

SAF-Teso

Shine Africa Foundation - Teso
"Empowerment through sustainable
community led interventions in the Teso
Sub-Region."

Plot1-7 Olio Avenue Old
Mbale Road Red Cross

Building

P.O.Box 684, Soroti
Uganda, E.Africa

Tel: +256 78908400

+256 781242684

shineafricaministri@safteso.net

safteso@gmail.com

<https://safteso.netlify.app/>



SAF-TESO STAFF.

SAF- TESO ANNUAL

REPORT 2022

DECEMBER. 30. 2022.

1. INTRODUCTION:

The secretariat SAF-TESO ,presents their report on the activities and results for the year ended December 2022.This report describes the main highlights of the year including the progress made on the implementation of SAF-Teso programs and projects during the year 2022. It details progress made towards achievement of objectives and goals of the projects and plans for the implementation of the exit strategies.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:

The organization performed both statutory oversight roles such as Quarterly Board meetings, Annual General Meeting which was carried out on 30th December, 2022. Besides the project core activities, other statutory mandatory obligations done in 2022 included monthly staff Meetings, Quarterly Performance review meetings which was done with both donors, relevant other stakeholders such as local Governments, Police, Schools, Health Teams, and project beneficiaries. In addition there was joint monitoring of projects done both with donors, Executive Committee (Board Members) and the secretariat -the staff. Our mandate as a CSO is focus more on with Community Systems Strengthening that is by mobilizing the communities, providing them with accurate correct information through sensitization (Educate Communities), identifying the most vulnerable like sick people ,OVC,PLHIV,TB Survivors plus others, link them to the services like ART, follow them up to see if they have been given correct services or support required and if that is not the case, **THEN**, we do advocacy outreaches to address the gaps like GBV, DV, drug stock out in health facilities and/or missed appointments or lost and bring them back to care.

FUNDING AND FINANCES OF SAF-TESO.

SAF-TESO relies on external funding from our donor partners .During the year 2022, SAF-TESO received external donations in form of project funding from our development partners namely TASO, CDFU, Aids Healthcare Foundation and GNDR.

PROGRAMME AREAS: The main thematic areas of SAF –Teso are: Public Health, Education, Environmental Conservation, Human Rights and Social Justice and Agriculture and Sustainable Livelihoods .Besides, there are other programs like Advocacy, Research and International Volunteer Cooperation and Placement through Twinning.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE PROGRAM.

The key thematic focus areas of SAF-TESO Human Rights and Social Justice Program are Peace & Justice, Human Rights & Good Governance, Human Rights Defending, Conflict Resolution & Peace Building and Gender-Based and Domestic Violence Mitigation.

SAF-TESO focused in 2022 on ensuring that we continue to advance and foster the activities for heightening public awareness and availability of legal redress, broadening public access to systems of justice and effective advocacy interventions, strengthening Advocacy on Human Rights and Social Justice, providing legal aid and access to legal remedies and justice to women and children in 5 districts through non-specialized community structures

and professional legal support for complex cases, assessing, further train and support paralegals involved in legal awareness and aid for Women, girls and children and other groups with specific needs in communities, capacity building of grassroots women and men on eradication of traditional norms, religious beliefs, practices and stereotypes which exacerbate violence against women and children, Provision of efficient and effective response that will lead to police investigations, gender sensitive prosecution services, health and social welfare services and to establish specialized units (Legal Aid clinics) to redress cases of violence against women and children and establishing and operationalizing of Community Based Protection Services for Women, Girls and Children Victims of Abuse and Exploitation.

SAF-Teso during the year of 2022 conducted human rights and Social Justice programs in partnership other stakeholders like the local government, police and public health facilities. SAF-Teso has also worked towards empowering communities with human rights information by creating awareness on human rights, advocating for human rights, providing psychosocial support to GBV Victims, referrals and linkages and case monitoring reporting, documentation and accountability. The organization with the help of Human Rights CSOs and partners was able to conduct 12 Human Rights Defending public education awareness-raising. The program staff of SAF-Teso attended 10 advocacy human rights training a workshop that has enhanced their knowledge on human rights knowledge, employment and ethical issues. The organisation has also worked with the key population like the sex workers and 310 key populations benefitted .Teso and Karamoja sub-regions also suffer from Girls and women trafficking so we were able to do contact tracing of 20 girls and returned them to their parents. Prison and police inspections and monitoring were conducted during the year 2022.

The shared activities under this program were as follows;

- Advocacy for the rights of vulnerable groups like: PLHIV, OVC, disabled persons, women and elderly with whom they have no one else to take care of them and their needs.
- Awareness to access to justice.
- Promoting peace and reconciliation.
- Capacity building/training in human rights.



Community Policing in Serere, organized by SAF-TESO.

ADVOCACY, RESEARCH AND REPORTING.

During the year 2022, our advocacy activities included campaigning, awareness creation, working with the media and other development partners the organization used advocacy, research and reporting as a tool for intensifying its advocacy work as part of development interventions meant to: address inequality issues, enlarge democratic space so that civil society groups can operate successfully in society; and/or supporting people centered policy making and confronting local grievances.

Advocacy was used as an essential central element of our advocacy strategy to strengthen institutional capacity, building the capacity of key stakeholders – local NGOs, community based organizations, partners, disabled grass roots movements etc. – so that they are able to campaign for and represent the interests of their communities more effectively.

We believe that the only way to develop the rural communities is through getting people access to the internet, empowering and supporting groups and individuals working for peace human rights, development and protection of the environment, through the strategic use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), and constantly researching for the new information that will generate solutions to the existing societal problems. During the year, the organization continued to gather information on its key thematic areas of public health, environment, human rights and social justice as well as livelihoods. This information is very useful in the organization's future engagements.

NETWORKING, COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIP.

During the year 2022, SAF-TESO focused more building Local Partnerships,-International Collaboration, Partnerships and Cooperation, Research, Learning and, Consultancy these were mitigation measures to address the risks and vulnerabilities that were caused during the 2020-2021 COVID-19 Pandemic lockdown.

