



Hope for the future

**2020**  
**ANNUAL**  
REPORT





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Chairman Board of Directors .....	5
Message from the Executive Director.....	6
Introduction.....	9
<b>KEY MILESTONES.....</b>	<b>10</b>
1.1.1    Scaling up and improve the quality of services to PLWHA in order to prolong their quality of life by addressing and mitigating the health effects of HIV and AIDS (Treatment and care) .....	10
1.1.2.    To reduce the spread of HIV, and the occurrence of new infections of HIV by 30% in the catchment area by 2022.....	19
1.1.3    To provide social and economic support to PLWHA and other needy persons infected by HIV and AIDS.....	24
1.1.4    Strengthening Management and Support Systems.....	33
1.1.5.    Improve the sustainability of ROM.....	36
ROM in the Media: .....	39



| Hope for the future

## ACRONYMS

<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
<b>AAP</b>	Alcohol Anonymous Programme
<b>ART</b>	Antiretroviral Therapy
<b>ARVs</b>	Antiretroviral Drugs
<b>COVID-19</b>	Corona Virus Disease 2019
<b>eMTCT</b>	Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission
<b>HTS</b>	HIV Testing and Counselling Services
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>KP</b>	Key Populations
<b>KPIF</b>	Key Population Investment Fund
<b>NCDs</b>	Non-Communicable Diseases
<b>OCA</b>	Organizational Capacity Assessment
<b>OVC</b>	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
<b>PLWHA</b>	Persons Living with HIV/ AIDS
<b>Prep</b>	Pre-exposure Prophylaxis
<b>PP</b>	Priority Populations
<b>ROM</b>	Reach Out Mbuya Community Health Initiative
<b>STIs</b>	Sexually Transmitted Infections
<b>SOP</b>	Standard Operating Procedures
<b>SDP</b>	Strategic Development Plan
<b>SOCY</b>	Sustainable Outcomes for Children and Youth
<b>SRH</b>	Sexual Reproductive Health
<b>VSLA</b>	Village saving and Loans Associations

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

**“In these challenging times of COVID 19, we must all work together to recover together ”**

2020 has been a significant year in many respects for Reach Out Mbuya Community Health Initiative. ROM is well positioned and has set the bar high.

The change of the organization's name from Reach Out Mbuya Parish HIV /AIDS Initiative to Reach Out Mbuya Community Health Initiative (ROM) was a major milestone in the growth of ROM.

The COVID-19 pandemic has not spared Uganda affecting all operations including those of organizations like Reach Out Mbuya. But we should all take heart. The bible says, God will not let his people endure suffering on their own.

**Isaiah 41:10** “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

With all these transpiring through the year, ROM has soldiered on to ensure clients receive the best care. The board of directors has been fully engaged and supportive in the development of ROM. I thank the strong leadership team and the highly dedicated and motivated staff who strive to grow ROM through service during these unprecedented times.



I am optimistic that ROM will move frontiers and continue to strengthen her institutional capacity in the areas of governance human resources, staff welfare, monitoring and evaluation and finance in the year to come as we continue to put focus on the needs of the clients.

**Rev. Fr. Anthony Kimbowa Kibira mccc**  
**Chairman Board of Directors**

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2020 has been a unique year, we witnessed the change of name from Reach Out Mbuya Parish HIV /AIDS Initiative to Reach Out Mbuya Community Health Initiative (ROM) to tackle the broader health challenges such as non-communicable diseases affecting the communities we serve.

As COVID-19 pandemic ravaged the daily undertakings of the organization, we stood firm as the disease gravely impacted the lives of millions across the globe. ROM took measures to protect her clients, visitors and staff in a bid to end this pandemic. Despite these challenges, we focused on serving our clients. By the end of fiscal 2020, we were already providing support in over 7,000 clients within the areas of reach. ROM continued to focus on the most vulnerable in society. Our footprint in the community has been emphasized through our operations on the ground. Our clients have been trained and supported in the body, mind and family aspects to make them more self-reliable and sustain

their households. We have created stronger alliances with partners these we are certain will yield benefits.

2020 was the year we had our strategic plan mid-term review for better prioritization and exploitation of opportunities. Through the review we were able to assess our progress and develop ways to tackle challenges met in order to achieve our goals.

We also integrated management of non-communicable diseases with HIV care given the change of the organization's name and successfully concluded the Sustainable Outcomes for Children and Youth (SOCY) and Key Population Investment Fund (KPIF) projects implemented in the districts of Luweero and Mubende respectively.



I express my gratitude to the dedicated staff of ROM, who have worked tirelessly to offer services to our client during these unprecedented times. The staff adaption to the new normal has seen innovations and new ways of work that had never been considered before. In the year ahead as we look forward to marking twenty years of service delivery since inception. Sincerely,

**Josephine Kaleebi**  
**Executive Director**

## Vision

A community free of the spread of HIV where those persons already infected and affected by HIV and AIDS are living positively with an improved quality of life.

## Mission

We aim to curb the further spread of HIV infection among the less -privileged members of society and enable those already living with HIV and AIDS to live a responsible and dignified life. We do this by educating individuals and the community about HIV and AIDS and providing holistic care to those already infected and their families.

## Organisational Values



### Teamwork

It is our conviction that the best solutions come from working together as employees, colleagues together with our clients to deliver our unique services. Effective collaboration demands strong relationships and respect for each party.



### Client Focus

Everything we do is for the betterment of our clients. Everything we do must contribute to this primary focus.



### Professionalism/ Integrity

Professionalism is the foundation of our individual and corporate actions that drive ROM of which we are proud. We are professional, honest, trustworthy, respectful and ethical in our commitments to each other and to our clients and stakeholders.



### Innovation

ROM strives to keep improving. We deliver our promise in a timely manner and focus on efficiency in stakeholders. We focus and commit to providing service in a way that exceeds the expectations of our clients. We attract the best people for our work, employing best practices in our processes, and always challenging ourselves to improve through innovation, training, collaboration and teamwork.



### Respect

Respect for human life and enhancing human capacity. Seek first to understand and then be understood. At ROM, we give and seek regular, open and honest feedback so that we improve and grow at all levels.





