



PERSPECTIVES ON PREVENTION

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THIS ISSUE: MEN AND WOMEN JOINING HANDS TO PREVENT VAW

We are pleased to dedicate this issue to how organizations are involving both women and men in efforts to prevent violence against women. Many organizations are using creative strategies to reach out to a whole range of community members, recognizing the importance of everyone getting involved in VAW prevention.

The recent 16 Days of Activism Campaign provides many excellent examples of men and women working together to prevent violence and HIV/AIDS. Indeed, the campaign's theme, "Men and Women Joining Hands to Prevent Violence and HIV/AIDS" helped guide many organizations toward innovative and interesting methods of assisting men and women to work together. As such, we are delighted to highlight some of the activities that member organizations undertook during the campaign, and also to focus on some of the efforts of NGOs working to prevent violence and HIV/AIDS. We hope the stories will inspire new ideas and activities on these important issues!

NEXT ISSUE'S THEME: Our next issue will look at primary prevention and will offer very practical ideas for doing primary prevention work within your existing programs. The issue will also identify the latest available resources in prevention work, and give practical, real world uses for them. And, we'll highlight what member organizations have been doing. Please share with us! Tell us what has worked for you and how you did it. Write to us by July 1 at newsletter@preventgbv africa.org. Look for the next issue in August.

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HOT TOPIC: GETTING MEN INVOLVED - KENYA'S MEGEN BRINGS OUT MALE VOICES

Around the world, organizations aimed at preventing GBV are taking action to involve men in their prevention efforts. The image of men and women joining hands, and working on prevention together, is a powerful one.

One project that has been successful in bringing out the male voice is Men for Gender Equality Now Network (MEGEN) of Nairobi, Kenya.



MEGEN's Men in Red work within communities to help combat GBV.

MEGEN's Rapid Response project started as a small initiative to add men's voices to condemning GBV, but it quickly grew into a full program, with 70 men trained to advocate for and with women who have experienced domestic violence.

ture bright red t-shirts the men always wear when they respond to incidents of violence against women.

"When a battery or rape occurred, only the women were seen as talking about it, condemning it," says male activist Kennedy Odhiambo Otina of MEGEN. "We started feeling we were missing in action by not saying anything about it. So we started showing our faces. It created quite an enormous impact, with people wondering, 'Who are these men condemning rape and all forms of violence?'"

Who are these men indeed? They are the Rapid Response Team, known in the communities as "The Men in Red" because of the signa-

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That response means going to homes to assist women when an incident happens. It means providing referrals to hospitals and directing women to legal support. The Men in Red even attend court sessions in solidarity with the survivors.

"People are told, 'If you do anything uncouth, they will call for the Men in Red,'" Kennedy explains. "When we go out ... attend court sessions, we do that in solidarity and in color. You need to intimidate people so they take action."

All 70 of MEGEN's members are trained as Rapid Responders, and they have become so popular in certain parts of Kenya that people prefer calling them as opposed to the police, Kennedy says. And once the Men in Red become involved, they take survivors through the entire process. MEGEN has developed links with other organizations to offer solace, to provide shelter and to garner legal support.

MEGEN members are scheduled to receive more trainings, to give the men an in depth knowledge of the legal system and of counseling. "We can not allow violence to take place in our backyard and just keep quiet. Everyone is supposed to make noise when violence occurs," Kennedy says.

MEGEN knows that getting men involved in prevention, as well as support, is also a challenge. So they have experimented with numerous methods to prevent violence before it occurs. But whichever method they use, their philosophy always revolves around the way they communicate with men.

"When we approach men as violent, as always beating up their women, they tend to be defensive and resistive," Kennedy says. "At some point, it creates a barrier

and you are not able to communicate." For men to listen, you need to talk to them in a positive, proactive way, he explains. It is also imperative to combat men's sense of fear when they are talking about GBV. Many men worry about losing control or status within a relationship or home.

"It's key," Kennedy says. "There is this fear men have that their status is threatened,

start talking. "When you have facts at the tip of your hands, you are able to convince them to change their minds," Kennedy says. "It is not easy or automatic, it is a process. But once they are able to look at women differently, it's a step in the right direction."

