



Behavioral change in HIV prevention among most risk population in Rakai

The combination HIV prevention project is being implemented in the 4 sub-counties of Kalisizo Town council, Kalisizo Rural, Kirumba, and Lwankoni of Rakai District. The project is focused on combined HIV prevention intervention targeting in and out of school youth, married people and Most at Risk-Populations (MARPs). The project's primary focus is on behavioral and structural interventions that are delivered simultaneously in the same place and secondarily promotes biomedical interventions through strengthened referrals and networks. The interventions target both the population and the environment in which they live.

The project's approach is working through the existing community structures that include religious structures, local councils, VHTs, other support groups and community resource persons. This involves building on the already existing HIV prevention services by local CBOs in the community. In implementing this project, the consortium works with the district local governments and other partners to identify, segment, and target specific groups and audiences.

Kalisizo prisons in Kalisizo sub county helped the project team work with the incarcerated. Although the government recruits a health worker in the prisons to take care of the health of the prisoners, the HIV infected prisoners are not given the attention they need. The consortium was able to reach the prisoners with behavioral change communication messages and also trained key personels in the prisons like prison wardens. This is a sustainability strategy because the wardens continue spreading the messages to the prisoners from time to time. We noted one HIV infected prisoner who had been taken in the field to work on an empty stomach moreover he had to take his drugs. This enlightened us that more work was needed to help the HIV infected persons behind bars in Ugandans prisons.

The project was implemented by three partners, (CIDI, Kitovu Mobile and HIPA) with CIDI as the lead agency;