

**STUDY OF HIV/AIDS INFECTION RISK FACTORS AMONG FISHING
COMMUNITY IN BIRIRA, MUGESERA AND SAKE LAKES
IN NGOMA DISTRICT**

**BY
ALPHONSE NDAGIJIMANA
MPH/0050/11**

ABSTRACT

Background: The problem of HIV/AIDS has been at the peak of global health concern for decades. HIV attacks the immune system. During the last decade, it became clear that many Fishing communities in developing countries are victims of HIV prevalence often five to ten times higher than the rest of the population. Objectives of this study were to identify the determinants and analyze risk factors for vulnerability to HIV infection for fishing community in MUGESERA, SAKE and BIRIRA lakes in Ngoma district. The specific objectives of this study are to identify the HIV/AIDS infection risk factors for fishing community, to analyze the vulnerability factors associated with HIV/AIDS infection in fishing communities and define the role of all stakeholders in the fight against HIV-AIDS. Method used was a cross-sectional population based survey that utilized both quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques. Quantitative methods have been used to determine the HIV related knowledge, attitude, and practices among the fishing communities. Qualitative methods such as focus group discussions and key informant interviews have been used to determine the availability and effectiveness of policies, programs and coordination structures relating to HIV and AIDS. The findings of this study have generated an understanding of the impact of HIV and AIDS on these populations so as to guide appropriate interventions, determine and guide the designing of necessary specific interventions and programs that need to be put in place to reduce the risks and vulnerability of HIV transmission among the fishing communities. The findings will also be used by all stakeholders to determine a framework for improving the effectiveness of HIV and AIDS responses among the fishing communities. As conclusion and recommendations, the high HIV prevalence among the Fishing community calls for focus to address intervention as to stop transmission of HIV as well as maintaining quality and responsive services. To reduce the risk factors for HIV transmission, the following are suggested: Access to condom, reducing personal risk among Fishing community, delay age at sexual debut, health education, HIV services utilization, empowerment, Monitoring and Evaluation of Fishing Communities.

Keywords: *HIV/AIDS; sexual risk behaviors for younger, alcohol and drug abuse, community support.*