

**Monitoring and Evaluation Report:  
Nyaka Grannies Project  
May 2008**



Following the identification and training of trainers at the Sub county Level, sensitization, mobilization and formation of parish executives and associations, we have done monitoring and evaluation in seven sub counties. In Kirima, Rutenga, Kanungu town council, Kambuga, Rugyeyo, Kihihi town council and Kihihi Sub county, we have emphasized the performance of sub county trainers, parish executive committees, and associations. We also wanted to find out the exact number of registered Nyaka Grand Mothers, activities being done by the grannies, achievements made, problems faced, and their future plans. What follows in the following paragraphs are some of the things we have learned.

Immediately after the training of trainers at Nyakatara Guest House, the trainers made timetables for their respective sub counties and started training Grannies at the Parish level. The lessons taught include: handling and care of orphans, counseling of grand mothers, handling grief, loss, and stress, voluntary HIV testing for orphans and Grannies, home based care for HIV/AIDS positive orphans, starting vegetable gardens, income generating activities, the roles of grandmothers, household sanitation, and personal hygiene. In all the Parishes, attendance was good and encouraging.

On the roles of Parish executives, they have done a good job by compiling a register, mobilizing other Grannies to attend Parish meetings, training of Grannies in their respective Parishes, advising, and monitoring to see whether what has been taught is put in practice.

On the exact number of Nyaka registered Grannies, we have found out that some grannies had joined the association with high expectations like getting material assistance immediately, but when this delayed, they had to drop out of the association. However, all Parish associations still have a reasonable number of active registered members and below is a total of sub counties:

Kirima	297
Kanungu Town Council	273
Rutenga	245
Kambuga	365
Rugyeyo	268
Kihihi	306
Kihihi Town Council	157

Nyaka Grandmothers are active and currently engaged in a number of developmental activities which include:

- \* Business
- \* Piggery
- \* Vegetable farming
- \* Growing of staple food crops (cassava, potatoes, etc...)

These crops will not only earn them some money, but will also guard against famine and hence will provide a more stable household for them. In the short time Nyaka Grannies Project has been in existence, a number of achievements have been registered and these include the following:

1. The Grannies have started small income generating projects in their homes. These include piggery, poultry, and making handcraft. These Grannies meet at least once every month and at every meeting they pool funds together and give it to at least two (2) people to either buy a pig, a goat, or chicken.
2. The standards of living for Nyaka Grannies have also improved. Previously, some of these Grannies had no domestic utensils like plates, basins, cups, and flasks. In some Parishes like Katete, Nyarugunda, Rwanga, Rubimbwa and Katungu, they meet and pool funds together and buy utensils to distribute among themselves.
3. Health and sanitation improvement has also been registered in Grannies associations. The Grannies have been taught, and since adopted a habit of boiling drinking water and washing their hands with soap after visiting toilet and before taking a meal. This is evidenced by small water Jeri cans at their pit latrines. Fortunately, Nyaka Grannies Project has also constructed ten (10) good pit latrines to the most needy Grannies in the Sub counties of Kambuga, Rugyeyo, Kanungu town council, Kirima, Kanyantorogo and Kihihi town council.
4. Improved nutrition among Nyaka Grannies and their grand children has been achieved. The Grannies have made it a rule for every Nyaka Grandmother to own a vegetable garden, and this has been adhered to.
5. Grandmothers and orphans now live in harmony as a result of counseling and building their skills in handling stress, grief, and loss. The grandmothers have learnt these skills from their monthly meetings. Many Grannies have testified this to us.
6. As a result of counseling lessons at Grannies monthly meetings, a good number of Nyaka Grannies together with their grand children have voluntarily gone for HIV testing and as a result some have already accessed ARVs.
7. Nyaka Grannies now have a common voice from the village to the district level. Previously no one had ever thought of mobilizing these elderly people. This has encouraged them to open up saving accounts with village banks so as to access prosperity for all funds, while others have registered with their respective sub counties so as to benefit from Government programmes like NAADS.
8. Establishment of small savings and credit societies. In some Parishes like Katete, Rubimbwa, and Kishenyi, Grannies pool little funds every month and intend to use it as a revolving fund with low interest rates among grand mothers.
9. Sustainable agriculture. As a result of agriculture skills acquired from Nyaka facilitated extension workers, grandmothers have acquired skills and started well maintained gardens of sweet potatoes, cassava, beans, maize, banana and ground nuts. These will not only help the Grannies to fight poverty but also to guard against famine.
10. Training of trainers helped to train Grandmothers who were able to train others at village level. Out of thirty trainers that were trained, twenty were able to train more than two hundred grannies at the village level.

The Nyaka Grannies have registered a reasonable number of achievements in a short time. However, there are also face many problems. These include:

1. Lack of market for finished hand crafts.
2. Lack of protected clean water.
3. Lack of enough firewood.
4. Lack of domestic utensils: plates, jeri cans, saucepans, basins, etc...

5. Lack of scholastic materials for grandchildren: books, pens, and uniform.
6. Diseases, especially malaria.
7. Lack of agricultural equipment, such as hoes and improved seeds.
8. Lack of transport at the village level.

Despite the above problems, Nyaka Grandmothers have put forward the following as their immediate future plans:

1. More village home visits and Parish exchange visits
2. To put more emphasis on voluntary HIV counseling and testing
3. To improve personal hygiene, healthy, and household sanitation
4. Apply for low interest rate funds from Nyaka AIDS Foundation
5. To start modern Nyaka gardens of cassava, yams, beans, and sweet potatoes. This will enable them earn some money in the near future and guard against famine.
6. Request for medical volunteers to check their eyesight and general health.
7. Request for water harvest tanks in their homes.
8. Request for more gardening tools such as hoes to improve on their food security.
9. Request for improved fuel saving stoves as they are not able to afford or collect firewood.

All in all, for the short period the Nyaka Grandmother's Project has been in existence, we wish to conclude that a lot has been achieved for grandmothers and grandchildren in particular and for the entire community of Kanungu District in general.

## Appendix: Photos from the Grannies Project



Jolly, Grannies Coordinator, touring a vegetable garden with grannies



New latrines built for the grannies



Old latrines



Grannies visiting a ground nut garden