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I had my session with a client of aged between 25 to 30 years. She refused after discussing the consent form. In 2004, she was tested by MDICP but she didn't get any profit at all.

We said that we will not pay or compensate for participating in the HIV test; it's the same to go to the hospital. To have a test here is just the same as having the test at the government hospital. This is so because at the government hospital, they test blood without any costs and there is no difference with us here.

She was worried and she said please don't come to my house again; I don't want. If I want, I will be going to the hospital. I can't change my mind have you heard I have HIV positive.

So I just left the place and met my colleagues who suggested to visit another respondent. The second respondent was tested by the MDICP in 2004 but didn't get the results because she was away. Our counseling and testing session was done. She thought that may be was HIV positive because her husband died in 1996 but she was found nonreactive [negative]. She was accepted to hear the results and after given the results she was very happy.

5 July 2006

I had a client, a school boy aged 19 years old, he is in standard 5. When reached I greeted his parents and [when] asking [for] my respondent, he just came beside me and said "it's me." So I asked him for a private place [for] confidentiality. We went in his grandmother's house; he don't have his own house because he is a student.

After that I introduced myself and described my role as a counselor: I am working as a VCT counselor. Firstly we will be discussing about the consent form; this is the information and more is contained in this document, which is called a consent form. You have got the right whether you want to be tested or not. Then I asked him that (Chichewa translation): "According to how you have understood this (letter) consent, do you agree that we should proceed?" He said yes. If you are accepted, you are supposed to sign.

After that we started our discussion about HIV/AIDS. I asked him that how do you know about this virus or what is the difference between HIV and AIDS.

He answered that HIV is a virus while AIDS it's a complementional of diseases. Another questions is how can w contract this virus and how can we prevent it? After doing the risk assessment about his behavior I reached to testing stage. I explained that I just take a

little blood. I showed him all the materials, eg capillary tubes. Then I asked if he is ready to be tested.

Testing done. After that, I asked him if he would like to continue the survey to ask him some additional questions about his experience with HIV testing and VCT. After learned the results he was enjoyed with the results (Chichewa translation) "because he had no anxiety." In risk reduction, he said that he will not disclose with somebody until he will get married and he will encourage his spouse to go for VCT. He was found nonreactive [negative].

6 July 2006

I had my counseling session with a lady who is married aged 32 in Kaunda village. It was a nice session. After the discussion on consent form I asked her if she is accepted to sign the consent, she signed which means she agreed to take part and then we continued our discussion on basic information about HIV/AIDS and risk behaviors.

The pre-test, testing and post-test done. When the results were given, she was HIV negative. The woman seemed to be interested with me, so she asked whatever we were doing. I just explain it in details because she is respondent. After telling her that results she said, she will go to the hospital for VCT again after 3 months for clear evidence. She said her husband was also tested so there's no need for her to refuse.

I asked her why did you want to be tested for HIV today? She said wanted to plan for the future and to know status. Then I asked if she will tell the results to anybody. She said the first person to know her results will be the spouse, then her relatives.

7 July

I chatted with a certain lady aged 27 years old. She was married and she have got 2 childrens, a son and a daughter. She was very much flexible indeed in our discussion she started by explaining before I asked her. In her explanation she once suffered from sexually transmitted disease which is gonorrhoea therefore this was her golden chance for her to know her body's chance for sero-negative. She asked a question, "suppose if we have found her HIV positive. What type of assistance would we give her?"

I thanked her for the beautiful question. Then I said I send you to the hospital where you will be tested again and they will get that your ARV treatment if your immunity system is very low, but if you immunity system is high, you will be referred to a support group.

During testing, she said there are two wives. Someone she is in Mangochi. Her husband is too moving now; he is away, he went to Japan. Before he went to Japan he knew that we were in the village (translated from Chichewa), "And he told his wife that when I come back, I don't want to hear that you went for a blood test. If you will do that, you will pack up your things and go back to your home." At the end, she had refused to be tested because her spouse did not allow her to be tested.

