

Men now partners to wives, partners in clinic visits

By Frank Aman, Singida

Health stakeholders and government officials in Singida municipality have hailed the Tanzania Men as Equal Partners (TMEP) Project for impressive results over the past three years.

The project that encourages men to engage in reproductive health education is a brainchild of the Swedish Association for Security Education (RFSU).

Acting Singida Rural District Executive Director Joseph Sabore said

midweek that the project has effectively changed the mindsets of men on outdated traditional beliefs against their partners whom they treated irrationally in the region.

"The project has recorded impressive results in our region whereby men are now willing to escort their wives or partners to clinics for regular medical checkups," he said.

"We are optimistic to continue funding the project," he specified.

For his part, Health Actions Promotion Association (HAPA) Executive Director David Mkanje said

during the RFSU Secretariat visit that the campaign is undertaken by TMEP in collaboration with HAPA, supported by district authorities.

This is the case from the point of view of evaluation of the project for the past three years ahead of the onset of the second phase, the director noted.

For his part, Singida municipal social development officer Tumaini Christopher underlined the urgency with which development stakeholders need to actively support the project to safeguard its gains.

Acting Municipal Medical Officer Fredrick Mugarula noted that the project has recorded notable successes, reaching a wider population in rural areas, mostly Singida rural and Manyoni district.

The report shows that the number of men who escorted their counterparts to clinics had increased, as in 2012 about 1,400 men visited clinic together with their wives, while in 2013 the number of men increased to 2,300 on the basis of the report. This shows the project has been accepted by the community," he emphasized.