

LCI Outreach Program; Taking Health Care Closer to the Underprivileged

Introduction

From inception, the Local Capacity Initiative (LCI) Project in 2014, selected five Health Districts for project implementation. Districts with low uptake in Ante Natal Clinic and Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission ANC/PMTCT were selected for its pilot phase. To ensure that the LCI reaches its goals, a cascade of strategies was implemented to ensure the uptake of services in these communities. One of such approaches was the outreach



strategy.

Community Members Benefit from Health Talks during Outreach

Outreach Strategy

The LCI Outreach Strategy is a concept that consists of integrating other basic healthcare activities to the already existing monthly mobile caravan routines in hard to reach areas. In the past the exercise offered a

limited package which comprised of vaccinations and IWC services. Through the Local Capacity Initiative project, general consultation, ANC, and VCT were added to the compendium taken to these hard to reach areas. To ensure the efficacy of this strategy, the team brought together various stakeholders and community leaders to work hand in gloves with the various health facilities for the success of the strategy. This committee put in place, had the daunting task of sensitizing the communities about an upcoming outreach activity. This sensitization was done through the help of town criers, door to door sensitization, sensitization in churches, and Njangi groups among others.

Benefits of Outreach Strategy in Mbakwa Supe

The glaring example of how this outreach strategy impacted the lives of many was in Mbakwa Supe. Mbakwa Supe is a remote community in Konye Sub Division; Meme Division of the South West Region of Cameroon. The Integrated Health Centre Mbakwa Supe is the lone authorized health facility in the health area serving some 5 communities with healthcare provision. These communities suffer from high level of inaccessibility to healthcare given its geographical topography.

After a careful investigation into the things plaguing health services uptake in the Mbakwa Supe Health Area, the Local

Capacity Initiative (LCI) Project financially supported a series of outreach activities in the Mbakwa Supe communities. Among the thousands who turned out to check their state of health, 12 tested HIV positive. Because of these newly diagnosed cases, the LCI team lobbied for the creation of a Care and Treatment Satellite Dispensation Centre (SDC) at Mbakwa Supe IHC to serve this newly diagnosed. Hence, this saved them from the pains of trekking at least 5 kilometers to the nearest treatment center in Konye or Manyemen.

Conclusion

Thanks to the LCI outreach strategy, several community members have gained knowledge about their health as well increased uptake of services in the health facility following an increase in awareness. From this analogy, we can posit that there are many Persons Living with HIV (PLHIV) in remote communities with little or no knowledge about their HIV status. Through the outreach strategy, several new cases were linked to care. A continuous implementation of this strategy will facilitate the attainment of the 1st and 2nd 90s of UNAIDS Vision 90-90-90 in 2020.