

ADOLESCENTS PREGNANCY PREVENTIONS-JULY TO DECEMBER 2022

BUMI BWESU YOUTH CENTRE

PROJECT: ADOLESCENTS' PREGNANCY PREVENTIONS

NARRATIVE REPORT FOR JULY TO DECEMBER 2022

INTRODUCTION

The six months narrative report aims at discussing the Adolescents Pregnancy Prevention Project that were undertaken in Northern Zone of Kabuta ward from July to December 2022. The report includes the activities conducted, the achievements, challenges and way forward of the project and the organizational resources such as a vehicle, human resources, finances and infrastructure.

Background of the project

In Nchelenge district, the rate of adolescents and youths pregnancies are increasing according to the health and education statistics reports of 2020/2021. These includes both In and out of school adolescents and youths causing the effects of drop-outs children from school, undeveloped district because adolescents girls are having babies without their fathers to look after them, these girls becomes burdens to their guardians or parents hence increase poverty level in the households and the same children born from these adolescents girls become vulnerable and start pestering the government through social warfare to seek support or help, high costs of medicines by the government to cure or support adolescents mothers who incur problems during and after delivery.

The adolescents Pregnancy Prevention project we have embarked on targets adolescents from ranges of 9 to 19 years both in and out of schools in order to help reduce the pregnancy rates for adolescents in Kabuta ward. The organization of Bumi Bwesu Youth Centre is working closely with different stakeholders such as ministry of education, ministry of Health, parents, Guardians, local leaders, leaners and community health mobiliser to combat the device of high rate pregnancies.

Below are the implemented activities under each objective.

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Specific objective 1: To empower knowledge to local leaders in order to eliminate negative cultural practices on child marriage, early marriages, defilement, incest for protecting adolescents from getting pregnant.

Activities:

1. Local leaders engagement meetings

Village	Male	Female
Felushi	4	4
Mukeya	4	2
Total	8	6

Two local leaders engagement meet was held in Felushi and Mukeya's village which 14 participated in order to share the baseline survey of youths and adolescents' rate of pregnancy in Kabuta ward and the reasons of Bumi Bwesu Youth Centre to start implementing Adolescent Pregnancy prevention in these remote village. Amongst the participants were the sub-chief, village headmen and women, ward development committee chairperson, religious leaders, clinical nurse in-charge and community health mobilizers.

Achievements:

During the meetings local leaders identified major causes of adolescent pregnancy and strategies of preventing adolescent pregnancies/marriages. It come out that, Adolescents admire early marriages from their friends, they admire small babies from their friends, some are delayed starting school early and others is poverty that drives them to start sexual intercourse early. When they are noticed by their parents or guardians that they have entered into sexual relationships they are forced to enter into marriages.

Lesson Learnt:

Local leaders identified some strategies that can help adolescents from become pregnant such as Educating adolescents on the dangers of early pregnancies/marriages, Involvement of local leaders to put punitive measures to parents who force their children to get married when they are found sexing, Guidance and counselling to be strengthened in schools,

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Strengthening youth friendly corner services at health facilities, Strengthening partnership between Non-Governmental Organizations and Government Republic of Zambia.

Challenges:

- Local leaders are aware of early marriages and adolescent pregnancies including some forms of GBV in their areas but neither had they put punitive measures to parents who force their children to get married early nor report cases and this makes parents not to stop.
- Some parents are not aware of some of the complications and dangers of teenagers/adolescents pregnancies.

Way forward:

- To educate parents and children the dangers and complications of adolescents pregnancies or early marriages and the benefits of education.
- Chiefs and sub-chiefs to give power to headmen so that they can be putting strong punitive measures to parents or guardians who allow adolescent child to marry.
- To train community monitors and involve chiefs and local leaders to be reporting GBV cases.
- To involve the government through Victim Support services to work on the perpetrators and parents who force their children to get married before the ages of 21 and 24 years.

Photos:



Local leaders' engagement meetings

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2. Orientation meeting with school managers, deputy and guidance teachers.

