



Overcoming barriers to access of HIV/AIDS services among Female Sex Workers through Differentiated Service Delivery Models, TASO Entebbe Experience

Kagimu D¹, Egessa J¹, Oucul L¹, Senyonga E¹
¹The AIDS Support Organization, Kampala, Uganda

The reality of epidemic control will be achieved through a nexus of innovative service delivery models and targeting key populations with high impact interventions.

BACKGROUND

An estimated 54,549 Female Sex Workers (FSW) in Uganda live with HIV with a Prevalence of 34.1% (UAC 2014). A restrictive legal environment and mobile nature of FSW create barriers to access and retention in care. TASO Entebbe piloted the Community Client Led ART Delivery (CCLAD) Differentiated Services Delivery Model among 90 HIV positive FSWs in care to increase their access and improve retention in care.

RESULTS/LESSONS LEARNT

S/n	Program indicator	Previous status	Current status
1	ART retention	65%	100%
2	ART Adherence	75%	95%
3	VL Suppression	80% Suppressed	100% Suppressed
	Total FSW (n)	14	14

DESCRIPTION

- FSWs complained of long clinic waiting time with loss of clients in lodges, inconvenient time of drug refills, and stigma & discrimination from the general population.
- TASO Entebbe introduced the CCLAD model for stable FSWs living in the same community.
- This involved grouping FSWs according to a criteria of; being HIV positive, registered with TASO, having disclosed to peers, consented to join CCLAD and having suppressed VL.
- The group selected a leader whose roles included; taking members' parameters like weight and MUAC, distribution of condoms and lubricants, delivery of pre-packed ARVs to members and submission of the filled tools to the TASO technical staff.

- A total of 14 FSWs aged 20-29 years (3) and 30-35 years (11), were identified and 2 CCLAD of 7 members each were formed.
- All FSWs in each CCLAD group maintained a suppressed VL for 1 year. 100% retention rates in each group was achieved.
- ART adherence improved from 75% to 95%.
- The ripple effects of CCLAD caused other FSW in the same hotspots to request to join the CCLAD groups

Figure 2: FSWs in the CCLAD Group Signing for their drugs.



CONCLUSION

Innovative ART delivery models like CCLAD among FSWs stimulates demand for HIV/AIDS services, mitigate effects of stigma and enhance treatment adherence and retention

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E-Mail Address: kagimudavid@yahoo.com.

Figure 1: FSW Peer Leader Sensitizing and Distributing Drugs to other FSWs in the CCLAD model.

