



Giramatsiko

Giramatsiko Post Test Club (Uganda)



**Presentation by Sedridah Tumushabe
National Soa*HIV*Sex Congress
Amsterdam, 1 December 2011**



Background and Objectives

- Giramatsiko is a Community Based Organisation (CBO)
- Formed in 2002 by 07 widows living with HIV
- Aim to help each other as positive living people
- Offer peer counseling to PLHIV
- Help each other to get treatment and continue treatment
- Assist each other in food and nutrition and provide support to the children
- Stop further spread of HIV
- Give hope to the infected and affected



Membership and Leadership

- To be a leader one must be HIV positive, open about it and a woman.
- Giramatsiko is a women led organization but men can be members without taking up leadership positions (490 members – 470 women/ 20 men).
- Although most of our women are not educated we are able to lead our organisation.
- The organisation is for and managed by people living with HIV, we are involved at all levels of planning, implementation, leadership, monitoring and evaluation.



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Achievements

From 2002 to date	
Mobilised and educated	Over 20,000 people
Referrals	About 12,000 people
Helped people start ART	514 PLHIV
Trained peer educators	84 PLHIV
Training of health workers	30
Established Post Test Clubs	17 (all PLHIV)
From June 2011 to date	
Through PMTCT programme	More than 10 children born HIV-negative



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Community sensitization





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Training of peer educators on PMTCT





Training of health care workers





Best practices to support members

1. Social Protection Insurance Scheme
2. Income-generating activities

Result: Members are able to pay school fees, pay for transport to collect drugs from health centres, to buy their own drugs and take care of others needs



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Income-generating activities





Challenges Faced

- Stigma and discrimination stop some people from going to health care centres for services.
- People in communities don't have new information about HIV.
- Drug stock outs and limited HIV services is common in most Health Centres.
- Limited access of pregnant women to PMTCT.
- High poverty and poor living standards among members.



Use of the Award Prize Money

- Support 100 HIV positive pregnant mothers with **Maama Kits**.
- Mobilise and engage men to participate in PMTCT programmes.
- Carry out dialogue meetings with health care workers.
- Empower people living with HIV.
- Advocate among district local leaders to pass by-laws to protect the rights of patients who are abused by the health care workers and increase services where it is most needed.

Thank you!



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