

# TANZANIA'S



## Community Case Workers

**The Community Health and Social Welfare Systems Strengthening Program (CHSSP)** is a six-year USAID-funded program through PEPFAR working with the Government of Tanzania to improve the health and well-being of HIV-affected and other vulnerable populations in 81 councils. The goal is to contribute to achieving the UNAIDS 90-90-90 goals and stop the HIV epidemic in the country.



**90%** of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status



**90%** of people diagnosed with HIV will receive sustained antiretroviral treatment



**90%** of all people receiving treatment will have viral suppression.

CHSSP supports training for various health volunteer cadres, such as community case workers, to reach **vulnerable children in 81 councils of Tanzania**. The case workers are trained on the National Integrated Case Management System. Through the training, they are able to:

- ▶ Identify most vulnerable children and their families, conduct needs assessments and follow up
- ▶ Develop and implement a care plan and track the individual's progress
- ▶ Implement best practices for helping HIV-affected/infected children and families
- ▶ Address grief, stigma and discrimination in the community



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**15,560** community case workers trained in **84** councils in **25** regions of Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar



## Saving Lives through Training

Julius Mwanpashe, a CHSSP-trained community caseworker in Mbeya, visits households to encourage HIV testing and, if people test positive, refer them to health and social welfare services and track their progress until they are virally suppressed.

Julius recalls discovering, during a usual round of household visits, a girl who had been sexual abused. He immediately spoke with the 15-year-old girls' parents, who asked him for help. Applying what he learned in his training on the case management system, he took the girl to the ward executive officer, drafted a referral for the social welfare officer, and filed a case at the nearby police station. Although the abuser was arrested, it was too late for the girl, who was found to be HIV positive as a result of the rape. Julius referred her to the nearest clinic, where she obtained medication and adherence counseling.

Julius's critical role in this sort of crisis was unprecedented. "In the past, I was providing care without sufficient knowledge and skills. There is a big difference now compared to the time we didn't have this system-strengthening project [CHSSP]. I have developed a better understanding of my job and my responsibilities to serve my community. Integrated case management training has helped me develop a capacity for identifying children's problems and dealing with them."

**“With the ability of going door-to-door, community case workers provide a critical link between households and formal health, protection and welfare services.”**

—Dr. Vivian Wonanji, District Medical Officer, Arusha Region





## Support and Care Leads to Healthy Children

Salma Kibona, a mother of three, was overcome with despair when her sister died of HIV and she inherited the responsibility for her sister's three children, in addition of three of her own.

Mama Felitsa, a CHSSP-trained case manager, met Salma while conducting home visits in the community. She quickly recognized Salma's unmanageable position for caring all six children. Mama Felitsa accompanied Salma and the children to the Center for Care and Treatment, where of her sister's three children tested positive for HIV. They were immediately enrolled in a regular dose of medication.

With Mama Felitsa's regular visits, the HIV treatment provided by the Center for Treatment and Care, and income-generating activities facilitated by the local CHSSP-trained civil society organization, Salma and the children are not just surviving but thriving with a healthier life.



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Since 1980, JSI has supported the Government of Tanzania and other partners to accelerate progress on the country's health and development priorities. Together, we have strengthened the health and social welfare systems, trained health and social welfare workers, improved data collection and use, introduced new vaccines, and made services more accessible and equitable for vulnerable populations.