Nine (9) participants attended the orientation meeting at Kefulwa secondary, it comprises three head teachers, five guidance teachers and one clinical officer in-charge. Data base survey of high rate of adolescent pregnancy prevention in Kabuta ward was shared and factor causing teenagers to become pregnant were highlighted such as poverty level in their household, peer pressure, traditional norms, ignorance, and lack of education by parents or guardians.

The Head teachers said that sexual and reproductive health and rights are found in the school curriculum so they will spearhead to insure such knowledge are shared to pupils.

Specific objective 2: To educate parents, guardians, community members and adolescents on the importance and benefit of educating a girl child.

1. Community sensitizations through theatre plays

Village	Male	Boys	Female	Girls
Mukeya market	32	81	56	123
Felushi	15	25	20	30
Total	153		229	

Achievements:

The Community awareness meeting were conducted in two villages with drama performance, children, youths and adults were in attendance. The focus area of the message was on the disadvantages of early and adolescents pregnancy and the importance or benefit of educating a girl child. After the theatre play staff explained the advantages and disadvantages of educating a child and disadvantages in teenage pregnancies.

Lesson learnt:

- Children are forced to get married by their parents when they are found sexing or if a girl gets pregnant.

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- Community member has placed fishing and selling to education due to the fact that many parents are not educated so they don't even know the advantages and importance of education.
- Children are shown how to fish and sell at a very early stage.
- Many girls are convinced that they can only survive when they are into marriages that is why they admire their friends who are already married and having babies.

Challenges:

- Majority of parents or guardian does not considered education as a pillar in people's lives instead they prefer teaching their children survival skills such as fishing and cassava farming.
- Girls are taught that only marriage can make life better so teenagers are encouraged to marry.

Way forward:

- Continuous sensitization on the importance and benefit of education to community members.
- To strengthen GBV referrals so that perpetrators and supporters of early marriages can be brought to book.

Photos



Community sensitization at mukwakwa market in Mukeya village

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Community sensitization at Felushi village

2. Parents/ Guardian Meeting On The Importance Of Education And Safe From Harmful Activities

Village	Male	Female
Kabeke	25	25
Felushi	25	25
Total	50	50

Achievements:

50 parents and guardians attended meetings on the importance of education and safe from harmful activities from Kabeke and Felushi village. Among the topics covered was early marriages, early pregnancies to their daughters, drugs abuse and the importance of educating children. Parents were taught the impacts of early marriages and complications of early pregnancies of which most of them condemned their daughters by saying that they start sex early without parents knowing and some of them take themselves to men because they admire their fellow friends who have been supported by their parents to get married. Parents do not know when their children start sexing, all they get are pregnancies and that cause them to take actions of taking girls to responsible men and marry them off.

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Parents learnt the marriage age according to the constitution of Zambia, 21 for women and 25 years for men. Referral mechanism of cases such as sexual abuse and adolescent pregnancies was established and they should be reporting to Victim Support Service, Bumi Bwesu and Natwampane. Parents and Guardians had warned to apprehend whoever found supporting their children to get married early, the law will not hesitate to apprehend the perpetrators. Parents and guardians were divided into focus group discussion. Most parents said some children just stop school even if there are given full support by their parents, they don't want school, all they want is getting married and having babies.

Challenges:

Some parents delay to take their children to school while other parents or guardians do not bother taking their children to school instead they teach them how to fish and how to sell fish.

Parents do not take keen interest in knowing the daily activities of a child and do not talk about sex issues with their children when they sense that their children has started sexing.

Way forward:

Continue empowering more knowledge on parents and guardians on the importance of children education.

Photos:



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3. Parents/Guardians meeting on family planning and Gender Based Violence

Village	Male	Female
Kabeke	15	35
Felushi	25	25
Total	40	60

Achievements:

In attendance there were 100 participants parents and guardian from Kabeke and Mukeya Village who attended family planning meeting and gender Based Violence. In the meeting parents said their daughters should not be allowed to take family planning because it's like we will be sending them to men and also they cannot bear any child in life. The meeting was tuff to convince the parents until some accepted the facts though with some denial.

