

IMPROVING PALLIATIVE CARE ACCESSIBILITY THROUGH TRAINING HEALTH WORKERS IN RURAL AREAS

Rays of Hope Hospice Jinja

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AIM

- Bridge the knowledge gap about cancer and palliative care among health workers.
- Strengthen referral system for palliative care patients.
- Strengthen networking and collaboration with health care facilities within the region.

PROBLEM STATEMENT/GAP

- Increasing numbers of patients with advanced cancer disease at first encounter
- Minimal referrals for palliative care from health facilities.
- Limited knowledge among health workers in cancer diagnosis and treatment.
- Limited knowledge about palliative care within the Busoga Region.



METHODS

- A three-day introductory course to palliative care for frontline health workers was developed. (162 HWs trained from 81 HCs in five districts)
- Half day meetings on cancer and palliative care for senior health administrators conducted (84 administrators from 6 hospitals/HC IV).
- Referral books for palliative distributed to the 4 hospitals and 2 health centres.
- Annual target tool developed to track referrals from trained health workers between July 2020 and July 2021.



RESULTS

- A notable increase in referral of patients following the training.
- Increased collaboration with health facilities through fixed clinic days set up at the 4 hospitals and 2 health centres.

CONCLUSION

- There is still a huge knowledge gap among health workers concerning palliative care and cancer.
- Interest of HWs in further knowledge is encouraging
- Involvement of senior health administrators is crucial

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Top health managers should be routinely involved in palliative care matters to improve collaboration and networks with palliative care institutions.
- There is need to continue sensitisation for health workers in palliative care and cancer.



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