MEGEN's members are combating gender-based violence all year round. But



MEGEN's Men in Red went straight to the community during the 16 Days campaign, reaching more than 100,000 men with their message of male involvement.

they were even more active during the 16 Days campaign in promoting male involvement. In fact, the group reached more than 100,000 men during the 16 Days with their traveling conferences. Instead of calling a meeting in a hotel, MEGEN went straight to the communities, reaching out in villages, homes and rural market places. In the process, they exchanged contacts and recruited more men. As such, the campaign served as a tremendous entry way into new communities. After

that these women are now taking over. But in reality, it is not about taking over, it is a matter of the right way of life. If you communicate effectively, I think you can make a breakthrough."

One of the approaches MEGEN uses is to talk to men about their daughters, mothers and sisters, in addition to their wives. "It's so powerful. It has a whole different effect," Kennedy says. "If you talk about your daughter, you realize that your wife is someone else's daughter, or you talk about your mother, and realize your wife is someone else's mother. When there is that understanding, that reminder, they start thinking differently. We need to work with the opportunity that patriarchy presents to us. If we exploit that, we can achieve quite a lot... and that creates an opportunity."

The next step is to take advantage of this opportunity – to be prepared and armed with knowledge when men are ready to

the 2004 campaign, MEGEN revisited 20 new communities with more intensive programming. This year, they will host 10 inter-gender dialogues and 10 seminars, all set up through contacts made during the campaign.

MEGEN, founded in 2001, is a project of African Women's Development and Communications Network (FEMNET) in Kenya.

GET INVOLVED: BECOME A FOCAL NGO!

The Network is seeking member organizations interested in becoming Focal NGOs for the GBV Prevention Network. It is a great opportunity to get more involved! Read more about it at www.preventgbvafrica.org



HOT TOPIC: GETTING MEN INVOLVED IN GBV PREVENTION - OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Organizations aimed at preventing GBV are finding out the importance of involving men in their efforts. A multi-country field review on male involvement conducted by Raising Voices concludes that there are many reasons for bringing the male perspective into prevention programs.

First, the prevention of GBV requires social change throughout society. With the way most societies are structured, men hold many key positions that could facilitate - or block - changes in social norms. Involving men allows society's current male-dominated structures to work for, not against, social norm changes that prevent GBV and increase equity.

Second, most GBV is committed by men, even while most men do not perpetrate it. Therefore, the prevention of violence requires working with men who do not use violence, and then joining together with women in changing or holding accountable those who do.

Third, GBV is worsened by ideas of

masculinity that include domination and control of women. While male peer groups often reinforce these ideas, they can also be great tools in changing people's ideas of what it means to be a "real man."

For all these reasons, GBV prevention programs around the world are planning collaborations or their own projects to increase male involvement. These programs have confronted a few main challenges:

- Ensuring that male involvement programs do not displace scarce resources that programs that work with women need.
- Ensuring that men do not dominate the program, thereby working against the organization's mission.
- Getting and keeping men interested!

There are also many ways projects have worked successfully to get men involved. Some lessons learned include:

- Learn about men in your area to find what issues are important to them. Get practical, find out when and where they can meet. Remember that many successful programs go out to reach men in the places where they are most comfortable.
- Create an open environment where men can talk freely – discuss the benefits of non-violence for men. Help men see how violence-free relationships can improve their quality of life and that of their family.
- A social justice analysis has worked with many men. Drawing connections to poverty, racism and other forms of oppression that men have experienced can help them to relate to women's feelings about GBV and sexism.
- Work in collaboration with women's organizations to ensure that women and their priorities are always at the fore.
- Encourage men to reach out to other men. This strategy creates male role models, can help reduce backlash and encourages male activism.

THE GBV PREVENTION NETWORK: MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to all of you who took the time to complete the short questionnaire. It will help us to steer our network in the right direction.

Here are some of the highlights:

- The majority of respondents said they are most interested in using the network to learn about what other organizations are doing (12);
- Many members are interested in contributing articles to this newsletter (13);
- Quite a few would like to join in web/email discussions (10);
- Some are also interested in strategizing about the future direction of the network and in working on specific issues through the network (8);
- Almost all (12) also said they think having a focal NGO within each country to facilitate information sharing is a good idea and some organizations volunteered for that role (8).

