

Monitoring visit report to DHAT

Introduction

SAT conducted a programmatic monitoring visit to Disability HIV and AIDS Trust (DHAT) from 14th to 16th February 2014. The objectives of the monitoring visit were:

- To discuss successes and challenges in managing the programme as well as actions taken to resolve the challenges
- To assess financial and budget-related challenges and difficulties as well as action taken to resolve budget and finance-related difficulties
- To assess progress in organisational capacity development and plans on the same.
- To discuss work plan for the next financial year.
- To discuss any other management related issues and concerns.
- To visit at least one project site in Zimbabwe.

The monitoring support visit took the form of one and half days with DHAT members of staff as well as going through reports and other documentation. The other one day SAT visited one of the project sites near Harare. Present for the monitoring visit were:

From SAT

1. Kettie Tembo (Regional Programme Officer)
2. Lemogang Mogkweetsi (Finance Monitoring Officer)

From DHAT

1. Phillimon Simwaba (Executive director)
2. Hamida Mauto (Operations Manager)
3. Robert Sinyiza (Programme Officer)

Findings of the visit

Organisational capacity development

1. The strategic plan (2008-2012) expired but is still being used as an interim strategic plan awaiting the finalisation of the 2014 -2019. The plan is to review the 2008-2012 to incorporate emerging issues that came out of the 2012 mapping exercise. The review of the strategic plan is overdue mainly because of financial constraints. Plans are underway to review the strategic plan by end of March 2014. The programme committee will take lead in developing the first draft of the strategic plan which will then be presented to the board for finalisation and approval.

2. General human resources. DHAT has secured funding from Progressio for a Zimbabwe project which came with a development worker. The Development worker is also helping out in other DHAT work beyond the progression project. There are prospects of a volunteer from VSO to help with advocacy work. A development plan for the current members of staff has been developed and costed. Members of staff have attended a number of capacity building workshops including workshops on SRHR by Bristol Myers, Zimbabwe ministry of health and society for family health in Zambia. The Executive Director and the Operations Manager attended the SAT organised governance and anti-corruption workshops.
3. Volunteers Management. The development of a volunteer management plan is underway and should be finalised by the end of 2013/14 financial year.
4. Governance. DHAT members of staff attended 2 workshops on governance organised by Bristol Myers and SAT.
5. Resource mobilisation. DHAT is still to develop a resource mobilisation strategy but there has been substantial progress in developing and submitting proposals to prospective donors. Currently, funding proposals have been submitted to Robert Carr, and ARASA. DHAT in collaboration with a Canadian Partner applied for funding under the Canadian Grand Challenge for disability inclusive support at points of health service delivery. DHAT also applied for funding to USAID under the “Expanding Participation of People with Disabilities” to Advocating and Supporting Disability Transformation and Promoting Disability-Sensitive Service Delivery.” call for proposals.
6. Advocacy. DHAT plans to develop an advocacy plan that will also serve as a resource mobilisation tool. Planning for a think tank meeting that will assist in developing this tool is already underway. The think tank meeting will take place towards the end of March 2014.

Progress on the work plan

There was a discussion on the programming progress and the following were the highlights of the discussions

1. Advocacy. DHAT sits on the global network for HIV and SRHR and the last meeting was held in March 2013. An advocacy group has been created in Zimbabwe of which DHAT is part of, which focuses on women and disability. There is a major advocacy event planned for end of July for cervical and HIV testing for women with disability. In Zambia, there is advocacy work on disability and HIV which is being carried out in collaboration with Society for Family health.

Through the DHAT’s advocacy initiatives, Zimbabwe has now ratified the United Nations Convention on Rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD). The ultimate goal for DHAT’s advocacy work is to ensure that issues of HIV and disability are

clearly articulated in national policies and that programmes on HIV and disability are developed and implemented at the grassroots level. DHAT aims to empower persons with disability to know their rights and be able to claim these rights from the appropriate duty bearers.

