



RAPID FUNDING ENVELOPE FOR HIV/AIDS: TANZANIA



REBUILDING LIVESTHROUGH INCOME GENERATION AND PEER SUPPORT

Sitting with Jamhuri Kayanda, you can't help but notice her spark. When Jamhuri talks, others listen, and when she speaks, she does so in a strong and steady way. She is a natural leader and, as it turns out, a natural businesswoman. In November, Jamhuri received just under \$50 USD to assist with her small grocery vending business in which she began selling rice and has now expanded into other goods. Jamhuri is HIV positive and a member of the People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) support group called Mwanavumto. Mwanavumto is based in the Tanzanian town of Mto wa Mbu, tucked within the Great Rift Valley and on the edge of majestic Manyara Park. Each member of Mwanavumto was given the same sum as part of an income-generation project being implemented by the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA), a local non-governmental organisation that focuses on supporting PLWHAs in the districts of Longido and Monduli.

The ICA, with support from the Rapid Funding Envelope (RFE), is providing income generation skills and programmes for those that are clamoring to get back on their feet and support themselves. The RFE is an innovative partnership between the Tanzanian Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS), the Zanzibar AIDS Commission (ZAC), nine bilateral donors, and one private foundation. Established in 2002, the RFE's purpose is to enable civil society institutions in Tanzania to participate fully in the national multi-sectoral response to the AIDS epidemic.

For Jamhuri, this means more than just handouts. "In November, I was given money to buy rice. I sold that and bought more. I then started selling in the weekly markets nearby, where I also buy eggs and bring them back to sell here. In this way I have expanded my business. Today, I am meeting all of my business expenses. I am also



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Jamhuri Kayanda, member of the Mwanavumto PLWHA group and small business owner.

meeting my daily expenses, sending my son to secondary school, and even putting a small amount of money into savings each month."

Each ICA supported group receives either individual assistance or support through a group project. The members of the Farajah (comfort) group, recently began a poultry project through the ICA. The project included the construction of a chicken coup, along with the purchase of 28 chickens, including vaccinations, with an additional 28 to be purchased next month. Farajah members each contribute less than a dollar a month towards feed, and together they will raise the chickens and sell their eggs. As the flock grows, they'll each take chickens home and begin to support themselves individually.

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The potential profit from this project could be life changing. Many Farajah members are currently subsisting on small scale, one-time business exchanges, like collecting and selling firewood or groundnuts; both of which only yield a profit of about 60 cents. Eggs, on the other hand, sell for 20 cents each, and chickens for as much as \$5.00 to \$7.00.

All beneficiaries agree that what makes this programme different is the skills and training that went with it, including business basics like budgeting, planning and managing products. Jamhuri says that prior to contracting HIV, when she ran a small road side food business, she had no idea how to run a business and would never know if she had made a profit or not; “but today I’m expanding my business. I have profit and I have savings. ICA didn’t just give us a handout. We got the fishing rod and not just the fish, and now we can carry on even after this programme has ended.”

In addition to this support, the ICA project is also training traditional leaders on HIV/AIDS care and treatment, working with culturally varied groups such as the Maasai, supporting youth groups, conducting community based Voluntary Counseling and Testing, and training voluntary paralegals on women’s rights and the rights of PLWHAs. Lanta Iddy, a Mwanavumto member and now a trained voluntary paralegal, emphasizes that community members must be informed about HIV/AIDS and the issues that surround it, saying “People must know that HIV is not an obstacle, they can do anything if they know their rights!”

Ruth Mashambo is the Government of Tanzania Community Development Officer for the ward where Farajah operates. She says that ICA’s multi-faceted approach is what makes this programme stand apart. Having worked with many different projects, she notes that while necessary, items such as food, clothing, and shoes, all get used up. But, programmes that teach knowledge and skills leave a lasting impression. Individuals participating in ICA’s programmes illustrate this point. Heston Mmangi, another Manavumto member, captures this essence, saying, “In the past, to meet someone that is HIV negative would have been mental torment. I would look at you and see what I was before. But today, I am not despairing: I am healthy, I have support, and I have my business back.”



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Members of the Farajah PLWHA group.

PROJECT RESULTS:

- 60 local leaders and traditional leaders trained on human rights and cultural practices.
- 60 paralegals trained on human rights and HIV/AIDS; 12 cases have been filed in the local courts.
- 2,854 people voluntarily counseled, tested and received results.
- 2,000 posters and 15,000 leaflets disseminated; as well as 10 sign boards displayed.
- 10 HIV/AIDS youth groups formed and functional.

June 2009. For more information contact Thomas Kipingili, tkipingili@msh.org.



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