Do you like these ideas or have a few of your own? We would love to hear from you, as would all of your 110 sister organizations in the Network. Please contact us with your thoughts about the network at newsletter@preventgbvafrica.org or fill out the survey online at www.preventgbvafrica.org.



IDEAS IN PREVENTION: MEMBERS SHARE SUCCESS STORIES FROM THE 16 DAYS CAMPAIGN

For the second year in a row, the GBV Prevention Network put out a call for applications from member organizations that were interested in receiving Action and Advocacy Kits to support their individual campaign work. The Kits were distributed to 19 member organizations from nine countries, as chosen by the selection committee. The kits contained up to 200 mini-posters, 3,000 purple ribbons, 20 flyers about the ribbons, 200 stickers, a newspaper article and a community dialogue guide. Member organizations used the materials in a variety of innovative ways, helping to make their 16 Days Campaigns quite successful. We are very pleased to share some of these events and activities that Network members undertook during this year's 16 Days campaign.

Family Life Association of Swaziland (FLAS) had an incredibly active campaign this year, which was comprised of a series of public events, a lot of media exposure and an increased focus on the link between GBV and HIV/AIDS. FLAS was able to mobilize considerable print and electronic media coverage during the 16 Days of Activism, including publishing the newspaper article in the Times of Swaziland and appearing on 3 live TV shows. FLAS also made a press statement on National Radio about the purpose of the 16 Days of Activism, appealing to the Prime Minister, legislators and the general public to support advocacy campaigns in the fight against GBV.

Southern African Media and Gender Institute (SAMGI), South Africa used the community dialogue guides to reach out to members of the Criminal Justice System with a

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

- Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK), Kenya
- Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP), Uganda
- Coalition on Violence against Women (COVAW), Kenya
- Dolphin Anti-Rape and AIDS Control Outreach, Kenya
- Family and Marriage Society (FAMSA), South Africa
- Family Life Association of Swaziland (FLAS), Swaziland
- Forum for Activists against Torture (FACT), Rwanda
- International Rescue Committee (IRC), Uganda
- Kenya Female Advisory Organization (KEFEADO), Kenya
- Kivulini Women's Rights Organization, Tanzania
- Lira Rural Women's Development and Child Protection Initiative, Uganda
- Men for Gender Equality Now Network (project of FEMNET), Kenya
- Namibian Voices for Development, Namibia
- Nisaa Women's Institute for Development, South Africa
- Rakai Health Sciences Program, Uganda
- Shinyanga Foundation Fund, Tanzania
- Siyanakekela Community Development, South Africa
- Southern Africa AIDS Information and Dissemination Service (SAfAIDS), Zimbabwe
- Southern African Media and Gender Institute (SAMGI), South Africa

particular focus on the management and staff of the correctional facilities in the Western Cape. SAMGI facilitated 11 one-day awareness raising sessions in workshop format, reaching

approximately 1,425 people in total.

SAMGI's other community-based activities took the form of three events in which the women who had attended

the training courses were the ones who facilitated the sessions. "This worked extremely well," SAMGI reported. "Mainly because it was done by the people of that community." These three events attracted a total of 900 people.



IRC Uganda and the communities in the IDP camps in Northern Uganda held music, dance and drama shows about domestic violence and HIV/AIDS

Namibian Voices for Development, Namibia, collaborated with about 30 organizations. A special edition of a magazine on the 16 Days Campaign was published, and the organization participated in international cyber

IDEAS IN PREVENTION: MEMBERS SHARE SUCCESS STORIES FROM THE 16 DAYS CAMPAIGN

dialogues on gender-based violence, HIV/AIDS and human rights issues. A march was held in support of the Children's Status Bill and a petition was handed over to the Prime Minister, emphasizing the community's dissatisfaction on the number of recent rapes and murders in Namibia. In addition, panel discussions were broadcast on television.

Kenya Female Advisory Organization (KEFEADO), spent a good deal of time and effort on radio communications that reached many local women and men in Nyanza province. KEFEADO was also asked by Action Aid to give a presentation at a meeting of more than 600 women. Due to these public education activities, the organization received an increased number of rape cases reported and domestic violence inquiries made.

