



Creating an inclusive Society

ICASA Symposium on Disability and HIV

By Phillimon Simwaba, Executive Director
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Email: simwaba@dhatregional.org

Web: www.dhatrgional.org

P.O Box CY1515 Causeway,
Harare, Zimbabwe

Structure of Presentation

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Introduction

- ❖ Fewer studies exist that have its focus on HIV and AIDS and persons with disabilities in southern Africa
- ❖ According to DHAT findings , recent research shows that less than half of the NSPs in Eastern and Southern Africa recognize disability as an issue of concern and recognize the vulnerability of people with disabilities, in their national response to HIV and AIDS
- ❖ At the time when the World Bank intensified its response to HIV/AIDS in 2000, little was known about the relationship between HIV and disability (World Bank Report 2010)

Introduction

- ❖ There is not much literature on the incidence of HIV and AIDS among persons with disabilities (DHAT's annual reports)
- ❖ Governments and policy makers rarely consider disability issues when formulating HIV and AIDS strategic plans, despite the growing attention for the rights of persons with disabilities
- ❖ In order to achieve universal access, HIV and AIDS policies, strategies and programmes need to be made inclusive and accessible for PWDs
- ❖ There are examples of good practice from which much can be learned, particularly with respect to disability & HIV-prevention efforts

Leadership: Good Practices and Lessons Learned on HIV and Disability

- **SADC Level:** good practice at national and regional levels, DHAT mainstreaming disability into HIV/AIDS CSOs and NACs
- **In Zambia:** good practice at DHAT HIV counselling and testing level through adaptation of methodologies for increased uptake of HIV services among people with hearing impairments.
- **In Rwanda:** good practice at Disabled People's Organizations (DPO) level through organizational development leading to resource mobilisation .
- **In Ethiopia:** good practice at building the capacity of mainstream AIDS organizations/services providers on disability inclusion.
- **South Africa:** Disability included in NSP as a key population .

Role of Continental/Regional leadership

- ❖ Africa Campaign on Disability and HIV and AIDS
 - DHAT creates and raises awareness and mainstream disability into HIV and AIDS strategies, programmes and guidelines and ensure participation of persons with disabilities in these processes
- ❖ African Union Ministers of Health harmonized all the existing health strategies by drawing the Africa Health Strategy (2007-2015) which Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other regional entities
- ❖ The Strategy provides a strategic direction to Africa's efforts in creating better health for all at Continental level

Strategies

- ❖ UNCRPD Article 25 Health “States Parties recognize that persons with disabilities have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination on the basis of disability
- ❖ From the UNGASS report of 2010, People living with HIV, persons with disabilities and transgender people have been added to the list of key populations.

Strategies

- ❖ UNAIDS Disability and HIV Policy Brief: Discusses the actions needed to increase the participation of persons with disabilities in the HIV response
- ❖ For the first time in UNAIDS' Strategy 2011-2015... “When social support and other programmes for persons with disabilities are delivered in an HIV-sensitive manner, they contribute to overcoming the historic neglect of HIV prevention and support to persons with disabilities.”
- ❖ At the global level, UNAIDS is committed to achieve the 2011 Political Declaration targets and commitments, which for the first time recognize the need to take into account the rights of persons with disabilities in the response to AIDS

Strategies

- ❖ “At the SADC regional level, DHAT is committed to achieve the advocating for donor, political will and resource allocation to disability and HIV.
- ❖ For the first time in UNAIDS’ Strategy 2011-2015... persons with disabilities are recognized and that social services must be delivered in an HIV-sensitive manner
- ❖ The Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying our efforts to eliminate HIV and AIDS (June 2011)... recognizes the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD), with regard to health, education, accessibility and information in the global response to HIV and AIDS

Capacity

❖ Research

Collaboration of DHAT, ICDR and HEARD with research Organizations to collect evidence data and raise capacities to address issues of disability and HIV based on evidence

- Promote and fund research on HIV and disability, ensuring that persons with disabilities are included on the research team designing, implementing and analyzing the research

❖ Building Concerted efforts among organization, (e.g. DHAT, HI and HEARD) to support advocacy for disability inclusive programming

❖ DHAT has good practice examples of promoting HIV prevention through support to livelihoods in support groups that conduct information, lesson and experience sharing

Capacity

- ❖ Information sharing, Lessons Learnt: e.g. Sharing and use base practices utilized elsewhere regarding HIV and AIDS For persons with disabilities
- ❖ Building community capacity (Gender and Disability friendly responses) to achieve the human rights of all persons with disabilities (DHAT working with grassroots support groups of persons with disabilities in response to HIV and AIDS Zimbabwe to build community capacity)
- ❖ DHAT is working through service providers with intent to raise awareness about disability and HIV and AIDS (e.g health service providers and Media)

Conclusion

We need Disability and HIV Fund and promote human-rights approach to disability, in **Leadership, Capacity, Strategies** to demonstrate inclusion of persons with a disabilities. To achieve this we need to approach it through:

- **Awareness** of disability and its implications
- **Participation** and active involvement of persons with a disability
- **Comprehensive accessibility** through addressing physical, communication, policy and attitudinal barriers
- **Twin track** identifying disability specific actions combined with mainstream approaches.