

## Kachere Juvenile World AIDS Day: Activities Report

### HTC/HEALTH SERVICE

The table below shows the number and ages of the inmates who got tested for HIV at Kachere:

Number of people tested	Age group	Status outcome
58	14-29 years	2 reactive and 56 non reactive
		2 referred to Bwaila hospital for ART (Antiretroviral treatment) assessment

Apart from HIV testing and counselling, STI screening and general medical consultation and treatment was given to 26 participants.



*"I am happy that today I have tested negative, when I came here I thought I am already infected. This is a stepping stone in my life and when I get out from here in March 2012, I will go out a complete transformed young man both health and behaviour" - Chisomo (not his real name)*

The Table below summarises the conditions and referral areas.

Medical conditions	Action taken
Malarial related conditions	Rapid test done to 3 inmates
	Treatment given to 1 inmate who tested positive for malarial Parasites.
URTI	Treatment given to 5 inmates
STI	Treatment given to 1 inmate.
Skin conditions	4 inmates have been given treatment
UTI	3 inmates' referred to Bwaila hospital.
EYE conditions	2 inmates' referred to KCH

### CONDOM AND HTC (HIV TESTING AND COUNSELING) SESSIONS

150 inmates participated in these sessions. They were divided into 5 groups and through participatory methodologies, the following items were discussed

- Condom use knowledge.
- Condom demonstration.
- Importance of HTC.

In a group of 35, only two had some knowledge on how to use a condom correctly, but after the session, almost everyone was able to demonstrate on how to use it.



**Pictures: Focus group sessions**

*“I never knew how to use a condom and today I am happy that I know and will use this knowledge when I get out of here, I will be able to protect myself from HIV – John (not his real name).”*

#### **INTERACTIVE THEATRE PERFORMANCE**

This performance focused on the life and behaviours of a young man. Seven inmates participated in the performance. The issues raised were drugs and alcohol, unprotected sex and sexual abuse.

#### **OBSERVATIONS**

- A lot more inmates have preventable conditions, but due to living conditions such conditions are difficult to contain. As such, treatment may not be as effective as it should have been and transmission rate is very high.
- The prevalence rate for HIV is low but there is still a risk.
- Peer mentors are well organised and this is proving very effective in supporting the work of charities, prison staff and NGOs.
- Kachere is very congested with more than 150 inmates of mixed ages. This is a risk to younger children.

#### **LESSONS LEARNT:**

- The inmates are open and very willing to learn.
- The Prison Authorities and Venture Trust are committed and want to see an improvement and real behaviour change in the lives of the young ones.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- There is need for follow ups on the referred cases especially those who are reactive.
- There is need to strengthen the peer mentor group to continue the sessions with their own groups.
- There is need to strengthen the capacity of HTC/ Health services.