



**TANZANIA NETWORK OF WOMEN
LIVING WITH HIV AND AIDS**

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PROJECT INCEPTION MEETING FUNDED BY U.S. AMBASSADOR'S FUND FOR HIV/AIDS RELIEF (AFHR).- IMPROVING TREATMENT EFFICACY AMONG PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV AND AWARENESS RAISING ON TRANSITION TO TENOFOVIR, LAMIVUDINE AND DOLUTEGRAVIR IN 23 WARDS OF KITETO DISTRICT, MANYARA REGION.

VENUE: DMO-CONFERENCE ROOM

DATE: 13TH NOVEMBER, 2019



Agenda:

1. Opening and introduction
2. Project overview and coverage
3. Discussion
4. Way forward and closing.

Present:

1. Hon. Mr. Tumaini Magesa Kiteto District Commissioner
2. Mr. Tamimu Kambona District Executive Director
3. Dr. Malikiadi Paschal District Medical Officer
4. Dr. Ramadhani Maingu, District HIV and AIDS Coordinator.
5. Mr. Lairumbe Mollel The District Chairman
6. Mr. Evance Simkoko Regional Medical Officer representative , Manyara region
7. Mr. Rodrick Kidenya District Community Development Officer.
8. Ifgenia Tesha Nurse incharge CTC, Kiteto
9. Madam Paulina Kaira – MWEDO NGO
10. Mr. Abubakar Omary – Chairman Kiteto PLHIV Cluster
11. PMTCT Incharge Fatuma Kawia
12. Laboratory technician

TNW+ Team:

Ms. Joan Chamungu Executive Director/Project Coordinator
Mr. Kenneth Teikwa TNW+ Field Officer Kiteto District

Absent with Apologies:

Mr. William Chonde – Council HIV and AIDS Coordinator

Agenda 1: Opening and Introduction:

Open remarks were addressed by The District Executive Director Mr. Tamimu Kambona. He acknowledged the presence of plan made jointly by Kiteto District Council and TNW+ to reach the Kiteto community. He was happy to see TNW+ has taken step to reach community at their locality. He said, "this is the first time we hear the entity that is ready to go and visit hard to reach areas. Taking into consideration the geographical location and environment that is challenging and wards are scattered in different direction, still the project will reach all 23 wards." Most of the NGO operating in Kiteto they focus on four to five wards around Kiteto. The Council will provide support to TNW+ to ensure the outcomes of the project are met. He concluded by saying that, any development move done by men there is a woman behind to make it achievable.

Remarks from Council Chairman Mr. Lairumbe Mollel complimented what was addressed by the DED. He emphasized on reaching Maasai community, which has challenges to accept that the HIV infection is real. He has seen and aware that Maasai do not believe that HIV infection is around. Most access health services through traditional healer by using traditional diagnosis of the infection and treat with traditional medicine of which it doesn't cure. Traditional leaders are very strong and need to be mobilized on the effects of rejecting to test and start treatment if found infected by HIV. He said, he will provide all necessary support during execution of the project since he understands well the culture and norms of Maasai and approach that can best yield impact.

An official open was done by Hon. District Commissioner Mr. Tumaini Magesa. He appreciated the efforts done by the District and TNW+ to reach the most in need community. Whatever development is reached behind it there is a woman. He was glad to see the women network has reached the community at their locality and linked with the previous Kiteto Women network which doesn't exist due to governance and argue TNW+ to facilitate and re-establish the network.

He shared experience how he participated on Index Test which has shown best result on testing for HIV. He tried to give the overview of Kiteto district, religious believes that allow polygamy and Maasai community that also has polygamy culture that allow many wives and it is a challenge when HIV infection occurs among family members thus easily spread to other wives and their husband.

Thereafter, he declared the meeting officially opened.