SAF-TESO acted responsibly by mobilizing CSOs,CBOs,NGOs,Media fraternity and paid fess for the Membership based Organizations /Associations and Platforms like MACIS, USTP, NCHRDs-Uganda, UNASO plus others in health, environment, agriculture and human rights . In 2022, SAF-TESO strengthened capacities of self-help community based groups , CSOs,NGOs such as Public Health, those using Rights Based Approach in their Programming, Environmental and Agricultural associations /Memberships and our strong emphasis in 2022 was joint proposal writing as resource mobilization strategy.

In the reporting period of 2022, SAF-Teso participated in 6 stakeholders meetings and shared on improving partnership and program implementation. **SAF-Teso** continued to implement its programs and projects by partnering closely with communities, building their capacity through training and meetings, and ensuring project sustainability by working through existing structures. The organisation implemented activities in partnership with relevant local government, line departments and their technical staff particularly the sub county chief, the Chief Administrative officer and district departmental heads. SAF-Teso also participated during national events such as International women's day, Labour Day, World Aids day etc.

PUBLIC HEALTH:

The SAF-TESO Comprehensive Public Health Program had major interventions in the HIV/TB, Malaria, STI's and COVID-19 Pandemic prevention and control. The Public Health program also covered Nutrition, SRHR, Drug Misuse/abuse among teenage children and adolescent youth, and Water, Hygiene and Sanitation and Cancer awareness.

HIV/TB PREVENTION PROJECT

With Funding from AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION and TASO , SAF-TESO implemented the strategic interventions that contributed to the attainment of 95-95-95 UNAIDS targets by September 2022.SAF-TESO implemented the HIV/TB Prevention activities in Soroti and Serere Districts in 11 Health Facilities namely Serere Health Center IV, Asuret HC III, Aarapoo Health Centre III, Oburin Health Centre HC III and Kagwara Health Centre III in Serere District, Kichinjaji Health Centre III, Tubur Health Centre III, Tiriri Health Centre III, Soroti Regional referral hospital and Uganda cares in Soroti District.

APPROACHES USED: The project was jointly implemented with close collaboration and participation with the health facility team and community Para- social workers as key partners and there were tremendous achievements recorded during the implementation of this project

SAF Teso has continued to provide support to the public health facilities in the areas of routine targeted mobilization of individuals for HIV testing and counseling through APN, index client testing, outreach for key populations, conducting follow-ups of missed appointment and lost to follow clients, missed appointments of clients, pregnant and lactating mother, follow clients with non-suppressed viral load for intensive adherence counseling, follow-up of presumed TB clients, TB contact tracing and screening for TB, follow-up of GBV survivors, referral and linkage, screening for GBV and screening for STIs. Capacity building of 25 youth leaders in HIV/TB Prevention was conducted, the training covered major topics in Behavior change communication, reduction of stigma amongst people living with HIV, HIV/TB prevention and spread, referral systems, counseling and psychosocial support, approaches of retention, Gender based violence, condom distribution and availability of services for example: Prep, PEP, self-testing, family planning. The peers shared their views and challenges faced in HIV/TB project implementation.

A total of 415 individuals were mobilized and tested for HIV, 429 individuals who missed appointment and lost to follow were followed and brought back to care in the supported health facilities of Kichinjaji HC III, Asuret HC III and Tubur HC III, 90 clients with non-suppressed viral loads were followed and provided intensive adherence counseling during home visits and 31 suppressed during the reporting period. 142 clients due for viral load bleeding were followed and bled. 159 Key populations were provided intensive adherence counseling of which 138 were initiated on Prep.

MAJOR BENEFICIARIES OF THE HIV/TB PROJECT:

The project aims to contribute to a reduction in HIV and TB incidence among the general population focusing mostly on Key and Priority populations including adolescents, youth and young women in Soroti and Serere district through increasing access to utilization of high impact HIV prevention interventions and supporting on the provision of life saving care and treatment to people living with HIV by supporting retention of clients to care and treatment, providing intensive adherence counseling to clients with non-suppressed viral loads, reducing GBV incidences and TB prevalence rates among PLHIV and ensuring linkage and referrals in the supported health facilities. SAF-TESO worked with the health facility team, village health teams, peer leaders, expert clients, and people living with HIV, Mentor mother and YAPs

SUMMARY OF HIV/TB PREVENTION TARGETS FOR 2022.

Total HIV tests	1813	144 positives identified
HIV test	1068	85 positives
Total TB test	640	40
TB test	403	25
Total STI tests	262	26
STI tests	140	15
Total condoms distributed	434,749	
Total linkage to care	182	
Linkage to care and support	108	
Total outreach/education	272	
Outreach/education sessions.	217	

SUMMARY OF TARGETS FOR 2022:

Activity	Target	Achievement	%ge
Disseminate HIV/TB prevention messages	50,000	38,000	76%
Conduct HIV testing	1,000	1813	181.3%
Training of peer leaders	25	25	100%
Distribution of condoms	720,000	434,749	60.38%
Referral and Linkage to care	144	144	100%
Radio talk shows	6	4	66.66%
Follow-up of clients with missed appointments.	Not specified in the project proposal	374	
Provision of intensive adherence counseling for clients with non-suppressed viral loads	Not specified in the project proposal	98	
TB contact tracing	Not specified in the project proposal		

