The Ugandan 'Company to Community' HIV/AIDS Treatment Initiative: Engaging the Private Sector for Improved Access to Health Services

Dr. Kironga Dithan, Health Initiatives for the Private Sector Project

What is going on in Ugandan Industry?

• 27% explicitly offer Voluntary Counseling and Testing
• 43% of employers have HIV prevention programs

HIPS Menu of Services

- Clinical Care
- Reproductive Health
- Nutrition Services
- Laboratory Services
- Community Drug Distribution

Costs per Worker Lost to HIV/AIDS in Uganda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cost per Worker Lost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>$2,130</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Project Description:

The Health Initiatives for the Private Sector (HIPS) Project is a new private sector project in Uganda. The Project, funded for a period of 3 years by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), works with the Ugandan business community to find cost-effective ways to ensure access to and utilization of vital health services for company employees, their dependents, and neighboring communities. The Project’s prime objective is to expand successful HIV/AIDS programs that can be expanded to cover communities surrounding workplaces. The HIPS pilot project draws on the success of an earlier program, Business PART (Preventing AIDS and Accelerating Access to Antiretroviral Treatment). It utilizes employer groups to increase access to HIV/AIDS-related services to employees, their families and surrounding communities.

Situation Analysis:

The Ugandan private sector has emerged as an important player in the country’s health sector in recent years, providing health services both to their employees and communities within which they work. HIPS will work in collaboration with Ugandan companies to design and implement comprehensive workplace HIV/AIDS programs. The Project, funded for a period of 3 years by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), works with the Ugandan business community to find cost-effective ways to ensure access to and utilization of vital health services for company employees, their dependents, and neighboring communities. The Project’s prime objective is to expand successful HIV/AIDS programs that can be expanded to cover communities surrounding workplaces.

Approach and Methodology:

The HIPS Project serves as a broker between the Ugandan private sector and the Ministry of Health to expand the provision of HIV/AIDS services and create win-win situations.

1. The company is encouraged to open up its clinic facility to the surrounding community for health services. Through the partnership companies like HBI, Ameerah, and the Uganda Medical Union Limited have opened up their clinics to their neighboring communities to enable them access free AIDS treatment.
2. The company pays for some tests such as CD4+ and drugs for opportunistic infections.
3. The Ministry of Health and The Global fund provide ARVs, HIPS provides clinical AIDS treatment training, peer education training, program monitoring and marketing support.
4. HIPS and companies share costs for VCT and health clubs.

The HIPS Project is undertaking activities in the areas of prevention, treatment, and training, to ensure that access to health programs are improved and expanded on the private sector. As an example, in partnership with companies, HIPS is piloting a five-year program to reach 1500 peer educators. The project will also provide training, laboratory services, and drug distribution to employees and surrounding communities.

HIPS also works closely with two major Ugandan business associations:

1. Federation of Uganda Employers (FUE)
2. Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UNCCI)

Estimate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$3,750</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

SUCCESS STORY

HIPS is about creating win-win situations. By extending quality health services, companies will be able to profit from a healthier and thus more productive workforce and employees, their families and surrounding communities will have access to high-quality health services.

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HIPS Project Chief of Party

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