Agenda 2: Project Overview and Coverage

The TNW+ Executive Director Madam Joan Chamungu gave vote of thanks to Guest of Honor Hon. Magesa, the District Commissioner. She proceeded by giving the overview of Tanzania Network of Women Living with HIV and AIDS that was established in May 2nd, 2005, aiming to save the community of women living with HIV and the general population. She also expressed how the network operates and coverage. She said, the network was formed by and is run by women living with HIV and it has secretariat that coordinates the activities of network.



She proceeds by explaining on how they came with idea and decision to apply for this project that went through and now is ready for execution in Kiteto District. The project is sponsored and supported by the US Ambassador's small grants and is a blessing that from the beginning we developed the proposal with great support from local government authority and CHMT team. She requests the moderator to invite TNW+ Field officer to present the overview of the project and implementation structure.

The name of the project is to improve treatment efficacy among people living with HIV and awareness raising on transition to Tenofovir, Lamuvudine and Dolutegravir in 23 wards, Kiteto District, Manyara region, the presenter informed the meeting participants.

The project focus is women living with HIV and People living with HIV including the general population.

This project aims at creating awareness to PLHIV on new drugs that has effect to women of child bearing age when they want to get pregnant. It will have information to women on how they will use the new

drugs in avoiding effects to their new born this will be done under consultation of health workers. After presentation the Executive Director Madam Chamungu shared the don't and does of the project, whereby it must engage meaningful the local government authority, district health Management Team, PLHIV and the implementer must have physical office in the area where the project will be executed. There will be no sitting allowance, transport allowances or any amount of funds that will be paid to government officials, however if the organization has funds can meet those cost but not on project funding.

Agenda 3: Discussion

The moderator who is also the District Community Development Officer, gave the current HIV infections status of the district, it shows that infection rate is going up due to many factors. He then requests the Hon. District Commissioner to lead the discussion.

The discussion led by Hon. District Commissioner who invited The Council Chairman to ask questions.

The Chairman expressed his concern of how the HIV infection rate is going up especially among the Pastoralist community of Masai. He was worried that the project will be done in nearby wards as most actors who are coming to Kiteto are not willing to reach wards that are very far from district headquarter due to geographical structure of the district.

The TNW+ Executive Director assured him that the project is designed to reach all 23 wards and the project team will use all means of transport to reach the peripheral areas.

The District Executive Director was happy to see the project will cover all wards. He was grateful to see the project touch the lives of people and it will be an entry point to reach Maasai Community who are not ready to test for HIV and believe to be witched. He advice that wherever we reach the peripheral areas especially Maasai community we need to interact with local traditional leaders and influential people.

District HIV and AIDS Coordinator Dr. Maingu acknowledge that the project came at the right time where the distribution of new medicine (DTG) is being done at CTCs within health facilities and will create more demand of the new medicine.

Kiteto District Medical Officer, Dr.Pascal Mbatta , advice that during implementation the nutritionist to assist and educate Women Living with HIV on good diet to improve health of PLHIV. The PMTCT Coordinator Madam Fatuma Kiwia, also advice the project to emphasize on family planning to women living with HIV.

Agenda 4: Way Forward and Closing Remarks.

With permission from Hon. DC, the Executive Director of TNW+ appreciated how the district authorities were very supportive and ready to use their expertise to the areas that need health information to general population. Whatever is going on will involve technical team in the area of their expertise.

The discussion came to an end and the Acting Regional Medical Officer EVANCE SIMKOKO was invited to address closing remarks. In his speech he declare that the rate of HIV infection in the region is going up and by empower women living with HIV we will be able to reverse and reduce HIV infection.

Health Workers are required to follow guidelines in managing the HIV treatment. He requested all actors to play their parts, from providing accurate data that may facilitate right time to order ARV. He also acknowledged the existence of other NGO that includes Benjamin Mkapa Foundation who is providing HTS to general population, THPS who is doing HTS for KVP and MWEDO for Maasai community interventions.

The meeting was officially closed at 11.30 a.m.