In 2011, DHAT held a regional workshop on HIV and disability which brought together national disability lead organisations, ministries of health and National AIDS Councils and the outcome of the workshop was the “Harare agreement on HIV and AIDS and disability”. DHAT is now in the process of engaging with Parliamentary portfolio committees on health and MDGs to push the disability agenda as well as ensure that the Harare agreement is signed and operationalized. Currently parliamentarians are being engaged in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana with the funding support of national US embassies

2. **Research.** DHAT is working in collaboration with Centre for disability research (University of Toronto). The study focuses on access to health equity for PLHIV and disability in Southern Africa. DHAT is the lead organisation in the research, identifying the respondents to the study as well as conducting the interviews. The University of Toronto brings in funding and technical expertise to the partnership. The findings of this study will further inform DHAT’s advocacy work on HIV and persons with disabilities. In October 2013, DHAT presented the findings at a conference in Ottawa, Canada. The conference is on inclusion of persons with disabilities in global health research and programmes.
3. **SRHR.** DHAT has initiated a collaboration with Zimbabwe doctors for human rights, ARASA and SAFAIDS on disability and SRHR. The focus is on the use of livelihoods as an entry point to SRHR. Through Zimbabwe doctors for human rights, DHAT is supporting VCT centres to pay for deaf counsellors outreach programme. This programme is also done in consultation and collaboration with Ministry of health and social welfare. A programme has also been initiated which looks to address negative attitudes of health service providers. This is in line with the key commitments which DHAT developed last year. One challenge that the SRHR programme seeks to address is the notion that health service providers seem to portray towards people with disability that PWD should not be sexually active. SRHR for PWD is now a crosscutting issue in all of DHAT’s work.
4. **Networking.** DHAT realises that networking with likeminded organisations and structures yields better results than working in isolation. As such DHAT partners with regional organisations like RAANGO, governments, parliamentarians, National AIDS Councils, and councillors. It is encouraging to note that DHAT has forged strategic relationships which will go a long way in DHAT’s advocacy work as well as resource mobilisation. One such collaboration is the consortium among DHAT, HEARD and Handicap International. This consortium has attracted funding from UNVFD to host a regional workshop which will review national policies on HIV and AIDS to ensure that the disability component is addressed.

Some of the activities accomplished in the last quarter include

Needs Assessment Feedback

Stakeholder Feedback meetings to disseminate results of the Needs Assessment results were conducted in Hwange. There have been no organizations targeting persons with disabilities in Hwange and Binga; however, persons with physical disabilities' levels of understanding about HIV are relatively at par with non-disabled persons. There is still need for more understanding about HIV by those with hearing and visual impairments.

The outcome of the feedback meeting in Hwange demonstrated the extent of information that DHAT's target population acquired during the needs assessment. The beneficiaries were able to identify relevant stakeholders that are supposed to scale up issues of addressing disability and HIV and AIDS. The Stakeholders acknowledged and showed a lot of enthusiasm to have a first step to recognize persons with disabilities in Hwange.

Project Site Visits

Project site visits were conducted at Zimbabwe Disabled Women in Development (ZWIDE), Zimbabwe Down Syndrome Association (ZDSA), and Hwange Persons with Disabilities programme. The objectives of the field visit at ZWIDE and ZDSA were to monitor progress of sewing and candle making projects and collect an update on activities. The project is part of DHAT's approach to support women's productive activities. The field visit objectives at Hwange were to collect feedback information on Disability, HIV and AIDS and establishment of the Formation of Hwange Disability Network

The projects under ZWIDE and ZDSA will consolidate the HIV and AIDS activities that formed that basis of support for the projects. The projects are part of DHAT's approach to support disabled women's productive activities. The projects will potentially promote the economic advancement of disabled women and their families.

Network Meetings and Information Sharing

HelpAge International

HelpAge International; an international organization for older persons held a two day meeting in which HelpAge was soliciting for stakeholder input into drafting a Southern African Regional Strategic Plan. HelpAge advocacy issues are similar to disability advocacy issues. For example, DHAT realizes that the burden of HIV care lies on older persons. Disability in older persons compounds the burden of care among older persons. HelpAge International seeks to end poverty and discrimination faced by millions of older men and women by pursuing the global

actions of enabling older women and men and those they support to receive quality health, HIV and care services.

