



“Community Stakeholders’ Engagement Model”

Taking JIPANGE Project’s Achievement Above Edges

INTRODUCTION

Afya Plus as a locally registered non-governmental organization over years has been forefront in serving the communities by delivering an impactful social, health and economic programming in Tanzania. We recognize the utmost importance of effective stakeholders' engagement in our projects' implementation endeavours. By actively involving stakeholders at every stage of our initiatives, we are not only enhancing the quality of our work but also cultivate the spirit of meaningful stakeholders' engagement and collaboration towards achieving better health outcomes.

Our stakeholders' engagement model has evolved and undergone different refining processes over years, and systematic reviews as it has been applied to execute different Afya Plus projects. Our staff have acquired substantial experience in working with existing Government structures and systems in co-designing of solutions that put people at the centre of the interventions. The model has also been vital in addressing concerns and challenges of the communities through the continuous analysis of data and strategic use of information and knowledge generated along the spectrum or implementation as it has been demonstrated in one of our projects called "JIPANGE" Project which focused on Economic Empowerment of People Living with HIV (PLHIV) in Bukombe District Council-Geita.



Despite inspiring success made by Tanzania on achieving the UNAIDS 95–95–95 targets, still, PLHIV had limited access to information, and knowledge on entrepreneurship, coupled with limited financial literacy skills that lead to failure to tap in locally available economic potentials for improving their livelihood. This situation increases chances of poor treatment outcomes, stigma and discrimination, gender-based-violence (GBV) and transactional sex which escalating further HIV transmission.

The “JIPANGE” Project under funding support from PEPFAR through the Ambassador’s Fund for HIV/AIDS Relief (AFHR), primarily focused on providing a comprehensive orientation on basic entrepreneurship and financial literacy skills to PLHIV groups, facilitated mapping of surrounding economic opportunities and linkage to locally available resources for income-generating activities. Additionally, the project provided nutrition counselling, GBV prevention and response, psychosocial support, and ART literacy as well as promoting enrolment into improved community health insurance scheme (iCHF) to reduce the risk of catastrophic health expenditures at the household level for social protection. The “JIPANGE” project maximized the value of Afya Plus’s stakeholders’ engagement model on sustainably changing the lives of the served communities.

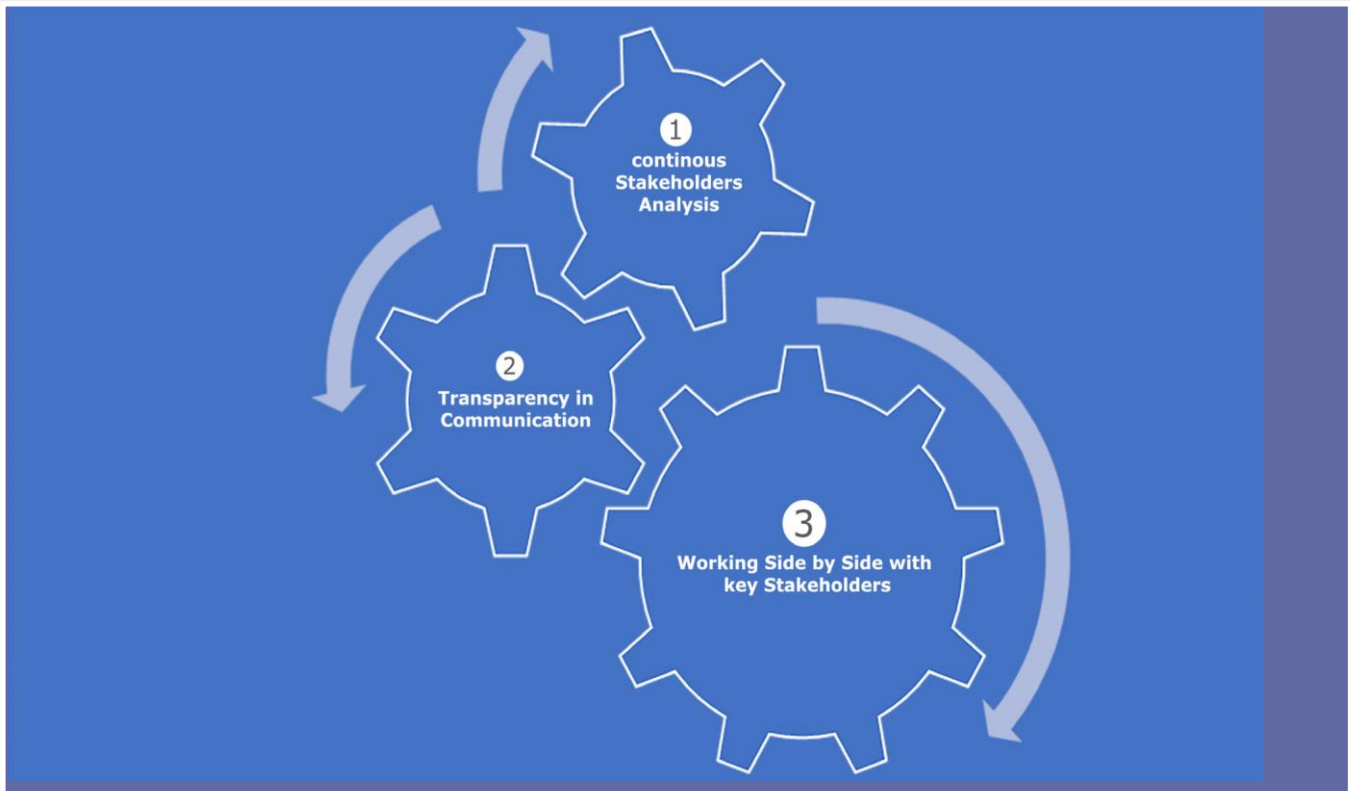
TRIPLE PRONGED STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT MODEL

Our triple pronged stakeholders’ engagement model has played a pivotal role in ensuring the successful implementation of the “JIPANGE” Project.