Recruitment and Training of Peer leaders



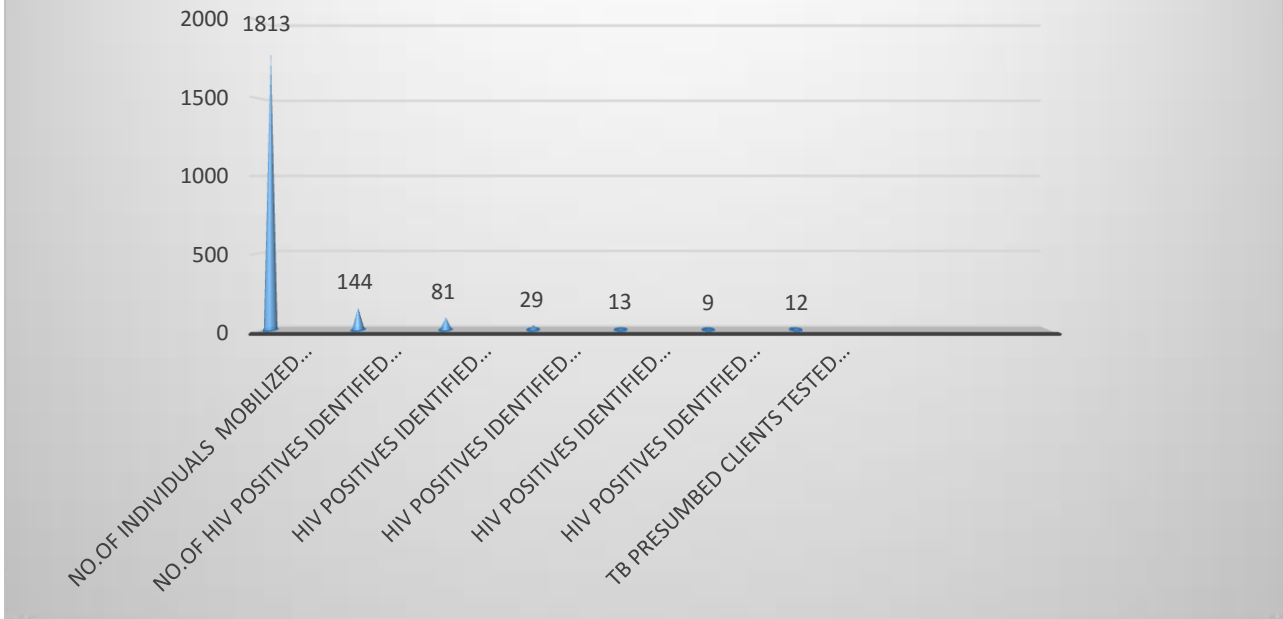
SAF-TESO with the support of the health facility teams and community structures conducted targeted HIV testing (risk-based testing) which included index client testing (including social network testing, Assisted partner testing), HIV self-testing through focused distribution of HIV self-testing kits, discordant couple testing and targeted outreaches for men 25 years and above.

SAF-TESO also conducted door to door HIV testing which was implemented only in the high HIV prevalence settings and communities with key populations like the landing sites and hotspots for sex workers. Also, during the outreaches and home visits referrals were made to the health facilities supported to conduct virological tests (DNA/PCR) for the exposed infants and children below 18 months of age to determine their HIV status. We worked with established functional community linkage systems these include the peer leaders, expert clients and the Village health teams who support to follow-up all clients who test HIV positive and link them to facility before 30 days after diagnosis. However, while conducting these activities, we offered other services which included screening for GBV, TB, STI and referrals and linkages.

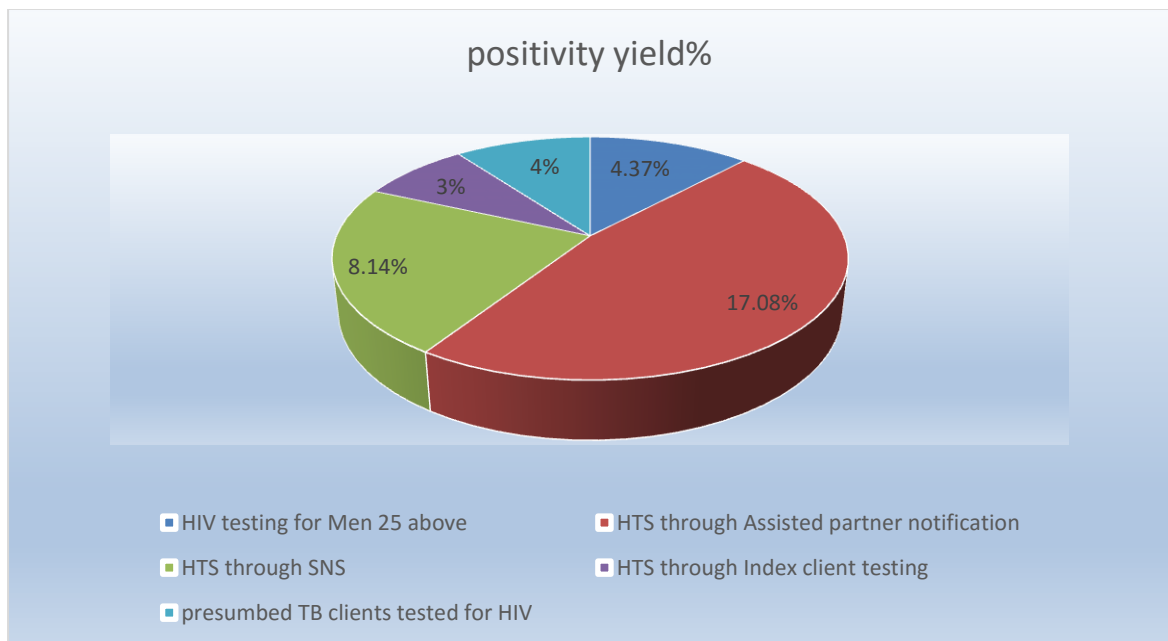
A total of 1813 individuals have been tested for HIV to date 489 during APN testing,136 during SNS testing,135 during index client testing 770 during HTS for men and 283 were TB presumptive clients tested for HIV.144 HIV positives were identified and all were linked to care and treatment .81 were identified through APN testing,13 through Social network strategy testing,9 through index client testing,29 through conducting outreaches for men 25 years and above and 12 were TB presumptive clients who were tested for HIV and tested HIV positive.