Our programs operate on a holistic model of care that not only provides direct medical care for People Living with HIV (PLHIV), but provides support for the body, mind, family and community.

This holistic approach empowers clients and their families in all aspects of their lives and promotes resilience against future challenges. Our model of care is community-based and peer centered geared to improve client services.

Our community roots allow us to meet our beneficiaries where they are contributing to patients' satisfaction and well-being.



## Introduction



The Annual report for financial year 2019/2020 covers the last year of implementation of the Strategic Development Plan (SDP).

The Strategic Plan is the guide to implement ROM's planned activities in achieving its strategic objectives in the following four thematic areas;

- i. To scale up and improve the quality of services to PLWHA in order to prolong their quality of life by addressing and mitigating the health effects of HIV and AIDS (Treatment and Care).
- ii. To reduce the spread of HIV, and the occurrence of new infections of HIV by 30% in the catchment area by 2022.
- iii. To provide social and economic support to PLWHA and other needy persons affected by HIV and AIDS.
- iv. Improve the sustainability of ROM.



# KEY MILESTONES

1.1.1

To scale up and improve the quality of services to PLWHA in order to prolong their quality of life by addressing and mitigating the health effects of HIV and AIDS. Treatment and Care.

## HIV Testing and Counselling ● ● ●

HIV testing and counselling is a prevention and care strategy that ROM uses to ensure our clients make the most appropriate decisions to take their medication in a bid to foster good adherence and positive living.

ROM has contributed to Uganda's success in achieving the 95-95-95 strategy of ending HIV globally in scaling up service delivery in HIV testing and treatment and advocating for HIV self-testing as a step toward healthy living for all the clients. HIV self-testing is a strategy ROM uses to increase patient autonomy, decentralize services and create demand for HIV testing among people unreached by existing services. During clinic visits our team of specialized counselors carry out demonstrations on how to carry out a self-test and interpret the results thereafter.

## Clients in Care and on ART ● ● ●

**6,919** people were tested for HIV in 2020.

**(7.4%)** 512 tested HIV positive which is way above the national HIV prevalence **(6%)**.

**3,359** men were tested for HIV **6.2%**

**(209)** tested HIV positive **3,560** women

were tested for HIV **(8.5%)** **303** tested HIV positive.

**97.3% (498)** of HIV positive clients were linked to care.

**100%** of the Most-at-Risk Populations testing positive were linked to ROM for HIV care.

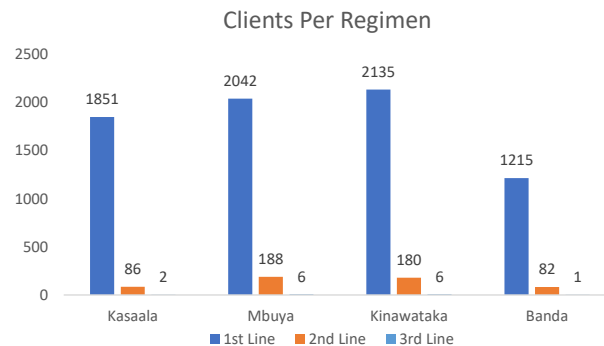
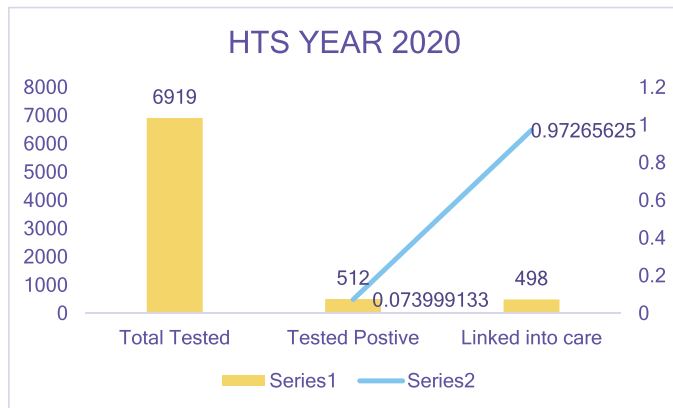
**89%** of clients on ART **6,707** received viral load bleeding.

**87.5%** achieved viral suppression **342** diagnosed and treated for TB **7,242** clients were active on ART **4.5% (325)** ART clients were children aged 15 years old and below.  
**9.2%** Adolescents **65%** active clients were women.

**92.9% (6,730)** clients on first regimen **6.9% (498)** clients on second regimen while **0.2% (15)** clients were on third regimen.

**94.3%** of the **(7,794)** clients have good adherence in line with the second **95%** strategy of people who know their status are on treatment.

