

# ANNUAL REPORT

2009.



*ST. FRANCIS HEALTH  
CARE SERVICES.*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

St. Francis Health Care Services is a Non-Governmental organization providing quality Medical Care and Counseling services to the population infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Since inception in 1998, we have registered a cumulative of 9,800 of which 7,930 are active clients (people living with HIV/AIDS). Our organization works in 3 Districts of Mukono, Jinja and Kayunga.

This annual report covers the period from January-December 2009 and highlights the activities supported by IRCU implemented by St. Francis Health Care Services. It also highlights other collaborative programmes with various partners for which we are able to provide holistic services to our clients. This report clearly shows the outcomes of our effort to achieve our objectives. Below are the programme areas and activities St Francis undertook for the last three years.

.The following was achieved from January to December 2009;

- ❖ 7,930 clients on palliative care (cumulative)
- ❖ 1,203 new clients enrolled on clinical palliative care.
- ❖ 338 clients were tested for TB.
- ❖ 2,108 clients were tested for syphilis.
- ❖ 7,965 were counseled and tested for HIV and given results.
- ❖ 4,646 clients received home based care.
- ❖ 850 clients were enrolled on ART.
- ❖ 110 clients on ART under the JCRC Kakira Collaboration
- ❖ 4,215 screened for malaria

During implementation of the above activities St Francis health care services aimed at achieving the following goals/objectives:

1. Increase access to quality HIV/AIDS Counseling and Testing (HCT).
2. Expand the provision and access to quality clinical palliative care services delivery.
3. Increase and support greater involvement of PHA's and community support networks (CCAs and Religious leaders in providing care and support to PHAs.
4. Contribution to National HIV/AIDS strategic framework (NSF).
5. Universal access to ART (Antiretroviral therapy

**Background of the implementing organization:**

St. Francis Health care service is a non-Governmental organization accredited to the Uganda Catholic Medical Bureau through Lugazi Catholic Diocese since 2003. It was established in 1998 to respond to the challenges of HIV/AIDS epidemic through sensitization and awareness about HIV/AIDS, provision of psychosocial, medical and spiritual support to both infected and affected. St. Francis operates in the Districts of Mukono, Kayunga and Jinja.

**OUR VISION:**

Contribute efforts towards a world free of HIV Infection.

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

To prevent the further spread of HIV and mitigate personal, community impact of AIDS through provision of quality medical care, counseling and education to the infected and the affected. ; improve access to HIV treatment, care and support; and lessen the impact of HIV and AIDS, particularly among the most vulnerable and marginalized.

**Our Philosophy**

Living with Hope and Dignity

**MAJOR GOAL:**

To build and strengthen the capacity of the community in HIV prevention and AIDS care so as to reduce the spread and reduce psycho-social effects brought by HIV/AIDS.

