



THE OASIS NEWSLETTER

A Publication from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor



JOOUST USAID Boresha Jamii facilitates Early Childhood Development sensitization

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EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology's USAID Boresha Jamii project facilitated a three-day sensitization program on nurturing care in Early Childhood Development held between 16th - 18th January, 2023 at the Magadi Hall. Community Health Promoters (CHPs) from Orongo and Buoye community units engaged in discussions about essential practices for newborns.

Leading the session were Ms. Winnie Alando, a nursing officer at Kisumu East sub-county, and Ms. Dorcas, the community health focal person. The duo focused on educating mothers about the three crucial components of nurturing care: maintaining good health, ensuring adequate nutrition, and prioritizing child safety and security. They provided valuable insights into the benefits of breastfeeding for both mother and baby, identified danger signs during pregnancy and for newborns, emphasized the importance of immunization, discussed children's rights, and covered

various related topics.

The Nurturing Care in Early Childhood Development Framework, as outlined by WHO in 2018, guides efforts to help children and families thrive. It emphasizes the importance of caring for individual children within a broader

enabling environment that includes capable caregivers, empowered communities, supportive services, and enabling policies. This sensitization initiative aims to empower CHPs with the knowledge and skills to contribute to the well-being of children in their communities.



Health officer explains the intricacies of early childhood development



Participants during the sensitization program

NEW YEAR, NEW APPOINTMENTS!



Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology welcomes the New Year with exciting news as several staff members receive significant administrative appointments. Professor Emily Achieng' Akuno, the Vice Chancellor, extended her heartfelt congratulations to the appointed individuals, urging them to redouble their efforts in guiding the university toward unparalleled excellence. She also called for the support and collaboration of the entire staff community. These appointments mark

the first under Prof. Emily's tenure as the second Vice Chancellor of the University.

Among the notable appointments within various directorates are Professor Denis Ochuodho, concurrently serving as the acting Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs (ASA), who now assumes the role of Director at the Pi Global Institute. Professor Julius Manyala, formerly associated with Pi, takes on the position of Director for Research, Innovation, and Extension. Meanwhile,

Professor Lorna Grace Okotto, the former Dean of the School of Spatial Planning and Natural Resource Management, is appointed as the Director for the Board of Postgraduate Studies. The role of Director for Kisumu Campus, previously held by Dr. Benard Momanyi, is now filled by Professor Francis Peter Okere Ang'awa.

Other notable appointments include Dr. Beatrice Atieno Obura, commissioned as the Coordinator for Academic Affairs - TVET, Dr. Richard Magwanga

as the Coordinator for Extension and Outreach, Dr. Solomon Omwoma Lugasi as the Coordinator for Technology Transfer, Dr. Newton Wafula Masinde as the Coordinator for Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), and Dr. Titus Jacques Odhiambo Aminah as the Coordinator for University Programmes and Senate Secretariat. Dr. William Kala Akobi takes on the role of the new Chairperson for the

Department of Community Health and Development, and Dr. Beatrice Akoth Owino joins the Corporate Communications Department as the University's Marketing Officer.

The success of this taskforce in carrying out their responsibilities is of utmost importance. The University extends its best wishes to these appointed individuals,

trusting in their abilities to contribute significantly to the fulfillment of the university's mission. As Henry Ford once stated, 'Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.' The University looks forward to a collaborative journey ahead, confident that success will naturally follow when everyone moves forward together."

ENHANCING DISCOURSE FOR BETTER REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH



Facilitator addressing the group.

In a commitment to promoting best practices, JOOUST USAID Boresha Jamii conducted a sensitization session on 12th January, 2023 on reproductive and maternal health at Kisumu County Referral Hospital. The objective of this initiative was to underscore the importance of community empowerment through key stakeholders, strategic communication, sensitization of adolescents and youths, and their caregivers on effective health systems, accurate data reporting, and fostering partnerships.

During the session, these champions courageously shared their experiences in dealing with cases of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and early pregnancies. They were further encouraged to persist in identifying cases that require interventions, addressing them, or making appropriate referrals. The participants also received encouragement to adopt and promote best practices in the realms of reproductive and maternal health.

Fredrick Oluoch, also the Director of Public Health

in Kisumu County, called upon local administration officials (chiefs/assistant chiefs) and religious leaders to exercise their authority with the utmost integrity consistently.

The event witnessed the presence of diverse professionals, including social workers, ward administrators, community organizers, reproductive health coordinators, Kisumu County CDH, the officer gender care desk at Kondele police station, Deputy Reproductive Health Coordinator, County Health Records

Officer, gender advocates, and representatives from Maendeleo ya Wanawake.



Participants listen in during the session



Discussions underway on reproductive health.

The Oasis

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The University Administration block at a glance

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