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SOUTH-WESTERN CLUSTER – DEVELOPMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE MBARARA-MASAKA AREAS. PACKAGE 3: MASAKA. Contract N°: NWSC-HQ/WRKS/24-25/181095

WORKPLACE HIV/AIDS PREVENTION PROGRAM (WHAPP) ACTIVITY REPORT No. 02 APRIL 2026

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HEP B	Hepatitis B
NWSC	National Water & Sewerage Corporation
PREP	Pre- Exposure Prophylaxis
PEP	Post- Exposure prophylaxis
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
GBV	Gender Based Violence



1. INTRODUCTION

In April 2026, the Initiative for Better Health (IBH), in collaboration with SOGEA SATOM, implemented a Workplace HIV/AIDS Prevention outreach in Masaka District as part of the planned activities under the approved project work plan.

The outreach was conducted at Bunaddu Trading Centre and SOGEA SATOM offices in Kitovu, targeting both community members and project staff. A total of 107 participants were reached through integrated health services, awareness sessions, and baseline data collection.

The implementation experienced minor disruption due to heavy rainfall on 27th April, which delayed the start of activities. Additionally, the activity had initially been scheduled for March but was implemented in April due to delays in reimbursement for earlier activities. Despite these challenges, the team adjusted the schedule and ensured that all individuals who turned up were fully served, demonstrating strong commitment to service delivery.

The activity reflects IBH's approach of integrating public health interventions within development projects, ensuring that infrastructure investments are complemented by improved health outcomes for both workers and surrounding communities.



HIV/AIDS Awareness and Testing Activity (community outreach in Bunaddu and SOGEA Satom workplace session in Masaka)



The Initiative for Better Health (IBH) is a health-focused organization dedicated to promoting preventive healthcare, improving community health outcomes, and strengthening workplace health systems. IBH integrates Occupational Health and Safety (OHS), HIV/AIDS prevention, and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention into its programming. The organization also undertakes community engagement initiatives such as the **annual Empuumo Marathon**, held to commemorate World AIDS Day, aimed at raising awareness and promoting collective action against HIV/AIDS. During the session, IBH expressed interest in hosting the upcoming Empuumo Marathon in Masaka to further extend outreach and community engagement.

1.1 Objectives

The activity was designed to improve awareness and understanding of **HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B** among workers and surrounding communities.

It aimed to increase access to **HIV counselling and testing services**, promote preventive behaviors including **condom use and PrEP uptake**, and strengthen early detection through screening.

The outreach also aimed to generate **baseline data** to inform ongoing interventions under the project while addressing misconceptions and reducing stigma associated with HIV.

1.1.1 Expected Outcome from the Activity

The activity was expected to result in improved knowledge and awareness of HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B among participants, enabling them to adopt safer health practices and make informed decisions regarding prevention and treatment.

It was anticipated that the outreach would lead to increased uptake of HIV testing services, greater acceptance and utilization of preventive measures such as condom use and PrEP, and improved willingness to engage with health services, including self-testing options.

The intervention was also expected to contribute to reduced stigma and discrimination associated with HIV, while strengthening linkage to care systems for individuals requiring follow-up services.

At a broader level, the activity aimed to enhance trust and collaboration between the project, workers, and host communities, thereby supporting sustained engagement in future health interventions.

1.2 Activities Covered

The outreach was implemented through an integrated approach that combined community mobilization, workplace engagement, participatory group discussions, and direct health service delivery. This approach ensured that both demand creation and service provision were addressed simultaneously, enhancing the overall effectiveness and reach of the intervention.

A series of structured HIV/AIDS awareness sessions were conducted to provide participants with accurate and up-to-date information on HIV transmission, prevention,



and treatment. These sessions were complemented by the provision of voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) services, where individuals received confidential pre-test and post-test counselling, enabling them to make informed decisions regarding their health.

