

MALAIKA (ANGEL PROGRAM)

Uganda Women's Cancer Support Organisation (UWOCASO)



OVERVIEW: In Uganda there is limited psychosocial support for patients with ABC/mBC and patients often struggle financially and with nutrition. This initiative trains patients with ABC/mBC and their families on ways of improving their nutrition and income, as well as providing access to psychosocial support services and community palliative care.



Area of focus:

Peer-to-peer support groups or platforms for patients with ABC/mBC



Target population:

Low income/educated patients with ABC/mBC in central Uganda

Objectives: Equip patients with ABC/mBC and their families with skills to meet their daily nutritional and financial needs. Improve access to psychosocial support for patients with ABC/mBC and improve their QoL and wellbeing

Unmet needs addressed:

- Inadequate nutrition and dietary education for patients with ABC/mBC and their families
- Inability of patients to meet daily financial needs of ABC/mBC (e.g. transport, investigational costs, etc.)
- Limited access to psychosocial support (counselling, legal aid, community-based palliative care)

Key components:

Support programme providing training and follow-up support/mentoring on:

- Nutrition: vegetable growing and perma-gardening, and nutrition and diet
- Finance: income generation, succession planning, and setting up a start-up

Challenges: Some patients with ABC/mBC had lost hope and did not want to engage with the initiative, but community volunteers helped support and re-engage them

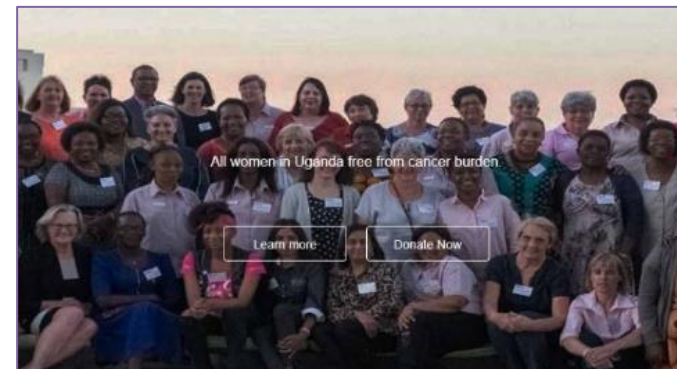
Outcomes: The initiative has resulted in improved nutrition and increased income of patients with ABC/mBC. It has encouraged family members to seek early examination, resulting in early diagnosis and outcomes

Development: The initiative required a coordinator, trainers and navigators, as well as resources for transport, communication and administration, and training supplies

Cost: €10,000–€30,000

Timeline: The pilot ran May–Dec 2017, with the scale up starting in 2018 and ongoing

Targeted to reach: 60–150



For more information:

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Based on written submission from Gertrude Nakigudde, UWOCASO, 2020. The Hard-to-Reach ABC/mBC Communities Toolkit was developed as a collaboration between Pfizer Oncology and the ABC Global Alliance, with funding and support provided by Pfizer. ABC Global Alliance members and Pfizer colleagues were invited to submit breast cancer community-based initiatives that address specific needs of underserved patient populations with advanced/metastatic breast cancer. Initiatives were evaluated against criteria determined by a steering committee with members from both Pfizer and the ABC Global Alliance. Initiatives were selected for inclusion in the toolkit to highlight best practices in addressing the unique needs of this patient population. All organizations who submitted their initiatives for consideration have provided permission for the initiative information to be included in the toolkit and shared publicly. Pfizer and the ABC Global Alliance bear no responsibility for the contents of the toolkit.