



**TANZANIA POSITIVE TEACHER'S INITIATIVES (TAPOTI+)**  
**(The Association of Teachers living with HIV/AIDS)**

NGO registered under act, of 2002, with reg No. 00NGO/1564  
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**PRESENTATION PAPER DURING A CONSULTATION ON SUPPORTING TEACHERS LIVING WITH HIV  
EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA TO BE HELD IN NAIROBI—KENYA, PANAFRICA HOTEL  
ON 30TH NOVEMBER TO 1ST DECEMBER 2006.**

**TOPIC: CHALLENGES IN DEVELOPING HIV POSITIVE TEACHERS NETWORKS/ GROUPS.  
EXPERIENCE OF TAPOTI (+) IN HIGH LIGHTS.**

**PRESENTED: MWALIMU J. K. WAMBURA  
TAPOTI REPRESENTATIVE TANZANIA.**

**INTRODUCTION:**

**Goal:-** The main Goal of TAPOTI+ is to insure that the education sector is becoming free from HIV/ AIDS threat

How is Formed? TAPOTI (+) is an abbreviation of Tanzania a Positive Teachers initiatives an NGO registered, in July, 2006 to undertake its functions in Tanzania Mainland and to have a representation to all 22 regions.

Now TAPOTI(+) has covered only 5 regions out of 22 regions. Regions covered are Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Morogoro and has only 70 members.

**CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED BY TAPOTI(+) SINCE JULY, 2006**

**Challenge 1: *Availability of Fund.***

Since TAPOTI has started ,no any donor has contributed. We members contribute monthly to run small activities such as communications ,stationary etc  
TAPOTI can not perform any activity or implement it's projects until fund is available.

**Recommendation** :We request donors to support currently needs or projects these are:

- (a) Office rent/ office Equipments
- (b) Implementing currently projects such as:- Training Teachers/ Counseling skills
- (c) Transport
- (d) Mobilization meetings ,advocacy and capacity buildings
- (e)

**Challenges 2: *Mobilization of Meetings due to large area Covered***

This include, seminars on various HIV/ AIDS topics and workshops, which must be done at least once per two months, this can help in sharing ideas with different HIV Positive from abroad and building our Capacities.

**Recommendation:** This is a great task which can not be done without fund, we recommend donors to help us

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**All correspondence should be addressed to chairperson - TAPOTI (+) DSM**

**Challenge 3: *Personal Interest Among HIV Positive Teachers.***

This is a big Challenge that some of Positive teachers in Tanzania especially primary school teachers , base and concentrate on their own interests rather than prevention especially pupils and students they teach .

***Recommendation:***

The projects can be implemented together by experienced donors such as TNPT/ AMREF/ Technical support in East Africa, UNESCO/ TACAIDS etc, to make sure the fund is well used.

**Challenge 4: *Slow response of teachers to join TAPOTI(+)***

The majority of Teachers in Tanzania have joined in one new network called TNPT ,Tanzania Network of positive and non Positive Teachers in Schools and Colleges TAPOTI has only 70 members

**Recommendation:** Since TNPT combines Positive and non Positive teachers there is no stigma or discrimination, we recommend TNPT to be our main guardian

**Challenge 5: *Stigma/discrimination***

The issue of stigma and discrimination is a big challenge in Education sector, that needs to be addressed in the prevention and control of the Pandemic. In Tanzania as in other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa stigma against HIV remain very strong and plays a major role in fueling HIV infections, government , development partners, donors and civil society including private sectors organisation should share responsibilities and moral obligations to complement government effort in the fight AIDS and stigmatizations. Some of Pupils and students are:-

- Scared of HIV Positive teachers and believe that being a teacher or guardian/ role model—it is impossible, for a teacher to be infected by HIV/ AIDS.

**Recommendation:** There is a need of HIV/ AIDS education to provided to all Children at every School starting lower primary levels.