**724** of the active clients were MARPs (KPs and PPs).



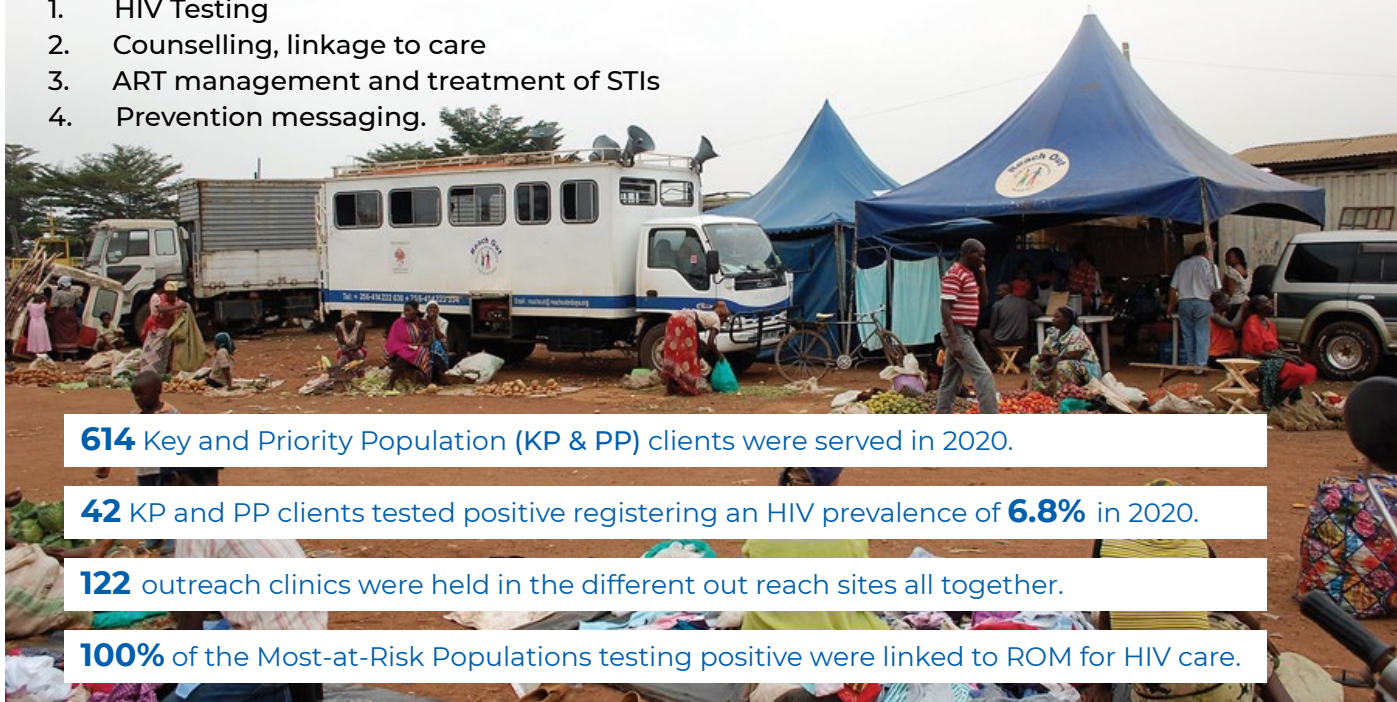


## Mobile Van Services



The ROM Mobile Van Service targets the hard to reach and the Most At-Risk Populations (MARPS). Services of the mobile van include;

1. HIV Testing
2. Counselling, linkage to care
3. ART management and treatment of STIs
4. Prevention messaging.



**614** Key and Priority Population (KP & PP) clients were served in 2020.

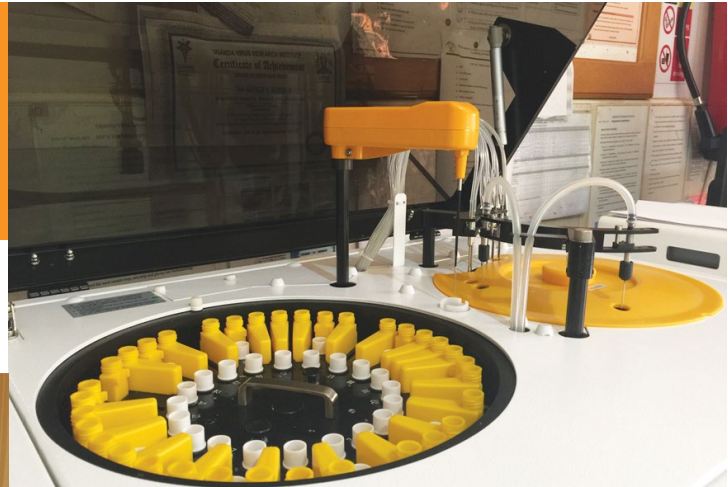
**42** KP and PP clients tested positive registering an HIV prevalence of **6.8%** in 2020.

**122** outreach clinics were held in the different out reach sites all together.

**100%** of the Most-at-Risk Populations testing positive were linked to ROM for HIV care.



## Laboratory Services ● ● ●



**R**each Out Mbuya Community Health Initiative believes that a robust and up to date Laboratory system is very critical in the fight against HIV/AIDS and NCDs. Their early diagnosis, management and treatment in addition to follow up of clients' conditions while on treatment was attributed to quality laboratory outcomes. ROM follows good clinical laboratory practices and observes standard operating procedures.





*Mbaya Pharmacy*



*Kinawataka Pharmacy*

## Pharmacy Services ● ● ●



ROM's pharmacy section is in charge of ordering, verification, dispensing of drugs to clients and logistics management.

Observance of the general Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) is key, the team also follows up on advanced drug reactions with the National Drug Authority

In 2020, for the adult recommended formulation opening stock for the year was **14,202**, ROM received **58,269**, **68,885** drugs were consumed and closed the year with **12,592** stock levels.

Pediatric recommended formulation: ROM received **4,504** drugs, **5,226** drugs were consumed and we closed the year with **1,103** drugs.

EMTCT formulation: ROM received **207** drugs, clients consumed **272**, and we closed the year with **47** drugs.

Other formulation: **684** drugs were received, **828** consumed and we closed the year with **440** drugs.

## Male Engagement ● ● ●

ROM has also been involved in reaching out to men with HTS in order to link more HIV positive men to the ART program.

Men are often reluctant to test for HIV because of their busy schedules, stigma or lack of proper information.

The strategies and approaches used for getting the men are;

- Testing men at their work places
- Testing men in homes of Index client
- Testing men during night clinic activities
- Testing men at their social gathering places like; bars and sports betting joints.



We have an active men's clinic that runs every Wednesday at Kinawataka Reach-Out clinic site,

which offers services such as; HIV counseling and testing, treatment of STIs, provision of ART, Prevention services and laboratory services. The clinic operates during evening hours with **152** clients actively receiving ART services.



*Men during the Men's program at Kinawata site*



## Defeating Tuberculosis ● ● ●

In order to end the tuberculosis epidemic, ROM is implementing a TB strategy that focuses on diagnosis, treatment and prevention.

Tuberculosis (TB) services have been integrated with HIV care through screening all HIV clients routinely for TB and TB patients for HIV. ROM also provides treatment for TB to both HIV-positive and negative clients.



**1,122** presumptive TB cases were identified, **752** of which were clients receiving HIV care. ROM achieved **84.4%** treatment success rate in 2020.

## Differentiated Service Delivery Model (DSDM) ● ● ●

**T**he model was adopted to decongest facilities and reduce on client waiting time for clients with good adherence.

In March 2017, ROM adapted a Community-Based ART Delivery (CBAD) Model which enables PLHIV (who are enrolled as clients at ROM and are clinically stable) to obtain their antiretroviral (ARV) refills at the Community Drug Distribution Points (CDDP) chosen by the clients within their communities.

