

REPORT ON BICYCLE DONATIONS AND DISTRIBUTION



Some members of Hohoe AIDS Support Association with their bicycles

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INTRODUCTION

Hohoe AIDS Support Association (HASA) was established in the year 1998 with its main aim to support people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in the Hohoe Community. Members of the association are involved in organizing sensitization meetings in communities, educating members on stigma reduction as well as other sexual reproductive health issues. Members are also engaged in organizing Income Generating Activities (IGA) and monitoring members on a weekly basis with regards to their health and referring very weak members to the hospital.

In February this year HASA took delivery of 2 containers of bicycles approximately 450 bicycles from VCD which also included some reading books and bicycle parts to be distributed among members, out of school youth as well as school youth.

The main objectives for the use of the bicycles were;

- To train street youth, People Living with HIV/AIDS and Orphans in bicycle repairs and maintenance.
- To provide bicycles to orphans (school going children who are infected and affected by HIV/AIDS so as to increase school enrolment in the community.
- To facilitate the work of community health workers and peer educators to reach people who live in inaccessible places.

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Name of Group	Number Received
Hohoe AIDS Support Association	250
Orphans/and Caregivers	100
Community Health Volunteers	50
Peer Educators	50
Total	450

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(1) HASA Members

Bicycles were distributed to members of HASA who were all people living with HIV and AIDS. Persons living with HIV and AIDS especially in rural communities are very weak and find it difficult going about their normal duties and businesses thus the bicycles will go a long way to sustain their livelihoods. Again some of their members were trained in repairs and maintenance of bicycles. Apart from the training they have acquired, this serves as a means of generating income for them and helping to alleviate poverty in the long run.



Some members of HASA with their bicycles



Bicycles for HASA members

(2) Children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS

There are a lot of other smaller communities which constitute the Hohoe district which do not have elementary schools. Therefore school children in these communities have to walk long distances to school which deters them from going to school. As a result school children of HASA members were provided with bicycles to prevent them from walking long distances to school. Also caregivers of the orphans were also provided with bicycles to help them with their daily rounds in the community and also motivate them in their work.



Orphan beneficiaries on their bicycles



Presentation of bicycles to caregivers

(3) Community Health Volunteers and Peer Educators

HASA works with community Health volunteers and peer educators who assist them with educational programs on HIV/AIDS and reproductive health issues. These community volunteers support Persons Living with HIV and AIDS testimony sessions as well as other outreach programs. Apart from community volunteers and peer educators HASA members are also supported by individual caregivers who monitor their health and ensure members are taking their drugs regularly and eating well too. All care givers also benefited from bicycles because the most challenging aspect of their work is the long distances they have to travel from one village to another monitoring their clients. HASA therefore provided all their community volunteers and peer educators and caregivers with bicycles and some bicycle parts which will go a long way to facilitate their work.



Bicycles for community volunteers and peer educators



Bicycles for Community Health Volunteers

Outcomes

- With the support of the bicycles, members of HASA who are people living with HIV/AIDS are able to generate income to cater for their needs especially paying for their monthly supply of drugs.
- The provision of bicycles to HASA school children has motivated their children to be punctual and frequent in school.

- It has also prevented some of the children from falling sick since some of them are children infected and walking long distances really affect their health.
- Caregivers are also motivated and are also taking good care of the orphans.
- It has also motivated community volunteers and peer educators to work hard and has made their work easier since they are able to visit more communities.
- It has also cut down on the cost of transportation for HASA , community Health volunteers and caregivers with the bicycles as the means of transport.

Conclusion

We the members of HASA wish to express our sincere gratitude to VCD and to all stakeholders who contributed to ensure that we are supported with these bicycles. We are very grateful for this kind gesture and we hope that this collaboration will continue to enable us live positively and keep the smiles on our faces.

Thank you.