

Mukinge Youth Development Foundation

YOUTHS ACCESS HIV PREVENTION SENSITIZATION REPORT CONDUCTED FROM 1ST JANUARY 2014 TO 31ST MARCH 2014 (1ST QUARTER) TO IN SCHOOLS AND OUT OF SCHOOL YOUTHS.



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1. INTRODUCTION

This report Documents the Aim and Objective of the Youths access HIV prevention sensitization conducted in schools targeting in school youths in Kasempa District.

It also outlines the activities conducted during the sensitizations and the report also shares some of the resolutions that would help in the HIV prevention among the youths.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The sensitizations was held from 4th March 2014 to 14th March 2014 in the following school; Kasempa Boys Secondary School, Kasempa Day Secondary, Mukinge Day Secondary, Nkenyauna Day Secondary, Kantenda Basic, Kivuku Primary, Shibende Primary, Kabutwitwi Primary, Kasempa Basic, Lufupa Basic, Kalusha Primary, Njenga Primary, Kamusongolwa Primary, Kamono Primary, Njenga Primary and Kandeke Primary School. Pupils from the above mentioned schools were reached during the sensitization.

The function targeting out of school youths was also organized during this same period where the out of school youths were targeted with HIV prevention and the function was held at Kasempa Council chamber on 11th March 2014 from 18 00hrs and the function ended at exactly 05 00hrs and this function was fruitful.

2.1 SENSITIZATION OVERVIEW: This HIV Prevention sensitization was a platform where peer educators went out to clear misconceptions on HIV prevention methodologies among youths in our district. Some youths are believed to have contracted HIV due to the facts that they are literary ignorant about HIV prevention methodologies. Therefore, this was a good platform where these misconceptions where cleared from the youths.

During the function, our objective was to impart knowledge in out of school youths as well because we believe they also need to be enlightened with HIV prevention methodologies.

However, during these two events the following activities where done in line with our topic;

1. Drama performance
2. Question and answer sessions
3. Songs where composed
4. Entertainment
5. Facilitations

2.2 TOPICS COVERED: During this sensitization, the following topics where covered;

- a) Medical Male Circumcision as a prevention of HIV/AIDS

- b) Importance of VCT
- c) ABC approach to HIV prevention
- d) Basic HIV/AIDS information



Peer educators performing drama at Kasempa Boys



Peer educators facilitating at Mukinge Day each was given at least a class



This was the sensitization conducted at Kantenda Primary School



In the photos youths preparing for the function at the centre, a one day training was organised and some youths from Kasempa were invited to attend the preparatory training for the function. We wanted the youths to understand theatre for development and how to come up with good drama.



The above photos shows the function which was organized on 11th March, 2014 targeting out of school youths.

3. SENSITIZATION OUTCOMES

After all the sensitization presentations, participants were given a chance to ask question that were later on answered by the peer educators. And participants gave out some broad resolutions that can lead to HIV prevention among youths if they were to be considered. The only way to reduce the high rate of unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases among the youths (School going youth) and teachers as well is ABC approach of prevention. A total number of 2, 354 youths were reached during this outreach and it was discovered that most of youths (School going youths) are still express ignorance on some of the HIV prevention approaches.

The function which was organised also helped because out of school youths were also imparted with HIV prevention knowledge and most of the out of school youths that were in

attendance appreciated the step taken by Mukinge Youth Development Foundation. The government officials invited to this event also call for more innovations such as the one organised where youths are imparted with HIV related knowledge and Mukinge Youth Development Foundation was commended for such initiatives.

3.1 RECOMMENDATIONS: The following were the recommendations arrived at during the sensitization to help Youths assess HIV prevention strategies.

1. Mukinge Youth Development Foundation need to open up youth friendly corners and anti – AIDS drama clubs in schools where pupils will be able to share more information on HIV prevention strategies and other HIV related information.
2. Teachers should be fully sensitized on issues that affects the school youths especially HIV/AIDS for it does not only affect or infect adults' even pupils are infected.
3. There must be effective communication between government, teachers and pupils in the Fight against HIV/AIDS as well unwanted pregnancies than government just making laws on it's on without consulting the affected parties.
4. Distribution of HIV/AIDS IEC materials during sensitization especially on condoms use for young people who can't Abstain for it's not every pupil that is practicing abstinence.
5. There is need for these sensitizations to be scaled up if it is possible every term pupils need to be sensitised.
6. Mukinge Youth Development Foundation is a registered youth organization and its membership is composited of 22 trained peer educators, 1 Child Counsellor, 1 Couple Counsellor, 1 Prevention with positives provider, 1 Community Development Officer, 1 Nurse, 1 MC Provider and 7 Psychosocial counsellors. We have offices and a youth centre but we are requesting for different teaching aids, IEC materials and any other useful resources that may be used at our resource centre in order for the youths to access HIV information. We meeting twice a month to share information and also plan for our sensitisations locally due to lack of funding but our aim is to reach out to more youths in the remote areas and this can only be achieved through funding.

4. CHALLENGES

Though the sensitization was successful, challenges were also experienced and of which some of them were:

1. Lack of IEC materials in HIV prevention to be distributed during the sensitization and to be used at the centre.
2. There was a call from schools to form up Youth Friendly corners and clubs but we did not have funds to invite youths from different schools to be trained in order for them to form up these clubs.
3. Lack of transport restricted us from reaching out to more schools and youths in the remote communities, only some staff sacrificed their vehicles to use during the sensitization and due to the nature of the roads, we could not reach to had to reach areas because these roads requires land cruisers. Therefore, there is need for transport in order for us to reach to more youths.
4. There was a call for more sensitizations to schools by teachers but due lack of funds we are not able to conducted these sensitizations.

