

National Disability and HIV/AIDS Committee

Study Visit to the South East District Disability and
HIV/AIDS Group, Motse Wa Badiri, Otse

[2nd July 2009]

[This Report was compiled by Keoagile, Nyirenda, Sinyinza, Nkganetsang for the National Disability and HIV/AIDS Committee, The National Disability and AIDS Committee is grateful to the South District Disability and HIV/AIDS Group for the Lesson Sharing Experience]

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National Disability and AIDS Committee

South East District Study Visit Report

1. Introduction

The visit to the South East District disability and AIDS group was carried out on 2nd July 2009, as an assignment by the National HIV and AIDS Committee to familiarise with the activities of the South East District disability and AIDS group. The task was assigned to Keoagile, Mapharing, Nkganetsang and Sinyinza at the committee meeting of 3rd April 2009. Modesta Nyirenda arranged the meeting with the South East District group.

2. South East District visit

The visit was carried out by Keoagile, Nkganetsang and Sinyinza on 2nd July 2009. We made an appointment to meet Richard Blake; the coordinator of the South East District Disability and AIDS group. However, Blake was unwell and Itireleng Mosime was assigned to meet and discuss with our team. Mosime is an HIV/AIDS Peer educator of the South East District Disability and AIDS group. An American Volunteer, Colin Pappajhon also called "Thabang", also working with the group accompanied Mosime at the meeting.

3. What is the South East District AIDS Group?

Mosime explained that the South East District Disability and AIDS group was formed and had their first meeting in 2006. At the first meeting stakeholders that included people with disabilities and the office of the District Commissioner were called to discuss issues of disability and

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HIV/AIDS. He emphasised that the motivation behind the formation of the disability and HIV/AIDS group were the challenges that people with disabilities face in response to HIV and AIDS. The primary challenge Mosime mentioned was the exclusion of people with disabilities from the principal HIV/AIDS interventions. For example IEC materials do not adequately address concerns of people with disabilities. However, after the first meeting of 2006 the group was not active until recently.

4. Role and Activities

The role of the South East District Disability and HIV/AIDS Group is to coordinate and facilitate for activities of disability groups in the district. The group works with grassroots. At the moment the group is has planned for a needs assessment survey in order to collect information on the challenges and statistics of the people with disabilities in the district since government has acknowledged that they have been doing a little for people with disabilities The office of the District Commissioner has mobilised resources for the needs assessment and has currently approve the planned activity by the group. The work will be carried out by support groups in the communities.

The needs assessment requires a good methodology to be able to collect relevant, reliable and acceptable information on disability and HIV/AIDS. Therefore, the group is currently looking for people with skills and experience designing and writing methodologies of data collection.

The planned needs assessment and the planned activities have attracted the National AIDS Coordinating Agency. The group has also scheduled workshop for villages. Among others the workshops teams will be composed of peer educators, counselors, support group leaders and rehabilitation officers. Support group leaders are themselves people with disabilities.

5. Conclusion

- ❖ The South East Disability and HIV/AIDS Group has made a big leap in its growth from after being in “hibernation”. The dramatic growth of

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the organisation was necessitated by commitment of the members and the district commissioners' office

- ❖ The commitment of the member and the growth of the organisation has attracted funders like the National AIDS Coordinating Agency and the world bank
- ❖ Mosime informed us that he will inform the support groups in the villages about the National Disability and HIV/AIDS Committee so that there is no duplication of work.
- ❖ There was also a suggestion that a member of the South East District Disability and HIV/AIDS could join the National Disability and HIV/AIDS Committee.
- ❖ The South East HIV/AIDS Group is a Community Based Organisation involved in coordination implementation of programmes within the community,
- ❖ In contrast the National Disability and HIV/AIDS Committee is an advocacy organisation.

6. Recommendations

- ❖ The National HIV and AIDS Committee should draw lessons of institutional development from The South East District which has significant growth in addressing matters of disability and HIV and AIDS
- ❖ The committee should form task groups which must be assigned for specific purposes e.g. institutional development" group etc
- ❖ We should recruit more members for the committee with focus on people with disabilities as well as able bodied who have certain skills that can up assist in development of our organisation
- ❖ We should develop fundraising strategies of our organisation