- a) **The graph below summarizes out puts on provision of HTS services to date**

outputs on provision of HTS services to date



a) Pie chart showing percentage yield on HIV testing services. Since last report



Outputs on the provision of antiretroviral therapy and TB treatment

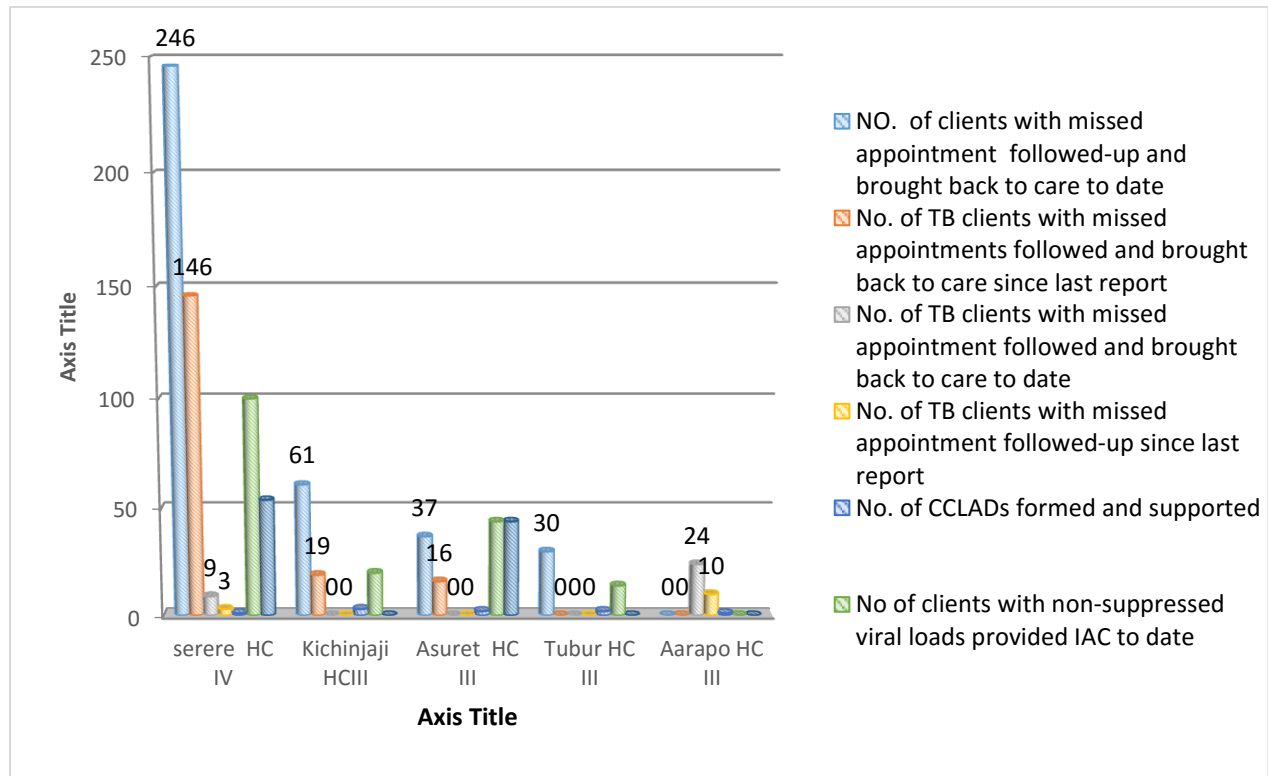
The goal of antiretroviral therapy is to suppress viral loads levels amongst people living with HIV to undetectable levels, reduce risk of morbidity and mortality associated with HIV and reduce transmission of HIV.

SAF-Teso has however implemented strategies to strengthen retention of patients in care and treatment for example the implementation of differentiated service models i.e., community models by taking services closer to the clients to reduce on transport costs for patients, tracking and following up clients who are lost and those that miss appointments. using BCC to address individual, community and society barriers to retention in care. We have also established referral and linkage systems and peer led approaches in the communities to support increase access and retention in care.

A total of 374 clients who missed appointment in the reporting period were followed and brought back to care 246 to Serere HC IV, 61 to Kichinjaji HC III, 37 to Asuret HC III and 30 to Tubur HC III.

181 clients with missed appointments were followed and brought back to care in the months of November to 31st January 2023 146 to Serere HC IV, 19 to Kichinjaji HC III and 16 to Asuret HC III. 33 TB clients who missed appointment were followed and brought back to care to date 3 to Serere HC IV and 10 to Aarapo HC III .SAF-Teso has supported to date the establishment and support of 9 CCLADS. Formed in different communities with art clients who have consented to being in groups. This has enabled SAF-Teso to provide differentiated services to the clients' hence supporting adherence to treatment.

Output Retention.

