Ndibwami Integrated Rescue Project (NIRP)

Brief Background

Ndibwami Integrated Rescue Project (NIRP) is a Christian relief, development, advocacy organization providing support and care to people living with HIV and AIDS, their families and communities.

The organization started as a Kimaanya community group to provide support and care to people Having HIV/AIDS and their families in 2003. NIRP stood to provide compassion to the people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. The founding of NIRP was based on people that were unified by common experiences faced when encountering HIV/AIDS at a time of high stigma, ignorance and discrimination. The founding team met informally in Kimmany Church Compound to provide mutual psychosocial support. Cohesion among these was strengthened by the fact that they were either directly infected with HIV or implicitly affected because their very close family associates were infected. One distinguished feature about the founder members was that they voluntarily used their time and other resources to visit AIDS clients, providing psychosocial support and Material social support. NIRP future vision is to re-invigorate HIV prevention Strategies within its catchment area through enhanced partnerships.

Vision:
An empowered society with ability to respond to HIV/AIDS and its impacts.

Mission:
NIRP seeks to contribute to a process of Preventing HIV infection, restoring hope and improving the quality of life of persons families and communities affected by HIV infection and AIDS.

NIRP Goal
Our goal is to improve the quality of life of people living with HIV and strengthen their engagement in the response to the epidemic.

How NIRP believes these changes can happen
✓ Providing and enabling access to comprehensive services for people with HIV and their families
✓ Building the capacity of people living with HIV to respond to the epidemic
✓ Advocating for and supporting policy work which leads to improvements of the lives of people with HIV and their families
Specific Objectives:

- To provide psychosocial support and training services to people with HIV/AIDS and their families and communities.
- To reduce HIV related stigma and discrimination among people with HIV and AIDS.
- To minimise the social ills caused by HIV/AIDS through material support to clients and their families.
- Improve capacity of the people affected by HIV and AIDS to address the psychosocial and economic consequences of HIV and AIDS.

Services and Programmes Details

NIRP’s core programs include:
- HIV/AIDS counseling and training programme
- Orphans and family support programme
- Street and Working Children & Young People’s Programme
- Home Based Care Programme
- Community Development Programme.

Programmes and Services

a. HIV/AIDS counseling and training programme

Counseling is the oldest service offered by NIRP and is the basis upon which the organization was founded.

Programme Goal

To alleviate the suffering of people affected and infected with HIV and AIDS, thus enabling them cope with the psychosocial impacts of HIV and AIDS.

Target Groups

- People living with HIV/AIDS
- Orphans
- Local leaders and community workers
- Teachers
- Community members

Programme Activities

- NIRP provides psychosocial support people living with HIV and AIDS and traumatized children.
- The training program conducts community sensitizations and mobilizations in basic counseling skills. This is done to scale up HIV counseling services within the beneficiaries community.
- HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention: This service is effective in providing accurate information about HIV/AIDS, STDs, treatment, Family Planning, human rights, appropriate referral Services centers as well as enhancing living positively with HIV/ AIDS. It also promotes prevention of further spread of HIV.
- Counseling in NIRP is accessed by individuals, couples, children and family members of beneficiary clients.
- Counseling takes place at all the NIRP headquarters, established outreach centre, homes of clients.
b. Orphans and family support programme
The orphans and family support programme a programme under Ndibwami Integrated Rescue Project. It was established in 2004 to address the needs of people living with HIV and AIDS (PLHA) and their families. This is basically done through school support to orphans and other vulnerable children, construction and repair of houses, providing household materials plus income generating activities (IGA) for needy families

Programme Goal:
Improve capacity of the people affected by HIV and AIDS to address the psychosocial and economic consequences of HIV and AIDS.

