

MEN FOR POSITIVE LIVING SUPPORT C.B.O (MOPLS)

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Project Title

Breaking the barriers: Empowering GBMSM Living with HIV through Smart Agriculture in peri –Urban and rural areas of Kisumu County, Kenya.

Executive Summary

- ▶ Men for Positive Living (MOPLS) proposes a community-led smart agriculture initiative aimed at improving food security, income generation, treatment adherence, and resilience among Key Populations (KPs) living with HIV in Peri-urban and rural areas in Kisumu County.
- ▶ The project responds to growing economic vulnerability, food insecurity, unemployment, and treatment interruption among KPs resulting from funding cuts, poverty, Family rejection, Social norms, and limited livelihood opportunities.
- ▶ The project will train **200 GBMSM living with HIV** and extended to the entire LGBTIQ+ community on climate-smart and technology-driven agricultural practices, establish **5 demonstration smart farms** managed by Community members living with HIV, strengthen market access, and promote inclusion in local agribusiness value chains. Through low-cost irrigation systems, digital learning tools, mentorship, and linkage to markets and financial services, the project seeks to create sustainable livelihoods while improving health outcomes and treatment adherence.

Organizational Background

- Men for Positive Living Support (MOPLS) is a community-based organization working to improve the well-being, dignity, and socio-economic empowerment of GBMSM living with HIV and other vulnerable populations in Kisumu County. The organization has experience implementing HIV-related interventions, community empowerment programs, psychosocial support activities, and economic strengthening initiatives targeting marginalized communities.
- MOPLS works closely with county health systems, community groups, civil society organizations, and National and local leaders to strengthen inclusive and sustainable community development initiatives.

Background and Problem Statement

- ▶ Rural and Per-Urban areas of Kisumu County continue to experience high levels of poverty, food insecurity, unemployment, and HIV-related vulnerability among Key Populations (KPs). Through community interventions and engagement with KPs living positively, MOPLS identified several critical challenges affecting the well-being and health outcomes of GBMSM and the entire LGBTIQ+, including:
- ▶ High unemployment and job losses due to declining donor-funded programs since most were working as program team members, like field officers, peer educators, and outreach workers.
- ▶ Poor adherence to HIV treatment caused by lack of food and economic hardship.
- ▶ Increased cases of treatment interruption and loss to follow-up among those living positively due lack of safe spaces.
- ▶ Limited livelihood opportunities and skills due to the changing donor landscape.
- ▶ Punitive laws and stigma and discrimination with the society.
- ▶ Food insecurity remains one of the leading contributors to poor treatment adherence among PLHIVs. Many clients skip medication or disengage from care because they lack adequate nutrition and income to support consistent treatment clinics.
- ▶ This project seeks to address these interconnected challenges through a smart agriculture model that combines climate-smart farming, technology, irrigation, agribusiness, and digital innovation to improve household resilience and health outcomes among KPs living with HIV.



Project Goal

To improve livelihoods, food security, safe space, treatment adherence, and economic resilience among Key Populations living with HIV through smart agriculture in Kisumu County.

Specific Objectives

1. To train 200 KPs living with HIV on smart and climate-smart agricultural practices.
2. To establish 5 demonstration smart farms managed by PLHIV groups in Rural and Per-Urban areas of Kisumu County.
3. To improve access to markets and agribusiness opportunities for trained beneficiaries.
4. To promote inclusion of KPs living with HIV in local agricultural value chains and economic empowerment initiatives.
5. To strengthen food security and treatment adherence among vulnerable PLHIV households.
6. To retain the safe space for community engagement and wellness improvement.

Target Beneficiaries

The project will directly benefit:

200 GBMSM living with HIV from low-income households

KPs with disabilities living with HIV

Young marginalized communities.

LGBTQI+ community

Indirect beneficiaries will include over 1,000 community members through knowledge transfer, local food production, improved household economic stability, and the availability of safe spaces for the community to meet.

Project Approach

- ▶ The project will apply an integrated and community-driven approach that combines:
 - Climate-smart agriculture.
 - HIV-sensitive livelihood strengthening.
 - Community mentorship, mental health, and peer learning.
 - Digital learning and marketing.
 - Economic inclusion and market access.
- ▶ The intervention will prioritize sustainability, inclusion, innovation, and community ownership.