Challenges

There are a lot of misconceptions on family planning by parents and guardians.

Way forward:

More meetings are needed with parents on family planning.

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Photos:



Specific objective 3: Inform and educate adolescents in sexual and reproductive health and rights and Gender equality.

Activities;

1. Sexual and reproductive health and rights and GBV for In-school youths

Village	Male	Boys	Female	Girls
Kefulwa sec school	1	50		50
Total	1	50		50

Achievements:

During this period sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender based violence activity was conducted at Kefulwa Secondary School to one hundred (100) adolescents. The topics covered included human rights like right to life, right to health and right to education so that they can well understand Gender Based Violence. Types of gender abuse taught was physical abuse, psychological or emotional abuse and sexual abuse. Under sexual and reproductive health and rights included the skills they needed to possess such as; communication skills, relationship skills,

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skills to cope up with stress and emotions, problem solving skills, creative thinking skills, assertiveness and the dangers of adolescent pregnancies.

Lesson learnt:

During focus group discussion adolescents shared experiences they had encountered and heard from their friends like; Boys start sexing early because they see other friends doing it and this leads them to impregnate at teenage stage and once the parents or guardians of the girls find out that her daughter is pregnant they take the girl to the boy as a wife such that the boy can solve the needs of the baby as well as for the girl who happens to be a wife.

For girls, sexing with boys start early because they are proposed by boys which they considered as luck and they don't think they will become pregnant and once they conceive they are taken to responsible man so that they get married and take care a baby together. Sometimes when they are found with a man or boy in an awkward place and time, they considered it to be a taboo and a girl will be taken to a boy's place for marriage.

Parents have set their female children as traps for boys to be marrying them so that they will conquer money for virginity damage. It is also their way of marrying off girls to that community and they considered it normal.

Challenges:

- Adolescents' start sexing early because they admire early marriages from their peers, they admire small babies from their friends.
- Some are delayed starting school early by their parents due to financial challenges.
- To some parents education is nothing but waste of time.

Way forward:

- To continue educating parents and children on the importance of education, benefits of obtaining sexual and reproductive health and right skills, dangers and complications of early marriages and pregnancies and importance of family planning.

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Photos:



Focus group discussion with boys

2. Sexual and reproductive health and rights and GBV for Out of school youths

Village	Boys	Girls
Felushi	25	25
Kabeke	25	25

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Total	50	50
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Achievements:

Sexual and reproductive health and rights in Felushi and Kabeke was conducted to out of school youths with the basis of increasing knowledge to adolescents for them to understand how their body developments works. Other topics covered are: right to life, right to health, right to education, types of GBV such as physical, psychological sexual and emotional abuse. According to the findings from the meetings it was established that Teenagers involve in early sex because there are no entertainments, no survival skills and no money to support themselves to school instead they prefer to find a man or gentleman who can marry them and support them since it's the common trend in the locality. If girls are not going to school their parents expects them to get married early since they are doing nothing at home this leads adolescents to engage into early sex and becomes pregnant.

During focus group discussions both groups were taught the dangers of early sex and the complications when an adolescent becomes pregnant. Neither boys nor girls knew that a man is allowed legally to marry at 21 and 25 years. Boys reported that their recreations is playing football, watching video shows and fishing while girls sells only fish.

Challenges:

- Out of school teenagers and adolescents engage into early marriages because of lack of recreations in the community,
- No proper information on when a girl and boy can enter into marriage,
- They enter into early pregnancies due to peer pressure,
- Having no survival skills to do and lack of financial support from parents or guardians.

Way forward:

- To continue educating parents and children on the importance of education,
- The dangers and complications of early marriages and pregnancies.
- To encourage adolescents to be reporting when they are forced to get married.
- To create recreational activities for girls like netballs in the community.

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Photos:



Focus group discussions

Specific objective 4: Provide and empower adolescents with knowledge and information and access to family planning such as condoms, contraceptives and emergency contraceptives as protection against pregnancies and STIs through coordination with super markets aid days.