Target Groups
- Orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC)
- Grandmothers
- Poor women
- Street and Working Children
- Community Volunteers

Programme Activities

OVC
- Identify, assess and recruit OVC for school support
- Follow up of OVC in schools to check on their attendance and performance
- Conduct family visits and follow up orphans that need psychosocial support (PSS)
- Hold workshops on HIV and AIDS awareness plus career guidance for OVC

Grandmothers
- Sensitize local leaders and other stake holders
- Facilitate grandmothers to form solidarity groups for peer support
- Conduct trainings for the contact grannies and local leaders in basic skills like herbal medicine use, counselling, first aid, group dynamics etc
- Conduct home and group visits for support supervision, bereavement counselling sessions
- Provide medical care, food supplements and other materials like beddings, clothing and household utensils
- Construct and repair of houses and toilets for needy grandmothers

Poor women (Self Help Groups)
- Sensitization of poor women and organising them in Self Help Groups (SHG).
- Training of SHG and Cluster Level Associations (CLA) on various social and economical issues
- Formation of Cluster Level Associations (CLA)
- Training Community Facilitators (CF) on the SHG and CLA Concept
- Organize staff, CF and CLA for experience sharing programmes
- Monitoring and supervision of SHG and CLA
- Linkages of SHG and CLA to other institutions

C. Street and Working Children Programme
To support children and young people who live unsupported on the street or who are doing hazardous work. We are particularly keen to reach out to those street and working children at risk of being sexually abused, exploited and trafficked, who are employed as
domestic workers and at risk of exploitation, abuse and trafficking, those who are subjected to slavery or servitude and bonded labor, who have been severely stigmatised (e.g. through harmful traditional practice, as survivors of abuse or through former association to fighting forces) and rejected by their communities.

Programme Goal
To help children living on the street and doing hazardous work to thrive protected from violence and abuse, and has support to graduate into adulthood with a good education, life skills, employable skills and a sense of self worth.

Target Group
- Street Children
- Working children and young people

Programme Activities
- Providing the immediate needs of children and linking them to mainstream services that can contribute towards their access and long-term retention in formal and non-formal education, healthcare and employable skills.
- Protecting children from abuse, (e.g. economic and sexual exploitation, violence, neglect, doing and being drawn to hazardous work and stigma and discrimination) and addressing root causes by mobilizing all duty-bearers.
- Supporting families of children to have increased stable, secure income and enabling them to better care for their children.
- Supporting an integrated approach through effective collaboration to meet children’s priority needs (protection, education, health and well-being, employable skills, family reunification and reintegration within communities).
- Engaging with all duty-bearers such as families, employers, communities and government, including law enforcing agencies to take responsibility for children’s overall well-being, improving policies and practices at the national, district and community levels.
- Ensuring children’s right to participate in decision-making processes that affects their lives.

Community Volunteers
- These community based agents within the community that sacrifice their time and resources to engage in the development of their community with NIRP-led programs
- Link the beneficiaries to the community.
- Provision of income generating projects to the community
- Sensitization and empowerment of community volunteers in child rights and protection
- Provision of micro credit services to community volunteers to develop them and improve household incomes.
- Empowering the community volunteers in health skills, HIV counseling and other life skills.
d. **Home Based Care Programme**

   Home Care department is a component of Ndibwami Integrated Rescue Project established in 2004 with the main purpose of alleviating suffering among the HIV/AIDS affected individuals.

**Programme Goal**

Alleviate the effects of HIV/AIDS and improve the quality of life of the people living with HIV and AIDS.

**Target Group**

- People affected and infected by HIV/AIDS
- Community volunteers
- Women, men, girls and boys, Religious leaders

**Programme Activities**

- Provision of health education/related topics, counselling and relief medical treatment
- Conduct voluntary counselling and testing within the target community.
- Home visits and provision of social and material support to the needy clients’ households.
- Formation and facilitation and monitoring of Self Help Groups.
- Education on HIV/AIDS awareness and behaviour change
- Support groups of Education for Life among OVCs benefiting from HBC programme
- Training of Community Workers in Basic Health Care management. Three day residential workshops conducted in 3 phases at interval of 3 months.
- Referral of HIV+ clients to suitable organisations and medical centres where they can seek treatment.

e. **Community Development Programme**

NIRP wants to contribute to the psychosocial, economic development of society. The programme includes construction of boreholes, contributing to health and education development.

**Programme Goal**

To contribute to short and long term development of the community to improve the quality of life of people in the targeted community.

**Target Group**

- Community groups
- General community

**Programme Activities**

- Construction wood saving stoves
- Construction important infrastructure within the community; water wells, boreholes, schools and health centers.
- Community microcredit schemes.
- Provision of Income generating Activities to community groups.

**Geographical Location**
Operational Districts: Masaka, Lwengo
Country of Operation: Uganda
Region: East Africa

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