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HIV/AIDS CARE AND TREATMENT IN UGANDA CASE STUDY OF TASO

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INTRODUCTION: The first case of AIDS in Uganda was reported in 1982. The current HIV infection of an estimated 1.1 million people who are in the prime of their lives has an adverse impact on the quality of life of the population. AIDS is currently responsible for 12% of total annual deaths in Uganda. The AIDS Support Organisation (TASO) with its donor given resources develops programs to help the situation in Uganda.

METHODS: Data collected from 1989 to 2004 has been analysed in addition to key informant interviews with Project Officers, ART Coordinators. Using ART in the treatment of HIV/AIDS that reduces HIV/AIDS related mortality and morbidity, prolongs life expectancy, and improves quality of life and productivity of AIDS patients.

RESULTS: 1) TASO has an active clientele of 35000 who receive counselling and medical services for opportunistic infections. 2) It is estimated that about 100,000 people in Uganda are living with AIDS and in need of ARVs. 3) TASO is to give 3000 clients free ARVs the process that started in the year 2004. 4) TASO has set up monitoring and evaluation systems that give feedback regarding the process to start and continuing uptake ARVs in the ART scale-up activities. 5) TASO has field officers, medicine companions, community nurses, and volunteers that monitor clients for all conditions and refer to TASO clinics where needed.

CONCLUSIONS: 1) There is need for more resource mobilization in order to get funds to ensure sustainability and continuity on the ART Program. 2) There is need for sensitisation and formation of rural HIV/AIDS awareness programs. 3) Establish a standard monitoring and evaluation system for ART. 4) Set up conditions that allow local companies to repackage imported ingredients or produce generic ARVs. 5) Creation of mobile clinics targeting families with HIV/AIDS persons.

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