Activities:

1. Family planning for In-school adolescents

Village	Male	Boys	Female	Girls
Kefulwa sec school	1	50		50
Total	1	50		50

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Achievements:

100 adolescents and 1 female teacher participate in family planning and importance of education at Kefulwa secondary school. The topics covered were; types of contraceptions, misconception on family planning and Accessibility/Benefits, types of education-informal and formal education and challenges encountered by adolescents for not finishing their school, benefit/importance of education.

During the meeting with adolescents on family planning, teenager was taught all the types of contraception such oral and injectable methods, the benefit of being on family planning and where they can access the family planning. At Kefulwa Secondary School the nearest areas for family planning accessibility is Kefulwa clinic. On education- informal education occurs in the village from the friends or parents or something that is not structural but formal education is structural or curriculum based like the way they are schooling at Kefulwa School is already structural. Number of issues was highlighted especially the disadvantages of not finishing school due to early marriage or adolescent pregnancies. The benefit of completing education and start working was another area of concern.

Challenges:

- There are a lot of beliefs and misconception pertaining to contraceptives most of them believe that if they start using contraceptive they will lose their fertility once and for all.

Way forward:

- Misconception was cleared and accessibility of contraceptives was shown to them at kefulwa clinic and community family planning providers.
- Guidance teacher was told to come with an action so that they can extend the same information taught to other pupils.

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Photos:



During focus group discussion with girls



During focus group discussion with boys



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Family planning sensitization meeting.

2. Family planning for out of school adolescents

Village	Male Boys	Female Girls
Felushi	25	2 25
Kabeke	25	25
Total	50	2 50

Achievements:

100 out of school youths and 2 mothers attended family planning meetings from Kabeke and Felushi villages. In the meetings some girls' were shy to talk about sex not until they were told to mention the body parts of a human being. Some youths below the age of 19 had 2 to 1 babies, others had 3 pregnancies but manage to deliver 2 live children. Major part of the discussion was on the dangers of early pregnancies and early marriages and how poverty, underdevelopment and death are associated to adolescents pregnancies. Family planning sessions involved the types of contraceptives and how it works and the benefit of using them.

During focus group discussion it was found that no girl youth had ever taken a step to access family planning from the clinic, all had fear of becoming infertility and family planning is for old mothers.

Challenges:

- Almost all out of school youths above the age of 14 years to 19 years in Felushi and Kabeke had live sexual intercourse.
- The out of school girls between the ages of 14-19 years at least had one pregnancy in the two communities and none of them took family planning.

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Way forward:

- More family planning sessions is needed to out of school youths and to continue teaching them the benefits of education because some can go back to school.
- Others who have children and no intention to go back to school need to be taught survival skills.

Photos:



3. Supermarket aid

Village	Male	Boys	Female	Girls
Kefulwa clinic	4	3	28	19
Mukeya village		5	30	42
Total		12	119	

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Achievement:

The super market took place at kefulwa clinic and Mukeya village. We expected to see teenagers whom we taught about family planning and were interested to start family planning but only six people showed up, still we took advantage of sensitizing the women and teenagers who came for UCI. It was discovered that amongst teenagers who brought their babies for UCI none of them are on family planning due to misconception that they can become infertile but we managed to give them right information.

Most unmarried teenagers with babies got interested in going back to school if their parents allowed them and accepts to be taking care of their babies while they are at school. Some of them took male condoms and promised to use them for intended purpose.

Challenges:

- Due to understaffed at Kefulwa clinic, supper aid market do not often take place in the field but mostly it happen at the clinic.

Way forward:

- Government need to recruit more nurses at Kefulwa clinic.

