



The Western Organization for People Living with HIV/Aids

2015 Annual Report

Letter from the Chairman



As I review the year that has been, I am pleased to say that it has been successful. WOPLAH has not just experienced expansion in its project, but has also improved both its infrastructure and manpower skills through capacity building, trainings and evaluations in which the board was involved.

On behalf of the members, I would like to extend our gratitude to our partners and stakeholders, both state and non-state actors, for providing support as we continue to deliver services guided by our strategic plan which focuses on economic empowerment, improving policy for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria and public health care. We are committed to deliver our goals as stated in WOPLAH's vision and mission state.

- Joseph Shiteswa



Letter from the Program Director

WOPLAH has had a successful year. As an organization we have surpassed our yearly targets for 2015. WOPLAH's vision has continued to be our foundation this year as we have experienced transformation in our programs and maintained our traditional delivery strategies of engaging interns, support groups, Community Health Workers (CHWs), communities, and beneficiaries. We are called to create new approaches to respond to the continuously evolving epidemic. HIV in Kenya is still a generalized epidemic and we still have challenges facing the youth and professionals due to stigma related to HIV infected groups.

As I reflect on 2015, I wish to thank our Ambassadors of Hope (AOH), community health volunteers (CHV), and community health extension workers (CHEWs), donors, partners, and Mumias Sugar staff for their great contribution towards this year's success. This does not mean that the year was without challenges, but through the concerted effort of our partners we managed to change these challenges to opportunities and for that I sincerely thank you all.

2016 is themed as our year of inclusion practices. We are looking towards strengthening WOPLAH's capacity based contributions we have received in the previous year from our partners. We hope to have a wider reach through tailored interventions that will help transform the lives of the beneficiaries.

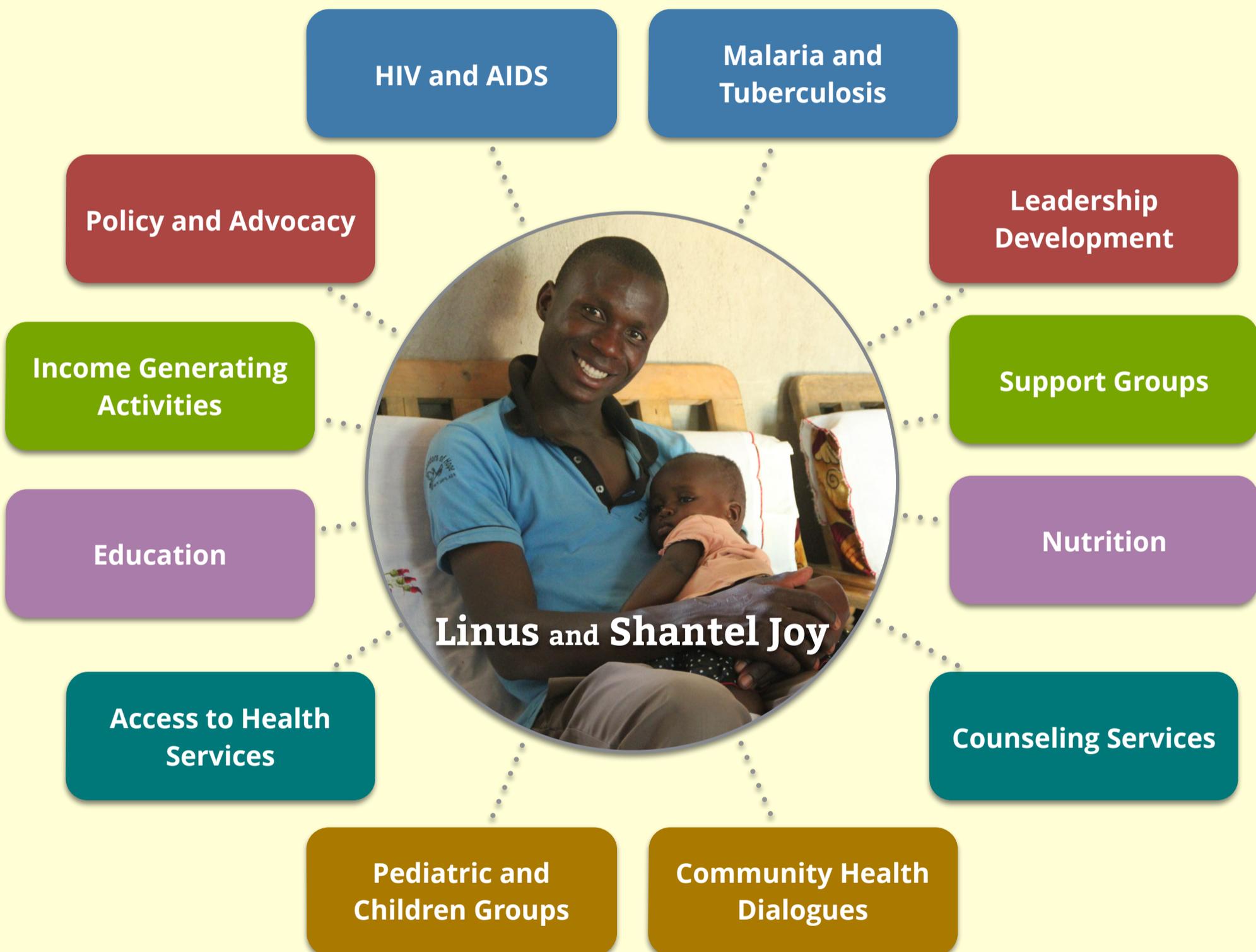
We believe in creating **GOOD WILL** towards global health equity.