FUTURE PLANS

The following are some of our future plans as Mukinge Youth Development Foundation in line with our **key thematic areas** which are as follows; HIV/AIDS, Education & Training of peer educators and youth clubs, Sexual Reproductive Health and Youth Empowerment;

1. YOUTH MEDIA ADVOCACY FORUM

The media advocacy affords the youth and the public the opportunity to make their contribution to the development of the society. It engages various guest; youth, parent, teachers, community leaders, etc in various discussion on topic such as health, youth development, leadership, Human Rights, HIV/AIDS and Corruption. We are already running this program with our local community radio but once we have funds we will scale the program up and have live calling programs where the community will be given time to comment on topic discussed.

2. HIV/AIDS AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

MYDF will conduct civic education and community sensitization through Theatre for development (TFD), and interpersonal communication (IPC) on issues of HIV and AIDS prevention and sexual reproductive health issues such as peer counselling, family planning and refer youths to the Hospital for specialised services. The organization will also facilitate

formation of PLWAs support groups for youth in districts and youth friendly corners and clubs in schools for in school youths.

Advocacy

MYDF will coordinate youth associations for marginalized groups including establishing and empowerment of associations of young people living with HIV and AIDS. MYDF will also lobby government and other stakeholders in health programs on the special needs for youth in the areas of sexual reproductive health and HIV and AIDS either on prevention, care and support as well as impact mitigation. MYDF shall also sits in the national advocacy forums on HIV and AIDS programmes.

MYDF shall also Strengthening Community Engagement for Prevention of HIV/AIDS among Vulnerable Population Groups of Youths

3. Youth Empowerment Initiative

MYDF has an integral role to play in youth development and services. The organization intends to do this through;

Capacity Building

MYDF will conduct capacity building to the youth in development programmes and policies. The organization will do this through leadership trainings, mentorships, entrepreneurship trainings, and exchange programmes, internships and attachment to enhance their capacity for them to effectively embark on programmes that can uplift the lives of young people in the rural and urban areas.

Through the membership and other funds received from fundraising ventures, MYDF intends to engage in IGA. We have already identified the need in our community and we intend to venture into selling of fuel. The profit which will be realised from the fuel shall be given to some youths in the organization in form of a loan in order for them to come up with business and they will be expected to pay back the loans with interest in order for other youths to also benefit from the loan. This will be so in order for the youths to be empowered.

4. RISE UP AND ACT NOW CAMPAIGN

RISE UP AND ACT NOW is the main civic education project which MYDF intends to start 2014. It will empower young people in Kasempa District to take action on human rights, HIV/AIDS and gender inequality at both the personal and societal level. Zambia remains one of the world's poorest countries, but despite the return of multi-party politics in 1991 most young people are disengaged from political routes to solve their problems. Some commentators blame apathy, but MYDF believes that by giving this group the knowledge and skills to effect change, they will be empowered to improve their own lives. The aim of this project is to foster a culture of participation in political life within the young people targeted. To meet this aim young people will be given training in how to set up a MYDF club and take action on the most important issues affecting them. There will be workshops in schools on human rights and the importance of participation, setting up a MYDF club, HIV/AIDS, and gender. These young people will be brought together for a conference to share skills for effective action on these issues. The skills learnt will then be put into practice with a mass lobby to the government of Zambia on one of the key issues. By the end of the project MYDF aim to have young people regularly taking action in MYDF clubs to improve their lives and communities and reduce the spread of HIV.

Why is this project needed?

Youth participation – People aged under 25 make up more than half of the population of Kasempa, and if effective democratic governance is to be achieved in Zambia, the participation of this group is imperative. However many young people are unaware of their rights and how to participate effectively in the democratic process. Their participation in political life will hold the government accountable for tackling problems such as the 50% unemployment rate.

5. IEC Material designing, producing and distributing

The project will give chance to youths to come up with articles to include in the leaflets and flier to be produced. Youths shall be engage in competitions of article writing and the winner's article will be included in the leaflets. These materials shall tackle the following issues; HIV/AIDS Prevention strategies, Human Right advocacy, drug abuse and corruption.

6. Sexual Reproductive Health/Youth Friendly Centre

MYDF intends to come up with a full equipped Centre where youths will be able to learn and share knowledge. Kasempa district lacks resource Centres to provide skills and information to youths. This centre shall contain computers with full internet services, IEC material, Audio and video recorders and other not mentioned teaching aids to be used by youths.

7. Mobile HIV Counselling and Testing HCT

During our sensitizations, there have been calls from schools and communities for HCT and we decided to include it on our program. This can only be done with availability of funds, Camping tent and transport for the outreach and we aim to reach out to many people once funds are available.

8. Mobile VMMC

In Kasempa district male circumcision demand is high but the MC services are limited due to lack of partners and it is difficult for the youths to travel long distances to access the services being provided at the Hospital. This forced us to plan for the outreach in order for the youths in the hard to reach areas to access the services.

In conclusion, we want to thank you CHAZ for the continued support rendered to us during this period.

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