



Prevention of sexual transmission of HIV/AIDS among politicians

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Affiliations:

- Taraba State Action Committee on AIDS (SACA)
- National Action Committee on AIDS (NACA)
- Actionaids International
- Family Health International



Objectives



- To increase knowledge, skills and attitudes that will enable politicians adapt a broad-based comprehensive approach to HIV/AIDS prevention,
- To design, implement and evaluate preventive interventions that actively promote gender equity and equality,
- To discourage sexual infidelity and immorality among politicians.



Methodology



- Advocacy
 - Visits
 - Meetings and
 - Follow-up
- Training workshops
 - Train the trainers model with analytical approach on:
 - Historical angle describing the history and the sexual transmission of HIV/AIDS
 - Factors responsible for sexual transmission
 - Methods of prevention
 - Beneficiaries of safer sexual behaviours
- Monitoring and evaluation
 - Pre, on-going and post evaluation of implementation activities of the organization (IAC) and the trained peer educators.



Results



- Level of knowledge of trained HIV/AIDS educators improved by 60%
- Reduced harmful cultural taboos against women and children
- Reduced prevalent rate of HIV/AIDS infection from 7.5% to 6.1% in Taraba State.
- Reduced stigmatization of people living with HIV/AIDS
- 22,462 peer educators trained by the trained HIV/AIDS educators,
- More people seek to know their HIV status
- More VCCT centres established.



Capacity building activities



- A member trained as monitoring and evaluation officer on NNRIMS,
- Members trained on reporting and record keeping,
- Project accountant trained in financial records and banking reconciliations,
- Project manager and project secretary trained on project procurement.



Networking



- State Action Committee on AIDS (SACA)
 - supervises and provides technical and managerial assistance
- National Action Committee on AIDS (NACA)
 - Provides funding for project implementation activities
- Actionaids International
 - Trained the project manager on budget tracking on HIV/AIDS
- Family Health International
 - Trained a member as a consultant on supervision of project implementation.



Conclusion



- One year's funding is too short a period to completely cover the selected local government areas
- Politicians identified as vulnerable group and easy prey to HIV/AIDS
- Firm foundation established by IAC/Nigeria Taraba State Chapter for HIV/AIDS prevention
- The organization's strategy recognized the importance of considering the mentality of the target group, the degree to which they have access to information and education on HIV/AIDS and their understanding of spirituality.
- Politicians are directly or indirectly affected by HIV/AIDS and the accompanying stigma characterized by silence, fear, discrimination, and denial which fuels the epidemic.



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