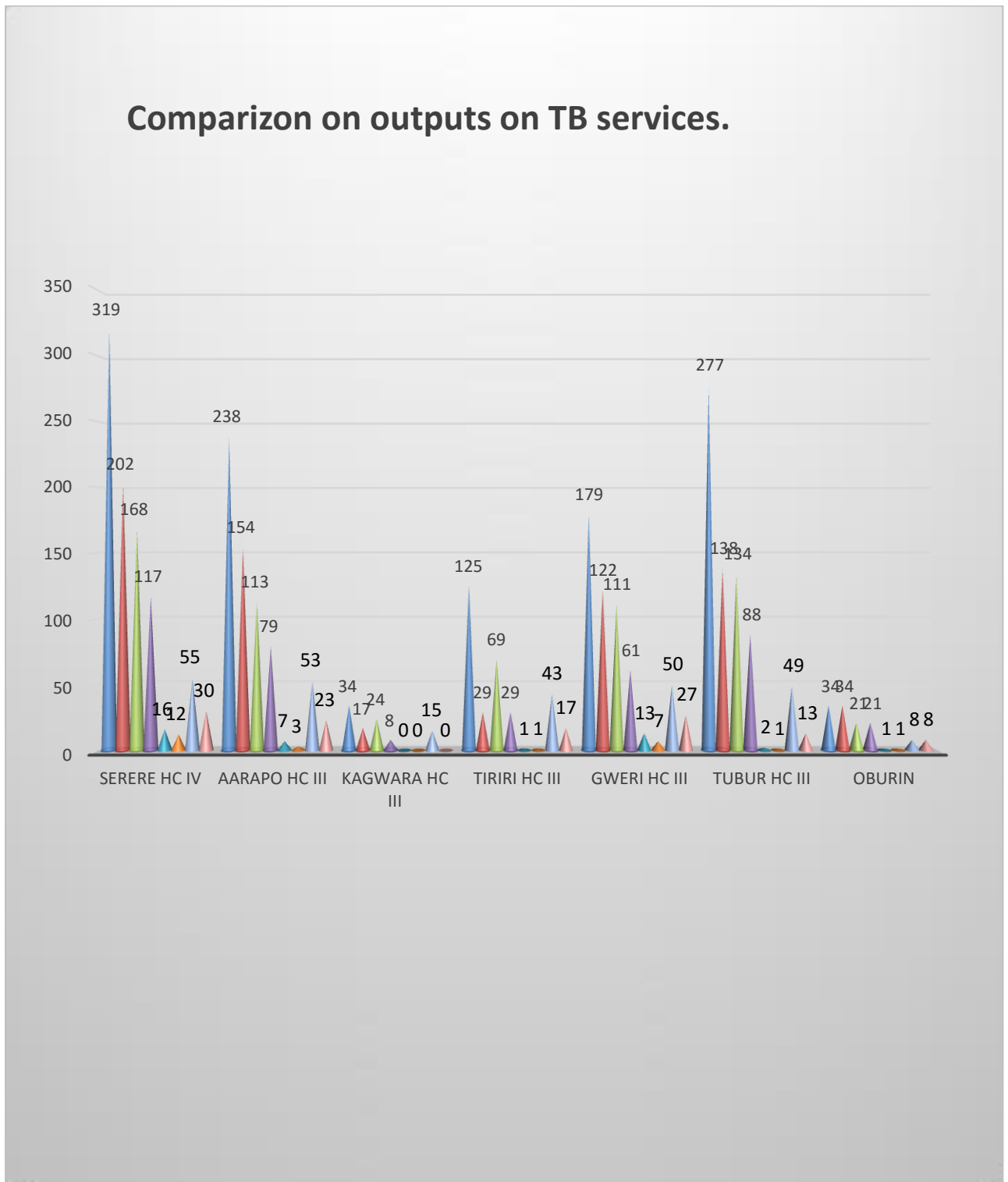


Outputs on TB services

TB remains the overall leading cause of death among people living with because of the significant risks of the infection, SAF-Teso is supporting the health facilities reduce on the infection in the communities supported by conducting continuous screening for TB in the communities especially the hotspot areas, conducting follow-ups for TB contact tracing, screening of all patients with presumptive or diagnosed TB clients for HIV and counseling. In this reporting period, SAF-TESO conducted TB contact tracing for index TB clients this was to identify TB clients in the community and reduce on the spread of TB disease and relapse TB cases and initiate contacts on TB prevention therapy.

A total of 1206 TB contacts were screened from community for TB to date 319 for Serere HC IV, 238 for Aarapoo HC III, 34 for Kagwara HC III, 125 for Tiriri HC IV, 179 for Gweri HC III, 277 for Tubur HC III and 34 for Oburin. 696 were presumed to have signs of TB disease, their sputum was collected for TB test. 168 to serere HC III, 113 Aarapoo HC III, 24 to Kagwara HC III, 69 to Tiriri HC IV, 111 to Gweri HC III, 134 to Tubur HC III and 21 to Oburin HC III. 40 clients were diagnosed with TB in the respective health facility after confirmed TB test. 16 to serere HC III, 7 Aarapoo HC III, 0 to Kagwara HC III, 1 to Tiriri HC IV, 13 to Gweri HC III, 2 to Tubur HC III and 1 to Oburin HC III.

A) The graph below summarizes out puts on outputs on TB services



A Graph on outputs on retention on antiretroviral therapy (ART) and TB treatment.

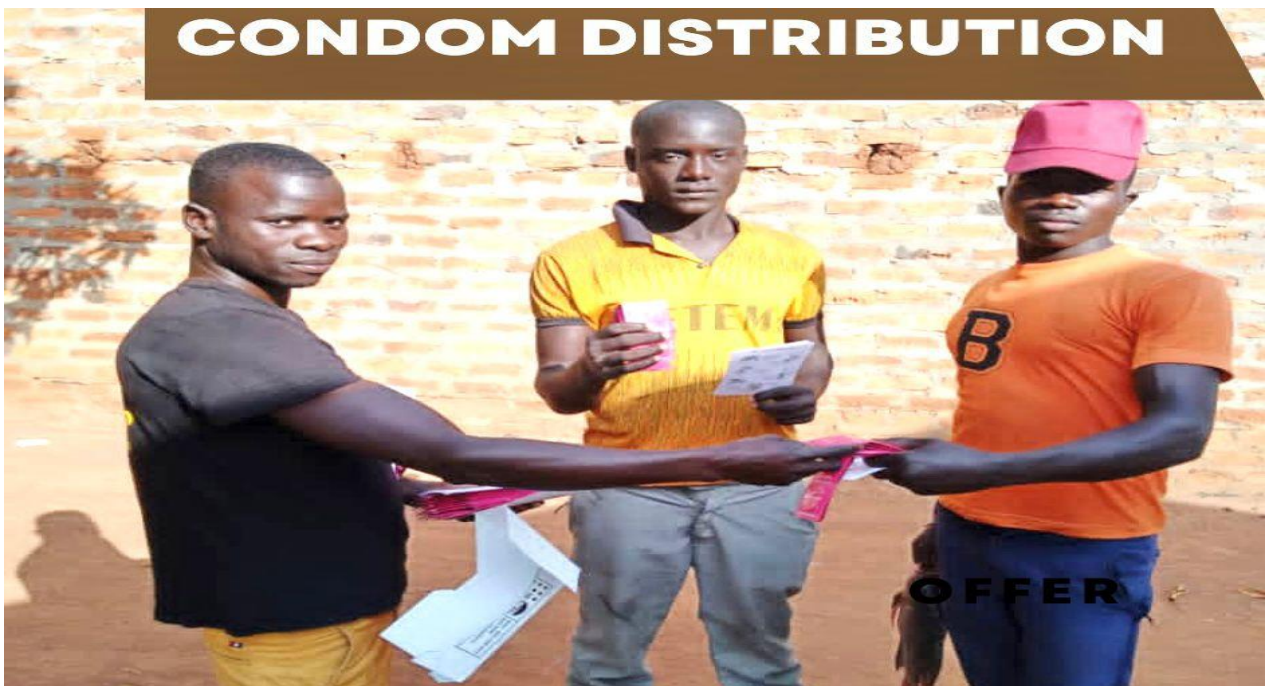
DEMAND CREATION ON HIV/TB SERVICES.