The project improved Quality of Care and Management of HIV/AIDS services with the mentorship of RICE WN in Arua District.

**1,747** ROM Clients benefited from the CBAD model in 2020.

### CDDP Eligibility

- Above 19 years' old.
- Adherence of 95% and above (and keep their appointment).
- Without co-existing chronic medical/surgical condition such hypertension, diabetes mellitus, malignancy.
- The project targets PLHIV who have been on Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) for at least 12 months and on their current regimen for at least 6 months.
- Virologically suppressed with ((viral load less than 1000copies/μl (plasma) or 5000copies/μl (DBS).
- No active TB or other WHO stage III/IV opportunistic infection.
- Not pregnant or lactating woman.

## Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) ● ● ●

As a way to mitigate the health effects of HIV/AIDS ROM in 2020 extended service delivery to include treatment of NCDs to clients.

**N**CDs are rapidly increasing, accounting for **35%** of the country's deaths. Most individuals with a NCD in Uganda are neither aware of their status or the risk factors.

As of 2020, **426** of our clients suffer from a NCD.

With the majority, **322** suffering from hypertension

**180** with diabetes

**2** have cervical cancer and **2** have breast cancer

These are continuously monitored by our medical team to ensure they receive the appropriate treatment.



To reduce the spread of HIV and the occurrence of new infections of HIV by 30% in the catchment area by 2022.

## Viral Load Suppression ● ● ●

Undetectable= Untransmittable

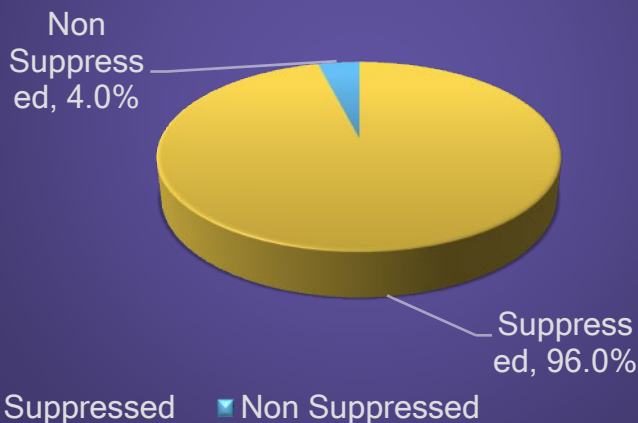
In 2020, ROM achieved **96.0%** suppression rate as compared to **94.3%** in 2019.

This is attributed to client's pill intake, good adherence levels despite the COVID-19 challenges.

Whereas there was a decrease in non-suppressed clients from **5.7%** in 2019 to **4.0%** in 2020.

ROM has continued to provide access to stigma-free testing and treatment services including free viral load testing, for all clients in care.

### Reach Out Mbuya Suppression Rates in 2020



# Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV ● ● ●

Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV accounts for more than 90% of new childhood infections. It can be reduced by providing HIV-positive mother access, effective antiretroviral therapy (ART) and support services during pregnancy, delivery, and breastfeeding.

As one of the implementers of Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT) services, ROM had 0 HIV transmission to children for the past 12 years. This has been possible through sustainable and high-quality programs explained below;



## HIV Testing and Diagnosis:

For mothers who are pregnant, HIV counselling and testing is the first and most critical step in reducing Mother-to-Child Transmission. We have a team of community staff and trained nurses who follow up these mothers and at the time of delivery they are referred to government local health facilities. ROM has a team of counselors attached to each mother.



## Prenatal Treatment:

ART, when taken throughout pregnancy, delivery and breastfeeding, can reduce the risk of HIV transmission to an infant. Mothers who test HIV-positive during their prenatal visits at ROM supported sites are immediately linked to lifelong ART and counselled on benefits of enrolment and retention on treatment.



## Safe Childbirth:

Safe childbirth is an important consideration for all expectant mothers and particularly for HIV-positive Mothers. Our mothers are referred to government local health facilities for management and followed up after.



## Postnatal Care:

ROM works with maternity and child wellness clinics to offer a variety of integrated postnatal care services. The infants are followed up to 8 months then discharged from the programme. Mothers are encouraged to practice safe infant feeding practices in and outside the context of HIV.

**1,288** mothers served with HIV care and services.

**3,464** exposed infants

**0** HIV transmission to children

## HIV counselling and testing for Concordant and Discordant couples ● ● ●



*Discordant Couple group meeting conducted in Acholi Quarters*



*The Annual Discordant Couple meeting and Discordant couples in ROM*

In 2020 ROM counseled and tested **128** couples cumulated figures at all Reach out sites. Of these **11** were concordant positive and **16** discordant couples. All concordant positive and discordant couples were enrolled in care. The discordant couples were given information on HIV discordant, the importance of keeping the negative partner negative, proper ART adherence by the HIV positive partner, treatment of STIs for both partners and also circumcision for the negative male partner to reduce the rate of HIV acquisition.

About **15** of these couples were referred for PrEP services in Kiswa and Kisenyi. In total we have **255** cumulative number of discordant couples in the program across sites. Annually we have modular trainings for the newly identified discordant couples in the program, this is to make them understand what discordancy is, to identify for them where they can get social support and to make them know they are not alone. This year because of COVID-19 the training was not conducted.

We also had annual support group meetings that are usually done in the different communities. Two meetings were organized this year in AQ and Banda communities. We reached **21** couples and **25** partners that came as individuals because their partners were busy and some were up country. Of these we tested **11** negative partners for HIV and all were still HIV negative. Challenge identified was COVID-19 that affected most of our meetings.

## Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) program ● ● ●

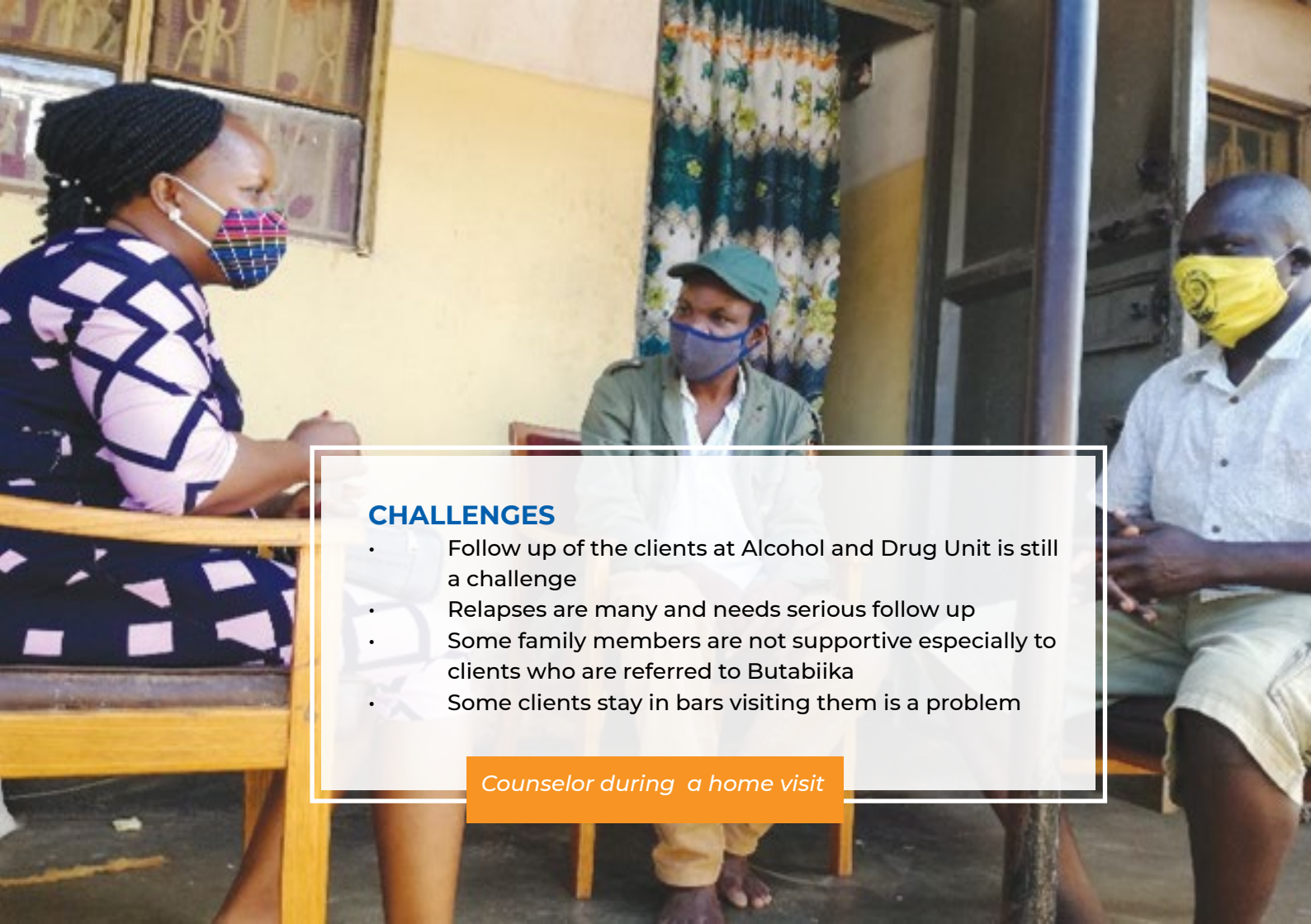
**A**lcohol consumption is one of the predominant issues among our clients. Most clients abuse alcohol because of HIV stressful situation they go through coupling with lack of jobs leading to poverty and inability to sustain their lives. A person with HIV needs to be sober to understand what HIV is, its mode of spread and associated care and treatment. Alcohol interferes with the brain's communication pathways, and can affect the way the brain looks and works. To maintain high adherence of more than **95%**, ROM implements the Alcohol anonymous club to help clients who have challenges with alcohol and drug addictions.

We carry out home visits and Alcohol meetings for the different communities. Clients who accept to be rehabilitated are linked to Butabika for medical support. We do targeted home visits for clients with high viral load and psychosocial issues and we involve their family members for easy follow up. Cumulative number of AA clients in the program is **389**. Only **80** attended the quarterly meeting due to the pandemic, **75** were home visited, **21** were sent for rehabilitation. Figures disintegrated by sex as below:

**Total Active AA clients in the different communities at Reach Out Mbuya**

Community	Active clients		Clients who attended meeting		Clients home visited		Clients Referred to Butabika		Clients who stopped substance abuse	
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
Acholi Quarter	35	75	9	11	11	6	3	1	4	2
Kinawataka 1	38	28	8	12	9	6	2	3	1	0
Kinawataka 2	51	75	8	12	7	11	1	3	0	3
Banda	27	28	4	16	5	10	2	3	1	0
Giza	10	22	0	0	4	6	1	2	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>





### CHALLENGES

- Follow up of the clients at Alcohol and Drug Unit is still a challenge
- Relapses are many and needs serious follow up
- Some family members are not supportive especially to clients who are referred to Butabiika
- Some clients stay in bars visiting them is a problem

*Counselor during a home visit*

## To provide social and economic support to PLWHA and other needy persons affected by HIV and AIDS.

### Orphans and Vulnerable Children ● ● ●

ROM's interventions for active OVC beneficiaries are based on all OVC in program have a known HIV status

Currently ROM serves **1,717** OVC in Kampala & Luweero districts.

---

**498** OVC are in school (**518** primary level and **133** Secondary level)

---

**25** were O'level Candidates and **7** A level Candidates

---

**96** sat for Primary Level Examinations

---

**98** Insecticide Treated Nets were distributed to OVC.

All OVC received prevention messages on a monthly basis.

ROM contributes scholastic materials, uniforms annually for all beneficiaries plus menstrual hygiene support.

Quarterly school visits are made by social workers to discuss matters of class performance and general student/pupil conduct.

**156** orphans and vulnerable children were linked to Uganda Child Help Line for issues of child abuse.

Held quarterly sessions with Child Protection Officer, Police and Local Council Leaders.

