



# Activities AIDS Awareness Program CECA 20

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In 1999 the church leadership of CECA followed a workshop about AIDS in Kenya and realized that AIDS is not to be ignored by the church. They decided to be involved and started an AIDS Awareness Program, based in Bunia, Oriental Province. The coordinator of education was assigned as director for the program. This gave an easy entrance to the schools in Bunia. After the fighting in Bunia in 2002-2003 the office of the AIDS Awareness Program moved to Aru in the north of the Oriental Province and its activities continued. The focus started to be more on the training of future pastors about AIDS at the CECA Bible Schools. The program developed and more activities started, like radio broadcasts on Radio Tangazeni Kristo, the local radio station to proclaim Christ in Aru. In 2007 the AIDS Program moved to Adi, again further north. Funded by Help A Child (Red een Kind) the AIDS Program worked in four Health Zones (Adi, Aru, Ariwara and Adja) and started to be involved with people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), young people, translation of a manual into Lingala for the Bible Schools, and even in 2010 the production of a movie that was launched for World AIDS day 2010. The end of that year funding was terminated, but to of the staff members continued in 2011-2012 to teach at the local churches and creating support and action groups (SAG). They also continued working with the young people in the area. In the four health zones at least 2000 PLWHA are known. They have to go to Arua in Uganda to get treatment with ARVs because the Congo National AIDS Program first wants to train the medical staff of the CECA General Hospital in Adi before allowing this hospital to be involved in the treatment and care of PLWHA. There is growing openness to talk about AIDS in the region.

The AIDS Awareness Program wants to continue to be involved in six activities.

1. Creation and training of Support and Action Groups
2. AIDS teaching for the young people
3. Care for people with AIDS
4. Cooperation with medical workers
5. Media
6. Orphan care

## **Creation and training of Support and Action Groups**

These groups in the local churches are responsible for the teaching about AIDS in the church and for the assistance of people living with AIDS (PLWHA) after the training has taken place. In the church districts of Aru and Adi, where there are more than 60 local CECA churches, half of them are reached with teaching about Support and Action Groups. Around 20 groups are active.

## **AIDS teaching for the young people**

At schools and during night markets (a kind of open air disco that continues until the early morning hours and where even very young children of 8-10 years of age attend) the young people are reached with teaching about AIDS through films and discussions. Also workshops are being organized to talk about marriage according to the norms in the Bible and activities are organized to do together (for example in microcredit programs engaging in agriculture, to help finance their activities).

## **Care for people with AIDS**

This is taking place in different ways. First there is the support group of people living with AIDS (CARM) where they meet to find support of each other and of God. Second there are home visits to people living with AIDS to personally talk with them about their situation. And thirdly there is the support of people who go for voluntary testing.

## **Cooperation with medical workers**

HIV tests are been done in the hospitals of CECA but these have to be confirmed in Uganda, where PLWHA are treated for AIDS. Doctors assist them (sometimes one of our people is accompanying them to Uganda) and also there is collaboration to get the treatment of AIDS to Congo. The hospital of Adi is on the list of hospitals that is allowed to do so after following a training organized by the National AIDS Program of Congo.

## **Media**

Radio broadcasts are being organized on three radio stations in the region: Aru, Ariwara and Ingbokolo/Adi. The reach of this stations is big. The AIDS Awareness Program produced a movie in 2010, and thoughts are to produce a sequel to it.

## **Orphan care**

Contacts with PLWHA, schools and church leaders will reveal the presence of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) because of AIDS. These children are marginalized and often unable to go to school and just be child. Through assistance and income generation these children will be helped to go to school. Church leaders will be actively involved. Also fun activities and Bible teaching will be organized for the children.

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## Creation and training of Support and Action Groups

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### Goal

In every local CECA church a SAG is actively involved in teaching its members about AIDS and assisting PLWHA.

### Objectives

1. At the end of 2012 in 30 churches SAG are active.
2. In 10 of these 30 churches a training has been organized for the SAG by the end of 2012.
3. At the end of 2012 10 more churches have been approached with information about SAG and training is planned for early 2013.

### Strategies

1. Create SAG
2. Training for SAG
3. Assist SAG in their activities

### Impact

The SAG will stimulate the church members to have a positive attitude towards PLWHA and create an openness for teaching about AIDS in the community.

### Budget for SAG

- |                             |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| 1. Create SAG               | \$1,500 |
| 2. Training for SAG         | \$5,000 |
| 3. Empowerment of these SAG | \$2,500 |

## AIDS teaching for the young people

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### Goal

Young people make healthy decisions about life, sexuality and behavior aiming to prevent infection with HIV.

### Objectives

1. Visit 25 schools and organize teaching and discussions with the young people in 2012.

2. Organize 15 video shows at the night markets followed by discussion with the young people in 2012.
3. Organize 4 workshops about life, sexuality, and marriage for young people in 2012 in each of the four health zones.
4. Organize an active youth group in each of the four health zones and stimulate them to be involved in income generating activities, in assisting PLWHA and creating awareness about AIDS.

### **Strategies**

1. School visits
2. Video shows
3. Discussions
4. Workshops
5. Organize income generating activities

### **Impact**

The number of new infections with HIV among young people will decrease with 50%.