HIV/TB epidemic in Serere and Soroti district is driven by multiple behavior factors hence SAF-Teso is prioritizing behavioral interventions to reduce unsafe sex, delay sexual debuts, discourage cross generational and transactional sex and promote consistent and correct use of condoms. Social behavior change communication involves providing information to empower individuals and communities to make desirable health decisions and practices. During condom distribution, SAF-TESO ensured that sexually active persons at risk of HIV and unintended pregnancies are motivated to use condoms, have access to quality condoms and can use them correctly and consistently and also created demand for HIV/TB testing.

SAF-Teso conducted demand creation through monthly radio talk shows this was done monthly (4 times) in the first quarter of the project through Etop radio station which is the most listened to radio station in Teso region. The purpose of this activity is to create awareness on HIV/TB spread, prevention and availability of access to health-related services. Also, Community and door to door sensitization were conducted with the support of the Village health teams, peer leaders and expert clients to create awareness and increase on the demand of HIV/TB and other health services. These include HIV, family planning, HIV/TB prevention services among others.

Condom distribution was conducted with the support of condom marketers and peer educators who distributed condoms in most of the hotspots in Soroti and Serere districts these included bar, lodges, shops, landing sites and small clients to enhance access by the users. A majority who were Key and priority populations' i.e. The sex workers, clients to sex workers, MSM, fisher flocks, truck drivers, and drug users. Since these categories are burdened by HIV and contribute significantly to new infections.

A total of 434,749 condoms have been distributed since receipt of funds for the reporting period 88,848 by Serere HC IV, 91,792 by Kagwara HC III, 172,196 Aarapoo HC III, 39,998 by Soroti regional referral hospital, 8,640 by Uganda cares, 33,275 by Kichinjaji HC III. Peer leaders supporting in these health facilities also conducted 217 sessions of HIV/TB sensitization sessions 41 by Serere HC IV, 44 by Kagwara HC III, 48 by Aarapoo HC III 39 by Soroti regional referral hospital, 4 by Uganda cares and 41 by Kichinjaji HC III



To increase linkage and referrals to health services in Soroti and Serere district by the end of 2023

SAF-Teso has supported to date 9 Community drug distribution points During the reporting period, SAF-Teso has provided differentiated service delivery especially to key populations and priority populations with an aim of improving efficiency of existing approaches,

improving coverage and quality services, addressing individual needs and focus on clients requiring attention like the KPs/PPs and youth. **186** clients were referred to the health facilities from the community these clients include pregnant mothers for antenatal and HIV testing, positive children and adolescents, TB clients with missed appointments, missed appointment mother baby pair for DNA/PCR test. And referrals for other services like Prep, PEP, and family planning services STI testing and treatment, clients with opportunistic infections, GBV support, TB contacts, presumptive TB clients, newly identified positives.

Provide access to quality care and treatment to PLHIV.

A total of 374 clients who missed appointment in the reporting period were followed and brought back to care 246 to Serere HC IV, 61 to Kichinjaji HC III, 37 to Asuret HC III and 30 to Tubur HC III.

181 clients with missed appointments were followed and brought back to care in the months of November to 31st January 2023 146 to Serere HC IV, 19 to Kichinjaji HC III and 16 to Asuret HC III.

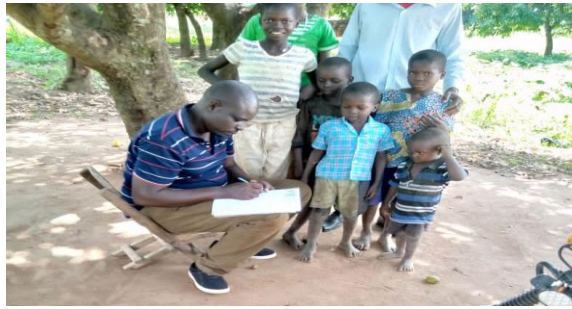
33 TB clients who missed appointment were followed and brought back to care to date 3 to Serere HC IV and 10 to Aarapoo HC III.

A total of 178 clients with non-suppressed viral loads were followed and provided intensive adherence counseling to date 100 from Serere HC IV ,20 for Kichinjaji HC III and 44 for Asuret HC III, for the months of November to 31st January 2023 intensive adherence counseling has been provided to 98 clients with non-suppressed viral loads.54 for Serere HC IV and 44 for Asuret HC III.

Health facility linkage facilitators of kichinjaji HC III while conducting HIV testing for index clients



Linkage facilitators of Tubur HC III and Asuret HC III while conducting index client testing



Mentor mother and linkage facilitator while conducting follow-up of missed appointment pregnant and lactating mothers and mother baby pair. And while refilling clients during home visit.



MALARIA PROJECT.

