be protected from mosquito bites ,jiggers and coldness in the night when they sleep.

WELLS OF HOPE
NUTRITIVE FOOD SUPPLEMENTS PROVISION
TO PRISONERS LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

_2008 – 09

Central, South Eastern Uganda

Number of direct Beneficiaries: 480



GOALS:

- To support associations of prisoners living with HIV/AIDS in selected prisons in Uganda;
- To boost the diet of prisoners living with HIV/AIDS



ACHIEVEMENTS:

Reports from Jinja main Prison indicate that the number of prisoners dying as a result of HIV/AIDS has lessened from three per months to one and some months no one dies because the food donations has helped to increase on the immunity and reduced opportunistic infections of the Prisoners living with HIV/AIDS. There is also a marked behavior change in that there is a positive treatment seeking attitude. The nutritional boost has helped prisoners living with HIV/AIDS especially those who are on drugs (ARVS) and septrin because they now have a balanced diet. Suffering from malnutrition has been lessened. prisoners who feared to test to find out their Sero status considering the harsh prison conditions and poor diet, have been encouraged to take a test.

WELLS OF HOPE **PSYCHO - SOCIAL SUPPORT**

2008 – 09

Central, South Eastern Uganda

Number of direct Beneficiaries: 515



GOALS:

- To offer free group counseling sessions to families of prisoners living with HIV/AIDS and to the prisoners in prison.
- To sensitize the families of prisoners about HIV/AIDS.



ACHIEVEMENTS:

Sixteen caretakers and spouses of prisoners attended the training. In the prisons, a total of 845 prisoners received psychosocial support. The participants got enlightened more on issues related to HIV/AIDS and how it can be prevented. They also gained counseling skills which they will put to use when counseling some of the members in their communities. The negative attitude that the participants had against the disease and the people who are infected has also changed. The participants were also enlightened about the importance of getting to know one's status early enough. The psychosocial support that was provided to the prisoners living with HIV/AIDS and their families helped curb the fear experienced by the victims and also created a change in attitude amongst the public.

WELLS OF HOPE **VOLUNTARY COUNSELING AND TESTING**

2008 – 09

Central, South Eastern Uganda

Number of direct Beneficiaries: 20



GOALS:

- To provide 20 spouses of HIV+ prisoners with voluntary counseling and testing.
- To prevent infection, re-infection and the spread of HIV/AIDS by spouses of prisoners upon the imprisonment of their spouses.



ACHIEVEMENTS:

Eighteen participants volunteered to go for the HIV test after the psychosocial training that was carried out. One of the participants who tested is a discordant. The other participants who tested did not disclose their HIV status. Also, two of the prisoners' children were tested and one of them was HIV positive. As a result, WOH referred the child to Mild may International for treatment. Eight sessions of Individual VCT was also carried out in the prisons. The participants were enlightened about the importance of getting to know one's status early enough and also the need for one to feed well once he/she finds out that she is HIV positive hence improving on their health. Some of the caretakers who have ever nursed people who are HIV positive were also able to go for testing.

WELLS OF HOPE
SUPPORT INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES.

2008 – 09

Central, South Eastern Uganda

Number of direct Beneficiaries: 30



GOALS:

- To train the beneficiaries so as to enable them develop entrepreneurship skills, to improve on the lives and standard of living of beneficiaries through income generating activities and to help empower the care takers so that they can be able to sustain their families especially the families of prisoners living with HIV/AIDS.



ACHIEVEMENTS :

The beneficiaries were able to learn a number of business skills, most of the beneficiaries were able to start up businesses and are already benefiting from them. The care takers can now meet some of the needs of the children. The activities have helped to prevent the children and spouses of prisoners living with HIV/AIDS from engaging in jobs that put them at a risk of getting infected with HIV/AIDS hence preventing the spread of the deadly disease.

WELLS OF HOPE
Prisoners' children's camp

2008 – 09

Central, South Eastern Uganda

Number of direct Beneficiaries: 100



Objectives

Enabling WOH volunteers to get to know the children better, sensitizing the children about HIV/AIDS so as to reduce on their vulnerability, Encouraging and supporting them morally, evaluating the impact of the support that the children are receiving from the project .



ACHIEVEMENTS:

We showed love to these children and even got to know them better, the children were sensitized about a number of issues such as personal hygiene, there was also reconciliation between the children who visited their parents in prison and the inmates. Most of these children had never seen their parents at all while some inmates had last seen their children when they were just months old. The children whose parents have been imprisoned were offered parental guidance. They learned about the dangers of HIV/AIDS and how it can be acquired. We hope the children (mainly girls) of the prisoners living with HIV/AIDS will be protected from the risk of re-infection or contracting the deadly HIV/AIDS virus.

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