EWOI PROGRAMME

DIOCESE OF LODWAR

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Introduction

The report highlights all the programme activities implemented in the period of January to December 2013. In the reporting period, the programme attended to the poor and vulnerable old people and the Multiple Handicapped Children through the outlined activities below.

The Elderly

The programme has an intake of about 140 clients within Lodwar town.
10 clients died, and there was an intake of 5 new clients.
10 are still on the waiting list.

About the old, we had stopped for a while doing so much for them since we saw that they were getting money from the other programmes and they had improved. We were keeping an eye from far. But this was not the case because after visiting them for some time we realized that the old ones were suffering again, since the money from Oxfam was no longer there, it had stopped for a while. The relatives neglected them and they were too dirty. So we had to assist them since we realized that they still depend on the programme. They missed assistance and attention from the staff and the prgramme as a whole. We went on organizing soap days every two months. All the clients were invited to the office. They got some food or a drink on the spot and some dry food to take home. They got a piece of soap to keep hygiene and a health talk is given by one of the staff.

Multiple Handicapped children

The programme this year started focusing more on the Multiple Handicapped Children, (children with more than one disability) this is where by we do daycare activities in the office. This we do to the children who cannot do anything for themselves e.g. eating, dressing, toileting, playing and communication is also difficult hence depend on other people for everything in their lives. The daycare centre
is there to give a relieve to the parents of MHC and give time to do other activities for their living, it is also to improve the health condition of the MHC since most of these children are neglected and don't get attention and good care.
This is done twice in a week Monday and Thursday from 9.00 am until 4.00 pm. We have 10 children and every staff/caretaker is getting two children to take care according to the programme. The children are fed, cleaned, massaged, played with and get full attention from the caretakers. The children like it so much. Most of the children are collected from their homes as early as 7.30 in the morning and at the end of the day they are taken back home satisfied and happy. In the morning the parents have to prepare them well and hand over to the caretakers and also in the evening they are supposed to be at home to receive them. Every Friday of the week the home visitors/caretakers do the home visitation to the two children whom she was taking care. This is to inform the parents of the children on the progress of the children and also to teach the parents on the care. The staffs are doing this work with their big hearts; they like it and are committed. They take care of the

children as if they are of their own, we thank god for this. We also have meetings with the parents of the MHC every month this is to encourage them and give hope, to share experience and teach them on care of the MHC.
In July two ladies from the Netherlands Annette and Patrice visited the programme, mainly for the MHC activities. They were hardworking and liked the children very much. This was very useful since the staff gained skills on the care of the MHC. They taught the staff how to care for these children, how to feed them, how to do exercises and how to play with them. They gave some possibilities for the benefit of the children. We organized workshops for the staff and the parents of the MHC, which also encouraged the parents since the two ladies talked to each of the parent on how to care for her own child.

Staff

- 7 staff members got contracts from January until December 2013.
- 1 staff member moved to one of the departments within the diocese and ceased to be a staff of Ewoi programme.
- One new staff member was employed as the social worker in May, but she did not get any contract with the programme and hence was terminated in October.
- 1 Staff member is doing a certificate course in Community Development in Nairobi and 2 more will join in January 2014.
- One staff member was involved in doing the office work, i.e. took care of the store, and recorded all the incoming and outgoing items as food, clothes, mats, soap and other materials.

During this period:

- **215** people came for special reasons and general assistance
- **310** came for social problems
- **2710** clients came for food assistance. They were given maize/beans, flour, biscuits and
- **750** others as oil, vegetables, milk, soap, Unimix, salt and sometimes sugar and tea.

Home Visits

The home visitation is still a very important component in the programme. This is done by the home visitors who visit the old people and in case of a problem, they report to the office for an action to be taken. The clients appreciate the home visits very much since some of them get only the attention from the home visitor. Though at the moment the staff are involved in the daycare activities for the MHC and so the old ones don't get attention like before hence get a visit only once a month. The social worker guides the home visitors on how to do the home visits and in case of a complicated problem they go together to solve it with either the relatives or the community.
Total Home visits done during this period were:

Home visitors **2010**
Social worker **165**

Medical Department

One of the staff members (medical assistant) was responsible for the medical care. She was there to advise and teach the relatives of the old to take the old ones to the hospital or the nearby dispensary when they become sick. This became difficult for some relatives and hence the office had to intervene and take an action. The home visitors did the follow-up visits to know the progress of the clients. When there was a sick client who could not go to the hospital or the dispensary, a nurse was called to do a home-visit treatment to the sick granny at home.