Through Funding from TASO Sub-recipient of the Malaria Global Grant, SAF-TESO was funded by Communications for Development Foundation Uganda (CDFU). The malaria project with title Kick Malaria out of Adacar and Oregia parishes in Asuret sub-county Soroti district was implemented for six months from 1st July 2022 to end of December 2022 and it targeted pregnant mothers and children under the age of 5 years The total grant received for the project was twelve million nine hundred forty two thousand shillings only (12,942,000).The project was implemented with the support of the health facility team of Asuret HC III, the village health teams, local council 1s and the District and sub-county leaders.

APPROACHES /ACTIVITIES.

The project activities included

1. Conduct one inception meeting with 1 sub-county chief,2 parish chiefs,2 VHT coordinators ,13 LC1,3 health workers,1CDFU representative,1CDO,1 OC,1 secretary for health,1 malaria focal person ,1 board members and 5 CSO staffs in Asuret sub county Soroti district.
2. Conduct one advocacy meeting with 1 sub-county chief,2 parish chiefs,13 VHT coordinators ,3 health workers,1CDFU representative,1CDO,1 OC,1 secretary for health,1 secretary for gender,1 malaria focal person 1 board members and 5 CSO staffs in Asuret sub county Soroti district.
3. Conduct health talks to 100 pregnant mothers and 30 children under the age of 5 years in Adacar and Oregia parishes Asuret sub-county Soroti district on prevention, care and treatment of malaria.
4. Conduct 4 dialogue meetings on malaria prevention and control (breaking the myth and misconception) Adacar and Oregia parish in Asuret sub county Soroti district
5. Conduct Malaria prevention health talks targeting pregnant mothers during ANC at the health facilities.
6. Establishment of 4 village demonstration sites through using local mosquito repellents, clearing mosquito breeding sites.
7. Conduct outreaches of test and treatment of 300 pregnant women and 500 children under 5 years.
8. Conduct quarterly household monitoring sessions for 300 households on usage of Treated Mosquito Nets and adaption idle home management
9. Conduct a performance review meeting on (follow ups, reviews, mentorships, coaching) for the 13 VHT, 1 health assistants and 3 CSO staffs in Asuret sub-county Soroti district by end of Dec 2022.

Summary on achievements

1) Objective 1. Increase awareness of malaria prevention and control services for pregnant women and children under five years from 15% - 95% in Adacar and Oregia parishes in Asuret sub county, Soroti district by end of December 2022.

- i. A total of 26 Health talks on the prevention and control of malaria were conducted in the 13 villages of Adacar and Oregia parishes in Asuret sub-county Soroti district targeting pregnant mothers, children under 5 years and other community members as indirect beneficiaries.

- ii. 4 dialogue meetings were held with influential community members with an aim of sharing information on prevention of malaria, addressing household barriers and breaking myths and misconception on malaria disease.
- iii. A total 23 malaria health talks were conducted during ANC and YCC clinics in Asuret health center III a total of 482 pregnant and lactating mothers and 9 males attended the health talk sessions.
- iv. 4 demonstration sites were established in the selected households of four VHTs in oregia and adacar parishes. Local mosquito repellants were planted and smart households were established

2) Increase access to care and treatment services for pregnant women and children under five years in Asuret sub county Soroti district by end of Dec 2022.

- i. A total of 26 outreaches of test and treat were conducted 977 pregnant mothers and children were tested for malaria 583 positives were identified and started on malaria treatment. 87 pregnant mothers 41 tested positive for malaria 41%, 890 were children under 5 years 552 tested positive for malaria. 62%
- ii. A total of 338 households were visited 26 per village to monitor the usage of treated mosquito bed nets and adoption of ideal home management

3) Enhance capacity of 7 VHTs, 3 health workers 1 cultural leaders, 1 CDO, 7 LC1's, 2 parish chiefs, 1 records officer in malaria prevention, control care and treatment in Adacar and Oregia parishes in Asuret sub county Soroti district by end of December 2022.

- i. One inception meeting was held in Asuret sub-county to kick off the project. With the attendance of the sub-county leadership, village structures, 1 district malaria focal person.
- ii. A total of 2 performance review meetings were held in Asuret sub-county with the stakeholders and Soroti district with district head of departments (health, district community development officer, the CAO, DHO and LC5).
- iii. A total of 1 advocacy meetings were held in the reporting period in the sub-county with the sub-county leadership and implementing partners.

SAF-TESO and stakeholders during and after the inception meeting in asuret Heath Center III



SAF-Teso team and health facility health assistant while conducting health talks on malaria prevention and control in the communities of Asuret sub-county Soroti district



SAF-Teso project team while establishing ideal homes and demonstrating the planting of malaria local repellants in Asuret sub-county Soroti district.



SAF-Teso and mid-wife of asuret health center III providing health talks on malaria prevention and control during ANC and YCC clinics



EDUCATION:

The education program focused more on adolescent youth out of school, many youth have dropped out of school and never returned to school after COVID-19. SAF-TESO education program targets teenage children and adolescent youth especially girls to empower them with career guidance and life planning skills. SAF-Teso under this program during the year 2022, conducted three key based activities as listed below; monitoring schools, creating awareness in schools, dissemination of IEC materials to create awareness of HIV, malaria ,TB disease ,training youth out of school on skills like bakery, art and craft, hairdressing . Working with community structures and peer educators to Train out of school youth most marginalized rural women and girls in Soroti and Serere district on prevention of HIV/TB, malaria and other STIs.

a) Output on training of youth on skills.

At total of 282 youth out of school were trained on hand skills to support them generate income and reduce on the poverty incidence .the youth were trained on skills like bekery,art and craft,shoe making,hair dressing and kichen garden planing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION PROGRAM

SAF-TESO is in partnership with UNCCD, GNDR and many local and International based organizations like GLFx that are working on Environmental, Water and Landscape issues .SAF-TESO and Karamoja suffer a lot from Climate Change effects due to high and extreme levels of deforestation , poor faming agricultural methods like bush burning, and poor use of the river banks .Through funding from GNDR, in the year 2022, SAF-TESO received an Expert placed in the organization for 10 days and we conducted mapping of partner organizations in Soroti and Serere Districts, Baseline surveys and data collection was conducted. In 2022, 6 staff was trained for knowledge on environment, disaster reduction and climate change resilience. Our focus to promote environmental conservation is through Communication, Education, and Public Awareness raising which have supported and helped to increase knowledge of climate change, Disaster Reduction and local capacities of the communities to manage their environment. Our synergies are built on ensuring that community capacities are strengthened through information and knowledge sharing.

