

.

Greater and Meaningful Involvement of People Living with HIV and AIDS for Positive Prevention

NACWOLA Experience

Presented by :Dona Aseru Abiniku

NACWOLA

- National Community of women Living with HIV and AIDS
- Established in 1992 to access accurate information on HIV and AIDS, fight stigma and abuse, empower and unite women living with HIV/AIDS to act as one strong voice in fight against HIV and AIDS.
- Aimed at improving the quality of life of WLHA and their families in Uganda.

Situation and Issue

- Torture and panic by HIV in Uganda in earlier days.
- Women's burden increased given our position, responsibilities in the family.
- Stigma and discrimination.
- Short life expectancy.
- Women lost their sense belonging in society. Amidst shame, formed a support 'community', to give courage to ourselves, and also to educate others.

NACWOLA CONT'D

- As people living with HIV and AIDS, and literally in control of the HIV Virus, took a lead, used our experience for prevention.
- Advocacy and Capacity building of PHA
- Networking with the churches and other stake holders, as a tool for strengthening the positive force for change.
- Resource mobilisation was critical to push the miles stones to improve the quality of life .

Strategy to approach situation

- First fight self stigma ,and step in the open with ones HIV status
- Testify that HIV has not changed ones humanity.
- Human rights should be enjoyed even in face of a chronic illness.
- Need for care and support to retain esteem and dignity can not be over emphasised.
- Thus greater and meaningful involvement of PHA in the fight against HIV for positive prevention.

Implementation of strategy and approach

- Formation of support groups for peer support.
- Build the capacity of health workers and community leaders for Congregational approach.
- Advocate for Basic care and support systems to be put in place.
- Improve access and confidentiality at service point.
- Involve PHA in decision making.
- Build PHA capacity to demand and sustain activities

Success areas

- Reduced stigma and discrimination.
- Conducive environment and space to reach out and access services.
- Involvement of PHA in many programmes. (Resource)
- Empowerment of PHA to be in control of their lives and dignity reinstated.
- Testimonies give real life experience.
- There is hope and place of solace

Challenges

- Low male involvement.
- Discordant results have not been easy to handle
- Children born with HIV become more difficult to handle and support as they grow.
- The elite remain in denial for too long a time.
- Overwhelming numbers compromise quality of care
- Being women's group culture dilutes empowerment.

Results and Impact and evidence

- Improved care for the infected and affected.
- Formation of PHA support groups across the communities and ongoing counselling support.
- Increased advocacy for treatment and donor support.
- NACWOLA membership (60,000) in over 40 districts across the country , reaching a great number of women and people.
- HIV and AIDS cuts across and mainstreamed in all sectors.
- HIV and AIDS policy documents and protocols in place.
- Documentation and shared experiences for best practices.
- With long life expectancy HIV is now taken for granted.

Possible replication

- People living with HIV to be given a conducive environment to be open about their HIV status.
- PHA be involved in active roles at all levels.
- Lobby the Church, Governments and communities participation and support people to be open about the HIV status and communicate positively.
- Speak and demonstrate an 'our' and not 'their' fight against HIV.

NACWOLA REACH OUT TO CHURCHES



NACWOLA Arua invites a Priest to facilitate a retreat at NACWOLA centre



Pastor comes to give spiritual Counseling on Members day care at the Centre; Some new members struggle against stigma (head cover) as they prepare to step in the open.



THANK YOU

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

+256772535719

aserudona@yahoo.com

daseru62@gmail.com

GOD BLESS YOU