KEFEADO also used the radio to announce a community discussion about what people consider violence to be. The discussion started with men talking about violence as the best way to deal with their wives, and culminated with many men realizing that they used violence because it was the way they were raised, not because it was the right thing to do. Participants were then asked to mobilize their communities to bring more people to the discussion the next day. Three days of discussions were held, with 20-40 people in each group.

Kivulini Women's Rights Organization, Tanzania, credits their work with the national media for the increased awareness and more open discussions on the link between HIV/AIDS and VAW. Kivulini began the campaign by holding a press conference stressing the connection between violence and HIV transmission. This was followed by the publishing of a newspaper article in two national newspapers, one in English the other in Kiswahili. Kivulini also aired a radio spot, which prompted receipt of a number of letters, written by women



Members of Southern African Media and Gender Institute (SAMGI), South Africa, used the community dialogue guides to reach out to members of the Criminal Justice System.

-explaining the violence they are facing in their relationships and requesting support. Kivulini staff, community leaders and religious leaders also received international attention for their work when they were interviewed by Radio DeucheWella (Germany) on sustainable interventions on addressing violence against women.

Siyanakékela Community Development, South Africa, was participating in their first campaign as they are just one year old. It was also the first time the community met to discuss the issue of gender-based violence. Community dialogue guides were a big success, and were used with community-based caregivers. Participants were so inspired by the dialogue and issues that they committed themselves to creating forums where they will discuss the ways in which they can work to prevent GBV in the places where they live.

International Rescue Committee, Uganda, used the community dialogue guides to create a great forum for males to voice their concerns about GBV. Men in the IDP camps in Northern Uganda formed two "Male Agents for Change" groups and

developed two action plans on how to join women in advocating for a change of attitudes and behavior among males in the community. IRC also successfully conducted a Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices survey in the community, which formed the basis of a petition calling for stronger prevention of GBV. Community members presented the petition to refugee leaders, UNHCR, the police, the office of the Prime Minister, and parents. In addition, the community held four music, dance and drama shows about domestic violence and HIV/AIDS prevention and the Youth Life Skills club successfully held three debates and three public dialogues about GBV and HIV/AIDS

Read the full report about the 16 Days of Activism campaigns of these and other collaborating organizations at www.preventgbvafrica.org

To download components of the kit, please visit: http://www.preventgbvafrica.org/take_action.htm If you would like to be a participating organization in 2006, please watch <http://www.preventgbvafrica.org> for the call for applications, to be released in July.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: FACT USES COMMUNITY DIALOGUES TO GET PEOPLE TALKING

An open exchange of views, listening to differences of opinion, telling and hearing community members' stories and ideas – these are key elements in the process of communal problem-solving. Indeed, what better way is there to get community members involved and engaged than by getting them talking?

That's exactly what FACT-Rwanda did during the 16 Days Campaign. They got so many people talking about gender-based violence that their hotline received an increased volume of calls, their group received greater visibility and their communities gained new knowledge. And much of it came from talking.

To start things rolling, FACT decided to use the community dialogue guide provided in the Network's 16 Days kit as a starting point. They used their creativity and expanded it to make the guide one of the most successful tools of their campaign – indeed, of their recent work.

"Most people are now getting enlightened about GBV," said Dr. Davis Kashaka Karegeye, president of FACT. "They are getting to know their rights, especially the victims."

FACT translated the guide into Kinyarwanda and developed small booklets to assist community leaders in conducting the dialogues. And then they made copies. 10,000 of them.

"We made copies readily available to everybody," Dr. Davis said. "That's why it was really possible for us to meet so many of our objectives."

FACT distributed about 8,000 copies of the guide to various organizations that deal with GBV across the country to use in

WHO IS FACT-RWANDA?

FACT, which stands for Forum for Activists Against Torture, was formed as a result of the genocide to address the issues of torture and organized violence.

"The Genocide in 1994 put Rwanda on the front page of many newspapers and on satellite television screens," Dr. Davis says on the group's website. "My home country hence became to be known all around the world as the site of the worst atrocity a human being ever committed against another human being."

Instead of just reading about it, Dr. Davis and a group of physicians, medical students, mental health professionals, lawyers, and human rights activists, decided to take action to address this violence. Today the NGO has 21 staff members and more than 60 professional volunteers.