**Challenge 6: *Little support from Education sector such as:-***

- Ministry
- Teachers Unions
- School owners etc

The response of the mentioned above is still low compared to the rest countries in Africa; this is because of the following reasons:-

- (i) Teachers Union always concentrate on government teachers where they get contributions every month and is very busy collecting its contributions forget that can loose clients who die everyday from HIV/ AIDS. even government school teachers have not yet supported.
- (ii) Ministry—This always promise but doest turn up, Currently all HIV Positive teachers are in the data base of the Ministry , but has not yet supported them.
- (iii) School owners/ Managers—These always concentrate on profit, they don't know if HIV—Pandemic is a part of their business. Some of them do not even employ female teachers because of the maternity live, and sacking out the HIV Positive teachers from their employments.

Because of the time interval, since TAPOTI has been registered, may be might have not met their financial budgets. We are still requesting them to help us.

**Recommendation:** We kindly request Education sector to help teachers.

**Challenge 6: *Importance of TNPT***

TAPOTI (+) real appreciate the efforts done by Tanzania Network of positive and non positive teachers in schools and Colleges (TNPT), this is a new network in Tanzania.

This has contributed the following to TAPOTI:-

- (a) Temporally Office in Dar es Salaam
- (b) Temporally Transport in Dar es Salaam
- (c) Has promise to help TAPOTI incase of Technical support and ready to supervise all projects which will be implemented by TAPOTI.

**Recommendation:** The network of combining HIV Positive and non Positive teachers has got a great chance and success to general preventions and there is no stigma/ descrimination, we recommend donors to help these networks so that they can also help us.

**Challenge 7: *Nutrition in HIV/ AIDS.***

Despite its significance in health nutritional care for positive teachers had not received adequate attention. Food can neither cure nor treat HIV/ AIDS, but eating well is essential to maintain and improve the performance of immune system. The HIV Positive teachers in Tanzania do not get good nutrition, that is why they do not live long life.

**Recommendation:** Nutritional care and support should be one of the major components of care, treatment and support plan.

**Challenge 8: *Tuber culosis in HIV/ AIDS care and Treatment.*** Tuber culosis incidence rate in Africa is still high and about 11.4 million adults (15—49 years) are Co-infected with HIV and TB accounting for 70% of the global total. TB is found in about 16% of Teachers with HIV in Tanzania. HIV on one hand has made the diagnosis of TB difficult leading to under diagnosis.

**Recommendation:** Apart from been Tanzania taken initial steps towards integrating care and treatment ,in the two conditions ,there is a need for HIV positive teachers to share and exchange ideas to the TB international forums .TAPOTI has been invited in TB forum london , UK ,on 12 and 13 December, 2006,but has failed even to afford travel costs for three teachers from Tanzania

**Challenge 9: *Prevention/ Information of HIV/ AIDS Education.***

The majority of teachers in Tanzania do not have HIV/ AIDS information, especially in Villages the reasons are:-

- (i) Teachers monthly income can not make him/ her to invest in HIV/ education or information
- (ii) Time Limit—always teachers are busy teaching, marking ,caring have no enough free time.
- (iii) Teachers are many in Tanzania the number makes roughly half of civil servants in the country

**Recommendation:** There is a need of teaching them on HIV/ AIDS Pandemic starting from Teachers Educators or in Colleges.

**Challenge 10: *Care/ Treatment.***

The majority of HIV Positive teachers especially in Village areas, have not started yet ARV'S drugs or capacity building, they think HIV Positive teacher can not work instead they go out of schools and ask for long leaves, and do not know exactly place to get services, while children remain with no teachers.

**Recommendation:** There is a need that—The task of care/ treatment start in Village areas towards integrating care and treatment in the two conditions.

**CONCLUSION:**

The HIV Epidemic in Tanzania is dynamic and generalized about 7% of the adult population in Tanzania is infected and approximately 440,000 are in need of Anti Retroviral therapy and support. Education in Tanzania faces a looming crisis after government recently revealed that the sector is in danger of loosing more than 27,000 teachers to HIV/ AIDS by 2020.

On behalf of TAPOTI(+), I would like to call upon and request different donors to help us. Poverty which is still widespread in the country especially for teachers because of their low incomes reduces the possibilities of larger segments of the population to have access to correct and continuous information and education about sexual health matters.

**Finally,**

TAPOTI is particularly grateful for the opportunity to participate in this conference , we look forward to further cooperation and technical support to make the dreams of teachers in Tanzania in need of HIV/ AIDS prevention, care treatment and support a reality.

Let me take this opportunity to wish you all a festive season and Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Thank you all for you attention,