

MATIBABU JOURNEY - Improving Service Delivery and Community Health Outreach (4'16)

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In a rural and remote area in Western Kenya, it is just not enough to have a facility because not everyone is able or even willing to come to a facility. Besides it is much more effective to build healthy communities by having the information close to the people and this is done through our community health outreach.

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I am one of the fifty community health workers who were trained with Matibabu. Since the Matibabu training I am now able to talk to people more effectively than before on HIV preventive methods and testing.

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During the training by JSI - TA-NPI on client engagement, Matibabu foundation identified the underlying social factors as the main barrier to access to our services within our clinic. Before that training, Matibabu foundation waited for clients to come to the clinic to receive the services but after the training we realized that cultural and spiritual factors were a barrier to success to our services. So, we saw the need to work very closely with the community health workers, community groups and also the clients that accessed our services.

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I had difficulties in talking to people on HIV and preventive and testing methods because I did not know how to go about it. I am now able to handle them and talk to them more freely and more effectively. Now 60% more people know their status because we referred them to the clinic and they went.

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Matibabu foundation has come up with a number of initiatives that especially target marginalized groups like women, youth and children. For example, Matibabu foundation has initiated youth friendly centers, women centers which provide avenue whereby confidential services are provided to these groups.

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The idea for HIV testing I got from the counselors from Matibabu. They directed me to come to the youth friendly centre to get tested. I know my status and I am happy about it.

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Now we understand that prevention is better and cheaper than treatment.

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I believe our message will continue even after the end of this project because we are working with community health workers and peer educators who will be able to continue this message even after the end of this project. We are building a healthy, productive and prosperous society by enabling our communities to make healthy smart decisions to take care of their health.