-Edwin Wetoyi

An Overview of the WOPLAH Approach

Mission: WOPLAH aims to address the pain and suffering of orphans, vulnerable children, and people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS in Western Kenya

Vision: WOPLAH envisions a society in which all people can realize their full potential to enhance their lives through achieving universal health equity



The Ambassadors hope to achieve their mission and vision by **empowering** families through programs that provide **holistic** support to reduce **suffering** and **stigma** related to HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS

The project was funded by USAID through APHIA Plus, and is focused on prevention, care and treatment of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC), and strengthening health services to support adherence to ARVs, disclosure of status, and promote positive living to reduce stigma. This is done through health talks, peer education and children clubs. Through engagement of CHV, peer educator's, service providers and family members, we seek to promote access to services.



Malaria and Tuberculosis

The project goal is to reduce the morbidity and mortality caused by malaria and to accelerate quality and direct treatment. Key activities such as defaulter tracing, household visits and sensitizations have achieved positive change such as health seeking behavior. This was done through the community health systems strategy and working with the Ministry of health respectively.

Policy and Advocacy

WOPLAH continues to participate in campaigns focused on creating health equity for all at both a local and global level. They do this by working to change policy in the health sector, organizing sit ins in the different decisions making bodies, organizing local campaigns, and speaking out in public open forums. The goal of these activities is to address fear and negative associations around HIV/AIDS and other diseases which lead to neglect, stigma, poor drug adherence, preventions and multinational interested care.



Leadership Development

WOPLAH has partnerships with GlobeMed, Foundation for Sustainable Development (FSD), and local institutions provide interns the opportunity to work with WOPLAH alongside the AOH. The AOH and interns share knowledge and skills to help WOPLAH reach its vision and to grow as young global health leaders.

Income Generating Activities

Lack of a sustainable income is a serious threat to beneficiaries' health and wellbeing. To uplift beneficiaries to have an income, WOPLAH initiated income-generating activities (IGAs) including goats, poultry, kitchen garden, maize and village banking projects. This allows beneficiaries to sustain basic needs like food, school fees and transportation for ARV collection. The projects are designed to be self-sustaining and to create positive impact for those involved.



Support Groups

People Living with HIV (PLHIV) are often abandoned by their loved ones because they are thought of as vulnerable and are outcasted due to their HIV status. WOPLAH Ambassadors act as a link for PLHIV to local support groups through health clinics and community health volunteers. We are connected with 38 support groups that share experiences, support disclosure promoted adherence, advocacy and IGA's legal protections.

Education

Despite the free primary school education provided in Kenya, there are school materials and school supply fees that pose a challenge for many families to send their children to school. A lack of education can increase one's vulnerability to getting HIV/AIDS. To help relieve stress from families and promote a learning culture for a better future, WOPLAH created an early childhood development center to provide education for young children affected by HIV/AIDS and mobilized funds to pay school fees for high schools students.



Nutrition

Western Kenya has a large population of impoverished people, which makes providing everyday needs difficult. Food is one such need, and is necessary for nutrition, especially for PLHIV. PLHIV need the nutrition since they are more susceptible to getting sick, as their immune systems are already weak, and because it allows people to adhere to their ARV's. WOPLAH designates members of support groups to receive training on raising and breeding dairy goats, increasing crop yield, and on the nutritional benefits from kitchen gardens, maize and goats to help maintain their overall health and wellbeing.

Access to Health Services

HIV is still a global problem, but in Kenya it is still a generalized epidemic. Concentrated epidemics among specific populations—such as homosexual men, sex workers, boda boda drivers, and truck drivers—have been evidence of this. PLHIV are more vulnerable to getting other infections and diseases, but health facilities are far, few, expensive, and some don't even have enough staff or drugs. WOPLAH mobilizes community members to attend free local health clinics and outreach that provides comprehensive care including cancer screening, HIV/AIDS education and testing, mother to child services, family planning, and referrals.



Counseling Services

HIV/AIDS still can bring on emotional and psychological challenges. There is still fear around HIV/AIDS and TB that can cause individuals who are positive to be stigmatized and discriminated in their community, and they can end up in isolation. To address this, the ambassadors focus on providing free counseling services that help people through their challenges and empower individuals to live positively. WOPLAH has maintained referring clients to legal counselors for human rights violations, reproductive health and education.

