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Women of Jitegemee PLHIV Empowerment Group in Kilombero during weekly income generation activity.
Photo: Sauti Yetu Communication Unit

TANZANIA

CITIZEN ENGAGING IN GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT (CEGO) IN HEALTH-SAUTI YETU

The SAUTI YETU ‘Our Voice’ program seeks to engage people living with HIV in the response to HIV in Tanzania through the National Council of People Living with HIV in Tanzania (NACOPHA). The program focuses on increasing HIV testing services through referrals and linkages to health services, as well as retention and adherence to antiretroviral treatment (ART). SAUTI YETU empowers its beneficiaries under the guiding principle of **‘nothing is possible for us without us.’** The program engages HIV-positive individuals and groups in service delivery, enlisting the involvement of key and vulnerable populations (KVPs) such as youth, adolescent girls, and young women. In addition, the program promotes the delivery of community HIV treatment services.

Activity interventions include the following:

- Conduct HIV treatment literacy among people living with HIV and in communities.
- Identify sexual partners and biological children of PLHIV and link them to HIV testing.
- Provide adherence counselling and support to ensure that PLHIV stay on HIV treatment.
- Strengthen community linkages and referral systems to improve ART retention.

- Increase evidence on the impact of community HIV service delivery approaches on retention and adherence to HIV treatment.
- Conduct advocacy to foster supportive legal, political, and sociocultural environment to ensure successful national HIV response efforts.

RESULTS

- NACOPHA has a total membership of 640,487 PLHIVs in 167 district councils of which over 230,955 (15%) directly reached by “Sauti Yetu” activity interventions in 46 district councils.
- The activity has established a sustainable community volunteers structure to deliver HIV services in communities. This includes: Community Coordination Teams (CCTs) – 364 individual PLHIV Leaders; Community Action Teams (CATs): 795 in 260 wards; Treatment Advocates (TAs): 1,300 every 2 villages; Empowerment Groups: 32 groups with 762 individual PLHIV.
- Tracked and linked back to HIV treatment 80% of the people living with HIV who were lost to follow-up.
- 99.9% of PLHIV members under NACOPHA are on treatment.
- Supported 1,556 PLHIV groups in accessing economic strengthening opportunities and improved nutrition.
- Following NACOPHA advocacy, “Sauti Yetu” activity received 15 million Tanzania Shillings from Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) capital to support PLHIV Empowerment Groups under “Sauti Yetu” activity.

BUDGET \$6.7 million

DURATION

December 2013 – December 2019

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

46 District Councils in Tanzania

IMPLEMENTER

The National Council of People Living with HIV in Tanzania (NACOPHA)

PARTNERS

MoHCDEC; PORALG; PLHIV Clusters; FH I360; JSI; JHPIEGO and CWCD

167 District Councils out of 188 Tanzania Mainland

4,572 NACOPHA PLHIV groups

640, 487 PLHIVs under NACOPHA

1,556 PLHIV active groups under “Sauti Yetu”

230,995 PLHIV beneficiaries under “Sauti Yetu”

364 Community Coordination Teams, 795 Community Action Teams; 1,300 Treatment Advocates

PLHIV Empowerment Group

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