**Our values and core commitments**

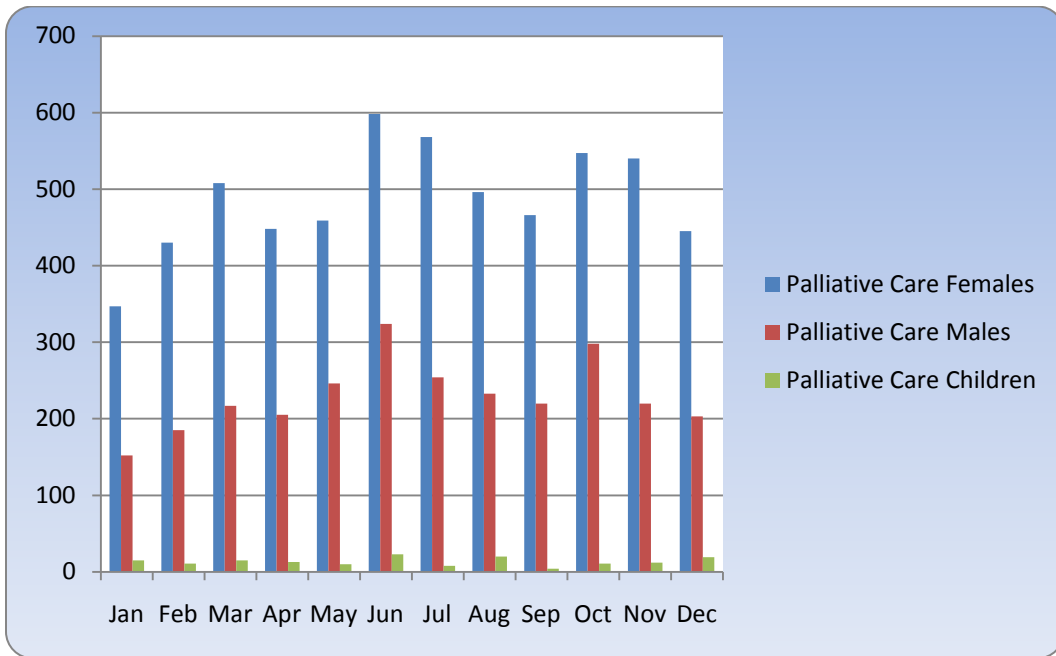
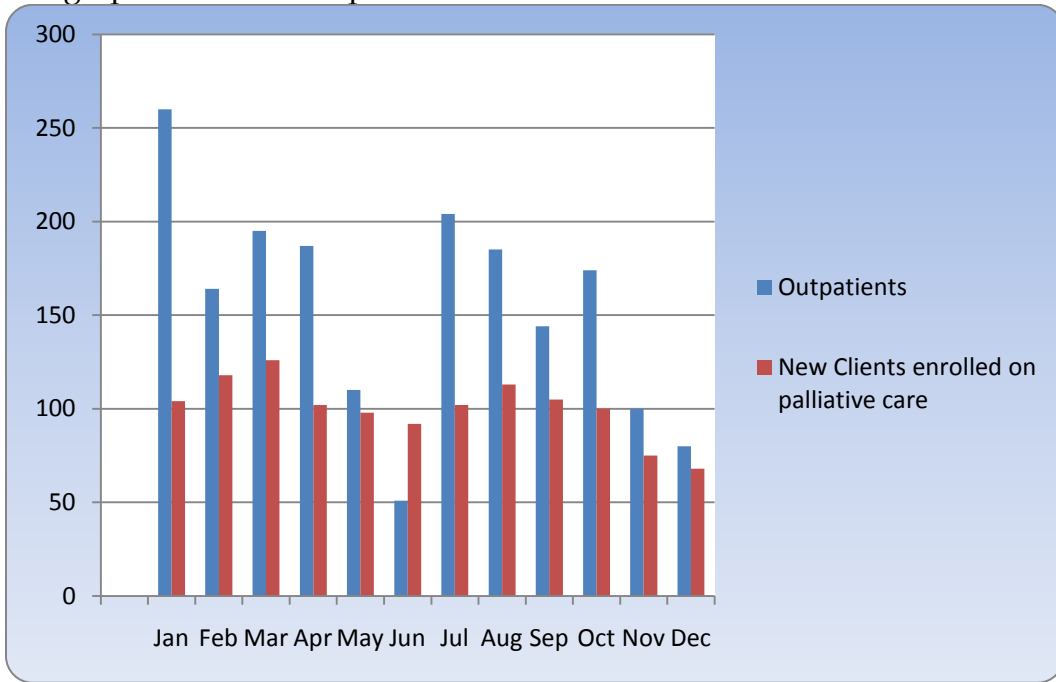
Our actions are guided by the following values:

## 1.1. PALLIATIVE CARE

When a client tests HIV positive, the clinician immediately enrolls that client on our palliative care program and is, started on septrin. In 2009 1,203 individuals were enrolled on clinical palliative care , 1,854 outpatients received treatment at St Francis and 8,770 received palliative care treatment throughout the year those with a CD4 below 200 were enrolled on our ART program and the ones with a CD4 above 200 remain on the palliative care program receiving cotrimoxazole prophylaxis (septrin) Clients on ART and palliative care programmes all get treatment of opportunistic infections from St Francis. The programme has 850 clients on ART by the end of 2009.

Months	Outpatients	New Clients	Palliative Care			
			Females	Males	Children	TOTAL
Jan	260	104	347	152	15	514
Feb	164	118	430	185	11	626
Mar	195	126	508	217	15	740
Apr	187	102	448	205	13	666
May	110	98	459	246	10	715
Jun	51	92	598	324	23	945
Jul	204	102	568	254	8	830
Aug	185	113	496	233	20	749
Sep	144	105	466	220	4	690
Oct	174	100	547	298	11	856
Nov	100	75	540	220	12	772
Dec	80	68	445	203	19	667
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,854</b>	<b>1,203</b>	<b>5,852</b>	<b>2,757</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>8,770</b>

