

TANZANIA
LIFE
PROJECT

Grace Marumbo
(Resident of Mtumba, Tanzania)
Unedited E-Mail to Jim & Katie Vanderheyden
February 17, 2007

Subject: Thank for TV set.

Dear, Jim & Katie
Thank very much for the TV set,
I will use it in HIV/AIDS and Women empowerment activities.

Most of the women in Africa especially in the villages like ours have no say in the community, it has come time now women to voice and shout for their rights.
Women are affected by many unfavourable social cultural norms and practices, such as very little control at house decision making and in sexual relations.

Since 1983, an estimated 2.2 million Tanzanians aged 15 years and above were living with HIV, out of them 1.8 million were aged between 15 years to 49 years, whereby almost 60% of them were female. Thus prevention, care, treatment, and support of HIV/AIDS needs to be analyzed and addressed through a gender lens including transmissions, whereby to reduce the infection in babies the risky to women must be reduced.

Most of women and children in the rural areas lack access to resources and lack access to nutritious food, care and treatment because of being poor, ignorance, etc. Out of 1000 women living in the villages 700 do not have enough for their daily living (results to HIV/AIDS) on the other way. Many women do not usually test and hence do not know their HIV status.

There is reluctance to do HIV test or share results with spouse/partners because of the fear of rejection or divorce if they test positive. Some HIV positive women continued to breast feed in spite of being aware of their sero-status for fear of being stigmatized or due to pressure from spouse family or peers.

Poverty and ignorance is a problem, an increasing knowledge about HIV/AIDS and their complications in the community is needed.

A deeper understanding of behavioral and socio-cultural aspects that contribute to the spread of HIV is needed.

Good care and treatment can be a major strategy in improving greatly the quality and length of PLHAs' life. This includes medical care, psychological, nutritional, economical, educational, legal, emotional and spiritual, etc.

Many people especially women fear to go for VCT and thereafter to disclose their sero-status because they fear discriminations by family, relatives and by the community. More advocacy training, educations and campaigns are needed to produce fear reduction and hence stigma reduction all around.



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Sexual violence and coercion of girls is wide spread, often fueled by intergenerational sex when men choose younger and younger girls because they are assumed to be HIV negative.

To protect the rights of girls and young women , it need education, campaigns and strengthening the empowerment of women and increased gender equity.

The AIDs pandemic have lost manpower and created many orphans. Thus effective measures to overcome the problem is mostly in need, such as creating awareness and prevention of HIV'/AIDs, counselling and home-based care ect.

HIV/AIDs is a world problem, we need to accept it and looks ways to prevent it and eventually to erradicate it.

SEND MY GREETINGS TO ALL.

THANK YOU;

LOVE GRACE MARUMBO

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