Availability of a well monitored and maintained emergency shelter.

ROM has also collaborated with FIDA-U and SAUTI for Legal assistance related to maltreatment and gender-based violence.

ROM has linked **231** to formal financial institutions.



*ROM trainee:  
Matovu Julius  
makes it big in  
Welding and Metal  
fabrication*



**M**y name is **Matovu Julius** am 24 years old. I joined Afro-Tech Welding and Metal Fabrication workshop for training in 2017 with the support of Reach Out Mbuya in Kinawataka. I lost my father when I was still young and grew with my mother who tried to educate me until secondary school. (S.4) that is how far she could educate me since we were 6 children in the household. Being a client, she got to hear of the openings at ROM in hands on skilling where she referred me to join. I applied for welding and metal fabrication which was my dream work since childhood. In 2018, we completed the training course and was offered industrial training for a year. I was empowered more in welding and metal fabrication. I was blessed when ROM offered start up toolkit in 2019, this enabled me to start my own workshop in **Seeta Nantabuliriwa opposite LC offices**. I have been able to get money and rent a space for the workshop, support my mother and siblings and looking forward to grow the workshop into a training center. My appreciation to Reach Out Mbuya for the opportunity they gave me and other young people in the community who had lost hope.

## Youth and Adolescent Empowerment ● ● ●

### Youth as champions of HIV advocacy

Peer education and support is essential. Young people are powerful instruments for change. They are more likely to understand each other's realities therefore, ROM utilizes such forums to reach out to the youth.

#### Friends Forum:

Through the Friends Forums the youth and adolescents come together to discuss different topics, challenges and share experiences as they relate to each other. This happens on a quarterly basis. They share experiences through drama, skit, poems, music and dance. This has enabled them overcome challenges such as poor adherence, stigma and discrimination, disclosure, myths about ARVs and also abstinence and teenage pregnancies.

**408** children and adolescents attended various experience forums and all who were identified with challenges were linked appropriately to support services.



*ROM peer educators got an opportunity to participate in the Y+ Summit 2020 organized by Uganda Network of Young People Living with HIV & AIDS. ROM grooms' young champions for positive living. Fostering hope for the future, believe young people are key in stopping the HIV stigma and nurturing a welcoming world for all.*

## Young Mothers Club: ● ● ●

The young mothers club is an initiative established to support teenage mothers who are often faced with challenges of lack of social support, unemployment and ignorance of HIV services that are available. ROM comes in to support them according to the communities. These mothers meet quarterly to discuss the challenges they face as well as equip themselves with financial literacy (through Village Saving and Loans Association) and how to seek justice when abused.

---

ROM reached out to: **135** young mothers in the community with sensitization messages on SRH and general life skills.

---

**120** young mothers were enrolled in skilling / vocational training. **6** groups were established with business enterprises ranging from tailoring, catering, piggery and were given startup capital by ROM.

---

**31** young mothers were trained in tailoring, hair dressing and catering.

## Psychosocial Support (Play Therapy) ● ● ●

During clinic visits the children are offered psychosocial support at the play therapy where they play with different toys, puzzles and storytelling. This enables the social worker to identify children with challenges from the way they relate with each other and how they play with the toys and intervene appropriately through counselling or referrals where to the appropriate people.



*A Teenage and Adolescent supporter supervises children as they play in the ROM play center*





## ROSES of Mbuya



In 2020, Roses of Mbuya worked on major consignments for laptop bags for Help Age Uganda and facial masks for PSI and US-Mission/ CRS/ ROM. Roses of Mbuya also made uniforms and held inhouse trainings in cutting methods and using button hauler machine to prepare the team for tasks that require multitasking with in the operations of the workshop.

## Village Savings and Loans Association ● ● ●

The Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) program empowers rural communities to take control of their personal finances. Members in these groups save their money and are able to take out loans which they repay with interest. These loans are invested in to Income Generating Activities.



By end of the fourth quarter of 2020 VSLA-OVC section had cumulatively reached **463** groups since the start of the program, Mbuya community had **208** groups **123** groups in Kinawataka community **118** groups in Banda community and **14** groups Organisation Capacity Assessment with a total membership of thirteen thousand eight hundred and Ninety (**13,890**) community

ROM through the SOCY project that ended in 2020 trained communities to save money through **Saving and Internal Lending Communities (SILC)**. Among these groups is the Ani Yali Amanyi group that is saving for the third cycle. This group sits for their weekly saving meetings every Wednesday. Consisting of **35** members the group has saved up to **700,000 shillings** since COVID -19 with many members withdrawing their savings due to the uncertainty and poverty as a result of the pandemic. Today, out of the money borrowed from the **SILC** group three members have started a piggery business. **Nambi Susan** the group chairperson says the greatest challenge they have faced is that during COVID-19 lockdown some members took their savings and have not returned to save ever since. Our group has sold liquid soap during this COVID-19 period. I am now preparing tags for the next lot of produce. We have sold out all the liquid soap we made and are planning to make more in the coming week.

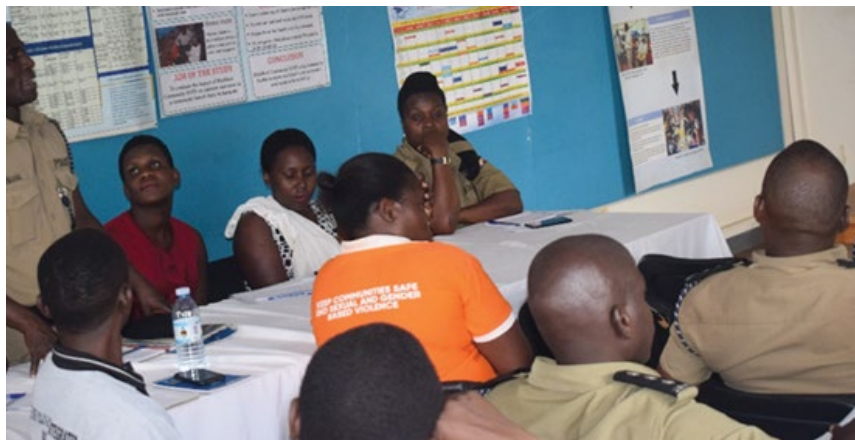
members who have undertaken savings activities in ROM catchment area and OCA, counting **97%** female and client involvement increasingly with **41%** groups client groups currently **506** Households (HH) and a total of **1,032** OVC are benefiting as a result of HH in VSLA (**665** female and **637** male).





