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19 June 2006. Uyinge Village.

I was at Uyinge village and I went to a certain house. There I met a certain woman and that lady was wearing a dirty chitenje and a torn blouse she was between the age of 40-45 yrs of age. She was not educated. She was not looking happy because at first whenever I asked her a question she just looking aside and I thought that she was just forced by the husband.

When I asked what the problem was she started telling that I have just come to add some problems like infecting them with the test kits we are using. She also told me that I have come to take their blood.

I told her that we are not doing that but we are testing them and the amount of blood is just two drops.

She also told me that if she is going to get sick it will be because of me because I have taken her blood. She also asked me if the bottle of spirit is the bottle which I will be using to take their blood.

3 July 2006

I was with a certain lady wearing a torn blouse and a dirty piece of cloth and her age was about 55. We were discussing some issues on how HIV can be transmitted and she told me that "Makonodomu ndo amene akubwenta edzi", meaning that these condoms are the ones bringing HIV. She also told me that the family planning people are also helping the virus to increase because people are going there for abortion and after the abortion they go and sleep with people.

Another thing she told me was in our days if we do abortion we were staying 6 months without sleeping with anybody. She also told me that HIV was there in those old days but it had a different name and that name was 'chinyere'(I don't know what it means). This disease was healed by African doctors. And the person suffering from that disease would get well and his or her body will be healthy. The signs and symptoms of the disease are similar to HIV/AIDS.

4 July 2006. Matukuta Village.

I was passing by a certain house where 7-10 women gathered. As I was passing a certain lady called her friend and pointed at me and told her that these are the ones who want to take our blood and you should refuse tomorrow if they are going to come to your house because I refused and she also told her that if you will be tested and know your results

you will suffocate like that person I was telling you that when she learned her results she suffocated so don't try.

5 July 2006

I was with a certain girl who was wearing a blue velvet blouse and a white skirt. She was 19 years old.

She asked, is it true that you will take 1 litre of blood?

I answered her that when testing we don't take that much but we just need two drops of blood. After explaining to her about the amount we require she told me that had it been that you were taking 1 litre of blood from our bodies I could have refused because I am breast feeding my child and my body is not healthy.

Of course I tested her and she was reactive [HIV positive]. The results were out and I gave her the results. To my surprise she did not react she was just normal and I asked her what are you planning to do.

She told me that she is going to eat balanced diets, using condoms whenever she want to have sex and she is going to go hospital whenever she feels sick. She also told me that she is worrying about her baby is now years old.

I told her that she should not worry but she should see a way forward and that is to stop breastfeeding the baby and to go with the baby to the hospital so that they should also test the baby.

14 July

I went to a certain house and I found a woman aged 24. She was wearing a dirty short sleeve white blouse and a dirty piece of cloth.

I started telling her who my name is and my role as a counselor. Thereafter I read the consent form and discuss some issues she was not understanding. In the consent form, she agreed to be tested and to receive the results. I started asking her questions on basic information on HIV and we shared information.

After that I started assessing her and I found out that she got married two times and the husband has four wives. She has been married for six years with the first husband and six years with the second husband but she does not have children, and she was complaining that, I do not have somebody who can buy me salt or somebody whom I can assign to perform some duties on my behalf.

We then discuss some points on risk reduction and some of the points include the dangers of having unprotected sex. As we were discussing these issues, she was looking as if she

is afraid and when I asked her why she was afraid she told me that nothing is wrong and I should continue.

I started preparing for the test and I showed her that test kits and their task and she asked me Is it painful when you are collecting the blood sample from the body?

I answered her that, Indeed it pains a little, just like the pain that one feels when he or she has been pricked by an ordinary needle. And I also told her the interpretation of the results.

I tested her and started by asking her the questionnaire and as I was in the middle of the questionnaire, she interrupted me and said, Do I have the virus? And I asked her where have you seen that you are HIV positive. She did not answer me and I told her that the results are not yet out.

The results were out and I told her that your results are out and here you are. I asked her what are the meaning.

She told me, I don't know and I reminded her about the lines. Then she told me that 'I am negative'and she asked me is it true that I am negative.

I said yes because that is what my test kits are telling me.

Then she started ululating and then she jumped up and started talking with her friends in Yao language saying that all has gone well and that she only was just afraid. But later she came back again and asked me that, "Is it really true that I really don't have?"Then I answered her that yes. She again started jumping up and down while saying that God really loves her. "God has really considered me." "Eech. I have to start living a very careful lifestyle."

