



PROJECT NAME: ANSP+/RBC/SPIU

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR SUPPORTING PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS (ANSP+)

NSP PROGRAM: COVID-19 IMPACT MITIGATION

ACTIVITY: CONDUCTING TRAINING FOR CAPACITY BUILDING OF ANSP+ CONSTITUENCIES (MEMBERS) TO INCREASE THEIR ENGAGEMENT IN COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION AND ADVOCACY AFTER COVID-19

TARGET GROUP: KEY POPULATIONS

AREA OF INTERVENTION: HUYE DISTRICT

I. INTRODUCTION

ANSP⁺ stands as a National Association for Supporting People living with HIV/AIDS. It is a Rwandan local Non-Governmental Organization created in September 2000 by People Living with HIV themselves, with the leading mission of striving for the quality of life of HIV infected /affected people in Rwanda and fighting against the spread of HIV/AIDS and other epidemics. Towards this mission, our potential beneficiaries include Key Populations which runs a high risk of getting HIV.

When we talk about HIV/AIDS, we can't forget other epidemics such as TB, malaria and nowadays Covid-19 for; in a way or another, there is a relationship between them, because HIV positive people are most vulnerable to these epidemics.

Incidentally, it is about more than three years since Covid-19 pandemic reached in Rwanda. As an international concern, through the government preventive measures, people took actions to prevent against the disease through day-to-day measures. These include regular hand washing with soap and water, wearing masks, maintaining a social distance of at least one meter, avoiding touching the eyes, nose and mouth, the lock down and lastly being vaccinated. Due to these serious preventive measures taken and respected, the pandemic reduced its virulence and it is the reason why the government has decided to soften some regulations regarding the pandemic, where

wearing masks is no longer an obligation, while other preventive measures remain. Though the severity of the pandemic has reduced, it is still a concern.

Working in this framework, ANSP+ under the sponsorship of Global Fund organized two-day training to its constituencies to increase their engagement in community mobilization in order to continue fighting against this pandemic. The training will be conducted in Huye district.

II. TRAINING OBJECTIVE

As highlighted in the introduction above, the objective of this activity is to increase the engagement of ANSP+ constituencies in community mobilization as a contribution in the battle of fighting against the Covid-19 especially, but also against TB and malaria.

III. TARGET GROUP

The training will target 26 KPs, 6 head of health center service departments, 1 healthcare provider/other stakeholder who will participate in the training, 1 training facilitator and 6 staff members of ANSP+ for the training organization, supervision and other support needed.

IV. DATE AND VENUE

The field work is planned to take place in Huye district from the 26th to the 29th September 2023. On 26th was a departure from Kigali to Huye District and fieldwork preparation. The next day was dedicated to conducted a training with head of department. The training itself will take place on the 28th to 29th at Karibu Peace Center Hotel.

V. TRAINING EXPECTED RESULTS

At the end of this training, we expect that participants will get enough knowledge and information on the issue around Covid-19, TB and malaria and will take action to prevent the spread of these diseases for further help the community to fight against it.

HUYE FIELD WORK REPORT

This field work was conducted 4 days from 26th to 29th September 2023. The objective of this training was to increase knowledge and skills as well as information about covid-19, HIV, TB, and Malaria ant to take

actions to prevent the spread of new infections of HIV and preventing against other diseases.



Photo: *Meeting with Head of department at CUSP Health Center*

Generally, the field work started on 26th September whereby the staff were supposed to leave the office to the field work district which is Huye District. Arrive there the staff have time to go to the CUSP Health center to discuss and prepare the field work activity with Head of health center. During this meeting the head of health center welcomed ANSP+ Team and present the the staff and Key service of HC specifically HIV Service and how the beneficiaries get service. After that together with this HC Manager all activities planned have discussed on, the concept note of this activity was also discussed and each side was agreed how it is set and how it will be implemented. After this meeting, ANSP+ representative remind this leader that the next day will be a meeting with heads of department to discuss how health center is engaging KPs in Covid-19 prevention and how they are mitigating its consequences and take actions.



Photo: *ANSP+ representative is addressing the audience the opening speech*

The next day on Wednesday 27th 2023, was a time to conduct a meeting with Head of departments. This meeting was gathered 6 staff including Health center Manager, those are Out Patient department, VCT, PMTCT, ARV, TB and LAB. At the beginning, The Head of Health center welcomed ANSP+ Staff and present them to the heads of department. After that, was a time for self-introduction to everyone. First of all, ANSP+ representative started this meeting by telling them the purpose of this meeting. He became on the objective of this meeting by saying that is to assess and evaluate how Health center is engaging KPs in Covid-19 prevention and how they are mitigating its consequences and take actions. During this meeting, everyone among the CUSP HC staff tried to give a point of view on how they take care Key populations. Kaneza who is the ARV Service in charge has said that KPs are many in Huye districts and at this Health center, they take care 350 KPs whereby 150 are LGBTIQs and 200 FSWs. She said that they grouped them

into small group to facilitate their follow-up. She continued by saying that as other population during covid-19 they have struggled too much with life, but regarding the health services they tried to use peer educators to know their daily problems, again they worked closely with health services to deliver HIV preventive tools especially condoms and Lubricants but mainly to deliver a good quantity of ARVs in other prevent a stockout and encourage a good adherence. Also, these Peer educators worked with local leaders to facilitate them to get food and other items to easy their life. This system played a big role in this period whereby no KPs was experiencing a lack of Treatment or any preventives items. In addition to that, due to 2 staff trained on KPs management all of KPs either LGBTs and FSWs are warmly welcomed at this Health center and the rate of adherence on ART treatment is appreciable. To closure this meeting, the head of health center assured ANSP+ that friendly service to KPs is well done and pretend a good service to them.



