



# Microfinance + Public Health in Tanzania

Pilot program seeks to reduce HIV risk and partner violence in young men

## Can Supporting Small Businesses Bring Public Health Change?

Microfinance has been used increasingly in public health as a method to achieve broad health benefits, but most of these interventions have focused on women. Dr. Suzanne Maman's innovation lab targets young men living in poverty in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, who are at-risk of contracting and transmitting HIV and engaging in partner violence. This intervention will assess whether young men can learn business skills and improve their ability to work together to solve problems through business training and small loans. The micro-finance program will be combined with a leadership program to train male leaders to deliver HIV and partner violence prevention messages to their peers through enhanced communication, negotiation and goal setting skills. Young men between the ages of 15 and 19 will be selected from five urban venues where they socialize in what are called camps.

## Design and Methodology

The pilot project will offer:

- training to camp members that includes guidance in developing a business plan;
- small loans for the creation and support of small businesses, to be repaid within 6 months;
- leadership training to promote behavior change for camp leaders.

## Assessment and Evaluation

Through a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods, the measurements to evaluate this intervention will include:

- pre- and post-intervention surveys with camp members;
- focus group discussions and in-depth interviews with camp members and leaders.

The findings from this pilot study will lay the groundwork for a larger community trial to test the efficacy of this intervention. Long-term collaboration between the investigators and colleagues at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences in Dar es Salaam will provide a strong foundation for future work.

## Leadership



**Suzanne Maman**, PhD, assistant professor, health behavior and health education, leads a team of scientists trained in public health and medicine. This team has been partnering on HIV prevention studies in Dar es Salaam for over ten years.



### GOAL

To introduce and assess microfinance and leadership training for health promotion to reduce the incidence of HIV and partner violence among at-risk young men in Tanzania.

### PARTNERS

Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences in Dar es Salaam, UNC's Kenan-Flagler School of Business and Duke's Global Health Institute

### IMPACT!

#### Skill Development Creates Change

Offering small loans, and business leadership training to young men at-risk may be a potentially effective strategy for HIV prevention and in reducing partner violence.