10 July 2006

I went to Mdoka village whereby I found women at the borehole of ages between 20 to 30 years. When they saw me coming, I heard them start murmuring, asking themselves about us "how do you see the people who wear black t-shirts and what are they doing?" Then a certain woman amongst themselves whispered "they are testing people's blood. If they have HIV/AIDS at one point time, she said they come at my house but I refused them because in 2004, they tested me. I didn't get any profit at all."

At the same day I did a session with a woman aged 38. She has got 5 children, 3 boys and 2 girls. I was warmly welcomed and the client was hopeful that she was HIV negative. Her husband, he went to Kasungu. She said that if you can found HIV positive, (translated from Chichewa) "she can be tested HIV positive, then the husband is to blame because when he travels, he many take 6-12 months without coming back home." He is a business man.

Counseling and testing was done. Accepted the results. She was happy with her results. She was found HIV negative. Then we discussed the window period. I just wanted to remind her. At the end I asked her if she have some questions. She said no.

11 July, 2006

I visited a certain lady in Nyenga village to continue the counseling and testing survey. I met a woman of all most 27 years old. I was warmly welcomed and I asked for a private place. She accepted and gave me a mat to sit on together.

Then I introduced myself: I am working as a VCT counselor. After that we started our session with the consent form [that] you will be signing. Then we continued on basic information about HIV/AIDS, benefit of VCT and risk assessment. I enjoyed this session because she [tried] to explain (Chichewa translation) "On how one can get infected with HIV and preventive measures to avoid contracting the AIDS virus."

During the testing, she was asked that (Chichewa translation), "Is it possible that my child get tested?" I said NO! (Chichewa translation) "We are chatting only with those people that have been listed or present on the sample." She accepted to be tested and given the results. She was happy with the status because she was found HIV negative.

At the end she said, (Chichewa translation). "Thank you very much. Now I know how my body status is." Her husband, he went to Japan 3 years ago, so she will be abstaining until he will be back.

17 July 2006

I went to Playe village. I had a session with a certain lady aged 46 years. She is married and she has 6 children. I asked her if she will accept to chat with me. Then we started our session with the consent form.

It was a nice session because she had more information about HIV/AIDS, on basic information and risk behavior. I asked her how can we contract HIV/AIDS. She said that unprotected sexual intercourse, from mother to child through during pregnancy, during delivery and during breast-feeding and so on. The woman was satisfied whatever we were discussing.

She signed the consent form and pre-test counseling was done. During testing, she accepted to be tested. When we were awaiting the results I continued with questionnaire.

After that I asked her if she is ready to hear the results. She accepted to get the result and she was HIV positive. She was worried a little and then I remained silent without saying anything. Almost three minutes, then I asked her if she had any additional words. She said yes. (Chichewa translation) "I am very happy because of your presence for I have known how my body status is."

But I conducted an individual test because her husband was not present then but I will go for a next visit on the 19th of July, 2006. He went to Mangochi, there were two wives so someone is staying there. Her husband he is also in the sample so I will be back again on 19 July 2006 at the same village.

Later I asked her again a question concerning positive living to confirm if she still remembered. She indeed explained very well and said that she [will] be taking a balanced diet in her meals, practice good hygiene, avoid pregnancy, avoid stress and worry, prayer and so on. In risk reduction she said that she will be using condoms. I thanked her because she had welcomed me and to remind [her] what we were discussing in our session.

19 July 2006

I visited a respondent in the same village. She was divorced. She has 3 children. Her husband died three years ago. She welcomed me so I asked her if she is willing to chat with me, she accepted.

Before we started our session, I told her that whatever we are going to discuss is private and confidential, so there is a need for us to stay at a place where people cannot overhear our conversation. I started the session to explain the consent form and she signed it. It seemed she had taken part in VCT testing. She accepted to be tested and to learn the result. She was HIV negative. She thought that she will found HIV positive because her husband passed way but the marriage was already over with this woman. In her opinion, she thought that at the time they were divorcing each other, the husband passed on to her the HIV virus. This was so because her husband used to sleep with a lot of women, leaving his wife.

