



Beneficiaries of women for Women Food stuffs

“ I had kept my diagnosis to myself and a few family members and isolated myself, when Joyce (Breast cancer Survivor) visited me and introduced me to UWOCASO, I realized there are many like me” this gave me the courage to start again”(breast cancer patient at UCI).

Many women who are diagnosed with cancer in Uganda are stigmatised, abandoned by families and community because it is believed that cancer is a curse or the cancer patient is burden and cost to the family. Women don't disclose their diagnosis for fear of rejection and discrimination. This delays their treatment till they are helpless and cannot bear the pain. Many times women are beaten by spouses or abandoned in hospitals due to continues requests for money for transport to hospitals to receive treatment and be reviewed. Doctors at St.Mary's Hopsital Lacor in Gulu, Uganda Cancer Institute and leadeers in the community refer patients to UWOCASO survivors for counselling, food support, accomodation while in Kampala and to encourage these patients gain hope and adhere to treatment and also encourage families to support these patients. We are grateful to our Partners and sponsors Waldensian Church, AFRON, St. Mary's Hospital Lacor and Uganda Cancer Institute for making it possible for ***“Women for women Project “ to reach these women***





in need using women who survived cancer as counsellors. During 2022, 1134 patients and care takers interfaced with counselors both in Gulu and Kampala districts.

Prior to implementation of 'Women4women project' partners identified a need to train cancer survivors in communication and counselling skills but also to update them on the latest cancer trends.

It was also noted that women face economic hardship during and after treatment. Women 4women saw a need to train survivors in income generating activities such as crafts making, tailoring, shoe making and bakery. The first batch of 9 survivors from Gulu were trained in 2022

During the implementation of the previous project "I survived we Will Survive" we noted that there is an increasing number of women with HIV/AIDS developing cancers especially cervical cancer. During the 'Women for Women project' implementation we trained ten (10) women living with HIV from Watoto Kacel cooperative Gulu in communication and counselling skills but also to provide them with latest information on cancer especially the need for annual cancer screening for women living with HIV. Thanks to Weldesian Church for the financial support, AFRON, St. Mary's Hospital Lacor and Watoto Kacel for the coordination.

During counselling sessions women always express a dire need for food among other challenges because they spend months away from home seeking for treatment both in Lacor and at Uganda Cancer Institute. They miss seasons to plant and take care of their gardens, those in business are closed or those in formal employment are forced to resign. We provided food to one hundred (100) patients at UWOCASO counselling center, in hospitals and in the community. Thanks to our partners AFRON and friends on social media.

SUMMARY OF BENEFICIARIES "WOMEN FOR WOMEN" PROJECT.

Month	Lacor	UCI	Counselling center	Referrals from Lacor	Follow-ups		
						Death	Survived
January	11	26	20	2	40	0	0
February	25	23	11	5	40	0	0
March	24	30	13	9	38	2	0
April	20	37	15	11	38	0	0
May	33	31	13	5	35	0	3
June	22	57	12	3	35	0	0
July	51	52	15	7	35	0	0
August	45	59	28	3	30	2	3
September	40	42	9	12	28	0	2



October	49	40	30	10	24	2	2
November	38	35	27	8	20	2	2
December	21	20	10	6	15	2	3
TOTAL	439	452	203	81	15	10	15

St.Mary's Hospital Lacor – Gulu supported 439 patients from January to December and referred 81patients to Uganda Cancer Institute.However among the 81patients 68patients came UCI due to following major barriers;Lack of transport money to Kampala, Accomodation while in Kampala before a dmitted by the hospital, high costs of investigation, Language barrier, Long distance and high cost of living. Cancer Patients from Lacor are mostly recommended for chemotherapy and Radiotherapy services after thier surgery,while at UCI UWOCASO survivors/counselors navigated them to the right Doctors, counseling and finding accomodation for them.

The kampala team supported 452patients at Uganda Cancer Institute, these were counselled to ensure adherence to treatment and leaving a dignified life while on treatment. While at the counseling centre Kamwokya 203patients were supported with counseling services from January to December. However their main challenge as cancer patients being suppoorted are finacial and Food.

All the above have been done to fullfil the project's aim which is ***“increased empowerment of vulnerable women in the communities of Gulu and Kampala to help fight cancer and increase the survival rate of the women”*** in Uganda.

Beyond cancer treatment, patients face challenges of intergrating back into the society because they loose some of their body parties like breasts, cervix,libbs legs and Employment(jobs), Businesses plus some of their family members therefore ***“Women for Women”*** Project proposed to folllow –up 40 patients, to restore hope, confort and connecting them back to family however 10 had a dignified death, 15 completed treatment and willing to support other patients, and 15 patients still need supportive care(counseling) inorder to complete treatment.



ACTIVITY PICTURES OF "WOMEN FOR WOMEN" PROJECT.