SAF-TESO has designed projects to promote Environmental, Water and Landscape Restoration and Conservation. The organization is working with many partners and local rural smallholder farmers and empower them with information about Natural resources governance, climate change resilience and adaption and ecosystem management and restoration by promoting adaption of climate smart farming practices to mitigate climate impacts. The organization has also sensitized the communities on the benefits of conserving the environment, hygiene and sanitation.

The organization supported in the planting of trees and vegetable growing which targeted adolescent girls, and women. The major impacts contributed in this program are wetlands and forests inspections/ Monitoring and Public Awareness-raising on Wetlands and Forests Conservation. SAF-TESO also empowered and trained 230 smallholders' farmers in climate resilience approaches and Smart Agriculture Technologies in order to reverse the limitations of the climate change.

Our key focus in this program is to ensure that we gather the local knowledge from community members in regards to how they are managing their environment, climate change and its consequences and empower communities on the exchange of knowledge between local actors in regards to localizing climate change actions, and how they are planning to address climate change and gather evidence highlighting how the exchange of knowledge from different perspectives can drive forward effective solutions to address climate change



Saf climate video.MP4





CEO SAF-TESO during community training on early emergency response and preparedness.

AGRICULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS PROGRAM.

Non-Formal Skills Development, Vocational Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Projects.

SAF-Teso has trained several youth and women groups in Business Skills Management, Bakery Management, Tailoring and Fashion Design, Arts and Crafts/Knitting, carpentry and joinery. Vocational skills training opportunities will enable the marginalised persons to master fundamental technical skills and knowledge required of them to generate incomes through use of tools and other labour saving devices for productive activities and immediate application in the employment and self-employment sector.

This project promoted the creation and diversification of job opportunities, improved and increased households' incomes and livelihoods for the selected households among underprivileged groups.

It also imparted valuable knowledge and a set of relevant fundamental skills that are a hub for income generation and self-employment/job creation opportunities which are currently in a deficit and largely unavailable among all the disadvantaged youth and women groups in the Teso sub-region and entire Uganda.

This program targeted socioeconomically vulnerable youth like those out of school, street youth and key populations to provide them livelihood. Also SAF-Teso provided program beneficiaries with life skill training with particular focuses on health issues including HIV/TB, reproductive health, nutrition, child bearing, peer counselling .alcohol and drugs abuse.

The program is aimed at creating employment opportunities for the beneficiaries, poverty alleviation, behavioural change, youth and community empowerment and social transformation.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION.

SAF-Teso has empowered families improve diet aiming at improving nutritional status of all the community members. In 2022, 20 farmers were trained in small-scale irrigation where they were empowered with information to start micro-scale irrigation on high value crops like tomatoes, cabbages, onions, green paper, and watermelon among others.

MOST SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS (MAJOR IMPACTS CREATED OVER THE YEARS):

The most significant achievement we have on the disaster risk response and management training of communities for emergency response, early preparedness and management between 2021-2022. Our awareness raising campaigns and community dialogues has impacted largely in the target communities over the past 2 years of operations in Teso and Karamoja. -We built and strengthened the capacities of 50 outreaches in the Teso aiming at structural changes and influencing policies surrounding public services (education and health care service provisions).

FUTURE PLANS:

SAF-TESO, wants to see an HIV/AIDS and TB free Teso sub region through awareness raising campaigns and change agents interventions that lead to behavioral change in the society to reduce the human to human transmission of HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis. -We aim having an enlightened Teso and Karamoja sub regions through our promotional campaigns by use of social media, electronic and print media, electronic IEC materials. -Jobs and skills enhancement among women and youths, through advocacy helping and supporting trafficked girls and children and returned home to Karamoja during the cattle raids. Our target is adolescent girls of 13-21 years of age and women of 22-38 years of age through our anti HIV/AIDS campaigns and as well we target the young women who are within the very active sexual reproductive stages against infections and unplanned pregnancies.

On Environmental Conservation, SAF-TESO plans to train 345 community members on Disaster and Pandemics Management, and emergency prevention, early preparedness and response. We want to see that deforestation levels are reduced and communities, families and households begin to plant more trees and open up woodlots.

RECOMMENDATION AND KEY FOCUS:

SAF-TESO will continue to have robust engagements with all our stake holders, beneficiaries through skills training, awareness raising and sensitization on HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB in our communities. We will continue to employ women and youth rights based approaches, offer skills training and start up kits and capital to those who need to start income generating activities our target beneficiaries are those who engage in daily income activities and those who find themselves at the fringe of the societies due to unemployment and marginalization in the communities they find themselves. Climate change adaptation, resilience and training of rural small holder farmers in climate change in the Teso and Karamoja sub regions. - Community dialogues, focus group discussions, public awareness raising and capacity building and development, radio talk shows, community outreaches.

SAF-Teso is self-led as it is built on the religious and humanitarian passion and commitment to help humanity; we have been self-financing most of our activities and programmes from our own contributions and contributions from members in providing to our beneficiaries. The laws in Eastern part of Uganda is largely nomadic in nature and with politically charged atmosphere any community interventions and actions stand to be rejected by the communities as they may easily link it with government interventions but through our approaches of collaboration and participation we involve the communities to make them feel a sense of ownership in what we do. We have also been working hand in hand with the relevant government authorities and line ministries to avoid possible conflict and misinterpretations by the communities where we operate. We employ rights based approaches that every cultural and civilized society can accommodate our interventions and actions.

Certified by CEO, Anguria Michael.

