

Programme Area Summary

Country: Tanzania

Programme Area: HIV & AIDS 2005 -2010

Aim of the Programme Area

To enable women, men and children to adopt lifestyles, which maximize their well-being and help reduce the spread of HIV & AIDS.

Why is VSO working in that particular Programme Area and Region?

In Tanzania HIV & AIDS prevalence is estimated to be 7% of the population or 1.1 million people. Women and girls make up an increasing proportion of infected people, due to largely widespread violations of their rights. Indeed 7.7% of women were recorded as HIV positive while only 6.3% men were infected with the virus. The 25-34 age group of women is that with the highest rate of infection.

Over 700,000 people have died of AIDS and at least 800,000 children have been orphaned in Tanzania since the epidemic began. This has caused the increased number of out of school children, mostly girls who are burdened to care for the sick parents or earn a living for the family.

Key Beneficiaries and Partners

- Tanzanian Commission for HIV & AIDS (TACAIDS)
- Ministry of Health
- Muheza Hospice of Teule Hospital
- Kagera Regional Hospital
- Care Iringa
- Mikindani-Mtwara Town Council
- SHEDEPHA + (a positive people's organization)
- PLWHA (womens' group)
- Tides Foundation
- Human Development Trust
- CBOs, FBOs and Local NGOs

Partnerships have been developed at the national, regional and district levels as well as vertical and horizontal links in Dodoma, Kagera, Lindi, Mtwara, Southern Highlands, Tanga and Zanzibar.

Key Objectives of the Programme and the cross-cutting themes

- Improved quality and sustainability of medical care and treatment for people living with HIV & AIDS in two regions.
- Increased access of people living with HIV & AIDS to appropriate social, political and economic support in two regions.
- Enhanced organizational resilience of VSO and its partners to HIV & AIDS in all focus regions.
- HIV & AIDS is a cross-cutting theme for all other sectors in VSO Tanzania's Country Strategic Plan. VSO Tanzania recognizes that HIV & AIDS is a key issue that needs to be addressed at all levels of its programmes:
 - Within the Programme Office
 - By the VSO Tanzania volunteers working in all sectors
 - By partner and employing organisations

The VSO programme in Tanzania is encouraging staff, volunteers and partners to engage in responses to HIV & AIDS. Agreement between partner organisations and VSO now include an objective around HIV & AIDS. Some volunteers, especially those working in management advisory type roles, can support their organization to

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mainstream HIV & AIDS issues. Others may want to focus on specific integration activities as part of, or in addition to, their day-to-day work. Gender is another cross-cutting theme in recognition of the inequalities in power between men and women.

Current Programme Activities

Focus of International Volunteer Placements

- HIV & AIDS Professionals
- Medical Doctors with 2-3 years experience
- Nurses with 2-3 years experience
- Capacity Builders

Workshops, Training & Conferences

- A training on Home-based Care Programme funded by the British High Commission
- PAP Review with partners and volunteers

Research

- A study of the Council Multi Sectoral Strategic Framework for HIV & AIDS and the National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction.
- Study of the Council Multi-Sectoral AIDS Committees to evaluate their performance.
- We have only recently agreed upon conducting a research to gauge our baseline insofar as National Volunteering is concerned. The TOR for the research are currently being drafted in liaison with the regional VDO and it is envisioned that a VDV will carry out the research in the course of the next financial year.

Advocacy and Global Education

- Active participation of CSOs in revising the National Multi Sectoral Strategic Framework.
- Budget Tracking and Analysis of HIV & AIDS Resource in Tanzania carried out depicts the picture that the Ministry of Health budget allocated to HIV/AIDS activities in 2006/07 was about Tshs 2.5 billion higher compared to the previous year.
- the curative sub vote budget increased almost three folds in the 2006/07 fiscal year
- A larger proportion of the budget is allocated to care and support thematic area

Providing Grants and/or equipment for partners

- VSO has a smaller funding source for HIV & AIDS activities from the British High Commission and Barclays Bank that could be accessed to support particular partnership. A significant funding from the Dutch government was also secured to build the organizational capacity of positive peoples organizations.
- In 2005/06 three different kinds of funding that volunteers and partner organizations can apply for. These were;
 - Placement Support Fund (PC05) from Barclays Bank and VSO managed by the Programme Office.
 - Small Grant Fund shared amongst five regions from the British High Commission and managed by volunteers.
 - Programme Support Fund 25,000 from the British High Commission (BHC) managed by the Programme Office.
- VSO through the TMF Right to Life funding plans to establish a small grants fund, which will complement the training provided to positive people's organisations and enable applicants to apply and develop their learning. VSO and HDT will develop criteria for the small grants fund. A grant making committee will be set up and meet to award and monitor grants. Simple application and reporting forms will be developed. HDT and the volunteer will provide applicants with ongoing support and follow up.

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Development of publications or other materials for training of communication

- HIV & AIDS Mainstreaming Manual

Other partnership activities:

- Cross-sectoral support involving SL in the development of kitchen garden in collaboration with SHEDEPHA+

What makes VSO's work in this programme area special?

- VSO Tanzania leads by example to mainstream HIV & AIDS by operationalising the HIV & AIDS workplace policy
- Increased number of people making use of services
- Increased number of experienced volunteers placed to tackle capacity and service delivery gaps
- Significant funding to support positive people's organisations