The graphs below show palliative care variations

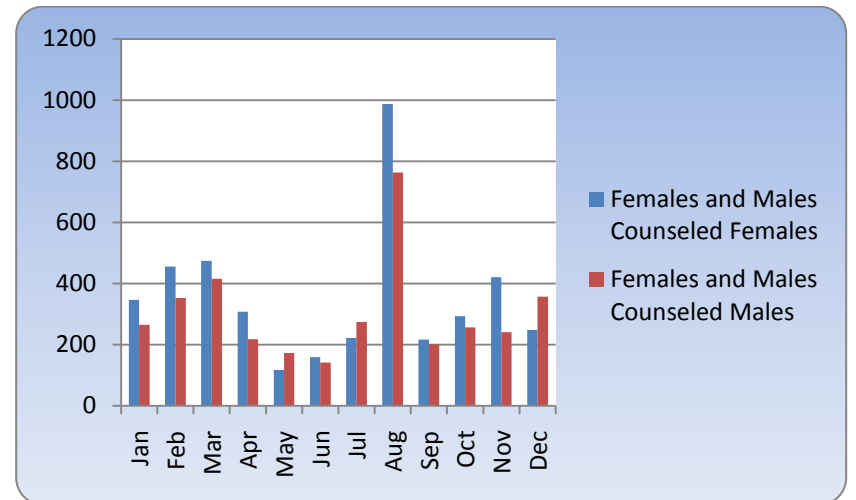
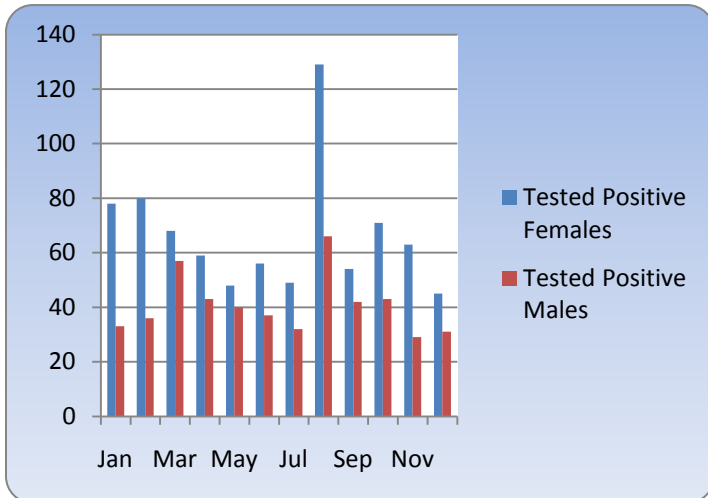
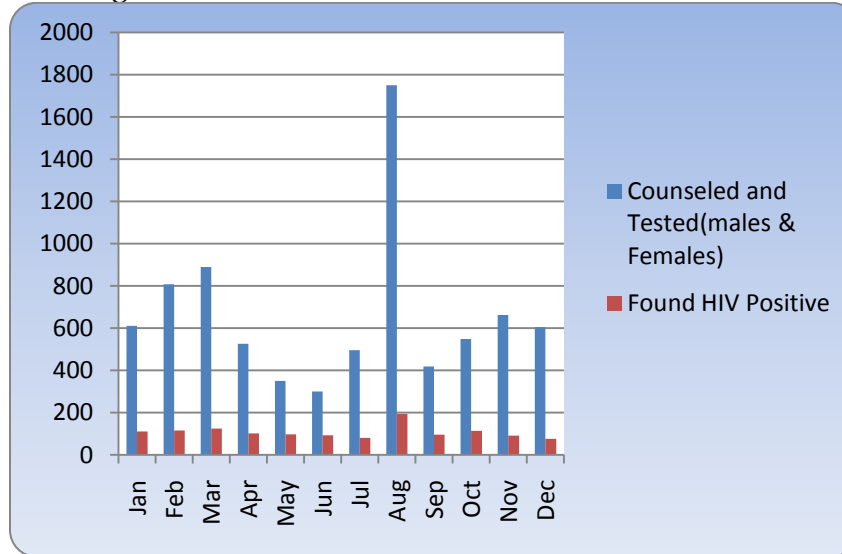


## HIV/AIDS COUNSELING AND TESTING (HCT)

St Francis offered HCT to 7,965 individuals in 2009. , 3,658 males and 4,247 females were counseled and tested

Months	Individuals Counseled and Tested		Females and Males Counseled		Tested Positive	
	Counseled and Tested	Positive	Females	Males	Females	Males
Jan	611	111	346	265	78	33
Feb	808	116	455	353	80	36
Mar	890	125	474	416	68	57
Apr	526	102	308	218	59	43
May	350	98	117	173	48	40
Jun	300	93	159	141	56	37
Jul	496	81	222	274	49	32
Aug	1,750	195	987	763	129	66
Sep	418	96	217	201	54	42
Oct	549	114	293	256	71	43
Nov	662	92	421	241	63	29
Dec	605	76	248	357	45	31
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,965</b>	<b>1,299</b>	<b>4,247</b>	<b>3,658</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>489</b>

Graphs showing individuals counseled and tested and those found positive.





