



Field Visit

Lifuwu Fishing Village and Lifuwu Health Center
24th March 2009

Summary of Observations

Vulnerability to HIV and AIDS among the communities

- Migratory nature of the fishers – Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia
- Fishermen migrate without spouses
- High disposable cash among fishermen
- Poverty among women leading to heterosexual intercourse - fish for sex
- Seasonality of fish production coupled with high postharvest losses
- Low condom use – sometimes due to church teachings
- Multi-partnerships by migrant fishers and women
- Low HIV testing levels by men

Responses to HIV and AIDS

- Availability of VCT, PMTCT and ART services
- Awareness efforts by Ministry of health, FBO (Quadria Muslim Association, Private sector (PSI)
- Presence of Beach Village Committees responsible for group mobilisation, welfare, sanitation, regulating new female entrants
- Community response is very marginal

Suggested interventions for the communities

- Develop community HIV and AIDS prevention and mitigation strategies
- Build capacity of existing groups (BVC) and local leaders on HIV and AIDS Prevention and mitigation techniques
- Advocate for support from NGOs and Government to support HIV and AIDS activities in fishing communities
- Improve access to micro-finance especially for women.
- Diversify sensitisation campaigns of HIV and AIDS to fishing communities