Preventive services formed a key component of the outreach. Condoms were distributed to participants alongside demonstrations on correct and consistent use, reinforcing their role in preventing HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. In addition, HIV self-testing kits were provided to extend access to testing beyond the outreach setting, particularly for individuals who may prefer private testing options.

The activity also introduced and initiated eligible participants on Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), a biomedical HIV prevention intervention designed for individuals at substantial risk of infection. This was accompanied by detailed guidance on adherence, follow-up, and linkage to health facilities for continued support.

Hepatitis B services were integrated into the outreach to promote comprehensive health screening. Participants were sensitized on Hepatitis B transmission and prevention, screened for infection, and eligible individuals were vaccinated. STI screening services were also provided, with identified cases appropriately referred for further management, thereby strengthening linkage to care systems.

In addition to service delivery, baseline data collection was conducted through structured engagement processes, including group discussions and interactive sessions. These engagements provided valuable insights into participants' knowledge, attitudes, and practices related to HIV/AIDS and other health issues.

Group discussions were held both at Bunaddu Trading Centre and at SOGEA offices, creating safe and inclusive spaces for participants to ask questions, share experiences, and clarify misconceptions. This participatory approach not only enhanced understanding but also fostered trust and openness, which are critical for sustained behavior change.





1.3 Baseline Data Collection

As part of the outreach, a structured baseline data collection exercise was conducted to assess the existing knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) related to HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B, and health-seeking behavior among both workers and surrounding community members.

The baseline was implemented through a combination of group discussions, participant engagement sessions, and key informant consultations. These engagements were



conducted at Bunaddu Trading Centre and SOGEA SATOM offices, ensuring representation from both community members and workplace staff.

Participants were engaged in interactive discussions covering key areas such as HIV transmission and prevention, testing practices, stigma and discrimination, awareness of PrEP, and access to health services. The sessions also helped identify knowledge gaps, misconceptions, and barriers to accessing care.

Key informant engagements were conducted with Masaka Regional Referral Hospital and TASO Masaka, strengthening referral pathways and ensuring alignment with existing health systems.

The baseline findings indicated varying levels of awareness, with notable gaps in knowledge regarding biomedical prevention methods and Hepatitis B prevention. At the same time, there was strong interest in accessible, integrated health services delivered within community and workplace settings.

These findings will inform the design and implementation of subsequent project activities, ensuring that interventions are targeted, responsive, and evidence-based.



Group discussion – Bunaddu Masaka



TASO Masaka engagement



.Masaka Regional Referral Hospital engagement



2. HIV/AIDS COUNSELLING & TESTING

HIV counselling and testing services were delivered through a structured process including pre-test and post-test counselling.

Table 1: HIV Counselling and Testing Outcomes

Location	Male	Female	Total	Positives and Linked to Care
Budadu	22	26	48	0
SOGEA Office	19	4	23	0
Total	41	30	71	0

In addition, **2 known HIV-positive individuals (female)** were identified and are already on treatment, reflecting continued linkage to care within the community.

Participants were educated on prevention strategies including **regular testing, condom use, PrEP, and early treatment.**

2.2 HIV Self-Testing Kits

40 HIV self-testing kits were distributed to participants.

Participants were guided on proper usage, interpretation of results, and the importance of confirmatory testing at health facilities.

The approach was well received, particularly due to its **privacy and convenience**, and is expected to increase testing uptake beyond the outreach.



2.3 Observations from HIV Testing Component

There was strong participation in HIV testing, with high engagement from both community members and workplace staff.

Participants demonstrated openness in discussing HIV-related issues, indicating **reduced stigma and increased trust in service providers**.

3. CONDOM USE AND DISTRIBUTION

Table 2: Condom Distribution

Type	Quantity
Male Condoms	1,500

1,500 condoms were distributed.



