



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

July-September 2024

Issue 3



Put people first

Let communities lead; Prep with Pride; Sex work is work; U=U (Undetectable viral load=Untransmittable HIV infection). These were among the many catchphrases and movements our founder Mutongi Kawara, encountered during the AIDS 2024 conference, which she had the privilege of attending thanks to the support of the International AIDS Society. AIDS 2024, the global conference on HIV response, was held in Munich, Germany, in July 2024. The main theme, "Put people first," emphasized rethinking solutions from the perspectives of those most affected. As an organization working with orphans affected by HIV/AIDS and groups susceptible to acquiring HIV, this conference was an ideal platform to learn and network with key actors in HIV response. During the conference, our founder had the opportunity to be part of a global community of people living with HIV, scientists, advocates, researchers, and clinicians. Through symposiums, sessions, and poster presentations, she gained valuable knowledge, networked with others, and became involved in movements that are crucial to the HIV response as we strive to end AIDS by 2030. This experience was incredibly enriching on a personal level, but it also had significant implications for Mukundi. It provided insights into how to reshape our projects, policies, and practices, and presented opportunities to join existing coalitions, associations, and unions. This is particularly important for us as a start-up organization, as we recognize that we can develop and grow by being part of larger groups actively engaged in the same fight.



Health themed camp

We successfully conducted a health-themed camp from the 19th to 30th of August with 17 of our beneficiaries/learners. The learners came from diverse backgrounds and had varying needs, including education, skills training opportunities, nutrition, psychosocial support, care, support, love, and protection. Our primary goal for the camp was to promote physical and mental wellness among our beneficiaries. Additionally, as the first of nine camps to be implemented over three years, it was essential for laying the foundation for our beneficiaries to become first responders in emergency situations. The camp covered.....





(continued) topics related to physical health (personal hygiene, environmental hygiene, promoting health through healthy meals, dental hygiene), mental health, and junior basic first aid training. Various activities, such as games, experiments, and role plays, were conducted for sessions on personal and environmental hygiene. Various activities including, a treasure hunt transitioned our learners from sessions on promoting personal and environmental hygiene to promoting health through healthy meals. During the treasure hunt, the learners actively sought out treasure in the form of different food items hidden within a *food forest*. Afterward,

they had to identify the nutrient component of their hidden treasure.

Experimentation is one of the main components of the projects that fall under pillar 2 of our Five Pillar Orphan Care Model. Therefore, for one of our dental hygiene sessions, the learners engaged in an experiment where they soaked boiled eggs in different liquids to observe changes overnight.

The eggs in this experiment represented human teeth, and the results from this experiment enhanced their knowledge from the formation of cavities to the correct way of brushing teeth.

On the other hand, we wanted to impart knowledge to our learners on how to respond in emergency situations. We achieved this through junior first aid training. These skills included assessing safety/injured person's condition, calling for help, performing CPR, controlling bleeding, treating wounds, burns & fractures. Overall the camp was a success.



Creating child friendly spaces

As we implemented our health camp, one of the most pressing needs that persisted was that many of the children we are working with could neither read nor write. This prompted us to implement a language themed camp, where we are continuing our interaction with the children during the school term. We began meeting our beneficiaries on Saturdays on a bi-weekly basis since in the month of September. In our sessions, the focus was on building foundations, including alphabet introduction (letter shaping and order), phonemic awareness, introduction of common words and phrases, and the introduction of reading stories to our beneficiaries who had pre-existing knowledge of these foundational skills. From our observations, we have noticed that our beneficiaries are eager to learn, and we anticipate positive change in their lives.



On the other hand, these sessions have allowed our beneficiaries to truly recognize our current area of operation as a child-friendly space where they are protected from harm and free to be themselves. Our aim in creating such a space is to ensure that the children have access to a place where they can receive psychosocial support, are free to express themselves and share their problems, have access to a support system and a network of peers, which in turn fosters social connectedness. Additionally, this space helps us to identify the challenges affecting them, which in turn allows us to develop mechanisms to address these challenges.



What comes next?



- Making preparations for the information and technology themed camp.
- Continuing on with our language theme camp.
- District inception meeting, where will be introducing Mukundi to Murewa district's different stakeholders.

**If you would like to contribute to our work you can contact us on
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