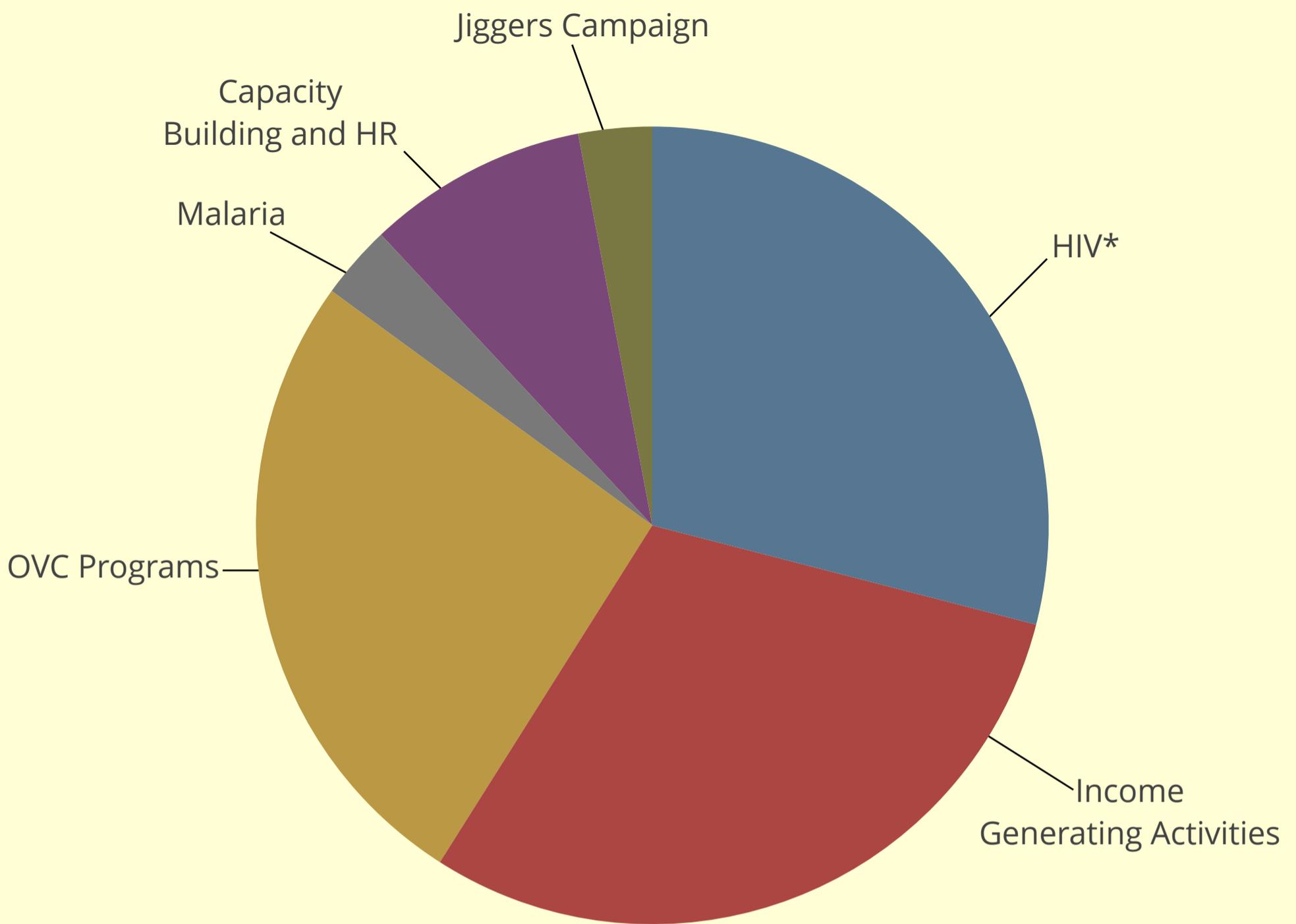
Pediatric and Children Groups

Children who have both been infected and affected by HIV/AIDS meet monthly for education, counseling, nutritional assessments, parental care, discussion, and needs assessments. The aim of this is to show children that they can be with others who are infected and to reduce their perception of HIV/AIDS related stigma at their young age due to many children losing their parents to HIV/AIDS.



Community Health Dialogues

WOPLAH organizes community health dialogues for community members suffering from health problems, infections, and lack of medical services. Through the community health strategic system, discussions take place, and the best practice action plans are developed to improve access to health services and information for residents.



WOPLAH Financials

2015 Expenses

Income Generating Activities	1,400,000 khs
HIV*	1,430,000 khs
OVC Programs	1,240,000 khs
Jiggers Campaign	150,000 khs
Malaria/TB	156,000 khs
Capacity Building and HR	425,000 khs

*HIV expenses include defaulter tracing and ART education



For more information, please visit our website: <http://woplah.wix.com/woplah>



Asante Sana!