

HDT provides grants to 150 PLHIV worth 9 million Tanzanian shillings

1.0 Introduction

Human Development Trust (HDT) under the sponsorship of Global Fund for Fighting AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Round 4 had planned and implemented an activity of providing grants to 150 PLHIV who were under nutritional support in Rungwe district in Mbeya region. This event was done on 25th June 2010 at Mpuguso ward in Rungwe district.

2.0 Objective

Objective of grant provision to PLHIV under nutritional support is to improve the livelihood of PLHIV in terms of income generation. HDT has observed that PLHIV who have as low CD4 count as below 250 and low weight (BMI less than 20%) often stay in poor health and reduced chance of a full participation in income generation activities. So in order to make sure that these people improve their health and start their normal life, HDT provided nutritional support for six month and after they start to improve their health they are given grants for income generation activities.

3.0 About grants

HDT, from previous experience recognized that provision of 100 percent cash as a grant provides a little impact because people use the

provided cash to meet the cost for other immediate needs. Also those who opted for animal keeping projects have a good success compared to other established projects. From this experience, beneficiaries and HDT discussed and reached an agreement that the beneficiaries have to choose an animal keeping related projects before receiving grants. The majority of the beneficiaries opted piglets keeping and others choose chicken keeping. A grant was of 60,000/= Tshs where half of it was used to purchase animals (piglets) and the remaining part was given to the beneficiaries for meeting project initial costs.



The guest of honor addressing the community during the grant provision ceremony

4.0 Grant provision ceremony

The grant provision ceremony was done on 25th of June 2010 at Mpuguso village in Mpuguso ward. During the ceremony, the Guest of honor was District Administrative Officer representing the District Commissioner. During the ceremony, the guest of honor informed the beneficiaries of the importance of taking care of the provided grants in order to meet the expected target of increasing their income bearing in mind that the impact of animal keeping projects is not instant and they have to take a little time waiting for that impact.

The community in general was informed to reduce stigma to PLHIV and everyone has a role to play in helping them. He said stigma reduction can be reached if every one will be willing to test for HIV and understand his/her status. The community was

also reminded to practice every action that helps in preventing new HIV infections.



The guest of honor providing grants to one of PLHIV in Rungwe district

Reported by HDT Regional Program Manager Mr. Dickson Mbita