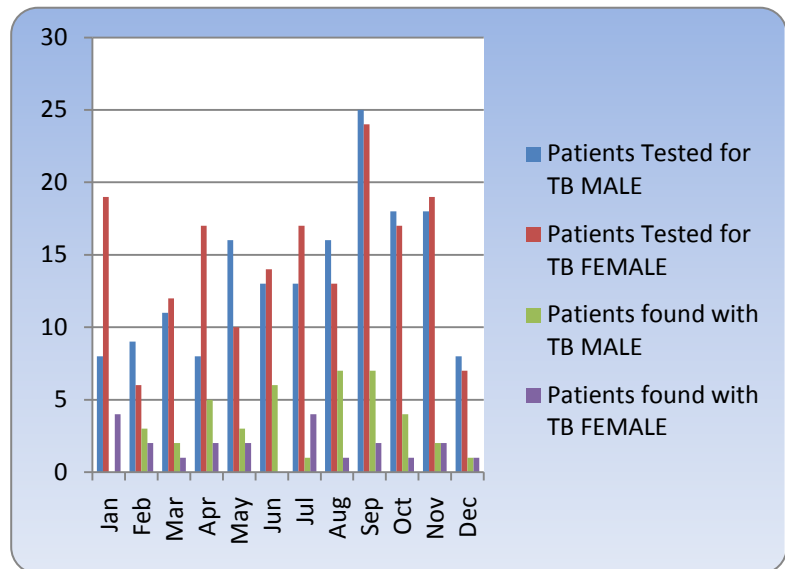
## 1.2 TB TESTING

In the year 2007, 290 people were tested for TB and 52 tested positive for TB.

St Francis is a unit is an accredited health centre III with a TB centre where TB testing is done and treatment is given to clients found to be positive, these patients are followed up in their homes by the medical team for adherence. Those who come from far are referred to the nearest TB treatment centres within their reach, 338 TB tests were in 2009 of which 163 were males and 175 were females,

Months	Patients Tested for TB		Patients found with TB	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
Jan	8	19	0	4
Feb	9	6	3	2
Mar	11	12	2	1
Apr	8	17	5	2
May	16	10	3	2
Jun	13	14	6	0
Jul	13	17	1	4
Aug	16	13	7	1
Sep	25	24	7	2
Oct	18	17	4	1
Nov	18	19	2	2
Dec	8	7	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>22</b>
	<b>338</b>		<b>63</b>	

GRAPH SHOWING TB TESTED AND NUMBER FOUND POSITIVE.

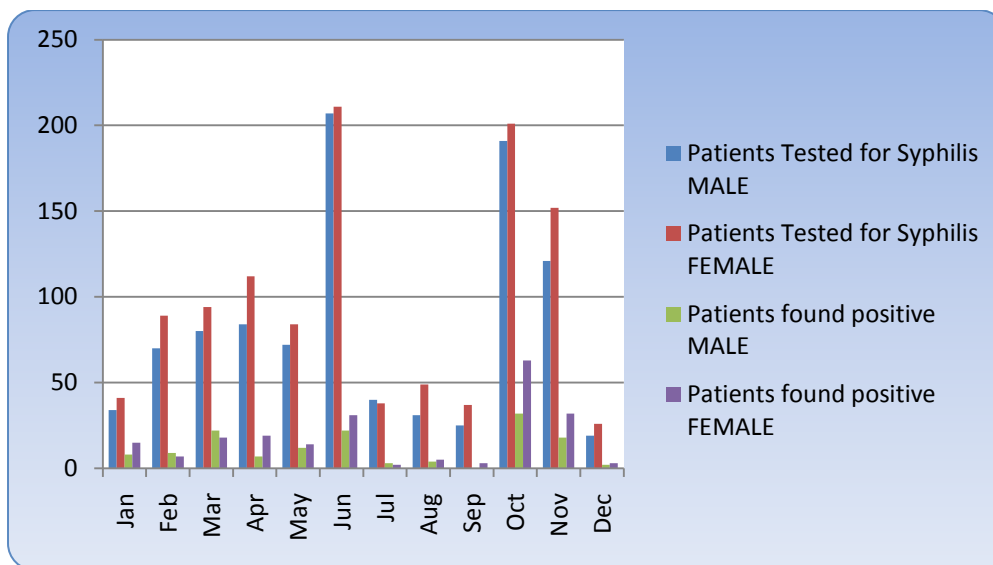


## 1.4 SYPHILIS TESTING

2,108 individuals were tested for Syphilis this year (2009). 974 males and 1,134 females.

139 males were found positive and 212 females were found positive.

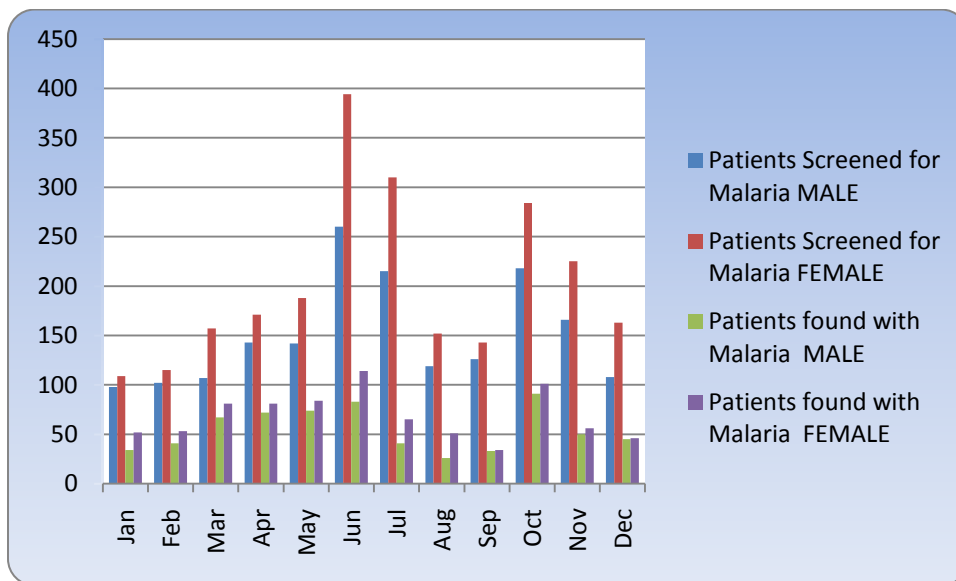
Months	Patients Tested for Syphilis		Patients found positive	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
Jan	34	41	8	15
Feb	70	89	9	7
Mar	80	94	22	18
Apr	84	112	7	19
May	72	84	12	14
Jun	207	211	22	31
Jul	40	38	3	2
Aug	31	49	4	5
Sep	25	37	0	3
Oct	191	201	32	63
Nov	121	152	18	32
Dec	19	26	2	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>212</b>
	<b>2,108</b>		<b>351</b>	



