

60 per cent female drug users contract HIV/AIDS

By Correspondent
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UP to 60 percent of female drug abusers contract HIV/AIDS from the use of contaminated needles, TaNPUD reports.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday during a symposium held to raise awareness on the safe use of drugs targeting drug abusers and addicts, TaNPUD Coordinator, Happy Assen, said:

“The problem is huge,

especially for women who use drugs because they lack proper knowledge on the contraction methods and the related risks posed by sharing of needles,” she said.

She said there is an urgent need for widespread awareness campaigns to reach women on the safe use of drugs and how to also avoid and abstain from drug abuse.

In this endeavour, she called on the government and other stakeholders to intervene and offer their support.

Assen was also keen to point out that drug abusers are not common criminals and that their addictions can be overcome with help.

In this regard, Assen also called upon the government to review its drug Act to protect users from being punished as common criminals.

“We would like to remind and urge the government to review the country’s drug act so as to protect drug users from being illegally punished like common criminals,” she said.