Photos:



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4. GBV CASE MANAGEMENT

#	CASE TYPE	NO	WORKED ON	REFERRED	INST.
1	MARRIED CONFLICTS	26	24	2	VSU
2	VIRGINITY DAMAGE	19	19	-	
3	BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE	9	9	-	
4	CHILD NEGLECTS	8	8	-	
5	FAMILY CONFLICTS	7	7	-	
6	SPOUSE BATTERY	7	7	-	
7	THEFT BY CHEATING	7	6	1	VSU
8	PREGNANT NEGLECT	5	5	-	
9	RELATIONSHIP CONFLICT	2	2	-	
10	BUILDING CONFLICT	1	1	-	
11	EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT	1	1	-	
12	THREATENING VIOLENCE	1	1	-	
13	CHILD DISPUTE	1	1	-	
14	PLOT DISPUTE	1	1	-	

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15	ASSAULT	1	1	-	
16	NEGOTIATION	1	1	-	
	TOTAL	97	94	3	

Challenges:

- Some perpetrators refuse to honor the invitations.

Plans:

- To continue making follow-ups
- Continue referring cases to other institutions.

5. HIV test

0-13		14-19		20-24		25-29		30-34		35-39		40-44		45-49		Above 50		Total	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
-	-	5	3	21	14	11	13	9	7	3	7	9	1	12	1	3	1	73	47

Total

120

One hundred and twenty people was tested for HIV and eight (8) came out positive.

Way forward:

- To continue providing counselling and HIV testing to clients especially for GBV clients.
- To continue referring positive clients to ART services.

6. Condom distributions

Gender	1-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	Above 50	Total
Male	23	149	202	34	26	22	26	17	12	511
Female	0	0	21	11	07	14	09	05	0	67
Total	23	149	223	45	33	36	35	22	12	578

578 individuals collected condoms from the office 15 pieces per person.

6 boxes was collected by six families for family planning.

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Way forward:

- To continue distributing condoms to youths in order to prevent STIs and early pregnancies.

7. Emergency contraceptives and Gravidex test for July-December 2022.

	B/F	Used	Positive	Negatives	Balance
Gravidex	72	70	6	64	2
Today pills	53	53	0	53	-

The gravidex and today's pills are out of stock, they are needed urgently for girls in order to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

Specific objective 5: To improve and increase staff tenure and working performances.

Activities:

1. Human resource

Bumi Bwesu Youth Centre has eight members in total, seven staff are on permanent jobs while one staff is a volunteer worker. Amongst the eight each one holds his/her position such as Executive Director, Program Coordinator, Head counselor or Project officer, Accounts clerk, Counselor, Office assistant and Security guard. The bone of contention is on the accountant. We do not have a qualified accountant due to limited funds to pay her/him as monthly salary or allowance. This challenge is still under the discussion of the board of directors and management and the organization is looking for a qualified accountant at least with a maximum qualification of finance and accounts degree. Management looked for a part-time accountant from the local government, he submitted his CV to the office and currently is pursuing a master's in finance and accounts. Negotiation between him and management went well and agreed to be paying him K3,000.00 per month but it seems he indirectly refused the offer and has not shown up so we are looking for another person or we will go back to him and increase the allowance a bit if funds will be available. In the next budget there is a need to include accountant wages. The organization is growing hence there is a need to have qualified personnel to fill the critical positions.

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Capacity building

During the period under review the entire team of BBYC staff were trained in HIV counselling and testing and how ARVs are initiated to different patients, its benefit and side effects. It was a three days training. The other training occurred for two days was adolescent and youths HIV and pregnancy prevention by the ministry of health personnel. More knowledge was shared with staff looking at the projects they are running both within the local area and outside the local areas. The training came at the good note most of the staff benefited.

Community monitors

Twelve (12) Community monitors was trained in adolescents' pregnancy prevention such as: Sexual and reproduction health, Family planning, Human right, Gender based violence and Case identifications and referral system. During the training community monitors identified some of the possible factors that leads adolescents into early sex such as: lack of recreations, high level of poverty and sometimes its peer pressure from friends also they admires fellow teenagers with babies, lack of information on dangers of early pregnancies.

Community monitors was taught the types of abuses that happens to adolescents how to trace them and reporting system. It was agreed that once they start recording and reporting cases on adolescents they will be paid incentives.

