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Abstract

CDD0767 - MEMA kwa Vijana phase 2: a model to support the multisectoral district level AIDS responses in Mwanza region, Tanzania

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Issues: With increasing decentralisation, local government authorities have greater responsibility for the development and delivery of HIV programmes in resource-poor settings. Yet capacity at this level is often limited and little is known about how best NGOs and CSOs can simultaneously support effective implementation and build capacity.

Description: An NGO (AMREF) has seconded a Technical Assistant (TA) to the 4 districts, embedding them within the government authorities. They are using the scale up of a multifaceted adolescent sexual reproductive health programme as a vehicle to enhance capacity and facilitate broader support for the Districts to develop, co-ordinate and sustain a comprehensive multisectoral district AIDS response. Quantitative and qualitative data is being collected and triangulated to determine: (i) acceptability and effectiveness of this model; (ii) key facilitating and inhibitory factors and; (iii) strategies for improving the success of seconded TAs in building local government capacity for an effective multisectoral AIDS response.

Lessons learned: The TAs have:

- Been well accepted
 - Established significant networks within the Districts authorities.
 - Provided key support and mentoring to District officials in implementation activities
 - Facilitated and supported coordination and documentation of activities across sectors.
- This success has, in part, been facilitated by comprehensive and clear introductions to the district key players.

However, the TAs are sometimes still viewed as implementers rather than facilitators, which could have implications for the sustainability of the programme. Challenges include limitations in infrastructural resources, budgeting, timely disbursement of funds, overburdening of some district personnel and differing work ethics. So far Districts have been responsive in addressing these challenges.

Recommendations: The TAs have played a key role in the initial scale up activities and the fostering of transferable skills for the development and coordination of a multisectoral district AIDS response. This is a promising model for NGO support for the scaling up of HIV interventions.