Key Activities

Community Mobilization and Beneficiary Mapping

- ▶ Conduct community sensitization meetings.
- ▶ Identify and register GBMSM beneficiaries.
- ▶ Engage local administration and community leaders.

Capacity Building on Smart Agriculture

- ▶ Training beneficiaries on:
 - ▶ Drip irrigation farming.
 - ▶ Organic farming techniques.
 - ▶ Climate-smart agriculture.
 - ▶ Soil and water conservation.
 - ▶ Pest and disease management.
 - ▶ Agribusiness and financial literacy

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Establishment of Smart Demonstration Farms

- Set up 5 demo farms managed by PLHIV groups.
- Install low-cost irrigation systems.
- Introduce solar-powered water solutions where applicable.

Digital Learning and Market Linkages

- Create WhatsApp and Facebook learning platforms.
- Share farming tips and market information digitally.
- Link farmers to local markets and buyers.

Mentorship and Support Supervision

- Continuous technical support to farmers.
- Peer mentorship through lead farmers.
- Routine monitoring visits and coaching.

Expected Outcomes

By the end of the project:

- 200 GBMSM living with HIV trained on smart agriculture practices
- Increased food production and household nutrition among beneficiaries.
- Improved HIV treatment adherence due to enhanced food security.
- Increased household income among participating beneficiaries.
- Strengthened climate resilience and sustainable farming practices.
- Enhanced inclusion of KPs in agribusiness opportunities.
- Increased digital literacy and market participation among beneficiaries.

Monitoring and Evaluation

MOPLS will conduct routine monitoring and evaluation to track project performance and outcomes using:

- Baseline and endline assessments.
- Attendance records and training reports.
- Farm productivity monitoring.
- GBMSM/LGBTQI+ income assessments.
- ART adherence follow-up data.
- Beneficiary feedback and case studies.

Sustainability Plan

To ensure long-term sustainability, the project will:

- Support the formation of community smart farming groups.
- Promote peer-to-peer mentorship through trained lead farmers.
- Strengthen partnerships with county government agricultural offices and private sector actors.
- Utilize digital learning platforms for continued knowledge sharing.
- Link farmers to existing agricultural and financial support systems.
- Encourage group-based farming enterprises for continued income generation.

Partnerships and Collaboration

The project will collaborate with:

- Kisumu County Department of Agriculture.
- Community health promoters and HIV clinics.
- Local agricultural extension officers.
- Financial institutions and SACCOs.
- Community-based organizations and farmer groups.
- Private agribusiness actors and produce buyers.

Risk Analysis and Mitigation

Risk	Mitigation Strategy
Climate variability	Use of irrigation and climate-smart farming.
Low participation	Community mobilization and peer engagement.
Market fluctuations	Diversification of crops and buyer linkages.
Stigma affecting participation	Confidential and inclusive implementation approaches
Limited technical knowledge	Continuous mentorship and supervision.
Land Availability	Use available land such as cones or kitchen garden.

Indicative Budget Summary (USD)

Budget Item	Amount (USD)
Community Mobilization & Mapping	4,000
Smart Agriculture Training	8,500
Demonstration Farm Establishment	15,000
Irrigation & Solar Installation	12,000
Digital Platforms & ICT Support	3,500
Market Linkages & Business Development	4,000
Monitoring & Evaluation	4,000
Personnel & Technical Support	10,000
Administration & Logistics	5,000

Total Estimated Budget: USD 66,000



Conclusion

- ▶ This project presents an innovative and sustainable response to the interconnected challenges of HIV vulnerability, poverty, and unemployment, lack of safe spaces, mental health, and food insecurity among Key Populations in rural and Peri-urban areas in Kisumu County. By integrating smart agriculture, climate resilience, digital innovation, and economic empowerment, the intervention will strengthen livelihoods, improve treatment adherence, reduce mental health challenges, and enhance the dignity and resilience of vulnerable populations living with HIV.
 - ▶ Through donor partnership and community ownership, the project has strong potential to create lasting social, economic, and health impact in Kisumu County.
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