



End AIDS, Secure Generations.

SUMMARY REPORT FOR WIDOWS SOCIAL BEHAVIOR CHANGE

WORKSHOP

According to the National Syndemic Diseases Control Council (NSDCC) web publication on **5th August 2022**, Kenya is facing triple threat; New HIV infections, Gender Based Violence and Teenage pregnancies. The publication states that the government is committed to ending the triple threat by 2030 thus calling for collaboration from all relevant stakeholders.

The publication further indicates that according to **HIV estimates report 2021**, there were approximately **5,294** new HIV infection among adolescents which translate to **98** new infections among adolescents aged between **10-19 years** every week. From the report, the country also recorded approximately **28 HIV** related deaths among adolescents weekly.

In an attempt to contribute to this fight MTAA sensitizes the community to embrace positive Social Behavior Change. Targeting vulnerable groups in the community, widows stand higher risk to experiencing the triple threat. The three days Social Behavior Change workshop for twenty-two widows in Khaunga Location revealed that widows are exposed to dangerous cultural practices Known as sexual cleansing and widow inheritance that increase their risk of contracting HIV.

Sexual cleansing requires a widow to engage in unprotected sex with a man in order to appease the spirit of her diseased husband while inheritance involves getting a man who can take over the responsibilities of the widow's late husband including fulfilling sexual desires.

During this workshop, the widows disclosed that this exposes them to the risk of having multiple sexual partners. One widow even narrated how she got infected with HIV by a man who was inheriting her for the **third (3rd) time**.

The widows also shared that due to their poor economic status, they are unable to fully provide their children with basic needs including education. This exposes the teenage girls to school dropout, early marriage, Sexual Gender Based Violence and teenage pregnancies. Eight widows in the workshop disclosed that their granddaughters and daughters had given birth as teenagers.



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Because of their widowhood status, the society regard widows helpless subjecting them to Gender Based Violence. One widow shared how her brother in-law attacked and raped her at night claiming she was the clan's property and would not object anything.

Thanks to **dr. Pieter Van Den Hombergh** for funding the workshop.

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We are saying:

#NoToTeenagePregnancy

#NoToNewHIVinfections

#NoToGBV

#NoToDrugAbuse