

CANCER AIDS RELIEF ORGANIZATION (CARO)

Vision:

A Cancer and AIDS free community

Mission:

To contribute to the process of preventing HIV, Human Papilloma Virus (which causes Cervical Cancer) and Hepatitis B Virus infections (which causes the Cancer of the Liver), restoring hope and improving the quality of life of persons, families and communities infected with and affected by these infections and diseases through care, treatment and support.



HISTORY

Cancer and AIDS Relief Organization (CARO) is a Community Based Organization that operates in Kasese District. It was established in 2008 following a study conducted by Biira Yayeri, by then a student of the Institute of Palliative Medicine for Africa, about the palliative care services for cancer and AIDS patients and their caregivers in Uganda, Kasese District as a case study with the support from Hospice Africa Uganda. The findings indicated that there was need for palliative care services because of the increasing number of HIV/AIDS and cancer patients where cancer of the liver was leading in males and cancer of the cervix leading in the females. The existing supportive health care system offered by the District Health Office and other civil society organizations did not adequately meet the needs of patients and family caregivers since there was no active holistic care package for these patients apart from HIV/ AIDS supportive care without total control.

Despite the collaboration and support from the government and donor partners, it was indicated that there is low levels of comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS and Cancer prevention, treatment, care and support services. The challenges identified were negative attitudes towards the patients and caregivers, lack of palliative essential drugs, financial constraints, discrimination and stigmatization, inappropriate laboratory services, poor communication skills, inadequate information about HPV, HBV HIV/AIDS, cancer and palliative care. Therefore, in view of the above appalling situation, CARO was formed to address these issues through provision of a comprehensive health care package for HIV/AIDS and Cancer service delivery in its area of operation in order to improve the quality of lives of persons infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS and Cancer in their communities. CARO was then registered with the Kasese District authorities and is now fully operational as a Community Based Organization in the entire district.



www.fcde-isla.org

PROGRAMS

Human Rights: under the Human right program CARO promotes the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, HBV and HPV, responds to children rights by supporting them access the right to health care through advocacy, collaboration and networking.

Economic Empowerment Under this program CARO supports its clients that are infected with HIV, Cancer and Hepatitis B and their families to establish income generating project. It sensitizes the community on the different income generating and self-help projects ideas.

Health (HIV/AIDS, Cancer and Hepatitis B): Under this program the organization spearheads the process of immunizing people against Hepatitis B and hospice care and psychosocial support to the people affected and infected with Cancer, HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B. It implements safe/medical male circumcision and the prevention of mother - to - child transmission of HIV programs. CARO is strategic to provide care, treatment and the prevention of HIV/AIDS, Cancer and Hepatitis B. CARO also coordinates with other health facilities for health systems strengthening. The organization offers services like home care and home visiting, reproductive health care and family planning, distribution of condoms, water guards and misquotes nets, promotes community health education and sensitization, health talks and radio talk shows.

CHALLENGES

Limited funding opportunities.

Limited skills in strategic development.

Overwhelming number of patients with limited finance to procure treatment and pay staff.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Since establishment, CARO has supported over 7,904 people in Kasese district infected and affected with HIV/AIDS, cancer and Hepatitis B. The organization has promoted the prevention programs by conducting out reaches and immunizing people against HBV.

The organization has established a Mama Maria Health Center 111 that is a private not for profit health facility located in Kasese district where the community of Kasese accessed HIV/AIDS, HBV and palliative care services.