In risk reduction she said that, she wants to take care of her children so that maybe in the future, these children can help me and she never had sex with another man because she is afraid of contracting the virus.

20 July 2006

I had a session with a certain man aged 24 and he was married. Indeed it was a nice session. After discussing the consent form we started on basic information and risk behavior. He had a little information about HIV/AIDS. I just added where he was not correct and corrected.

When I reached the testing stage, he said that I am ready to get my blood tested, but I don't [want] to learn about the results of the test. I asked him why you don't want to get the results? The reason is that he at some time slept with a woman who was sleeping with almost everyone. He accepted to be tested but had refused to get the result. He thought that maybe he [would be] found HIV positive and moreover he was HIV negative.

I thanked him for taking part in the counseling and testing although he didn't get the result. At the time that I was saying good bye, he reminded me about the condoms saying that if it is possible I should give him [some]. I really gave him and adding to that he asked me to tell him how to wear or use a condom because he has never used a condom in his life. I indeed explained to him that the first thing is to get consent with the person whom you want to sleep with and agree to use the condom. Then after that, you have to look at the manufacture date and then the expiry date of the condom then you should look for a good position to tear the condom wrapper. You should not [tear] the condom using your teeth or a knife but should use your bare fingers and after taking out the condom, you have to wear it properly indeed up to the end of the penis. Then we start to have sex after that we remove it. Then you dispose it in the toilet after use but if you want to have sex again, you need to use another one; do not forget to wash your hands after sex.

24/07/06

In Mitochi village I had a session with a couple, a woman aged 27, man 32 years. They welcomed me I started to greet them then I was introduced myself I am Molly Langa, am working as a VCT counselor, then we were started to discuss on the consent form, they accepted to sign the consent form then we continued on the basic information about HIV/AIDS. The woman could not speak chiChewa very well, whenever I talked or asked a question, the husband could also explain again [translate] to the wife.

It was a good session because the man had more information less then a [?] woman. I just added where they not correct and I corrected.

During testing, I asked them if they were ready to be tested because they wanted to know their status. Testing done, I told them that, as we are waiting for the blood test results, the

survey process will still continue indeed, and we will continue to discuss the questionnaire.

The husband once got tested in the year 2004 but the woman has never gone for an HIV test, as she was away when our tent was in her village. They accepted to get the results and they were founded discordant results, a man HIV negative while a woman HIV positive and she is pregnancy for two months. Both of them were not worried, the two of them seemed to be knowledgeable people.

I tried to ask them about the positive living I just wanted to see if they remained [with] what we were discussing. At the end of our session they said that, next month they will be going to the Liwonde Hospital so that may be the woman can have a chance to access ARV drugs so that the unborn baby should be protected, the baby should not be born with the virus, and moreover she is ill. Before I tested them the husband said "with all the children that we have with my wife, before she becomes pregnant, she becomes ill just the way you have found her today". And he said that today she is doing better. I encouraged them to go to the hospital.

29 July 2006

I had a session in Ayama village. She was a widow of age 25 and had 2 children. I found she was just staying on the mat with her children. She welcomed me and I sat on the same mat. She greeted me and I begged if she can allow me to chat with her. She accepted and she said that our friends like the survey team

So indeed she was so happy when she saw me. I asked if she can be able to found a private place because is a confidentiality we went and sat in her house. I explained all those things why I was at her home like the role as a counselor. Then I started to read the consent form. After I finished it, I asked if she's willing to be tested and she said yes!

She was started to explain about her partner behavior. Now he passed away a year ago and he had two wives and she said that it's easy to contract the virus.

After discussing the basic information, I tested her and I also begged if we can proceed the survey by asking some questions from the questionnaire. She accepted it.

During the results. I just told her that her results were out. She was attentive. When I say she was found HIV negative she was so happy. She thanked me for being HIV negative. I was just looking at her.

Then I asked her are you through. She said that yes! I thanked her for accepting me to be at her home and for accepted to hear the results. In risk reduction she said that she will be abstaining and using condoms until will get another spouse.

So I went back and I visited another respondent.