Photo: *A training facilitator is presenting all the topics with dynamic mood.*

The next day was training with beneficiaries and stakeholders training started by meeting participant's registration whereby everyone was registered on the list. After registration of participants was a time to the participants to introduce themselves. After this self-introduction, was a time to ANSP+ to address to the audience the objective of the meeting and meeting expectations. He said that the main purpose of that training is to increase knowledge and skills as well as information about covid-19, HIV, TB, and Malaria ant to take actions to prevent the spread of new infections of HIV and preventing against other diseases. He added that the government knows that as general population KPs have experienced many problems during covid-19 and want far even after it. Among the consequences that KPs experienced there is a big number of FSWs that scaled up due to a financial problem and many of them are still living this life. Another thing, is that there is a big number of a young generation, which is becoming the sex sellers, while they don't have enough skills on how to prevent from HIV and other contagious diseases. This leader reminded everyone that to be one of this meeting is good opportunity to acquire different knowledge and will be a good time to transmit to their mate the skills get and they will be well skilled and this will help them to change their life mainly to fight against HIV new infection and other diseases. He closed this speech by thanking everybody for his/her participation by asking them to follow carefully and wish them the good training. After this opening speech by ANSP+ representative was a time for a training facilitator to start the training.

At the beginning the facilitator, started the training by self-introduction whereby she told them that he is a Health care provider which is an expert to work with Key Populations and Youth and works at KABUTARE Hospital. She continued by giving a pre- Test by asking the questions which are related to the Topics



Photo: *Training facilitator is asking the questions to the presented topics*

After pre-test she took time to define Covid-19, agent cause, mode of transmission, predisposing factors, signs and symptoms, Group at high risks to be contaminated from Covid-19 and preventive measures. During all along the training the facilitator tried to explain briefly every topic of agenda. The participants were also very active and participated a lot to the good conduction of the training.



Photo: *one of the KP is educating the audience how to use and wear condom*

The training facilitator grouped the participants into two groups for the group work.

The first group was assigned to work on the following question:

1. Enumerate the different infectious diseases which KPs are more likely to be contaminated and the way to prevent them.
2. What is the relation between HIV AIDS and other diseases like Covid-19 and Ebola

The second group was assigned to work on the following question:

1. Enumerates the complications of infectious diseases

2. Elaborates the consequences that KPs have experienced due to Covid-19 and show up the lessons learnt.

During the group work everybody was tried to participate dynamically and different answers were given as follow.

1. Enumerate the different infectious diseases which KPs are more likely to be contaminated and the way to prevent them.

Answer:- Gonorrhoea, Syphilis, Chancroid, Chlamydia, Hep B&C, Human Papilloma Virus

2. What is the relation between HIV AIDS and other diseases like Covid-19 and Ebola
Answer: When somebody has HIV, infectious diseases attack him/her easily and may aggravate the situations

3. Enumerates the complications of infectious diseases

Answer:High morbidity, and High mortality, poverty

4. Elaborates the consequences that KPs have experienced due to Covid-19 and show up the lessons learnt.

Answer: -Financial crisis, Poverty, Job loss, HIV Prevalence increase, Number of KPs was increased

During this sessions TB, STIs, Ebola, Malaria were also educated; they have seen how these diseases are contaminated, agent cause, Mode of transmission, signs and symptoms, preventive measures and way forward. To these topics the participants had time to ask questions and a training facilitator answered them accordingly and participant get satisfied.

During this training again the participant had a time to be told on mental health and drug abuse. To this topic a training facilitator said that during covid-19 KPs experienced very challenging problems which;

-Lack of freedom, Lockdown which obliged them to be closed at home

-Lack of client which made them not get money to solve their problem

-Use of drug and injection to forget the hard time their passed trough

-Lack of Job to some of KPs

- Some people found in new prostitution status because of financial issues

-Some young boys found in new status of LGBTIs without willingness of being in this condition

As conclusion all of those conditions made the KPs to be psychologically affected and their need a continuous psychological support by the concerned levels, in order not to be the slaves of that situation but to look forward to their future and be self-reliant



Photo: *KPs are presenting the work done in their respective group*

RESULT: In general, the field work was well conducted and the expectations were achieved at appreciable level.

The KPs' skills have enhanced at good level and they have to transmit this message to their colleagues, participants got enough knowledge and information on the issue around Covid-19, TB and malaria and have taken action to prevent the spread of these diseases for further help the community to fight against it.

Again the participant got enough knowledge about TB, STIs, Ebola, Malaria and they were committed to prevent them in their respective living areas and share information with their mates

Also, KPs have got desirable skills on mental health and they know what to do after leaving in hard time of covid-19 and they have to change the mind set of not being slaved with this situation but look forward and fight for self-reliant.



Photo: *KPs Representatives are thanking ANSP+ by calling it to come again*

RECOMMENDATION: The participants recommend visit exchange with their mates at different corners in the country to learn from experience.



Photo: *ANSP+ Representative is addressing the closing remarks*



Photo: *Memorial Picture*

Done at Kigali: 04/10/2023

STAFF PARTICIPATED IN FIELD WORK

1. BUCYANAYANDI Amable
2. NZIRINGIRIMANA Joseph
3. UMUTONI WA MANA Laurence
4. MUKAYIRANGA Marceline
5. NIZEYIMANA Jean Marie Vianney
6. MUKASEKURU Deborah