## Legal Support ● ● ●

**T**hrough social workers ROM clients are provided with legal information on issues such as land rights, child and domestic abuse, obtaining birth certificates and will-making through weekly talks in client waiting areas, linkages to the relevant organizations that provide legal support.



By 2020: **967** orphans and vulnerable children were sensitized on child and legal support.

**156** orphans and vulnerable children were linked to Uganda Child Help Line for issues of child abuse.

**153** caretakers of orphans and vulnerable children were linked to UGANET for property grabbing and ownership support.

**104** orphans and vulnerable children were assisted to conduct birth registrations.

**01** female teenager was linked to WAKISA for teenage pregnancy support.

## Nutrition ● ● ●

**R**OM carried out food distributions mainly targeting mothers with children below 5 years of age, mothers and caretakers of malnourished children and child-headed households.

In the year 2020,

**8,761** clients (488 pregnant and lactating mothers).

**418** (HIV-exposed infants) received NACS during clinic consultation and home-based care. **428 (390** HIV-positive clients) were enrolled into the nutrition program.

**383** HIV positive clients with nutrition issues were counselled

**1,395** mothers were counseled on infant feeding.

**352** households with Orphans and Vulnerable Children were supported with food, which benefited **1,791** secondary individuals.



## Grandmothers Project ● ● ●

The grandmothers' project is implemented in Kasaala, Luweero district and Kampala aims to improve the well-being of grandmothers and their households.

In 2020 the following was carried out under the project;

**1,501** medical consultations made by grandmothers.

**78** Outreaches conducted.

**103** grandmothers have undergone cervical cancer screening.

**57** beneficiaries received food support.

**78** grandmothers received home-based care

**98** grandmothers received solar lanterns

**10** grandmothers received shelter.

**5** pit latrines constructed.

**24** teenage mothers in grannies care received sewing machines.



*The medical coordinator ROK during one of the home visits to the grand mothers*



*A social worker during a home visit to a grandmother's home*

## i) Health System Strengthening ● ● ●

ROM is the pathfinder of the new version of UgandaEMR, a client records management system funded by CDC and recently adopted by Ministry of Health Uganda has upgraded a version known as Point of Care to improve service quality in terms of reliability, precision and responsiveness. Last year 2019, ROM successfully migrated all its ART client records since year 2000 to the UgandaEMR system hence improving its records management practices.

In 2020, **Eric Manders** from CDC Atlanta visited ROM and was impressed with the adaptability of technology in Uganda. He referred to ROM as the cutting age of informatics.



### Research Projects;

SLF Assessment final report; **1061** active elderly, **106** from Kampala and **955** from Luweero. Database was designed and is currently functional

### Collaborations for Research

**05** staff have trained and received certificates in GCP & HSP **01** Staff obtained a scholarship for a short course in Clinical Epidemiology (EPI-204) at IDI

### Capacity building for Research

Michigan State University; resubmission of a joint research project to INH

## ii) Research ● ● ●

ROM conducts clinical, behavioral, and operational research while maintaining systems and procedures compliant with the International Conference on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use Good Clinical Practice guidelines (ICH GCP).

## iii) Governance management and staffing ● ● ●

ROM 's board of directors constitutes of 12 Board of Directors (BOD) with a representation of staff and clients of the organization. These foresee efficient use of resource and accountability.

The BOD with the support of the senior management team has worked to align the interest of staff, the organization through setting the up structures of compliance and implementing of governance structures in place as they overseeing the day- to- day running of activities.

In 2020 Human Resources department of the organization over saw a work force of **114** staff.

## iv) Developing our Capacities ● ● ●

Held **14** institutional training addressing skill gaps. In the coming year, the department plans to conduct more trainings targeting staff and to improve talents and capabilities.



## Staff Appreciation

ROM also recognized **67** staff who had served for **5** and **10** years. The staff received certificates of recognition for their dedicated and service to the community.



*Recognition of **Rose Achungo** who has worked as a maintenance staff. Rose worked with ROM for **7** years. "I encourage you my colleagues to work hard and not to wait to be told or shown what to do," she said during her farewell speech. She prides her success in her ability to be self-driven and creative. Rose had set up a business for her retirement and is planning to concentrate on making it grow as she takes care of her grandchildren.*

## Employee engagement survey

Employee engagement survey informs where the organization stands when in regard to staff engagement and satisfaction. From the survey, ROM had a relatively high engagement of **77%**.

## COVID-19 trainings

With the outbreak of COVID -19, ROM staff were given capacity building on how to protect themselves and others from contracting the disease. Several trainings for staff were held the discussions covered the current statistics on COVID-19 and its trend across the country, the cause of COVID-19, how COVID-19 is spread, signs and symptoms, preventive measures, why the need of screening everyone, and how to handle a COVID-19 suspect.

ROM staff were taught about contact tracing and surveillance for COVID-19. The importance of these two was emphasized and a ROM Surveillance committee was set up to spearhead and monitor daily facility activities encompassing daily screening of each and everyone who enters the facilities including the staff.



## i) Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in school



As an avenue to raise money for ROM's programs in particular; the Orphans and Vulnerable Children Program ROM in 2020 held a virtual charity run following the COVID -19 Standard Operating Procedures.

Staff and Friends of Reach Out Mbuya and Companies/ Organisations such as; **Centenary Bank, Global Paints, Light Ray, MotherWell Nursery Primary School, ABC Stilez and Baths the Catholic Church in Uganda, Comboni Missionaries** and individuals supported the cause. Previously ROM had been contributing **200,000** per child per term at secondary level to be able to reach out to many; Beginning academic year 2021 ROM will be narrowing down the support to a few to try and meet the full tuition fees with a maximum of **600,000** a term.

ROM collected over **UGX 26,002,200** from the fundraising drive.