About the hospital, it is still difficult to exempt the clients but the personnel from the pharmacy and outpatient are co-operating well by giving medicines to the old ones.

Activities of the medical department in this period:

1	client got treatment in the office
18	referred to hospital
4	clients admitted in the hospital
2	home visits by a nurse to clients who can not walk to health facility
26	home visits-follow-up visits
28	visits to the hospital by the medical assistant.

a) Mobile Clinic

We had stopped doing the mobile clinics for some time but the people from those areas, Nabuin, Kodopa and Koono contacted us and requested for a mobile. We restarted the mobiles in those areas once in the two months. But we are still not satisfied because the people are not always willing to cost share and don't turn up in a good number.

b) Eye Camp

This year the eye camp was held in March in Lodwar District hospital.
A total of 33 clients were screened in the office.
7 got treatment in the office.
13 were booked for an operation.
11 were afraid of the operations hence refused to go for it.
5 clients got successful cataract operations

Food

We did not give out so much food, but in case of any client suffering we do give. So the home visitors report to the office any old person who is hungry and they get a share. They also got it during soap day.

The programme gave extra food to the clients with special needs like; those who are taking strong drugs e.g. TB drugs and ARV's and to clients who have to take care of grandchildren (AIDS orphans).

Finance

The sustenance of the programme is still depends on well-wishers, small organisations and friends of the Ewoi programme.

The programme is still looking for a long term sponsor, but until now we were able to run the programme financially.

Activities

- Daycare activities for the multiple handicapped children in the office Mondays and Thursdays.
- Provision of food to special cases and hungry clients.
- Attended the 3 areas with the mobile clinics that is; Nabuin, Kodopa and Koono.
- A total of 8 meetings were organised 5 meetings for the parents of the multiple handicapped children and 3times staff meetings.
- The 4 Home visitors are visiting the old and multiple handicapped children in all the four villages regularly.
- 1 Staff member started a certificate course in community development in Nairobi.
- Celebrated International day for the old at Eliye Springs with 50 old ones.
- 2 ladies from the Netherlands visited the programme and did 2 workshops on how to care for multiple handicapped children to the staff and 1 meeting with the parents.
- Christmas celebration for the old and multiple handicapped children with their parents.
- There was an outing for the staff to Eliye springs
- The programme invited the physiotherapist from Lokichar to assess the children and recommend the right appliances for each one of them.
- Regularly the programme kept in contact with; The Chancellor of the Diocese, Parish priests and Catechists, Chiefs, Social service, Hospital, Dispensaries, WFP, Merlin, Police, Justice and Peace, Children's officer and other public organisations.

Challenges

We also faced some challenges here and there and these are;
- Some parents are not co-operating since they leave the whole responsibility of their children to the Ewoi programme. They don't prepare the children early or even cleaning them and sometimes they are not at home and leave the children alone in the compound.
-The parents also are not willing to bring the children to the office and they tell us if we don't pick them from their homes then we leave the children, this has already happened to 3 children who are now no longer in the programme.
- Some of them don't come for meetings this is wasting time for them and also they see the whole activity as not of a benefit to the rest of the family members.
- Another big challenge is competition from other programmes/NGO, which are also doing something for the disabled people. They support them with special aids and support the families with food or money. So this makes it difficult for the daycare activity since parents like getting double assistance or they prefer the other side.
- Shortage of staff since the staff are involved in the daycare activities and so the old ones don't get attention like before hence complain that they are not visited.

Planning

- Continue the current activities
- Keeping in contact with members of the SCC and the community around.
- Celebrating Christmas days for the old and multiple handicapped children.
- Give change to staff members to attend courses.
- Organising more handicapped days and parents meetings.
- Organising an outing for the staff.
- Organising more workshops to upgrade the staff.
- Recruiting more staffs.
- Give more attention to the elderly.
- Focus more on the multiple handicapped Children's activities.

Compiled by;

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