

SITRA

The sex worker

You are a 22-year-old woman, living with HIV, and working as a commercial sex worker. You failed your first year exam in university. When your family learned that you work as a commercial sex worker and have contracted HIV, they turned their back on you. They blame your livelihood for your illness.



GAME PLAY INSTRUCTIONS

Please elaborate your answers as you get into character! Share your character's thoughts and feelings with the group.

Round One

An Environmental Management Officer comes knocking. She asks:

Why didn't you come to the neighbourhood meeting about the drought? You explain that you have little energy at the end of the day, you are living with illness and need a rest. You discuss how people like you with chronic health problems could be more involved in neighbourhood consultations.

How has the drought affected you and what would improve your situation? The main thing you notice is the rising cost of food (as drought affects the crops and livestock) and also difficulty to access water from the well (or pay more for bottled water). Your family has ostracised you, you cannot call on them for help. You explain that you would love to find a different way of earning, and a healthier life.

Round Two

This time, you manage to attend the neighbourhood meeting.

There is an idea for an organised network of volunteers that would support residents who need practical help as the impacts of the drought take hold. There's also a proposal for a kitchen garden where everyone can contribute, benefit from water-saving technologies, and access some nutritious food; there will even be a push for more micro-credit for women. Perhaps you could benefit from these initiatives and gain a way out of your situation, even find a way to buy a ticket out of here, although you are afraid people will not welcome you to the meetings.

Discuss with the group.

