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Enhancing HIV and AIDS mitigation through internal savings and lending (ISAL) as platform for multiple-targeting

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Contributing to the national response to HIV and AIDS mitigation, DOMCCP in partnership with Irish Aid initiated an HIV and AIDS project in 2005, covering Mutare Rural District. By then, the plight of people living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) was insurmountable as those infected (about 80%) were bed ridden and home bound. The project provided support services in raising public awareness, ART literacy and nutritional support to PLWHA. Though this project improved the health status of 5000 households, stigma and discrimination remained a major challenge since PLWHA were 'their own community within a community'. The economic collapse of Zimbabwe around 2008 to 2010 exacerbated the plight of both rural and urban households, more so PLWHA, to access capital to support their livelihoods. Thus the need to explore initiatives that positively influence livelihoods as well as reducing stigma and discrimination among PLWHA was mooted. The ISAL methodology was introduced as a platform for HIV multiple-targeting. ISAL initiative has become all-inclusive with all members of the community participating and undergoing routine HIV monitoring and counseling services without discrimination. As such, ISAL has demystified stigma and discrimination in the community with HIV no longer regarded a 'killer' but a 'chronic' disease. This project has also increased access to treatment and health care as there is disposable income within households.

Biography

Joachim Hatizivi Nyamande is a Head of Programs for DOMCCP with 12 years' experience in HIV and AIDS programming. He holds a PhD in Project Management (Atlantic International University, USA), Master of Science in Peace, Leadership and Governance (Africa University), Master of Education in Adult Education (University of Zimbabwe). He participated in various international conferences; 2008- Mexico International Aids Conference; 2010 and 2011- HIV Blue Sky Week Conferences held in Maputo, Mozambique and Bujumbura, Burundi both organized by International AIDS Alliance respectively. In all the conferences, he actively participated in different thematic tracks contributing Zimbabwe's HIV and AIDS experiences.

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