This model has been instrumental in fostering local ownership, sustained commitment, and meaningful engagement across all stages of the project, encompassing participatory planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. At Afya Plus, we leverage this “robust model” to effectively share strategic information with our stakeholders and collaboratively design and scale-up locally identified solutions in a cost-effective manner.

The model is systematically identifying local needs, analysing, prioritizing, planning, and implementing actions designed to influence stakeholders to support the project to achieve its goal.





PRONG -1: CONTINUOUS STAKE HOLDER ANALYSIS

The process involves a comprehensive understanding of stakeholders, including their identities, influence on programmatic decisions, potential contributions to the project, authority to impact certain aspects of execution, control over resources, and their relevant skills, knowledge, and competencies that can be harnessed by the project. This holistic approach delves into various facets of stakeholders to ensure a thorough grasp of their roles and potentials.

PRONG -2: TRANSPARENCY IN COMMUNICATION

Afya Plus has embraced a culture of transparency aimed at fostering trust and credibility. We ensure that all communications with stakeholders are delivered with openness, simplicity, and clarity, encouraging honest and meaningful engagement throughout the local needs' prioritization, planning, implementation, and evaluation processes. By promoting transparent communication, we actively involve stakeholders as valued partners in our journey towards positive impact.



PRONG -3: WORKING WITH STAKEHOLDERS' SIDE BY SIDE

The model goes beyond stakeholder analysis and transparent communication. We actively create collaborative spaces, fostering well-coordinated partnerships where stakeholders work together with us for greater impact of our projects. Through this approach, we hold them accountable and involve them in sharing various resources and competencies. This facilitates skill transfer and nurtures a sense of local ownership for the project, empowering all stakeholders to be active contributors to its success.



KEY OUTCOMES

- The involvement of local communities and government structures: We employed the Triple Pronged model to successfully engage key stakeholders including the Regional Community Development Officer (RCDO), Community Development Officers, CTC facility in charges, Councils HIV /AIDS Coordinators, representatives of the PLHIV Cluster, Social Welfare Officers, and the Councils Medical Officers which provided an opportunity to orient relevant key players on the project coverage, implementation plan, key activities, and expected outcomes. This process set the robust foundation for *Afya Plus* to implement the project efficiently, after achieving the buy in and support from the key stakeholders.



- Enhanced linkages to other key players: Our stakeholders' engagement models enhanced linkages of supported groups to health insurance schemes for enrolment and to inclusive economic systems such as banks, micro-credits services where they can beef-up their financial literacy and borrow enabling capital to initiate businesses.

Also, were supported to recognise Local Government and communities' structures that would need to approve and licensing their business which is prerequisite to qualify for Local Government loans. Such as offices which deal with provision of national identification cards, council's trading offices. Also, natural resources unit and land use plan department for economic inclusion.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We advocate for meaningful engagement of pertinent stakeholders throughout every stage of implementation. We emphasize the use of communication channels that promote transparency and accountability.

By fostering local ownership and harnessing locally available strategies and opportunities, we believe in adopting "game changer and big push" approaches to drive significant positive changes to the communities we serve. These efforts should aim at promoting inclusivity, efficiency, and sustainability of our interventions, ultimately fostering long-term prosperity, and empowering these communities on their journey towards self-reliance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Afya Plus extends its deepest gratitude to all the stakeholders who have played an integral role in the success of this economic empowerment initiative. Your commitment towards meaningful engagement has been instrumental in achieving impactful social, health, and economic programming in Tanzania.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to PEPFAR through the Ambassador's Fund for HIV/AIDS Relief (AFHR) for their generous funding support which has been instrumental in making the "JIPANGE" Project a reality. Your commitment towards improving the lives of HIV services' recipients has been invaluable.

We acknowledge the vital contributions made by our dedicated team members who have worked tirelessly to refine and implement our stakeholders' engagement model. Your expertise and commitment to putting people at the centre of our interventions have been the cornerstone of our success.

We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to the existing Government structures and systems for their collaborative efforts. Your partnership in co-designing solutions has been invaluable in addressing the concerns and challenges of the communities we serve.

Special recognition goes to the beneficiaries of the "JIPANGE" Project, whose active involvement and dedication towards improving their livelihoods have been truly inspiring. Your resilience and determination serve as a testament to the positive impact of the transformative potential of the "JIPANGE" economic empowerment initiative.

DISCLAIMER

"The information and insights presented in this success story are the perspectives of the author(s) and may not necessarily reflect the official stance of the funding agencies or the Government of Tanzania"





Afya Plus,
Faykat Tower,
7th Floor,
Ali Hassan Mwinyi Rd,
Plot # 234, 237 & 238,
Block 41 Kinondoni,
Dar es Salaam
afyaplus.info@afyaplus.or.tz
+255 733 700 694.

