



OUTJO SUPPORT GROUP

Ms. Claudia /Ais

CATEGORY: Sexual & Reproductive Health, HIV & AIDS

INSTITUTION: ALLIANCE

COUNTRY: SADC GENDER PROTOCOL SUMMIT

DATE: 02-04 April 2013

VENUE: Polytechnic of Namibia

GENDER EQUALITY BY 2015, YES WE MUST!

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE GOOD PRACTICE

- ✘ Ensuring that PLWHA are not discriminated against.
- ✘ Promotes adherence to treatment, safe condom use and positive living.
- ✘ Contributes towards food security and sustainable livelihood
- ✘ Decrease in HIV Prevalence rate and ensure zero new HIV infections in Outjo



WHAT IS THE PROBLEM BEING ADDRESSED? WHY?

- ✘ Increase in HIV cases, which led to high HIV prevalence's
- ✘ Poor adherence to treatment by ARV clients
- ✘ Poor access to sustainable livelihood & lack of employment
- ✘ Lack of food to patients on ARV treatment
- ✘ Increase in HIV & AIDS death related cases



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HOW IS THE PROJECT CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE 28 TARGETS OF THE SADC PROTOCOL?

PROTOCOL TARGET	ACTIONS
Health	Awareness campaigns, informing and education to the Community at large putting emphasise on behaviour change in order to achieve the national goal “Zero New HIV Infections”!
Legal and Constitutional Rights	Networking with relevant stakeholders to educate all women and man about their rights and advocate for Gender Equality for all in line with available laws & guidelines
GBV	Advocate for all laws in place to be implemented and not compromised as it is today in Namibia.

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DESCRIBE YOUR TARGET GROUP

- ✘ All people infected / affected by HIV/Aids
- ✘ Women, men and Children on ARV treatment & their Families
- ✘ 90% of the Group members are women
- ✘ I choose to work with women because they are more open and is willing to fight the pandemic and they are eager to improve their livelihood.



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OBJECTIVES

- ✘ Assist the PLWHA with new opportunities for growth, through income generating projects.
- ✘ To support PLWHA & families emotionally and spiritually or in death of loved ones
- ✘ Promotes positive living
- ✘ To maintain a good reputation to our customers, supporters and the community at large.



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PROCESS

- ✘ Identify income generating projects such as gardening, sewing etc.
- ✘ Advocate for monthly food ration from different stakeholders
- ✘ Developed a constitution for the group to be guided.



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PROCESS

- ✘ Provide Practical skills & training to all members for capacity building
- ✘ Held Candle lighting evening to reflect back and to boost the group members spiritually
- ✘ Awareness Campaigns, among group members, Other support groups and to the community at large



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WHAT HAVE BEEN THE MAIN SUCCESSES?

- ✘ The Garden has been the one of the successful story of the group.
- ✘ Partnership formed with KRC, Municipality, Govt. Ministries (Health & Agriculture) and Local Business people (NEXUS, OK Foods)
- ✘ Making cleaning materials



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WHAT HAVE BEEN THE MAIN SUCCESSES?

- ✘ Making Cards project
- ✘ Sewing Project Making T-Shirts and other Clothing
- ✘ Making place mats and bags
- ✘ Making HIV bids with kraals'



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KEY OUTPUTS (MATERIALS ETC.)

- ✘ HIV Prevalence of Outjo dropped drastically
- ✘ The group developed a Business Plan and Produce a flyer, for marketing purpose
- ✘ Exhibit at Trade fair Opuwo

✘ HIV Prevalence- Outjo

2008	2010	2012
18.0%	14.6%	12.8%



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KEY OUTCOMES (MAIN RESULTS)

- ✘ Garden, producing fresh vegetables, which is sold to local OK foods Market and the community at large.
- ✘ Materials and bids are made and sold.
- ✘ Local Business people buying food rations for group members



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CHANGING LIVES

- ✘ I really do not have a story to tell, however, I should admit that joining the support group and being elected as the chairperson of the group changed my life immensely.
- ✘ Today I am the ambassador for the whole Kunene Region.
- ✘ The Community of Outjo is proud of me and I am happy of who I am today.

Photographs when I was sick and currently



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LESSONS LEARNT

- ✘ The most important lesson we learn is that we as women does not necessarily need our male counterpart to achieve the best for our lives, yes we can!
- ✘ Networking and partnership is very important as it allows to share expertise.
- ✘ Sharing your opinion or experience even to one person, can bring about change.



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WAY FORWARD

- ✘ The project is growing, currently the group have been donated land by the Municipality for extension of the garden.
- ✘ We held weekly meetings for monitoring & evaluation of our progress/challenges
- ✘ Advertise achievements via our flyer
- ✘ We are going to develop a newsletter with the PRO's office (Outjo Municipality)
- ✘ We share our knowledge with other support groups within the region which can be extended to all interested partners in the fight of HIV and Aids
- ✘ We are in the process of registration as a welfare organization through the MOHSS
- ✘ Embarking upon Financial Management & Budgeting Training.

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Thank You Very Much



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ANY QUESTIONS?

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