## 1.5 MALARIA BLOOD SMEAR

In 2009 4,215 individuals were tested for malaria and 1,475 tested positive for malaria.

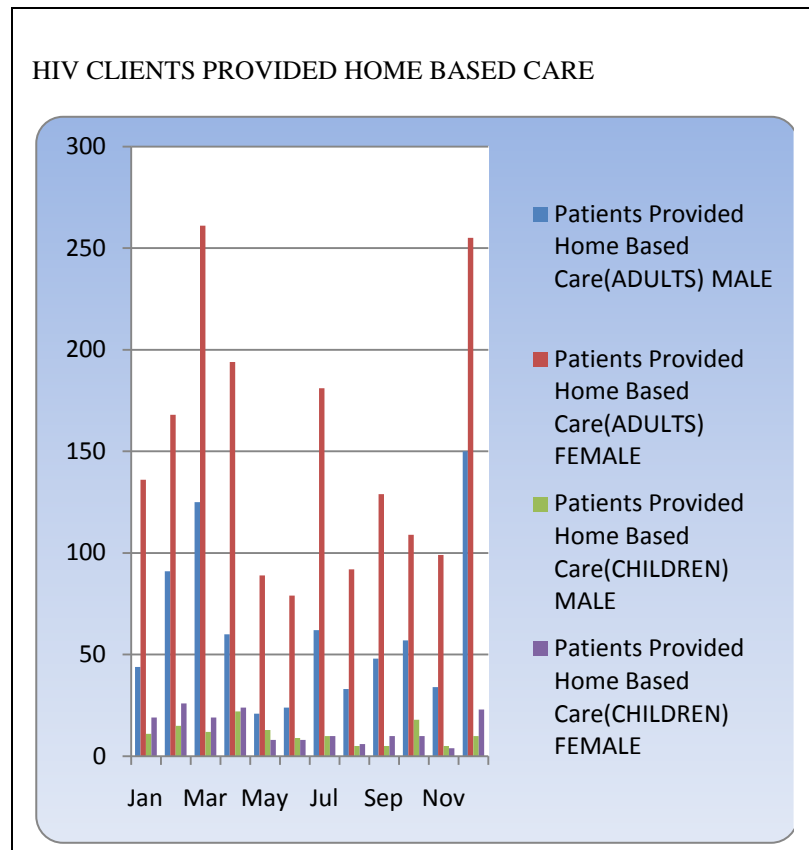
Months	Patients Screened for Malaria		Patients found with Malaria	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
Jan	98	109	34	52
Feb	102	115	41	53
Mar	107	157	67	81
Apr	143	171	72	81
May	142	188	74	84
Jun	260	394	83	114
Jul	215	310	41	65
Aug	119	152	26	51
Sep	126	143	33	34
Oct	218	284	91	101
Nov	166	225	50	56
Dec	108	163	45	46
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,804</b>	<b>2,411</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>818</b>
	<b>4,215</b>		<b>1,475</b>	



## Home based care.

The home based care team comprising of a clinician, counselor and a nurse visit a selected number of clients on each home visit to provide counseling, treatment and to carry out adherence to find out whether each client is taking their drugs as prescribed by the clinician, All clients have to consent before visits are made in their homes. 2,541 clients were visited in their homes in 2009: 1,792 adult females and 749 adult males.

