Abstract

This research examined the contribution of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to the socio-economic development of people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, the case study of CHF (Cooperative Housing Foundation). The objectives of the study were to examine and evaluate the contribution of CHF International in the process of socio-economic development of people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS; to explore the state of discrimination, stigmatization and self-stigmatization of people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, the effect on socio-economic development of the people of Rulindo District, Rwanda. A sample size of 115 persons (60 persons infected with HIV/AIDS, 40 orphans and 15CHF) staff were used to collect data. Questionnaire, observation, interviews, focus group discussion and document analysis were done by using computer SPSS software. The findings from this research revealed the contribution of NGOs to the socio-economic development of people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Firstly, the number of surveyed associations/cooperative members that did not have savings because of insufficient of income decreased, also ICF program contributed in increasing the quality and quantity of food, promoted modern farming and promoted modern livestock rearing. The CHF beneficiaries have been able to pay health insurance for the families of people living with HIV/AIDS (100%); paid school fees for their children even through CHF do so for orphans and vulnerable children. Also to overcome poverty, CHF created income generating activities among associations/cooperatives of PLWHA and these helped in improving their lives (100%). By simple analysis of these data, it is clear to remark that CHF Initiative is alleviating poverty because it assisted beneficiaries to take care of their day-to-day basic needs such as food, clothes, protection, and shelter) without forgetting to have easy access to health care services. It is hereby recommended that through trainings and technical support of NGOs to local associations/cooperatives of PLWHA, to the capacity of these local organizations can be strengthened and become independent of the work of international NGOs.