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## STRENGTHENING UGANDA'S SYSTEMS FOR TREATING AIDS NATIONALLY

~ SUCCESS STORY ~

# Addressing Myths About HIV Transmission to Prevent New Infections

**E**leny Jasper is a 34-year-old fisherman based off Wansolo landing site in Apac district. He spends two weeks at a time at the landing site, in which he goes fishing daily and returns to land every evening to spend time with his serious girlfriend. As a break from fishing, Jasper takes a month off to go spend time at his home in Abapire village.

But Jasper had a secret. He was living a double life. In Abapire village, he has a wife and five children. His wife does not know about his girlfriend nor does his girlfriend know about his family back home. Jasper has concurrent sexual partners, an HIV risk factor, and does not use condoms because:

*"Condoms are for single men. I'm a married man," he exclaims.*

Jasper recently found out his girlfriend was HIV positive. He was motivated to test for HIV when Wansolo Health Center II, with support from USAID Strengthening Uganda's Systems for Treating AIDS Nationally (SUSTAIN) project and the Apac district health management committee, conducted HIV Testing and counselling outreaches in the landing sites and floating islands; targeting a population whose HIV prevalence is estimated to be three times higher than the general population.

Jasper's HIV test result was positive. He and his girlfriend broke up and



Jasper at Wansolo landing site

he believes his girlfriend was not the right choice for a second wife. He was attracted to her "innocence"—with no family of her own and thought she would make a great second wife.

After receiving his test results, Jasper was counselled on common myths about condom use. The counsellor told Jasper to always use a condom during sex to ensure he did not spread the virus.

*"I was in steady relationships, so I thought I was safe from HIV and did not need to use a condom."*

He was given a health talk on HIV transmission, ART adherence and living positively. The health worker

encouraged Jasper to disclose his HIV status to his wife and allow her to be tested. Jasper gave the health worker details of his home back in Abapire so that his family could be tested for HIV. He was started on first line ART and successfully linked to care at Apoi HC III.



**USAID Strengthening Uganda's Systems for Treating AIDS Nationally (SUSTAIN) Project**

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July 2018

The USAID Strengthening Uganda's Systems for Treating AIDS Nationally (SUSTAIN) project supports the Uganda Ministry of Health to strengthen sustainable and innovative approaches for HIV and TB service delivery at selected healthcare facilities. This project is made possible by the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The content of this publication does not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.