Effective HIV Care and Support Interventions in Nigeria: A rights-based approach

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Background

 HIV-related stigma and discrimination have far-reaching consequences. People living with HIV and AIDS are denied their rights, disowned by their families and experience violence as a result. Access to health, economic and educational opportunities is compromised. All these in turn limit HIV prevention, treatment and care.

Aims and Objectives

 To strengthen, develop and expand effective community-based approaches to ensure that: HIV-related stigma, discrimination and denial is challenged, people living with HIV (PLHIV) and their families have sustainable access to quality care and support services: quality of life of PLHIV is improved and their rights promoted.

Methods

Quantitative and qualitative data collection methods which included desk-reviews, Focus Group Discussions, questionnaire administrations and Key Informants Interviews

Key Findings

Increased access to quality care and support through the Home-Based Care (HBC) services (45% at midterm evaluation to 81% at end-line). Savings and Loans Association (SLA) Welfare fund was established for sustained home and hospital-based care, support and access to treatment. Improved sustainable livelihoods and nutritional status; SLA membership increased from 57% at midterm to 88.5% at end line. A steady decline in the level of stigma, discrimination and denial was reported (increasing from 32% to 86%). PLHIV collectively pushed for the signing of the national anti-discrimination act.

Main Conclusions

PLHIV become increasingly resilient, thereby reducing the barriers to HIV care and support and increasing access to quality HIV treatment options when sustainable rights-based approaches are used.