

PEPFAR Public Health Evaluation: Palliative Care Newsletter

ISSUE 1

APRIL 2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**Greetings
from the
principal
investigator** 1

**Partner
profile:
APCA** 1

**Phase 2
progress** 2

**Evaluation:
next steps** 2

**Spotlight
on Kitgum** 3

**APCA re-
searchers in
Kenya** 3

Greetings from the Principal Investigator



Dr Richard Harding

Back in October 2007 I met many of you at the official launch of Phase 2 of the evaluation of PEPFAR-funded HIV palliative care services.

Since then, I hope you have got to know some of the research staff working on this important evaluation through the training at your

facility and their subsequent visits.

In this newsletter we update you on the progress that is being made in all the participating facilities.

Additionally, we want to share some of the ongoing activities that are taking place, as well as our plans for the next few months.

Finally, some of the staff involved in the project that you may have met in October, including myself, have

not yet been able to visit you at your facility in person. As such, we want to take this opportunity to pass on our greetings and a big thank you for all the work you have been doing.

With best wishes from myself on behalf of everyone on this evaluation team.

Dr Richard Harding
Principal Investigator
King's College London, England

Partner profile: African Palliative Care Association

Established in Arusha, Tanzania, in June 2004, APCA's vision is that everyone living in Africa with a life-limiting illness will have access to quality palliative care that is delivered in an affordable and culturally appropriate manner.

Its aim is to support the scaling-up of palliative care provision across Africa through

a public health approach that strives to balance coverage with quality.

APCA has been central to recent attempts to develop and advance a palliative care research agenda for the African continent.

As Tony Powell, APCA's M&E and Research Manager, remarked: 'This public health

evaluation is not only important for the rich data it provides on the services currently offered and their outcomes.

'It also heralds the coming-of-age of rigorous research to underpin the development of evidence-based palliative care services.'

Phase 2 progress

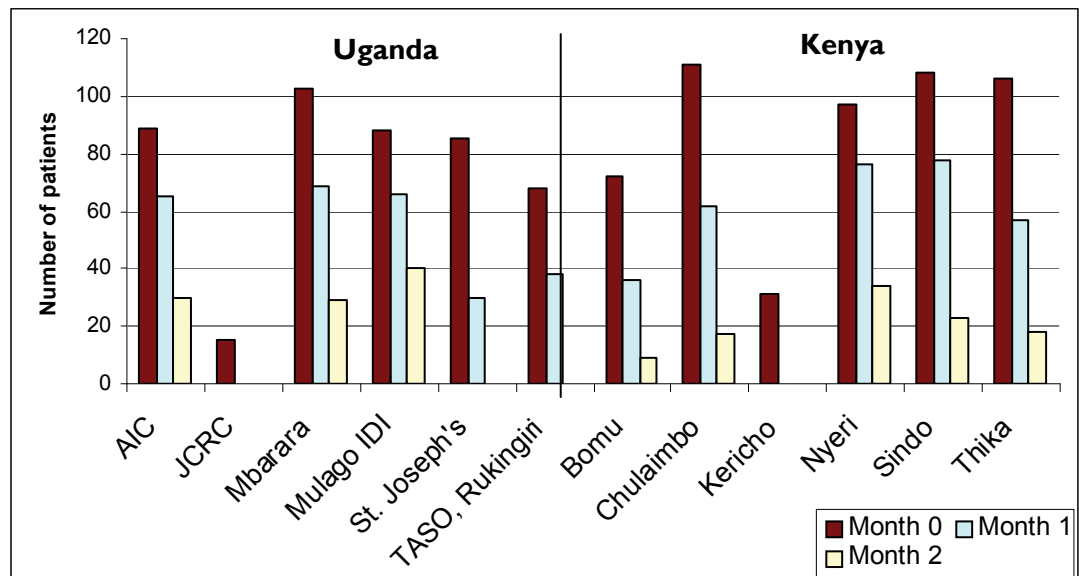
Training of facility staff to undertake the recruitment of patients, and to collect and enter data, has now taken place in all 12 facilities; actual data collection is currently underway.

Below is a tally of how many patients have been recruited by each facility, and how many follow-up interviews have been completed. Bearing in mind the great variation in dates of training, and thus initiation of data collection between the 12 sites, we are very pleased with progress and these numbers are on track!



'This study is progressing very well. I give my thanks to all sites involved for their great work.'

Dr Faith Mwangi-Powell
Executive Director
APCA



Patients recruited for Phase 2 and follow up interviews, by facility — approx figures for end March 08

Evaluation: Next steps

Now that patient recruitment for Phase 2 is well underway, you will notice the APCA researcher undertaking the other sections of Phase 2 in their upcoming facility visits: interviews with staff, patients and their carers to gain a deeper understanding of how care is delivered and received; and collecting information on how much the care costs to deliver.

You may recall Phase 1 of this evaluation that took

place last year. An APCA researcher visited your site to collect data on facility services, pharmacy stocks, and documents used, and to conduct a focus group with patients.

This was undertaken in 60 PEPFAR-funded facilities in Kenya, and 60 in Uganda, selected at random. Data collection was completed in August 2007 and the data have been analysed.

We shared these reports with the Ministry of Health

and PEPFAR country teams in Kenya and Uganda last month. Currently we are incorporating their feedback and comments into the final reports, which will be disseminated to all facilities involved as soon as possible.

We hope the findings will be useful to future HIV palliative care service planning. We also would like to thank you for participating in this part of the research.

Spotlight on Kitgum

In March, UK and US representatives of the research team accompanied Geoffrey Banga, an APCA researcher, to St. Joseph's Hospital in Northern Uganda. The trip enabled the visitors to experience first-hand the kind of work that is undertaken by each of the APCA researchers in facilitating the study at the facilities, and to meet some of those involved in collecting data.

St Joseph's Hospital has a good reputation for providing HIV care, which draws people from great distances. As well as antiretroviral therapy (ART) and treatment for infections, it offers income-generating activities and food to its patients. The success of its ART programme is based on strong community support, peer-



Top (L-R): Dr Christopher Okot, Dr Suzanne Penfold, Dr Pamela Atim, Robert Ochola, Vicky Simms, Alice Oyella, Doris Oyella
Bottom (L-R): Geoffrey Banga, Betty Ojom Oweka

counsellors and an emphasis on positive living. Each month, over 500 ART recipients meet at the hospital to share their experience and encourage each other.

APCA researchers in Kenya

Hi, I'm Grace and I'm always excited to do research and evaluations. I've always enjoyed working with various individuals and organisations. This evaluation has provided deep insights about our health facilities in relation to Palliative care. I'm really enjoying it.



At the beginning of Phase 2 three new researchers joined the evaluation team in Kenya. We asked them to share a little about their background and first impressions of working on this evaluation.

Hi, I'm Nancy. Being part of this evaluation has contributed to my growth in the area of research. Working with health facilities is great fun and is quite an 'eye opener' to the real health issues and concerns of our people.

Hello, this is Mackuline. I'm really enjoying my work. The PEPFAR evaluation has helped me have a wider understanding of the need for palliative care in our health facilities. I'm already challenged into thinking of how I can give a beneficial input to scale up palliative care in our country.

If you have any queries relating to the evaluation, please contact:

Eve Namissango, study co-ordinator:

eve.namissango@apca.co.ug

Tel: +256 414 266 251

or

Dr Richard Harding, Principal Investigator:

richard.harding@kcl.ac.uk

Tel: +44 207 848 5589



USAID MEASURE
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE Evaluation

KING'S
College
LONDON
University of London

