



Bringing PrEP Closer: How CLM Advocacy Transformed HIV Prevention Access in Rubanda District.

For years, clients at Muko Health Centre IV in Rubanda District who were eligible for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) had to be referred to facilities in Kabale—more than 30 kilometers away. Although health workers were aware of the need, they hesitated to offer information about PrEP because the service simply wasn't available at the facility.

“We were receiving clients who were eligible and in need of PrEP, but most of the time our health workers were reluctant to discuss it. Since PrEP wasn't offered here, we could only refer clients to other sites in Kabale,” said the **Facility In-Charge at Muko HC IV.**

The referral system, however, was far from ideal. Many clients were unable to follow through due to transportation challenges, lack of documentation, or the burden of repeated clinic visits. As a result, several returned without accessing the services they needed—or dropped off entirely.





Between 2021 and 2022, Community-Led Monitoring (CLM) data revealed that 78 referrals for PrEP services were made from Rubanda to facilities in Kabale, including Kabale Regional Referral Hospital, Kamukira HC IV, and AIC Clinic. This pointed to a clear and growing demand for PrEP in Rubanda—demand that was going unmet.

Recognizing the urgency, CLM platforms at the regional and district level—through dialogue and dissemination meetings consistently raised the issue with implementing partners and local leaders. At the September 2022 Regional CLM Dialogue, the regional implementing partner USAID LPHS-Kigezi (JCRC) finally committed to act.

By April 2023, just a few months later, a breakthrough had been achieved: Muko HC IV was officially accredited and stocked with PrEP commodities. The staff were re-oriented, and the facility began initiating eligible clients on PrEP.

“It took some time to engage the implementing partner, but with continued engagement from CLM, we are happy to report that as of April 10th, we had already initiated four clients on PrEP—and we are now actively reporting on PrEP uptake at Muko,” **the Facility In-Charge** added.