Photos:



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2. Educational support

Suzen

According to the school calendar and motto of St.pauls nursing and midwifery, students who underperform are subject to repeat the courses and that is what happened to Suzen Mwila Katyeka who was expected to finish in November 2022 but she failed in some courses and told to repeat. So she will finish this year in May 2023. Organization need to care for her upkeep and last school fees. K4, 000 upkeep from BBYC and K10, 000 school fees that includes K1,500 exam fee as loan to Lubuto Zanaco account for January to May 2023. The school will open on 9th January, 2023.

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Mercy Bwalya

Mercy Bwalya is a daughter to Matildah bwalya a head counselor of BBYC. According to management agreements they decided to support Matilda's daughter to the nursing school because the mother is limited academically meaning she cannot further her education studies. She ended up in grade ten or form three instead management is support her daughter who is doing registered nursing for three years has an appreciation for the work Matilda has done for the office since 2009 at bbyc. The girl is doing fine academically and she passed to go into the second year. She needs K12, 000 for the third semester (tuition fee5, 000, accommodation fee 5,100 and clinical practical fee K1, 900) that will go up to June 2023.

Collins Kalonsha Mutale

Collins Kalonsha Mutale is a son to Esther kalonsha our staff and accounts clerk. Esther cannot extend her formal education because of her educational background is low and aged so management decided to support his son for Automotive mechanics for two years as an appreciation for the work done by Esther Kalonsha since 2009. The boy completed is first semester and half of second semester. He started in May 2022-october 2022, November to April 2023. Collins is doing well academically and the results are better. He needs K7, 200 for school fees for January to April 2023.

Boyd

Boyd is about to complete his degree of Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Management this year specifically in the month of June 2023. He did well in all the previous courses including the dissertation project. He need support from the organization to pay is school fees in time and sit for the remaining courses so that in May or June 2023, he may graduate. The cost are K5000 from BBYC and K10, 000 from Lubuto Zanaco.

3. Board meeting

To improve the working efficiency of the staff, Bumi Bwesu Youth Centre have a working Board of directors who formulate the policies and come up with institution strategies. On 20th December, 2022 they held a board meeting with the goal of understanding the new Adolescents Pregnancy Prevention project and the operational area. Management updated

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the directors and told them that they are working with adolescents between 9 to 19 years in pregnancy preventions in and out of school youths. The stakeholders in this project are adolescents learners, teachers, head teacher, community mobilizers, local leaders, headmen and chiefs and out of school youths and adolescent. The APP project implementation started in July, 2022 and expected to end in 2025. The board of directors encouraged management to work hard in combating the reduction rate of adolescent pregnancies because these youths are the future leaders who can contribute to the development of the nation. They encouraged the management to continue static gender based violence case support since BBYC is the second NGO in the district working in GBV section. They assigned board chairperson to look for a new member who is willing and able to contribute to the organizational goals. They discussed that the board meeting will be occurring twice per year in May-June and November-December each year. They expressed happiness when they knew that GIZ has contracted BBYC to work hand in Hand in educational resources accountability and Transparent and wishing the organization the best.

Conclusion:

The adolescents Pregnancy Prevention being implemented in Kabuta remote villages is well accepted by the communities, parents, guardian, local leaders, school managers and teachers and sub-chief Mukeya. Knowledge and information on sexual and reproductive health and rights, family planning, importance of education and gender based violence is being shared to selected villages and schools.

However, the project came with its challenges such as delay in starting of the project due to motor vehicle. The vehicle came late as per plan and it was not road worthy until it was fully serviced in Lusaka that is when it became effective and used for intended activities. Although we did not cover half of the villages for the previous semester we hope in 2023 all the planned activities will be worked on.

Lastly, every three months all staff at Bumi Bwesu Youth Centre had an opportunity to go for social gathering as part of refresher for work load; here are some of the pics:

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The management wish to thank you doctor Jody who acts to be the donor and mentor for Bumi Bwesu Youth Centre organization for the tireless efforts she puts in to develop the institution financially, mentally and socially and also all donor who extended their hands to fund BBYC organization, management sends heartfelt appreciations and festival greetings and asking for continuous support from them. There are a lot of work to do in remote villages where we need to change the mindset people in order to help reduce the rate of adolescent pregnancies. May you live well!

Prepared by: Bwalya Boyd (executive director)