

**BONEPWA REPORT**  
**People living with HIV/AIDS week and world AIDS day**  
**commemoration 2008**

The Botswana Network of People Living with AIDS started running the (PLWHA) week in November 2007. The week happens as a build up to the World Aids Day.

The aims of the week were:

- Promote networking, partner alignment to supporting groups and hold the directly accountable for reaching their target.
- To facilitate efforts by mobilizing more PLAWHAs to own sustainable resources.
- T equips participants with knowledge on proposal work plan writing and how to set up income generating activities.

It was held in Selibe Phikwe from 24 – 30 November and participants attended World Aids Day commemoration, before returning to their respective homes.

It was discovered that there is no information on disability and HIV / AIDS available at BONEPWA and world AIDS day commemoration. Bonepwa want include disability in their training package as they have realized that people with disabilities are not well advocated for in terms of HIV/AIDS. During the day disability issues were not on the agenda and speaker did not mention disability issues as a cause of concern. However the sign language interpreter was provided at the world Aids day. The institution of people with disability (Re ka kgona) brought people with disability to the event to take part.

Therefore in terms of Disability and HIV/AIDS programming BONEPWA and ASOs need programming in this area. To contribute better to disability HIV/AIDS response Bonepwa requires Human resources / sign language interpreters so that they can effectively intervene in response to disability and HIV/AIDS and disability mainstreaming on world Aids day activities

As a result of the training members of BONEPWA staff and organizers were asking more for inclusion and involvement of PWDs in programming and advocacy in HIV/AIDS.

DHAT is now represented in DMSAC (Gaborone) committee as part of its efforts in pushing for disability mainstreaming.

There is need for Disability organization to be more involved and visible in events like these so that the voice of pwds is strengthened and pwds need to speak in one voice. There is great need for DAHT and BOFOD to collaborate and work together to participate at the next 2009 world AIDS day. DHAT representative was advised to collaborate with DMSAC that will be responsible for organizing the event to include pwds in the programme.

With these resolution, DHAT need to be one of the speakers at the WORLDS AIDS DAY PROGRAMME so that issues of pwds are given greater audience since the president of Botswana will be present to listen to pwds and HIV/AIDS plight.

Report By:

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