Months	Patients Provided Home Based Care(ADULTS)		Patients Provided Home Based Care(CHILDREN)	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
	Jan	44	136	11
Feb	91	168	15	26
Mar	125	261	12	19
Apr	60	194	22	24
May	21	89	13	8
Jun	24	79	9	8
Jul	62	181	10	10
Aug	33	92	5	6
Sep	48	129	5	10
Oct	57	109	18	10
Nov	34	99	5	4
Dec	150	255	10	23
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>1,792</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>167</b>
	<b>2,541</b>		<b>302</b>	



### ART services.

As of December 2009, 850 clients were enrolled on ART 289 males and 553 females under IRCU collaboration and 110 clients under JCRC collaboration, screening is done on PHAs at St Francis for CD4, LFTs, RFTs the samples are delivered to JCRC (Joint clinical research center) for testing and results sent back to St Francis, clients found with a CD4 less than 200 are enrolled on ART these clients are advised to come back for CD4 testing to monitor their progress and verify whether a particular regimen is working

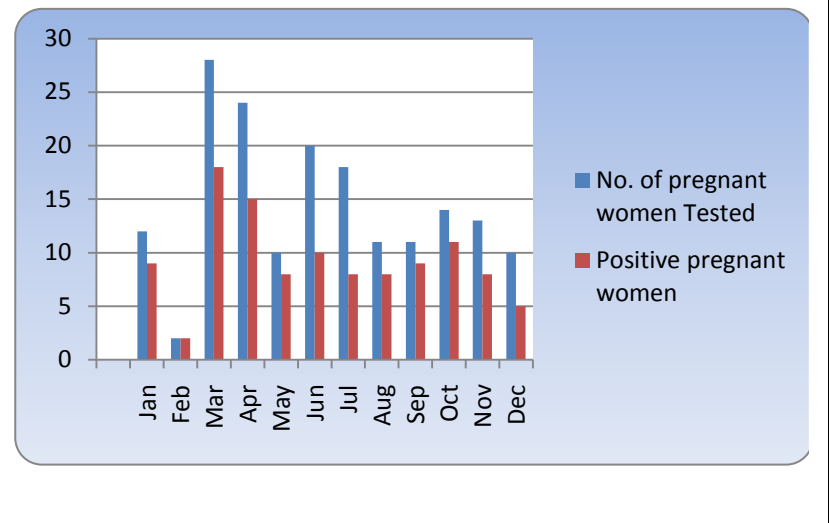
### PMCT (Prevention of Mother to child Transmission).

St Francis also offers PMCT services to prevent babies of HIV positive pregnant mothers from acquiring the virus, these expectant mothers are first counseled on measures to take and ways in which the baby can get the virus i.e. they are advised by the nurse to deliver from a known hospital and not from home, advised not to breast feed but if they must then do it for the first three months after birth

We also offer free antenatal and immunization services for expectant mothers and new born babies respectively these services are offered to not only PHAs but even HIV negative individuals in the communities we operate. Below are PMCT figures for 2009.

Months	No. Tested	Positive Cases
Jan	12	9
Feb	2	2
Mar	28	18
Apr	24	15
May	10	8
Jun	20	10
Jul	18	8
Aug	11	8
Sep	11	9
Oct	14	11
Nov	13	8
Dec	10	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>111</b>

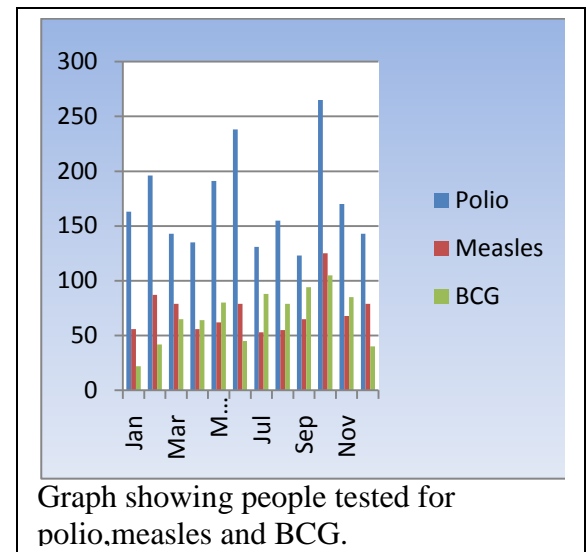
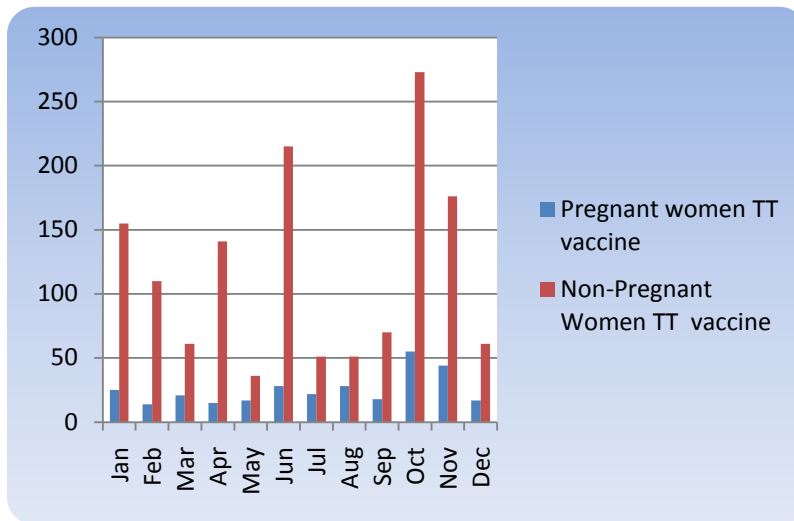
Graph showing number of pregnant women tested and those found positive



