

## Advocating for TB in Mubende

- **Improved care for hospitalized TB/HIV patients**

This project involved advocacy, information dissemination on the fate of persons affected by TB/HIV. These activities involved the active participation of health workers constantly interacting with TB/HIV patients as well as district administrators. Each of these category stakeholders was able to appreciate each other's concerns, views and challenges. An interaction with selected TB survivors and a group of women accessing ARVs from government health facilities noted a remarkable improvement in the care now being extended to TB/HIV patients.

*"Before this project gave us an opportunity to voice our problems on the radio, health workers used to neglect us and sometimes abusing, it was worse to pregnant mothers who sought ARVs. They would back at us as if acquiring HIV/AIDS would mean condemning us to having no children...Your project has assisted us a lot ,but please continue with the effort and spirit especially among our fellow other rural women where you have not yet reached" asserted a focus group participant-Madudu sub-county .*

Equally health workers state that their relationship with patients has improved because;

*"...most of the TB/HIV patients now come freely and are always keen at not faulting treatment instructions. Perhaps it is due to the awareness created by SORAK asserted, 'Nursing assistant Kitenga Health centre III"*

- **Strengthened TB DOTs**

The review team interacted with both the district TB focal person and selected volunteers. They all recommended the projects support to supervision of DOTs. They however lamented on some cases of patients transfers without their information. There was also concern for failure among some patients to turn-up for treatment reviews at health facilities.

- **Reduced Stigma and improved positive living with increasing productive among TB/HIV affected individuals**

Widows living with HIV/AIDS visited shared testimonies of joy and relief following anti-stigma project campaigns. Read on, what each of them among the visited said as presented in the plates 1, 2 & 3 below respectively;



*"Despite my age at 56 and with AIDS I now feel free to tell others and encourage them to seek testing and treatment"*



*"I can now go on with digging which I had given up thinking that I would die soon"*



*"I am telling many more others living with HIV to come out and join us, being open about my status has helped me a lot"*