Hebu Tuyajenge (“Let’s Discuss Constructively”) engages people living with HIV (PLHIV) via Tanzania’s National Council of People Living with HIV in Tanzania (NACOPHA). The program focuses on increasing utilization of HIV testing, treatment, and family planning services among adolescents and PLHIV, strengthening capacity of PLHIV organizations and structures, and improving the enabling environment for the HIV response through PLHIV empowerment. Hebu Tuyajenge empowers its beneficiaries under the guiding principle of ‘nothing for us is possible without us.’ The program engages HIV-positive individuals and groups in design, implementation, and monitoring of HIV activities delivered in communities.

Activity interventions include the following:
- Conducting HIV treatment literacy among PLHIV and in communities.
- Prevention of new HIV infections among adolescents.
- Engaging faith and community leaders in finding children and men living with HIV.
- Identifying sexual partners and children of PLHIV and linking them to HIV testing.
- Providing adherence counselling and support to ensure that PLHIV stay on treatment.
- Training and mentoring treatment advocates who are community volunteers.
- Disseminating social behavior change messages through community radios and interpersonal communication.
- Training PLHIV group leaders on leadership and management, financial management, and monitoring of community HIV activities.
- Combating and responding to HIV stigma and sexual violence in communities.
- Engaging in dialogue with policy and law makers to ensure PLHIV’s voices are heard.
- Generating evidence for community HIV activities.
- Conducting community led monitoring of facility HIV services.

RESULTS

- Building on the previous Sauti Yetu (“Our Health”) activity, Hebu Tuyajenge has established a sustainable community structure to deliver HIV services in communities using PLHIV themselves.

- The activity has conducted three (3) dialogues with religious leaders to ensure they are fully involved in locating men and children living with HIV, fighting HIV...
stigma and sexual violence, and delivering HIV treatment literacy to their followers. This has resulted in a joint statement by religious leaders committing to fighting HIV stigma and discrimination, and sexual violence.

- NACOPHA is engaging the Government of Tanzania through the Parliamentary Committee for HIV and AIDS and the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) for HIV advocacy to create a good environment for the HIV response and on economic empowerment of PLHIV. This has resulted in policy changes such as lowering of the age of consent for HIV testing from 18 to 15 years, adoption of HIV self-testing, and implementation of differentiated HIV service delivery models.