Reach Out Mbuya will continue fundraising for the orphans and vulnerable children under her care through selling of vests at **50,000/=** or any other forum like through donation boxes or mobile money contributions on

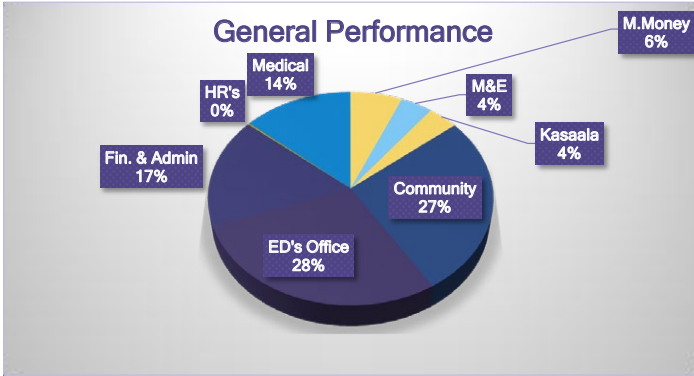
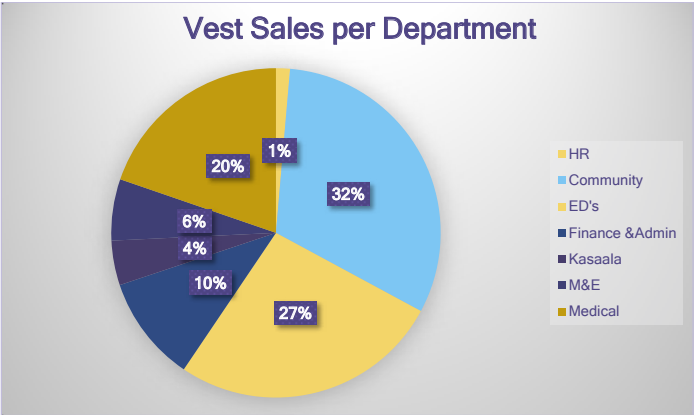
**ROM Airtel line 0705721563.**

Deposited on our Centenary Bank  
Account No. **3100004656 UGX**  
Title: **Reach Out Mbuya Parish HIV/AIDS Initiative**

Or even paid in at our head office in Mbuya (next to Our lady of Africa Mbuya .



# Performance per department in vest sales as an avenue of fundraising



## ii) Financial summary statement for 2020; ● ● ●

### STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

	Notes	2020 UGX	2019 UGX
<b>Income</b>			
Grants & Donations	10.3	5,643,566,391	7,340,537,432
Sustainability income	10.4	425,884,011	347,422,983
Unrealized Exchange Gains	10.5	15,356,014	220,815
<b>Total funds received</b>		<b>6,084,806,416</b>	<b>7,688,181,230</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Administrative	10.6	271,047,412	134,427,081
Board Costs	10.7	14,236,000	17,707,000
Equipment	10.8	58,819,465	1,750,000
Professional Fees	10.9	18,250,350	19,196,750
Programs Costs	10.10	6,061,339,559	6,541,658,484
Training	10.11	125,600,259	210,929,164
Travel	10.12	8,222,000	6,198,900
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>6,557,515,045</b>	<b>6,931,867,379</b>
Deficit/ (Surplus)		<b>(472,708,629)</b>	<b>756,313,851</b>

# ROM in the Media

**Daily Monitor**

NEWS BUSINESS OPED SPECIAL REPORTS MAGAZINES SPORTS

## Coach Obua rents bike to deliver HIV medicines to less privileged in total lockdown

SUNDAY APRIL 12 2020



**E-PAPER  
EXTRA**

## E-health, an alternative service delivery mechanism during COVID-19 pandemic



**Emmanuel Sendeale**

**EDITOR:** In these trying times of the COVID-19 pandemic that is causing havoc across the world, and distress in health resource-limited settings like Uganda, e-health seems to be the best alternative for service delivery to the grassroots.

The pandemic presents several barriers for HIV/AIDS service delivery. Quarantine and social distancing in a bid to curb the spread of coronavirus have disrupted normal health, social and economic structures.

This disruption increases the risk to HIV infection and poses a greater challenge for those already living with the HIV virus. To prevent the exacerbation of HIV/AIDS, individuals must progress along the continuum of care through HIV testing, linkage to and retention in care, initiation and adherence to antiretroviral treatment as well as providing preventive measures against HIV transmission.

This can be achieved through the utilisation of the electronic-based community drug distribution point application (eCDDP App) that has demonstrated itself as a cost-effective and safer HIV care and treatment service delivery model.

The electronic-based community drug distribution point application (eCDDP App) provides HIV/AIDS

**E-PAPER  
EXTRA**

## COVID-19 spread among truck drivers: Apply targeted approaches used in HIV spread management



**Rebecca Nantondo Baagale**

**EDITOR:** The current statistics from the Ministry of Health indicate a scary rise of COVID-19 imported infections by interstate cargo drivers commonly known as the truckers.

As we closed the month of April, cargo drivers accounted for 25 of the total 83 cases recorded in the country. Despite the nation's commendable efforts of managing to contain the spread of the virus, long-distance drivers traversing the country are posing a real risk.

Unfortunately, many of these truckers live neckless lifestyles that includes engagement in transactional sex a challenge that continues up to now in the struggle to mitigate the spread of HIV plus other infectious diseases. As the East African countries come together to manage the growing threat of the COVID-19 spread by truckers, it would be great to leverage the best practices that have been used in HIV management where truckers are regarded as a priority population. Recalling the late 1990s when Uganda was one of the countries most affected by the AIDS epidemic but successfully achieved a drop from the HIV prevalence of 18% to 6% by 2014, unfortunately the prevalence rate among this Key Population is still high ranging between 25% to 32%.

The use of different targeted approaches that support truckers to appreciate the risk they put to the public through their risky behaviors and implore them to change,



Hope for the future



P.O. BOX 7303 Kampala Uganda  
Plot 1 Boazman Road Mbuya 11 Hill.



Tel: +256 414 222630/+256 312 165250



Email: [reachout@reachoutmbuuya.org](mailto:reachout@reachoutmbuuya.org)



Web: [www.reachoutmbuuya.org](http://www.reachoutmbuuya.org)