### **Budget for working with young people**

- |                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| 1. School visits     | \$5,000 |
| 2. Video shows       | \$5,000 |
| 3. Workshops         | \$2,000 |
| 4. Income generation | \$2,000 |

## **Care for people with AIDS**

*This is taking place in different ways. First there is the support group of people living with AIDS (CARM) where they meet to find support of each other and of God. Second there are home visits to people living with AIDS to personally talk with them about their situation. And thirdly there is the support of people who go for voluntary testing.*

### **Goal**

PLWHA are surrounded by people willing to assist them and each of the PLWHA is member of one of the support groups (CARM) that are organized in each of the four health zones.

### **Objectives**

1. Two support groups (CARM) are organized in each of the four health zones to encourage PLWHA by the end of 2012.
2. Assist these CARM to be able to organize income generating activities for the PLWHA.
3. In collaboration with the SAG active in the local churches a system is put in place where PLWHA who need to be visited in their homes are known and home visiting is taking place by the end of 2012.
4. By the end of 2012 the general hospitals in the four health zones are involved in support of people who go for voluntary counseling and testing (VCT).

### **Strategies**

1. CARM meetings
2. Income generation
3. Organization of home visits
4. Support for people who go for testing

### **Impact**

PLWHA are accepted in the community and share openly about their health status.

### **Budget**

- |                        |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| 1. CARM                | \$2,000 |
| 2. Income generation   | \$2,000 |
| 3. Home visits         | \$1,000 |
| 4. Support for testing | \$1,000 |

### **Cooperation with medical workers**

*HIV tests are been done in the hospitals of CECA but these have to be confirmed in Uganda, where PLWHA are treated for AIDS. Doctors assist them (sometimes one of our people is accompanying them to Uganda) and also there is collaboration to get the treatment of AIDS to Congo. The hospital of Adi is on the list of hospitals that is allowed to do so after following a training organized by the National AIDS Program of Congo.*

### **Goal**

A service of VCT and treatment with ARVs and follow-up of PLWHA is organized in the general hospital of Adi.

### **Objectives**

1. Organize training of personnel of Adi Hospital in VCT, ARV, follow-up, laboratory techniques and pharmacy given by the Congo National AIDS Program to take place the end of 2012 or early 2013.
2. Assist the leadership of Adi Hospital in the organization of the treatment and care facilities.
3. Organize monthly meetings with the medical staff of the four general hospitals of CECA.

### **Strategies**

1. Lobbying
2. Facilitation
3. Assistance
4. Fund raising
5. Meetings

### **Impact**

PLWHA receive treatment and care at Adi Hospital.

## **Budget**

- |                                 |          |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Training                     | \$20,000 |
| 2. Set up of treatment and care | \$5,000  |
| 3. Meetings                     | \$500    |

## **Media**

*Radio broadcasts are being organized on three radio stations in the region: Aru, Ariwara and Ingbokolo/Adi. The reach of this stations is big. The AIDS Awareness Program produced a movie in 2010, and thoughts are to produce a sequel to it.*

## **Goal**

The population of the four health zones is reached with information about AIDS.

## **Objectives**

1. On the three radio stations (in Aru, Ariwara and Ingbokolo) weekly broadcasts take place to inform the population about AIDS and related issues.
2. Produce a movie of an hour to an hour and a half about AIDS in 2012 using locals to enact the play.

## **Strategies**

1. Radio broadcasts
2. Follow listeners reports
3. Production of the movie

## **Impact**

The population can explain all about the problems AIDS causes in their communities and are ready to assist PLWHA.

## **Budget**

- |                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| 1. Weekly radio broadcasts | \$1,000  |
| 2. Movie production        | \$10,000 |

## **Orphan Care**

*Contacts with PLWHA, schools and church leaders will reveal the presence of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) because of AIDS. These children are marginalized and often unable to go to school and just be child. Through assistance and income generation these children will be helped to go to school. Church leaders will be actively involved. Also fun activities and Bible teaching will be organized for the children.*

## **Goal**

To give a chance to OVC to go to school and learn

## **Objectives**

1. 80% of the identified OVC are enrolled at school by the end of 2012 and actively following lessons.

2. Income generation activities are organized to assist these OVC with their daily needs.

### **Strategies**

1. Identification of OVC
2. Home visits and assessment of living conditions
3. Income generation
4. Fun activities and Bible teaching

### **Impact**

OVC can grow up strong and healthy going to school while others care.

### **Budget**

- |                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Identification of OVC             | \$500   |
| 2. Home visits                       | \$500   |
| 3. Income generation                 | \$2,000 |
| 4. Fun activities and Bible teaching | \$2,000 |

### **Other funds demanded**

To be able to function and travel in the four health zones the rest of the year 2012 (August-December) the following expenses are expected to be present and need to be financed as well.

### **Budget**

- |                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Four motorbikes plus documents | \$20,000 |
| 2. Fuel                           | \$5,000  |
| 3. Office supplies                | \$1,000  |
| 4. Salaries (6 people)            | \$3,000  |

Adi, 17 August 2012

Annemarie Boks