



Report on SDP Campaign Eastern Africa Harm Reduction Project-Tanzania

Facilitated by TACOSODE and TaNPUD

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Prepared by Grace Matui, HR Project Manager-Tanzania

Introduction

The GF Regional Harm Reduction Project is a three year regional project on HIV and Harm Reduction for Eastern Africa region that targets eight counties; Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania (Mainland), United Republic of Tanzania (Zanzibar), Uganda, Seychelles and Mauritius(see the map of the SRs).

The project's overall goal is to increase access to essential HIV and harm reduction services for people who inject drugs in Eastern Africa.

The key has three main objectives, which are:

- i. To create an enabling policy environment to support harm reduction interventions in East African countries
- ii. To strengthen community systems for a sustained HIV response among people who inject drugs in East Africa and
- iii. To generate and utilize strategic information on injecting drug use-related HIV epidemics in the region.

Objective of the SDP Campaign

To advocate on the need to prioritise health and welfare of the populations of PWUD/PWID, their families and communities affected from the harms caused by the war on drugs.

SDP Campaign aims at leaving behind harmful politics, ideology, and prejudice which have been directed to PWUD/PWID while ignoring health challenges facing these communities.

Main Content of the Report

The SDP is a global advocacy Campaign which is celebrated on 26th June of each year.

Basing on the EAHRP, this campaign responds to objective number one (1) of the project which aims at creating an enabling policy environment to support harm reduction interventions in East African countries.

This year, TACOSODE as SR in Tanzania jointly with TaNPUD as implementing partner conducted five (5) different advocacy activities at community and high level platforms starting 23rd to the peak day on 26th of June. These activities are illustrated as follows;

i. Advocacy through engaging policy makers in roundtable discussion

2 policy makers were reached by this activity, the Major of Dar es Salaam Region and the former EAC parliamentarian. The project team were able to share on project goal as in relation to SDP campaign objectives.

The picture bellow illustrates more on this;



ii. Advocacy through Media Coverage

5 Media houses were engaged to air designed advocacy messages to the community at large. These media houses were ITV Media, Chanel 10 TV station, SIBUKA TV station and Clouds TV station. A news paper engaged was Mwananchi, from IPP media house..

The program staffs were then integrated to the SIBUKA TV station schedules where-by the offered to air EAHR project update in each Friday evening of every week.



Project team engaged in media interview during different SPD Campaign events

iii. Advocacy through engaging to national activity on environmental cleanliness

A total of 50 people were reached by this activity, among which, 40 were from the community of PWID specific and TaNPUD members; 4 from media house; and 6 senior staff, 2 from each MATT Clinic in Muhimbili, Mwananyamala and Temeke, including **Dr. Jesse Mbwambo**.

This activity was implemented on 26th of July, a pick of the SDP Campaign. The nation commemorate this day by engaging to environmental cleanliness country wide.

With our team, we engaged in cleaning all MATT Centres in all Municipalities of Dar es Salaam Region. The picture below illustrates more on this activity.



Picture above illustrate some groups of PWID and project staff engaged on environmental cleanliness at MATT Centres

iv. Advocacy through Outreach activities to community members

4 MDM staff team and 50 community members of PWID were reached by this activity. With good facilitation of TaNPUD staff team, the reached community members were sensitized on the importance of SDP Campaign in relation to health needs, including awareness on hepatitis C; awareness on HIV transmission through needle sharing. It is unfortunate that only three camps located in Dar es Salaam were only visited.



TaNPUD Facilitators facilitating some of reached beneficiary in Ilala and Tandika Camps-Dar es Salaam

v. **Advocacy through sensitization on VCT for TB and HIV**

Number of community members volunteered for TB testing in Ilala and Tandika Camps. The testing was conducted soon after group sensitization session, where by trained and qualified counsellor and a TB nurse from MDM were in charge of this activity.

Referring to aim of SDP campaign, which insist a needy for addressing health and social challenges affecting PWID, a special van with all necessary equipment for TB and HIV testing, was given to the team so as to facilitate the process of testing the beneficiary health. The samples taken were taken to PASADA Hospital for testing; as illustrated by pictures below;



MDM TB Nurse took TB sample of volunteered beneficiaries for testing

In a nutshell, a total of 4,100,000 Tsh was spent in effecting this campaign for three consecutive days. 111 beneficiaries were then reached and introduced to the ongoing regional program and its importance- at a level of policy making.

Among the successes reached were (1) opportunity to be integrated to media, by being offered a special hours to air program progress once per week, (2) increase recognition to policy makers at LGA level including the City Major, (3) increase recognition to health service providers specifically the MATT Centres (4) strengthening partnership between SR and IP-TaNPUD, (5) strengthen partnership between IP and community beneficiaries.

Apart from the success reached, a setback toward more success was limited budget to facilitate engagement of policy makers. This includes lack of budget to support transport, communication, design meetings and supportive DSA to intended opinion leaders. Some of these OL were police and prison officers identified during early conducted meetings.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Conclusively, pictures, videos and list of engaged beneficiaries are attached with this document in support of this report.

TACOSODE recommends on a need to review the existing budget in order to consider the engagement of key policy makers and law enforcers so as to reach the intended project outcome; which is, to creating an enabling policy environment to support harm reduction interventions, hence increase access to essential HIV and harm reduction services.