

T-MARC Steps Up Interventions to Women Engaged in Transactional Sex

T-MARC through the Husika Program has stepped up its campaign to reach women engaged in transaction sex (WETS).



This quarter the program surpassed its target of 5,750 WETS contacts, achieving a record 7,374 contacts with bar maids, street food vendors (*mama lishe*), rice, fish and banana wholesale traders and local brew sellers in 14 districts of Dar es Salaam, Iringa, Njombe and Shinyanga regions. 135 WETS received voluntary HIV Counselling and Testing Services.

Husika also recruited and trained three (3) outreach supervisors and 20 outreach workers to implement the WETS outreach sessions simultaneously over a five week implementation period. The implementing crew was trained by experts on sexually transmitted infections (STIs) from the National Aids Control Program (NACP) and a Gender Technical Advisor from partners EngenderHealth. The main objective of the WETS outreach IPC sessions was to increase HIV prevention, female condom awareness and usage knowledge levels in order to encourage female condom trial and repeat use.

The overall goal of the Husika Project is to reduce the HIV incidence in Tanzania by preventing HIV transmission between at risk populations, most at risk populations (MARPS) and their sexual partners by strengthening the protective behaviors of at risk populations and their sexual partners to prevent HIV transmission and strengthening the environment at national and lower levels to enable at risk populations and MARPS' access high quality medical and non-medical support and services.