Thank you for agreeing to have this interview today, as I have explained to you earlier , I’m going to record our discussion so that I don’t miss any of your statement, and you said you are okay for me to use this audio recorder for our discussion. I’m going to ask you questions about yourself, your life in general and most about HIV related matters. You are free not to answer any question that you feel uncomfortable to answer, just tell me, I will skip the question and go to other questions. Additionally be free to tell me anything that you think is important for me to know related to HIV care, if this is okay with you, we start the interview now.

Res : Yes we can start

Int: so my first question is when and where did you go for HIV test?

Res: I tested here, It was in November last year (2014)

Int: Mhh...

Res : I heard the announcements that there will be free health check from the research car … town [the research mobile lab) that comes from …

Int : Mmh... then you went for testing

Res : Yes, that’s when I was told that I have got this problem (HIV)... then I was told to enter into the doctor's room and then I gave blood for CD4 test , they told me to come the next day for results. Then I come the next day, i got the results back and the doctor said my CD4 was low, I need further care immediately. He gave me some papers to go with and show the nurse ... at the Care and Treatment Center(CTC), I went and the nurse said i should come on Tuesday for registration-(In … hospital registration of new HIV patients was only on Tuesdays)

Int : okay ... may i know what made you decide to test for HIV in the first place

Res : I noticed my body was not okay recently, I have frequently been sick , suffering from problems i do not understand, and my body was getting weak, then i told my cousin that am not well, I don’t know what is the problem.. he said my be there is someone who is not happy with your business... i have a small food store at the market area in ...area most people believe if you are doing business at the market you need some protections from witches and for me i do not do those things, so my store had no protection....silence...

Int : mmh! ... please continue.. am listening

Res : okay ,i... thought may be this in not important

Int : Everything you say is important to me.... so what happened then...

Res : ...then he advised we go to one of his friend whom his uncle knows these things, he is a traditional healer in …. town, because i was sick and i thought, i should try, who knows it may work

Int : Mmh!

Res: So everything was arranged the day come and we went to see this old man in ... he asked me a few questions about my work and my family... i told him that is just a small food store, and one of my wives died two years ago and she was complaining of body weakness and the she got skin infection and then she was admitted for high fever but still she ended dying at the hospital... so i got afraid that may be what my cousin is thinking is true and also the business was also not going very well

Int : okay .. then what did the herbalist say?

Res : he told me to touch a port like or i don’t know... then he covered me with a bed sheet for some minutes, and then he removed the sheet and took the port looked in it and he said.... sorry my son, it doesn’t looked good , you should have come earlier even your wife would have been alive... I was shocked with this news but really i did not have much belief in witchcraft.

Int: Mmh ....

Res : .. he said it was one of my neighbors in the market who is jealous of me , i get many customers he put something in my store that is causing us to suffer from unknown diseases, he gave me some roots that i should go home and boil , drink it with my wife and all children. He also gave me something’s to put in the store and i was supposed to send him money so that he should come for the store cleansing if the situation does not improve.

Int : Mmh

Res : that was around February when i went to … but i was still not okay so when i heard the announcement about the car from … testing HIV and TB, I said to myself I have to go and check my general health, though i was afraid but ... i said whatever happens.. am going to check and it was true i was infected with HIV.

Int : okay ... so what about your second wife , did you tell her ...like share this information with her

Res : Yah it was difficult but, I managed to tell her and i advised her also to go and test, i though that probably my first wife also died of HIV is just that we did not test.

Int : did she go for test

Res : She went the next Monday, but unfortunately the car had already gone to another place. Since the next day Tuesday i was going to hospital for registration, we came together so she tested here and she was also found positive, but for her CD4 is still high she has not yet started ART.

Int : okay, did you also share with other relatives?

Res : ..Yes we told our older children and my brother and also my cousin knows, we are not hiding, this is not a problem for one person anybody can get.

Int : Do you experience any challenges like stigma or any problem due to your condition?

Res : ... No actually my relatives are so supportive, i have not seen any stigmatization from anybody

Int : You told me that you have started medication, did you experience any side effect?

Res: No... i did not get any problem, initially they gave me drugs for two weeks and they said if i find any problem , i should come and report but , i was okay, even when they gave me those for one month, I did not experience any reaction or any thing... i thank God for that.

Int : What do you think about people who test HIV positive but do not want to enter HIV care?

Res : I think they are just ignorance, they don’t understand that when you come here they follow up your health, like my wife she is coming tomorrow for CD4 check up.

Int : and what about those who enter care, they even start ART but then just stop coming at the clinic, what is the problem

Res : some people when their health improves and they become fat again, they think there is no need to continue with drugs, so they stop, like one of my friend he was on treatment... initially he was very sick we thought , he is about to die... but after using ART for about one year he improved so much ... we were all surprised, but then he got married to a certain woman from... and he did not tell her his status, since then, he stopped coming to the clinic we do not see him again at the clinic, he is afraid the wife will know that he is sick

Int : Mmh....

Res : I sometimes meet him in the streets but he does not want to talk to me about clinic issues and i realized that, i do not ask him anymore, this disease will erupt again and that is when his new wife will know. The nurses told us once you start Mashudu (ART) you don't stop even when you feeling better just continue...

Int : what about prayers .... i heard other people go for prayers and stop treatment does it happen here in …?

Res : yes some people do... but for me i think they are being stupid for me i go for prayers but , i still use my medication there is no way that someone can pray and AIDs just goes away like that, no way

Int : okay.. you said you live in …, which i know is far from here, does distance and transport cost inconvenience you or other patients attending your clinic visits?

Res : yes … is far the fair is 10000 shillings by motorbike, with public transport is less but then you will be late to the clinic because public transport is slow and depends on when the car is full that is when it leaves coming to town, so most of the time hire a bodaboda ((motorbike) or sometimes i come with public transport like yesterday and sleep at my cousin's house then the next day i come here. Ttransport is very costing, sometimes I borrow money from friends and sometimes I come with my bicycle but I don’t have energy to ride for a long distances.

Int : okay ....What do you say about health services given at this site to HIV patients, and the health care providers etc

Res : the care is good , although most of the time like on days for ART and CD4 testing the place is full and there are few staffs to take care of us so in some days , you can come at 7 o’clock in the morning and leave at 2 or 3 o’clock. There is a congestion of patients here. I heard they have same dates when the go to dispensaries which are far to distribute drugs. I heard they sometimes come to … to provide medicines to the patients registered there,... I will ask the nurse today maybe I should also start taking drugs from there.

Int : mmh! the dispensary is not far from where you live

Res : ...is not very close but there i can go with my bicycle- you can even walk for about an hour or so

Int : What about HCP do they treat you well , in terms of language and support

Res : The nurses and doctors here they are really good, they are trying hard considering we are so many patients and it is every day, i sometimes pity them ,is too much work for them, sometimes they leave here at 4.00 or even later after finishing attending patients.

Int : Good do you have any suggestions on how to improve care in this hospital

Res : mmh ... No may be if possible to add the number of Nurses and doctors in … district not only to this hospital, all health facilities in … have this problem i sometimes go to … to follow up some of my activities ... i find the same situation here is even better

Int : okay thank you very much that is the end of our interview, unless you have any question

Res : No... thank you to .. it was a nice discussion... where should i go now...

Int : yah let me check where is your file, thank you so much for your time.

End of interview 11.30 am