In addition to all the work they did with the 16 Days campaign, FACT focuses its many programs on both prevention and rehabilitation. They provide medical services and psychosocial assistance to the victims of torture and violence. And many training activities on human rights and sexual violence have been organized for a number of institutions, including the Rwandan National Police, school children, Local Defense Unities, prisoners' leaders and wardens.

their own work. Then FACT took the remaining books and held 21 community dialogues, reaching more than 2,500 people in 12 provinces of Rwanda. Their main audience included opinion and church leaders, and both women and youth councils. These groups were targeted so they, in turn, could teach other people in the communities.

"Our success has been really big because we involve everybody in the community, to be educators themselves," Dr. Davis said.

The community dialogues opened up collaboration between FACT and the community structures, which will continue to help in reaching out to more people. They also raised awareness among community leaders about GBV and HIV and the impact it has on the well-being of people. Dr. Davis said those leaders were able to express their concerns regarding GBV and are now working out a way to transmit the information to even more people.

The dialogues and other activities created so much interest, Dr. Davis said, that FACT received an increased number of calls to their hotline during the 16 Days.

"So many people were calling, asking for advice: 'My daughter has been raped,' 'I have been battered by my husband, where do

I go for help?' People are getting to know what their rights are."

Dr. Davis is proud of how far FACT has come since its founding in 1999 and says that the 16 Days campaign has helped to raise the group's profile. "Most people call us the model in the country," he said. "We are having a lot of contacts, everyone wants to work with us on GBV issues."



RECENT ADDITIONS TO WWW.PREVENTGBVAFRICA.ORG

Broken bodies - broken dreams: violence against women exposed



This publication offers a powerful testimony of the different types of gender-based violence experienced by women and girls worldwidethroughout their lives. The publication, written by Jeanne Ward and colleagues, is part of OCHA/IRIN's

ongoing campaign to highlight the issues of violence against women through film, text and photography. To request a copy of Broken bodies - broken dreams: violence against women exposed, please write to brokenbodies@irinnews.org. The book and its accompanying CD of training materials are meant to raise awareness of the situation that befalls women and girls, and to provoke action. Information packages for partner groups helping to advocate on behalf of women and girls, as well as a media kit for journalists, are also available on CD and on the IRIN web site: www.irinnews.org/broken-bodies/default.asp

at <http://www.unfpa.org/publications/detail.cfm?ID=266&filterListType=>

Intimate partner violence: Results from a national gender-based violence study in Malawi

Focusing on intimate partner abuse in Malawi, this study explores sexual, emotional, and physical violence, as well as financial abuse. This on-line book presents the main findings of the study in which a total of 3,546 households were sampled, and both men and women were interviewed. Male and female perspectives are offered, as well as recommendations and suggestions for both parties. The study was produced by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), South Africa (2005).

16 Days Campaign Report of the GBV Prevention Network

The 16 Days of Activism Report details the activities of the 19 participating organizations. The report describes the contents of the Action and Advocacy Kits and how organizations used them to strengthen and focus their 2005 campaigns.

Combating Gender-Based Violence: A Key to Achieving the MDGs

This advocacy kit outlines the problem of gender-based violence, elaborates its linkages to poverty, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and conflict, and also discusses the impact of GBV on a nation's development. The goal is to mobilize leadership at the national, regional and global levels to make violence unacceptable. The study was produced by UNFPA, UNIFEM, and OSAGI. You can find the document



The Health Rights of Women Assessment Instrument (HeRWAI)

The development of the Health Rights of Women Assessment Instrument is an initiative of the Humanist Committee on Human Rights (HOM) with the aim to support the implementation of women's rights. HeRWAI is a practical tool for organizations that want to bring a human rights approach into practice. Through a HeRWAI analysis, organizations can link what actually happens with what should happen according to the human rights

obligations of a country. The analysis includes local, national and international influences and is based on the norms set by CEDAW and ICESCR. Download the resource at http://www.hom.nl/english/womens_rights_wrw.php

PERSPECTIVES ON PREVENTION is the newsletter for activists and practitioners committed to preventing gender-based violence in the Horn, East and Southern Africa. It is the newsletter of the GBV Prevention Network.

The GBV Prevention Network aims to: provide member organizations with relevant information about and access to resources on violence prevention; build solidarity between organizations working on violence; and, to advocate for increased interest and investment for preventing violence against women in the regions.



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