DHAT- FODPZ and Power International Meetings

There were two meetings that were held. First, DHAT held a partnership meeting with Power International (PI) to explore opportunities of working together on HIV and AIDS programme in the SADC region. The meetings were held in Bulawayo. DHAT and Power International were represented by the Executive Director Mr. Philimon Simwaba and the Asia and Africa Regions Director Mr Wamundila Waliyuwa respectively.

The second meeting was held to facilitate partnership between FODPZ and Power International through establishment of a memorandum of understanding. DHAT will follow up with Power International on explored areas for partnership and will provide the advisory role about DPOs in Zimbabwe.

Disability Awareness Workshop for Peer Educators

Northern Tobacco (NT), a Zimbabwe Tobacco Company in collaboration with DHAT, held a workshop on Disability Awareness for Peer Educators in Harare. The workshop was facilitated by DHAT. The purpose of the workshop was to sensitize Peer Educators enrolled by Northern Tobacco as part of the company's social responsibility. The objectives of the workshop were to sensitize peer educators on disability issues. The second was to explore ways on how Peer Educators can work with persons with disabilities and share the experiences of persons with disabilities with peer educators. Some of the outcomes of the meeting were that persons with disabilities are discriminated against by most peer educators when implementing their programmes due to lack of knowledge. The other one was that people in Northern Tobacco catchment area (Nyazura and Guruve) still hide their children with disabilities and have the attitude that it is a curse to have a person with a disability in the home.

It should be noted that most of the programming work that took place in the quarter under review was at country level (Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana). This is mainly due to the fact that current DHAT donors apart from SAT only support projects at country level. These other donors are:

Bristol Meyers Squibb Foundation with an annual grant of \$146, 200 support a project on advocacy, skills training and livelihoods for PWD in Zimbabwe.

Progressio Zimbabwe with an annual budget of \$19000 supports a project on development of HIV IEC materials specifically for the visually impaired and the hearing impaired.

ARASA with an annual budget of \$50,000 for skills training workshops on disability and SRHR in Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi

Zimbabwe American Embassy with a budget of \$18000 for skills training as well as IGAs in the rural area of Binga in Zimbabwe

Zambia American Embassy with a budget of \$15000 for skills training and IGAs.

As mentioned above DHAT strives to widen its resource base especially for its regional mandate. This has been evidenced by the fact that in the past six months DHAT has responded to call for proposals and submitted proposals to Robert Carr Foundation, Global Fund, UNDP and UNIDO among others.

Internal monitoring and reporting

The annual work plan was also discussed in detail and some revisions to the plan were made. DHAT to consolidate the revised version and share it with SAT. The findings of the mapping report informed the annual work plan. Internally, DHAT has an activity tracking report for each activity. Programmatically, quarterly reports are produced in addition to the annual reports.

Documentation shared with SAT

As part of the programmatic checks and controls, the following documents were shared with SAT:

1. Board minutes
2. Constitution
3. Mapping report
4. Contracting for results report
5. Quarterly report
6. Strategic plan
7. Annual report.

Conclusion and way forward

The monitoring visit to DHAT was very fruitful. Apart from the funding challenges that DHAT is facing currently, DHAT is on track in implementation of activities. It is also pleasing to note that the annual work plan was informed by the findings of the mapping exercise and that SRHR is at the core of DHAT's work even with other non-SAT projects. DHAT is implementing a lot more activities beyond the SAT funded activities and it was agreed that in subsequent programming reports DHAT would report on the other accomplishments as well.

The following were the highlights of the follow up activities after the monitoring visit:

1. DHAT to revise the work plan in line with the discussion during the visit. The revised work plan to be submitted to SAT by end March 2014.
2. DHAT to continue its resource mobilisation efforts especially for regional programming. The resource mobilisation strategy to be finalised by end August 2014.
3. The indicators to be reported on under SAT agreement will also be revised and sent together with the revised work plan.

4. The new strategic plan to be completed by end of March 2014.
5. DHAT was also reminded that the next annual report is due on 30th April 2014.

All in all DHAT is progressing well and from the programmatic side and based on the same I recommend further disbursement of funds.