



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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NEWS:

- Rafiki – SDO and the Government in Shinyanga District Council sensitized HIV testing to vulnerable groups at Mwakitolyo.

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11th May, 2021



A general view of the meeting between Rafiki - SDO, the Government and Beneficiaries at Mwakitolyo.

On Tuesday May 11th there was undertaken a joint supportive supervision between a District Coordination team and the Rafiki – SDO management team, CMAC, Councilors, CDOs, and WEOs with beneficiaries Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYWs), and Female Sex

Workers (FSWs) at Mwakitolyo Ward Shinyanga District Council. Over the meeting which mainly intended to sensitize on the issue of HIV testing and behavioral change communication, there were discussed matters like the trends of HIV infection rate and the opportunities

provided by Rafiki – SDO in collaboration with Government among Adolescent Girls Young Women and FSWs in Shinyanga District Council.

On behalf of the Rafiki – SDO management, the Deputy Program Manager Mr. George Nyamboto grabbed the chance to speak about the organization and how it interacts and provide services to their beneficiary while collaborating with the government authorities.

He spoke about their activities that impacts their beneficiaries including supervising HIV testing services and formulating and supervising AGYWs groups which are for providing positive behavioral change education and economic capability strengthening though serving and borrowing as well as running a collective economic activity believing that one of the causalities for the higher infections rate in most

communities is an economic hardship.



Mr. George Nyamboto Speaking to the Beneficiaries during the Meeting.

And he also addressed the reason why they chose to hold a sensitization activity at Mwakitolyo and not somewhere else. He said “We chose to be here at Mwakitolyo today because Mwakitolyo is a place that attracts a variety people due to the mining activities, therefore it has turned to the most vulnerable place for HIV infections, even the statics says the rate of new infections for Mwakitolyo is a bit higher compared to other places in Shinyanga District Council.”

Leading the discussion and also representing the DCDO Ms. Aisha Mwishari said the AGYW's groups will grant girls with not only the opportunities from Rafiki – SDO but also from the government itself, mentioning the opportunities Ms. Aisha brought up the 10% council loans which are provided to youth, women and disabled people saying that through the AGYW's groups they can be registered and acquiring loans.



Ms. Aisha Speaking to the Beneficiaries during the Meeting.

Mr. Isack Masale Sengelema, a councilor from Iselamagazi emphasized on the issue of HIV testing warning that one can never know someone's health status by looking with his or her eyes, one can look health on the outside but infected on the inside so they should get tested to know if they are infected or not.



Mr. Isack M. Sengelema Speaking to the Beneficiaries during the Meeting.

On the meeting the beneficiaries were given a chance to ask questions concerning the covered issues whereas Rose Kimaro asked on confidentiality of the test results, while Seni Sehemu asked they are required to pay for HIV testing.



Ms. Rose Kimaro asking question during the meeting.

Responding to asked questions the District AIDs Control Coordinator Dr. Daud Balisija said, the results for the tested subject are confidential, only the tested subject and the health provider is bound to know what the results are. Also, the question about whether the subject has to pay for the test he said, HIV testing is free but if the subject wants to test something else will be required to pay.



DACC Dr. Daud answering questions asked by Beneficiaries during the Meeting.

At last, the Council Chairperson and Mwalukwa Councilor Mr. Ngassa S. Mboje said, Rafiki – SDO have been a very reliable development stakeholder in Shinyanga giving examples the AGYW's groups are the best way to liberate young girls from economic hardships as a strong force towards high HIV infections in most societies. Also, he said the same groups can be registered and be used for acquiring loans from the government.



The Chairperson of the District Council Mr. Ngassa Mboje speaking to the meeting Participants.



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