



RAPID FUNDING ENVELOPE FOR HIV/AIDS: TANZANIA



MOVING HIV/AIDS PREVENTION, CARE AND TREATMENT SERVICES CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE



Tandabui Health Access Tanzania is an initiative of Mwananchi Trust, a non-governmental organisation working in Mwanza Region. The name Tandabui (a Kiswahili word for spider web) denotes the organisation's central strategy of building institutional networks, linkages, and partnerships to foster equitable access to quality health care services. Currently, the strategy focuses on prevention and control of HIV and AIDS, community-based malaria control, and health promotion through behaviour change communication. In 2008, Mwananchi Trust received a grant of Tsh.220,183,583 from the sixth round of the Rapid Funding Envelope (RFE) to implement its HIV/AIDS project (under the Tandabui Health Access Initiative) aimed at decentralising HIV/AIDS care and treatment services from the referral hospital level to eight primary health care facilities in Mwanza Municipality.

Ms. Asha Rashid (real name withheld for privacy) is a beneficiary of the services. She lives in the Nyakato Suburb with her husband and three children. She took her first HIV test at Aga Khan Medical Centre in the city centre, where she learnt that she had been infected with the virus. She decided to enrol at the facility for care at treatment services. She chose Aga Khan because she thought it was less congested than the major referral hospitals in the city. However, the going was not that smooth at her facility of choice. Every time she attended clinic, she had to part with Tsh.500 just for transport before getting herself even a small bottle of drinking water. At times she would wait in the queue from 9am to 4pm before being attended.

It was not until April 2009 that she learnt Nyakato AIDS Outreach Centre in her neighbourhood had started offering HIV/AIDS care and treatment services, with support from Tandabui Health Access. She decided to shift from Aga Khan to the centre and since then, things have changed dramatically. "These days I go to my clinic at around 12 noon after performing my household chores and I don't spend a penny on transport since the centre is only 20 minutes walk from my home. Most of the time I get

The Tandabui HIV/AIDS Project has managed to move HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment services closer to the people by decentralising the services from the referral hospital level to primary healthcare facilities in the project area - a process which involved training of the healthcare providers on HIV/AIDS care and treatment; regular procurement and distribution of essential commodities and supplies; prompt collection and analysis of specimens and delivery of results to clients; and routine supportive supervision to ensure the quality of services provided by the facilities.



Ogango K'omolo, MediaNet Ltd 2010

Motorised tricycle (commonly known in Tanzania as Bajaji) used by Tandabui Health Access to collect specimens from the decentralised HIV/AIDS care and treatment centres and deliver them to Mwananchi Hospital for laboratory analysis.

Support provided by: Bernard van Leer Foundation, Canadian International Development Agency, Embassy of Finland, Irish Aid, Royal Danish Embassy, Royal Netherlands Embassy, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, United Kingdom's Department for International Development, U.S. Agency for International Development.

served within 30 minutes upon arrival at the facility and go back home.” The longest time Mama Asha has ever waited in the queue at the centre is two hours but even then, she says, the centre has a spacious waiting area, well equipped with interesting reading materials, and has a television which keeps her occupied while waiting for services.

Joseph Mwita (real name withheld) says even though his file is still at Bugando Referral Hospital on his doctor’s recommendation, he prefers to go to Nyakato AIDS Outreach Centre for management of opportunistic infections, considering its proximity to his home. Reports from the centre indicate that the number of registered clients has tripled since the centre started offering the HIV/AIDS care and treatment services. Ms. Dorołosa Duncan, the Tandabui Health Access HIV/AIDS Project Manager says a similar upsurge of clients has been noted across all the primary health care facilities providing the services. This has resulted in increased workload to Mwananchi Hospital Laboratory where specimens collected from the primary health care facilities are taken for analysis. The laboratory has lately been modernised through financial support from the RFE to enable it cope with the increased workload.

In an effort to enhance sustainability of the services, the Tandabui HIV/AIDS Project, with support from the RFE, plans to purchase eight motorcycles (one per facility) for the Mwanza Municipal Council to facilitate routine supportive supervision and prompt collection of specimens from the care and treatment centres to Mwananchi Hospital. In addition, the project continues to advocate for expansion of the primary health care facilities in response to the growing demand for services and increased need for privacy – an effort which is beginning to bear fruits. Reports from the Mwanza Municipal Council indicate that expansion of Igoma Health Centre, one of the facilities offering the care and treatment services, is nearing completion. Expansion of Sangabuye and Nyerere Health Centres is also underway using the Council’s own financial resources and a development grant from the Health Sector Reform Programme.

“These days I go to my clinic at around 12 noon after performing my household chores and I don’t spend a penny on transport since the care and treatment centre is only 20 minutes walk from my home. Most of the time I get served within 30 minutes upon arrival at the facility and go back home.”

—Client at Nyakato AIDS Outreach Centre



Ogango K’omolo, MediaNet Ltd 2010

Igoma Health Centre laboratory staff at work.

KEY PROJECT OUTPUTS:

- 8 HIV/AIDS care and treatment centres established in both urban and peri-urban areas of Mwanza Municipality;
- 0 healthcare providers given refresher training on provision of HIV drugs, continuum of care, nutrition, prevention and support for people living with HIV;
- 3,573 clients enrolled at the decentralised care and treatment centres by March 2010, and 1,668 started on ART;
- 18,717 clients received VCT and received their results
- 2 outreach campaigns conducted in Bezi Island to provide VCT services, and HIV positive clients referred to Sangabuye CTC;
- Mwananchi Hospital Laboratory renovated in response to the increased demand for laboratory services;
- One motorised tricycle bought to facilitate prompt collection of specimens from the care and treatment centres to Mwananchi Hospital.

Story and Photographs by Ogango K’omolo, MediaNet Ltd, komolo@medianettz.com, June 2010.



For more information on the Rapid Funding Envelope, please contact:

Grants Manager, Deloitte & Touche • 10th Floor, PPF Tower, PO Box 1559 • Dar es Salaam, Tanzania • rfe@deloitte.co.tz

www.rapidfundingenvelope.org