

Contribution of Community Support Group to Home-Based Care of Persons Living with HIV and AIDS in Lira District: A Case of Amach Town Council and Amach Sub County

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Background: This study examined the contribution of community support groups on home based care to persons living with HIV (PLHIV) in Lira District. Specifically, the study examined the contribution of community support group on adherence to Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) for PLHIV, analyzed the contribution of community support groups on nutrition support to PLHIV, and examined the contribution of community support groups on palliative care to PLHIV.

Methods: The study adopted a cross-sectional study design, which employed a mixed methods approach of both quantitative and qualitative methods. The study population consisted of 577 participants. Both simple random sampling technique and purposive sampling, were used to select a sample size of 226 respondents. The researcher used self-administered questionnaires to collect quantitative data and an interview guide to collect qualitative data. Descriptive statistics (mean, and standard deviation), and inferential statistics (correlation and regression) were used to analyze numerical data. Content analysis was used to analyze qualitative data from interviews to supplement quantitative data.

Results: The findings suggested that community support group (mean=4.959, SD=0.5393) helps in enhancing home based care for PLHIV in Lira District. The study further revealed that community support group had a significant effect on adherence to ART ($\beta=0.641$, $p<0.05$), nutrition support ($\beta=0.581$, $p<0.05$) and palliative care ($\beta=0.638$, $p<0.05$).

Conclusion: The study concludes that community support group significantly affects home based care for PLHIV in Lira District, Northern Uganda. This study contributes an original and empirical evidence of the association between community support group and home based care to PLHIV in Lira District.

Recommendation: Therefore, for improved home based care to PLHIV, Lira District Local Government is encouraged to mobilize the local community to form community support groups so that they can be in position to give support to PLHIV in Lira District.

Keywords: *Community Support Group, Home-Based Care, and Persons Living with HIV and AIDS*