## 11.0 Immunization.

MONTHS	Pregnant women TT vaccine	Non-Pregnant Women TT vaccine	BCG	Polio	DPT-HepB+Hib	Measles
Jan	25	155	22	163	133	56
Feb	14	110	42	196	159	87
Mar	21	61	65	143	127	79
Apr	15	141	64	135	113	56
May	17	36	80	191	154	62
Jun	28	215	45	238	165	79
Jul	22	51	88	131	97	53
Aug	28	51	79	155	135	55
Sep	18	70	94	123	93	65
Oct	55	273	105	265	184	125
Nov	44	176	85	170	138	68
Dec	17	61	40	143	127	79
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>2,053</b>	<b>1,645</b>	<b>864</b>

### NUMBER OF PREGNANT MOTHERS GIVEN TT VACCINE AND THOSE NOT GIVEN



## SOCIAL SUPPORT

### GRANDMOTHERS AND OVC'S

255 Orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) in primary schools are being sponsored with a package of scholastic materials.

Grandmothers have had trainings in Village savings and Loan associations and will subsequently organize themselves in groups to start up a savings scheme. 100 grandmothers have benefited from these trainings.



Grants of up to 200,000 US\$ will be given to grandmothers to run their individual projects at household levels.

Over 250 children are gathering at St. Francis every Saturday in groups of 50 to access psychosocial support activities. Children are also involved in reproductive health topics and life skills. Lunch and breakfast is provided at the centre.

Our medical team together with social workers carries out visits to grandmothers' home to provide them with treatment and psychosocial support.



### **Exchange visits and on-site training in modern farming methods.**

Visits were made to two different model farms with a purpose to expose grannies to new modern and simple farming methods. At one of the farms we visited (Katende Harambe farm), grannies bought seeds and birds to replicate some of the activities they witnessed.

Grandmothers were selected from their different villages so that there would be representation from each village. The selected were those found to be hard working, energetic, those who needed the study (and could put the new knowledge to use) and can teach others.

Grannies on farm tour at Katende Harambe farm.



### Lessons learned:

The grandmothers learned that it is very important to grow their own food and vegetables since it saves them a lot of money.

Interestingly, grannies learnt that one doesn't need big piece of land to carry out farming. They learnt that they could even plant vegetables in sacks on their verandas to boost their nutritional needs. Grannies learnt the easiest ways to harvest water to irrigate their plants.

The grandmothers were very happy about the trip and the things they had learned. They even bought seedlings for trees, banana and carrots.

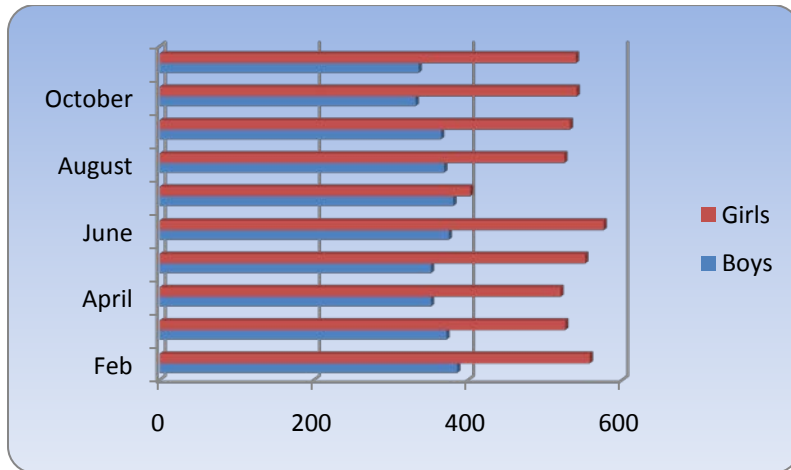
The grannies who took part in these visits are mandated to train other grannies that did not have the opportunity to visit these farms. During our mentoring and evaluation field trips, the project officer will facilitate meetings to select active grannies who will take charge of training others.

### **Shadow Idol club (Mulengera)**

The club consists of children from clients we serve and seeks to provide them with guidance, counseling and positive role models. The program aims at imparting positive values and creating support networks between the children, the youth and St Francis counseling staff. The program also aims at creating a support system for the youth in the face of both individual and community obstacles like sexual abuse, harassment, cross - generational sex and transactional sex, rape, abortion etc.

Averagely every Saturday of the month attracts over 250 children participating in activities that are geared towards awareness and empowerment of these children in the wake of the pandemic.

