

**Fighting AIDS is not only a medical challenge but also social and economic.**

AGNES:

I am a 14 year old Girl living in the suburbs of Mbarara Town in Uganda. My mother used to work in a local bar and she would sexually be used by men in this bar for money, I was born at home and not in the Hospital my mother died due to lack of medical care and financial support without showing me who my father was but I'm in good hands of my grandmother. I rest although I am always sickly. A local organization here holds seminars for the community teaching about HIV/Aids and they also encourage people to know their status through voluntary counseling and testing (VCT). I went and tested only to discover that I am HIV+ .I am now on ARVs provided by Kitovu Mobile AIDs organization and these have boosted my immunity, I am determined to survive as I am in Church with God on my side I will win.

AMINA:

I am a married woman of 26 years and my husband is 48 years and I only got married to save the life of my father who was down with sickness but the family had no money, so my family decided that I should get married so dowry may be paid to take my father to the Hospital. Yes I was given out and lost my education and the ambition of being a Teacher was ruined, my father died after 4 years and I began to fall sick. I conceived and started my anti natal care the nurses advised me to enter a program PMTCT (Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission). I gave in my blood for testing it was discovered that I am HIV+ when I went home my husband was angry I was beaten and bruised the villagers told me that my husband had lost 3 wives before marrying me. I am alone now but with hope of giving birth to a healthy child with the PMTCT program, I will die but my child will survive.

ELDERLY/GRANDMOTHER

I am 70 years old looking after 7 orphans, all my sons and daughters lost their lives to HIV/Aids and I was left with the children. I am not working and dwell on a small piece of land in a grass thatched house. My only way of survival is my grandson who introduced us to a team from Kitovu Mobile AIDS Organization, an organization helping people living with HIV/AIDS and orphaned children of HIV/Aids with food production, medical care and counseling.

## What is gorta doing to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS

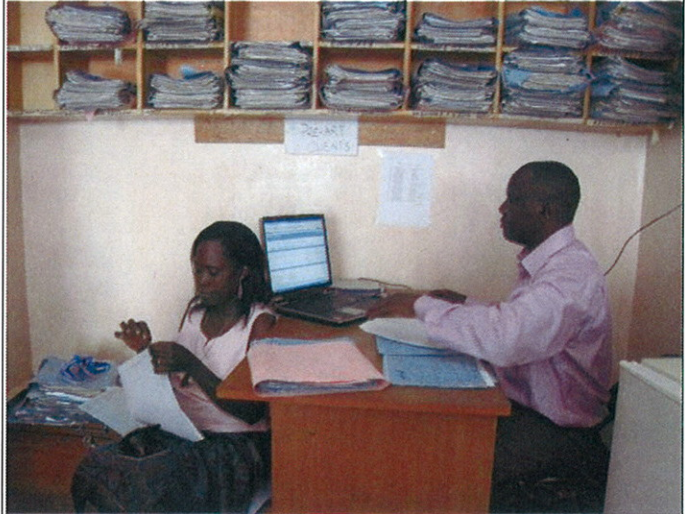
Activities	Results
<p data-bbox="113 427 624 456"><b>1. Assessing and screening clients for ART</b></p>  <p data-bbox="60 972 719 1001"><i>Photo above: Patients identified eligible for ART by CD4 count</i></p>	<ul data-bbox="786 427 1410 651" style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Through quality improvement initiatives clients in general care are assessed for ART eligibility by either CD4 count or WHO clinical staging at every clinic visit.</li><li>• Those who have CD4 between 200-250 T-cells/ul, are clinically eligible for ART according to WHO clinical staging.</li></ul>
<p data-bbox="113 1039 751 1068"><b>2. Patient preparation, education and initiation on ART.</b></p> <p data-bbox="60 1075 751 1104"><i>Photo above: Samuel Waliggo giving adherence education to</i></p>  <p data-bbox="60 1628 539 1657"><i>clients who were to start ART at the outreach.</i></p>	<ul data-bbox="786 1039 1410 1111" style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adequate preparation of clients to enrol on ART is the key to successful long term therapy.</li></ul>

**3. Patient data management:**



*Photo; Showing HBC staff updating ART clients in the MoH monitoring tools in cohort format*

*Photo; Data personnel entering data into the Patient register*



**1. Organise and conduct trainings on Agriculture, Nutritional and Business Skills**



*Photo above: Discussion on Gender topics – with the ART groups in Kiti, Bukulula, Classroom teaching – participative approach Below: Story telling.*

*Photo: Practical training on making of organic manure*





*Provision of material and financial support*

*Photo above: Showing Group member receiving seeds and learning about the method of repayment after the harvest.*



*Photo Above: Vincent in Kabonera (whose CD4 count was 23 cell/ul in 2009) with teaching on modern farming and some material support he now has fields of tomatoes, many vegetable crops and can support his family. Currently has risen to 390 and he has a lot enthusiasm to work.*

*Clients are now able to build their own houses following improvement in their agricultural produce*



*Dr. Brigid C. During a visit to John's wife food shop at Kabonera. Now they can meet the basic needs of their family which was a dream before. They are now saving to build a house.*



*Photo: clients are now able to establish their own fields of pineapple from which they earn income*



*Photo: Group members collecting their savings together*



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