

Reachout Centre Trust

Since 2003, Reachout Centre Trust has been committed to serving vulnerable populations in Coastal Kenya. This includes, but is not limited to, drug using populations, commercial sex workers, trafficked persons and those at risk of spreading the HIV/AIDS virus.

Reachout Centre Trust is currently comprised of two main components: a residential drug rehabilitation center and a community based outreach and outpatient services program. The rehabilitation centre mainly focuses on providing 6 month in-patient comprehensive treatment for up to 30 male clients while the outreach program (Tuonane Project) provides HIV risk reduction education, out-patient drug detoxification, addictions counseling and HIV testing & counseling.

Both components work mutually as counselors from both projects have donated their time to various activities that Reachout Centre Trust partakes in, such as open forums, in-house training, participation in special activities and planning sessions, presentations via assemblies as well as radio, and other community functions.



Reachout Rehab Centre

Reachout Rehabilitation Centre, due to the rapid increase of heroin addicts at the Coast, was launched in 2003 offering a residential setting for the treatment and care of drug addicts for a duration of 6 months. Its specific purpose is to offer rehabilitation services to the affected drug addicts and create awareness to the community on the dangers of drugs abuse.

Initially the rehab center was located in Kanamai, north of Mombasa. In August 2005 Reachout Rehab Centre relocated to Likoni, south of Mombasa, increasing its client capacity to 32. The Reachout Rehab Centre-Likoni is now a modern state-of-the-art rehab centre with excellent facilities for the treatment of drug addicts. Recently, the rehab centre has primarily served HIV positive drug users with 20 beds specifically reserved for HIV positive clients.

Reachout and its principal officers and counselors have many years of experience in the field of drug rehabilitation. Reachout Rehabilitation Centre not only focuses on treatment of addicts, but also has a strong emphasis on drug prevention programs both at the rehabilitation center as well as in the community. Reachout Centre Trust has been able to successfully manage and expand services in Mombasa, providing community based education/awareness. In addition to treatment services, Reachout has been active in prevention work as well as collaboration with other services providers and organizations in an effort to deal with and reduce the problem of drug addiction on the coast.



Tuonane Project

The Tuonane Project program, funded by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), is primarily a prevention program focusing on HIV/AIDS and drug use, via a risk-reduction model. Outreach workers in the field make contact daily with HIV vulnerable populations, concentrating on drug addicts, commercial sex workers (CSWs), men sleeping with other men (MSM), and drug using street children. They share prevention messages with users such as: not sharing and cleaning their needles, switching from injecting to smoking, safer options (free bleach to clean needles and condoms) as well as discussing the client's treatment options. Outreach workers also encourage and refer for HIV testing (Tuonane Project has an internal VCT (Voluntary Counseling & Testing)) and subsequently refer and help with follow-up of HIV positive clients in HIV care centers. Additionally, the program aids in community-based education and awareness.

The drop in center is used as a place for addicts to obtain services. Several counselors have been trained in addictions treatment to provide addictions recovery services while a physician also provides detoxification services.



Female Rehabilitation Unit for Drug Users and Human Trafficking

Reachout Centre Trust has prioritized the need to set up a female rehab centre, complementing the male centre at Likoni. The cost of constructing this centre is estimated at the present time at Kshs 12 million, including furniture and equipment. The vision for this centre shall include, a vocational training room and the capacity to accommodate 20 clients, apart from the required facilities of a rehab centre. A shelter for women who are trafficked will also constitute the general setup of this center and shall accommodate about 10 trafficked females, bringing to a total of 30 women who shall benefit from this institution.

Once completed this Centre will offer a lifeline to the estimated 1000 female addicts at coast and help reduce the physical and psychological damage they experience along with helping to preserve their lives from overdose and HIV/AIDS. Already, Reachout

Centre Trust has raised 6.1 million from the community in a fund raising during Ramadhan last October 2005 towards the construction of the female center. Architectural plans are drawn and awaiting approval.

Half-way House

Another infrastructure that is still in its infancy is the starting of a half-way house. This house would provide the necessary link for some clients who are not yet ready to re-integrate into their community, providing them some of the security that they were previously used to at the residential rehab. Ideally, this half-way house would not only serve as a sleeping and eating area, but will also contain opportunities for clients to learn vocational skills, utilize counseling services and gain support from their fellow recovering addicts.

Outreach Work- Prison Component

A major population that has not been previously reached by organizations involved in drug abuse is Kenya's prison system. It is the hope of Reachout Centre Trust to become a partner in the rehabilitation process of these inmates, helping with testing of HIV, providing counseling, and then offering them different treatment options once back in the community. This component is currently in its infancy stages and has just been implemented in collaboration with Kenya Prison Services, the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and Reachout Centre Trust. This service has included VCT testing of drug-using inmates as well as plans for providing ongoing counseling services and HIV care.

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