Participants were guided on correct and consistent use, reinforcing condoms as an effective method of preventing HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

4. HEPATITIS B AWARENESS AND SCREENING

Table 3: Hepatitis B Screening and Vaccination

Location	Male Screened	Female Screened	Total	Vaccinated	Positive



Bunaddu	20	18	38	Ongoing	1
SOGEA Office	21	7	28	21	0
Total	41	25	66	21	1

One Hepatitis B positive case was identified and referred for treatment at a facility where the client is already receiving ART services, ensuring continuity of care.

5. STI SCREENING AND REFERRALS

Indicator	Female	Male	Total
STI Cases Identified	10	0	10
Referrals Made	1	0	1

6. PARTICIPATION SUMMARY

Location	Participants
Bunaddu Trading Centre	62
SOGEA SATOM Office	45
Total	107

Importance of the session

The outreach was instrumental in improving access to essential health services for both workers and surrounding communities, particularly in areas where such services are not readily accessible.

By integrating health interventions into the project environment, the activity ensured that worker welfare and community well-being are prioritized alongside infrastructure development. This approach contributes to a more holistic and sustainable project implementation framework.

The session also provided a critical platform for delivering accurate health information, addressing misconceptions, and promoting preventive behaviors in a practical and accessible manner. Furthermore, it strengthened relationships between the contractor and the host community, fostering trust, transparency, and a sense of inclusion in project activities.

7. KEY OBSERVATIONS

The outreach recorded strong participation across both community and workplace settings, reflecting a high level of demand for accessible health services. Participants demonstrated active engagement throughout the sessions, including during counselling, testing, and group discussions, indicating growing awareness and openness around HIV-related issues.



There was notable acceptance of preventive interventions, particularly PrEP and HIV self-testing, which suggests a positive shift towards proactive health-seeking behavior among both workers and community members.

The integration of services within the project setting significantly strengthened trust between the contractor and the host community. Many participants expressed appreciation for the outreach, emphasizing that such services are often limited or difficult to access in their routine settings.

An important observation was the clear preference for integrated service delivery. Participants valued the opportunity to access multiple health services within a single outreach, highlighting the efficiency and relevance of this approach in addressing diverse community health needs.

8. CHALLENGES FACED

The implementation of the activity experienced delays due to heavy rainfall on 27th April, which affected the planned start time and required adjustments to the schedule. Additionally, the activity had been rescheduled from March due to delays in reimbursement, which impacted the overall implementation timeline.

A key programmatic challenge observed was the high expectation from community members for a more comprehensive package of medical services, including screening for additional conditions beyond HIV and Hepatitis B. While this reflects strong trust and confidence in the outreach, it also underscores the need for expanded and more integrated service delivery in future interventions.

Limited literacy levels among some participants presented minor challenges in data collection and registration processes, indicating the need for more adaptive and inclusive data collection approaches.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

There is need to expand outreach services to include a broader range of health interventions to meet community expectations.

Regular outreach activities should be conducted to sustain awareness and service uptake.

Strengthening collaboration with health facilities will improve referral systems and continuity of care.

10. CONCLUSION

The April 2026 outreach was successfully implemented as part of the planned project work plan, reaching a total of 107 beneficiaries with essential and integrated health services.

The activity contributed to improved awareness of HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B, increased uptake of HIV testing and prevention services, and strengthened linkage to care systems for individuals requiring follow-up support. The introduction and uptake of interventions such as PrEP and HIV self-testing further demonstrate the effectiveness of combining education with service delivery.



The strong participation and positive feedback from both workers and community members highlight the relevance, acceptability, and impact of the intervention. The outreach also reinforced the value of integrating health services into development projects as a strategy for improving public health outcomes while strengthening community relations.

Overall, the activity demonstrates a practical and scalable model for delivering workplace and community-based health interventions within infrastructure projects.

11. APPENDICES

A. Photo Gallery



Workplace Session – SOGEA



Community session on HIV self-testing kits



B. Attendance Lists



(Attached separately)

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