Graph showing the attendance of children on every Saturday between February-November 2009



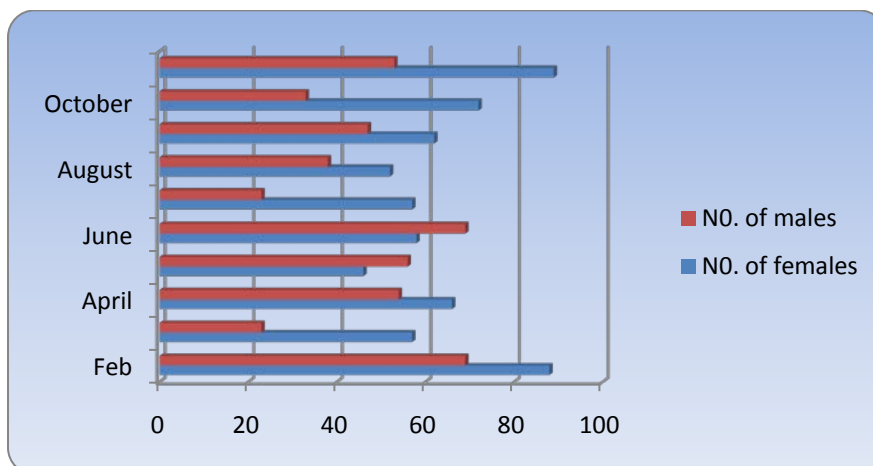
### School Fees Support

100 orphans and other vulnerable children have benefited this grant and their school fees have been paid throughout the year with provision of scholastic materials. This grant has greatly impacted on the lives of the children who are benefiting. The children under this project have stable schooling time because they were not bothered by the school administrators requesting for payment and scholastic materials.

In last one year the performance for the children supported has improved and this is attributed to the support accorded to these children both by our social workers and the school administrations we work with.

### Treatment of the sick children every Saturday.

The graph below indicates the number of children that received treatment



## Volunteers in 2009.

St Francis health care services has a collaboration with different organisation like American Peace Corps, Foundation For Sustainable Development (FSD), Great Generations based in United Kingdom and many others who are not attached to any organisation have over the years blessed St Francis with the kind work they have done for PHAs, grandmothers and the OVCs (orphans and vulnerable children) below is

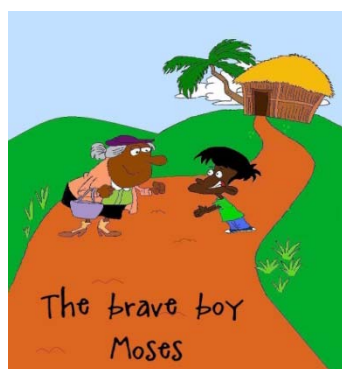
U.S. Peace Corps volunteers has helped manage the grandmother's support group and in 2008 started the village savings & loan project with the Grandmothers which she still runs, this helps grandmothers save money to improve their income generating activities other activities she is involved in include the nutrition and water sanitation projects as well as teaching life skills at shadow idol every Saturday.

In July 2009 we received six volunteers from FSD (Foundation for sustainable Development ) using their own funds they started the mushroom project among the grandmothers of Buzika and Kiryowa villages later spreading to other villages, the mushroom project has been so successful that they named their product MUKAMA AFAAYO FARMERS .

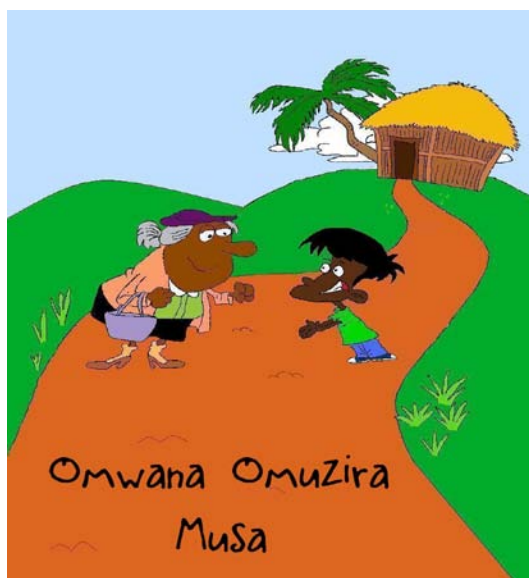


## HIV POSITIVE CHILDREN ADHERENCE BOOKLET AND CALENDER DEVELOPED

We have developed a booklet and a calendar to help support children who are on ART. This booklet was developed by the staff who is involved in the care and support to the children who are HIV positive. The cartoons were drawn by two volunteers from Denmark. We are in a process of printing copies which can be shared with other IPs from our network ( IRCU) See Front page of the English and Luganda Versions.



English version



Luganda version

## IMPORTANT VISITORS WE RECEIVED IN 2009.

Stephen Lewis the founder of Stephen Lewis foundation and former UN HIV/AIDS envoy for Africa and his delegation from Canada visited St Francis Health Services and took a tour of the center



Bishop Matthias Ssekamanya the bishop of lugazi diocese visited the center on 9<sup>th</sup>/7/2009

