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# HOPE for the FUTURE

OCTOBER 2016 NEWS

## Skills Training for CSW

The village of Konakilak in Nakaseke District arose as traders, partners and commercial sex workers moved close to Ssingi military barracks, a training ground for soldiers. More than 90% of women are in sex work, with very limited opportunities to earn money in other ways. The HIV prevalence is very high.

This month, ROM piloted a weeklong training in liquid soap and candle-making and entrepreneurship for the most-at-risk populations including sex workers.



30-year-old Racheal came to Uganda from the DRC in 2000 with a soldier. But when her partner was transferred to another base, she was left alone in Konakilak. She has 3 children in the Congo, but no money to travel to see them. Once, she left Uganda for Sudan, but her business selling a cosmetic cream failed after a year and a half. She returned to Uganda, alone.

"I want them to give me the work or make a business," she said at the training. "I want to train in this job. This is good work."

## Run to Stop HIV

**A 6-km charity run organized by Mbuya Parish with ROM around World AIDS Day. Funds help sustain orphans and vulnerable children in school.**

*Our Lady of Africa Mbuya Parish, 7 a.m., 3rd Dec.*



## Medical Focus

### DISCORDANT COUPLES AGM

On 1st October, we held our **annual general meeting for discordant couples**. Discordance is where one partner is HIV positive and the other negative. Since 2005, ROM has registered about 300 discordant couples and has trained them to help them better understand and accept discordance. This aims at creating awareness of HIV discordance and let couples know they are not alone, while creating a peer support program for them.

### Misconceptions about discordance include:

- The concept of a hidden infection not detectable by HIV tests
- Belief in immunity
- The thought that gentle sex protects HIV-negative partners
- Belief in protection by God.

Such explanations reinforce denial of HIV risk for the negative partner and increase transmission risk.

The trainings teach the importance of communication in such relationships, ART and the importance of supporting the positive partner on treatment, risk reduction measures for the negative partner, dangers of alcohol, family planning and PMTCT.

We retest the negative partners every 3 months, offer antenatal services to pregnant mothers, and encourage negative male partners to circumcise, which helps reduce the risk of transmitting the HIV virus.

## October News at ROM

### 1) 8th National Paediatric & Adolescent HIV Conference:

Reach Out Mbuya presented 3 abstracts: 1. Tailor-made interventions to prevent HIV infection among adolescents using peer-led models; 2. Reaching out to young key and priority populations; 3. Improved access to health care services. The Talents Club performed songs and dances telling the story of HIV-positive children fighting stigma.

### 2) Sports Gala for World Hospice and Palliative Care Day:

On 15th October, 16 palliative care organizations came together at Old Kampala Primary School in a high-energy soccer tournament to champion the need for holistic medical and psychosocial services for people with terminal or life-limiting illnesses. Reach Out Mbuya ended in 3rd position with an additional award for being the Most-Disciplined Team!

3) We held a special **mass for the schoolchildren** sponsored by Reach Out Mbuya before they took their final exams.

### 4) Matrons, School Nurses and Teachers were trained on

best practices to help HIV-positive schoolchildren adhere well to their medications and receive psychosocial support and early intervention in case of challenges. The two-day training also discouraged segregating positive children in schools and trained on how to identify and report child abuse.

**Mother Theresa House**  
Mbuya guesthouse,  
40K a night.  
+256 774543291

**The Talents Club: for hire**  
Youth brass band,  
African dancers.  
+256 414 222630

**Roses of Mbuya**  
Handicrafts support  
HIV+ women.  
+256 414 222630