



NAME OF WORKSHOP: - Getting to ZERO: Training workshop on Integrating Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV prevention interventions in and through sport programmes

Dates: 11-12 February 2014

Venue: - Harare, Olympic Sports Centre (Prince Edward High School)

The two day Getting to ZERO: Training workshop on Integrating Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV prevention interventions in and through sport workshop was held at Prince Edward High School, this workshop was organised by Zimbabwe Olympic Committee (ZOC) and the churches to respond to the HIV and AIDS (CUAHA).



The workshop opened with remarks by Zimbabwe Olympic Committee's Chief Executive Officer Ms. Anna Mguni as well as the CUAHA country coordinator Mr. Charles Siwela.

Reverend Maxwell Kapachawo from CUAHA led the devotions emphasising and echoing the sentiments alluded to in the book of Hosea that God's people are dying because of lack of information. He stressed that we all as humanity are under siege from HIV and AIDS as we are either infected or affected hence the need to fight stigma and discrimination which has caused untold suffering within communities.

The meeting comprised sports administrators, coaches and trainers in schools .The composition of participants in terms of gender were evenly balanced. The workshop was strategic and key.

Sport like church is a crowd puller hence its suitability as a vehicle to stamp out stigma and discrimination. Mr Garikayi who is the Prince Edwards Sports Director was of the view that sports and sex are interlinked, hence the need to use sport to spread the news about HIV and AIDS and discourage irresponsible behaviour.



Ms Angeline Chiwetani highlighted on the link between HIV and sports. In her presentation, she highlighted that we are all living the virus either as infected or affected. She also shared the UNAIDS' theme to respond to HIV which is to protect ones goal for the World Cup to be held in Brazil.

She further emphasized on the need for young people to know their HIV status , screening for sexually transmitted infections , screening for TB, denials, disclosure , confidentiality versus shared confidentiality, child headed families and care giving as well as age mixing where cited as real issues that affect young people and hence the need for coaches to address the challenges.

It was also highlighted that the International Olympic Committee is spearheading HIV and AIDS prevention interventions within the Olympic movement, and has strong partnerships with UN, INGO, NGO, FBOs, CBO, GoZ and UNAIDS who also instrumental in the development of the Together for HIV and Sports in and through sport toolkit.

The challenges that emanated in the discussions include

- Ignorance about HIV
- Stigma and discrimination
- Fear to get tested
- Limited uptake of services such as voluntary routine counselling and testing, early treatment for sexually transmitted infections and opportunistic infections.

Clarence Mademutsa from Zimbabwe Business Council on AIDS an organisation that was established by thirteen registered company (Trustees) in Zimbabwe in the year 2002 facilitated on the importance of developing workplace HIV and AIDS policies. He clarified and elucidated on the importance of having HIV and AIDS policies within workplaces that are clear on what should be done in the HIV responses within the workplace. He further highlighted what a policy should contain, within its strategic objectives, that it should be evidence informed, be general in nature, realistic based on the available resource as well as being based on the ideal programme framework.

Ms Rachel Goba from the Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council made presentations on Sexual reproductive Health and rights. She outlined strategies that promote sexual reproductive health rights.

It was also highlighted during the presentations that no child should be deprived of health care services as this was one fundamental human right.



She highlighted that under the international conference on population development of 1994, all forms of discrimination against the girl child should be eliminated and all cultural practices that undermine the rights of the girl should be gotten rid of and these include genital mutilation , girl child trafficking for purposes of prostitution. It strives to promote gender equality at all costs and also encouraging men to take responsibility for their sexual and reproductive behaviour and their family roles.

The presentation also tackled the marriage act which states that boys and girls below 18 and 16 are incapable of contracting a valid marriage. To note, there was utter silence on the minimum age of marriage in the customary marriages act.

The Domestic violence act was also unpacked in the presentation. The act criminalises harmful traditional or cultural practices such as forced virginity testing, female and genital mutilation, pledging of women or girls for purposes of prostitution.

Going forward Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council says it provides five day training on Sexual Reproductive Health Rights and participants were keen on taking up the challenge to widen their scope in so far as sexual reproductive health rights is concerned.

A representative from Youth Engage facilitated on the S.A.V.E model. The model is a replacement of the ABC model which falls short in addressing issues to do with HIV and AIDS issues.

The SAVE model has since been adopted in Uganda and has been seen to be all encompassing in addressing HIV and AIDS as well as bringing hope to those that are infected and affected by the pandemic.

Zimbabwe National Network of People Living with HIV (ZNNP+) facilitated on the Stigma Index, they explained the benefits of this research which aims to provide evidence, and to inform policies, contribute to the millennium development goals, reverse the spread of HIV by 2015 as well as zero discrimination and HIV and AIDS related deaths. The research has so far been conducted in fifty countries and was initiated for people living with HIV and for people living with HIV. Its stages are as follows:-

Entry data questions into the data capture, using the capture system.

- Analyse the results and write up case studies
- Present the results of the research team, people living with HIV
- Develop, dissemination or communication strategy and advocacy strategy budget,
- Write a report
- Circulate results

One scholar, Professor Ezra Chitando noted that people do not want or are shy to talk about sex yet they spend most of their time doing or indulging. It was however encouraging to have participants openly discussing sexual issues .One participant highlighted that she talks to her daughter whose sixteen about HIV and AIDS and the dangers of engaging in early sexual activities, she shared that at times she gives her a task of taking care of her siblings so that she feels that if she rushes into sexual activities she will have to endure taking care of babies at an early age.

Another participant said the workshop came a bit late as they had already buried one girl who was abused by men when she was in grade six and that with the information she got she 's now equipped to save and preserve lives.



Sports administrators as gatekeepers are strategic to inculcate positive behaviour amongst the youths and encourage young people to be responsible and kick out the pandemic as well as stigma and discrimination and so more emphasis should be put in building their capacity on Sexual and reproductive health and rights issues.

The number of sports projects aimed at combating HIV and AIDS have increased explosively all over the world. In the past few years several sports organisations have gained experience with the use of sport as an instrument in HIV and AIDS project. The church and the sporting fraternity should be commended for coming together and reasoning together in eliminating and responding to HIV.

The workshop concluded with a facilitation segment on integration for impact. The facilitator, Mrs. Chiedza Mafunga led discussions on integrating the learnt concepts into sports programmes in and out of school. The main activities that will be used for integration will be the existing **Olympafrica Centre activities** starting with the FutbolNet Tournament. Sport is a strong tool for fighting stigma and discrimination. Participants were issued with handouts on suggested activities for the 10-18year age group to implement within their clubs and schools as they work with young people.

A total of 40 participants received certificates and course material CD's. Those 40 are now expected to reach out to 1 940 young people with information on HIV prevention and Sexual Reproductive Health interventions.

Workshop Rapporteur
Mr. Bengani Ncube