She came and sat down and started telling me what people in the village were saying. She told me that People are really liars and I was just getting afraid of nothing. Today in the morning, there passed by a person and this person gave us a message that we should all escape. This person said we should escape in this village to collect blood from people on compulsory in order to sell the blood to the hospitals because there is a shortage of blood in the hospital for transfusion. And also the sugar that they give us also contains family planning chemicals. When you saw unoccupied homes and silence in our compounds, we all escaped into the bushes so that you should not collect our blood. I had all the intention to refuse this test, but my sister encouraged me to go for the test because she also went for the test and that the blood that you collect is only very little. And another thing why people become afraid of this test is that there are rumors speculating in this village that when you have been tested HIV positive, the VCT counselors go and tell people that so and so have the virus. And the people in this village also say that when you have been found with the virus, the people will dig for you a well so that you should be using alone for drawing water.

On risk reduction plans, she told me that she is going to tell her husband that he should also be tested and she will be using condoms whenever she wants to have sex. She also continued to say I am going to tell people from this village that all what we were told it's a total lie because I have been tested and I know what it involves. She also told me that I was afraid because I had a feeling that I have the virus in my body and I wanted to refuse to be tested and when you were coming I wanted to tell you that I am not the one whom you are looking for.

20 July, 2006 10:30 AM Playe village

I went to a certain house which had been made of sun-burnt bricks and a thatched roof. I found a certain woman who was pregnant and she was wearing a black blouse with a green chitenje. She welcomed me happily and she took a sack and put it under her house. I started introducing myself and my role as a counselor. Then we proceeded to the consenting process and she agreed to be tested and I started discussing with her the basic information on HIV/AIDS. I noticed that she had little notice [knowledge] of HIV because when I was asking her some questions she could just say I don't know.

When time came to reveal the results, I told her that her results were ready and I gave [them to] her and I asked her what the results are meaning and she told me that I should tell her what they meant, and I reminded her of the lines and she told me that if two lines appear on the test kits it means that she is positive but if a single line appears on the test kit it means that the person is negative (she told me this after I already talked to her about how the results appear on the test kits).

Then I asked her then what are these results meaning to you, and she asked me "is that I am negative?" I said yes, then she said "thank you, today I am going to eat meat, if I am not going to find meat, I am going to cook fish with a lot of oil to show that I am happy to be negative."

On risk reduction she told me that she is going to continue being faithful and she is going to use condoms. She also told me that I am happy that I know my status but she had a concern that the soap we are giving them is not enough,\* what if we add something on top of the sugar, because in the previous years they were being given sugar, salt, sunlight [soap], and lifebuoy [soap], and she added that the development you are doing is okay and you must continue doing it, but the problem is on the things you give us.

NB. I am going to write the other incident of that woman who drank beer after I reveal the results today, because I wanted to finish with this one first.

*\*As a small token of appreciation for participating in MDICP research, respondents are given a couple of bars of soap following the VCT visit.*

24<sup>th</sup> July 2006 8:10 AM Dasiyo village

I arrived at a certain compound and I found six to eight people making mats. They all greeted me and one of them stood up and say let's be behind the house. The one who called me was a lady aged 50 and she was wearing a dirty velvet blouse with a dirty chitenje.

She told me to feel at home after she greeted me for the second time. I started introducing myself and my role as a counselor and I started the consenting process. She agreed to be tested and to hear her results. She told me that it's good for a person to know her status than just stay idle.

We proceeded to basic information on HIV and some of the questions include what is HIV modes of transmission and relationship between HIV and sexually transmitted diseases, just to mention a few.

On risk assessment she told me that her husband is dead. He died 3 years ago. She has seven children and many grandchildren. (she did not tell me the actual number of grandchildren). We also discussed some issues on what she can be positive, and she told me that she cannot do anything and she can be following what I can tell her. We also shared some things on positive living.

We started preparing for the test and I showed her the test kits and explained to her how results appear on the test kits. I tested her and started asking the questionnaire. As I was awaiting the results, the results were out and I gave it to her, and she asked what do they mean? Instead of me answering the question I asked her what did I say about the lines (just to remind her). She told me that you said if two red lines appear it means the person is positive and if a single red line appear, it means the person is negative. Then I asked her, so what does it mean to you. Before she answered me she started laughing and asked me: is it true that I am negative?

The she went into the house and bring a bottle of Kachasu. She also said... [missing]

On risk reduction plans, she is planning to continue abstaining in order to avoid getting infected.