

UHAI-CT Tests Over 150 People for HIV in Three Days

November 3, 2011

Dar es salaam—Over 150 clients have been tested in three days by a USAID-supported outreach program that is providing free HIV counselling and testing services at the ongoing Month of the Women Entrepreneurs (MOWE) Exhibition for 2011 being held at the Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar es salaam.

The services are being provided by the Universal HIV/AIDS Counselling and Testing (UHAI-CT) Program which is funded by USAID through the U.S President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Jhpiego, a non-profit organization affiliated with the Johns Hopkins University leads the program, in collaboration with T-MARC Tanzania and Africare.

"We hope that many more will come", said UHAI-CT counsellor Anna Masebo, who is part of the team providing services to clients until the end of the exhibition this Friday.

MOWE is an annual event supported by the International Labour Organization (ILO) for promoting the roles played by women entrepreneurs and also to bring issues of concern in Women Entrepreneurship Development (WED) to policy makers and all other stakeholders.

The MOWE exhibition aims to highlight the contribution and roles of women entrepreneurs in the social economic development of the country. More than 1000 women entrepreneurs are participating in this year's event which is open to the public.

Since its initiation in 2008, UHAI-CT has been working with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and partners— T-MARC and Africare— to rapidly increase access to quality HIV testing and counselling for all Tanzanians; develop providers' skills for quality HIV counselling and testing service delivery; and strengthen links from counselling and testing to prevention, care, and treatment services.

Over 470,000 people have learned their HIV status through UHAI-CT and some referred for prevention, care, treatment and support services in Tanga, Tabora, Iringa, Njombe, Dodoma, Singida, Manyara, Kilimanjaro and Mtwara regions.