

Eagles Youth Development Group

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Activity Title	Violence against children and women.
Targeted age	15 - 24 Years.
Operation area	Busukuma Sub county-Wakiso district.
Number reached	264 (88 females and 176 males although targeted population; 300 people.
Period	March.2012.
Implementing partner	Eagles Youth Development Group.
Partner	Youth for human Rights International

Objective of the activity;

1. To address issues of Violence against Women and something for something love in HIV prevention among young people.
2. To bring our services nearer to young Adults through promoting accessible Behavior Change Communication and information Education materials.

Target group;

1. Young people 10- 14 years and their teachers.
2. Young people 15-24 years in and out of school.

Type of Activities carried out; Community and school facility outreach.

Methodology: Focused group discussion, distribution of IEC, role play, questions and answers.

Materials Used;

1. The story of human rights booklet and DVD.
2. Domestic violence chart, Domestic violence Act 2010 and Skip-Hip game.

3. Comic books

Background:

Eagles Youth Development Group is a registered community based organization formed in 2002 working in Wakiso district - Uganda. **Vision** is “Youth free from HIV/AIDS and sustainable income”. **Mission** is to restore hope and empower young people to improve on their sexual reproductive health, human rights and economic development through information sharing, provision of life skills, networking and advocacy.

Core values:

1. Obligations to young people living with HIV/AIDS, devotion to the best interests of the child and women rights.
2. Respect for human dignity and integrity.
3. Transparency and accountability. E.Y.D team makes a personal commitment to these values and is expected to perform their duties with a conscious regard to the same.

Governance:

1. **Annual General Assembly;** It's a supreme organ of E.Y.D. It is composed of the Executive Committee, staff and subscribers.
2. **The Executive committee/Board** performs the routine oversight functions. It is comprised of seven members elected by General Assembly and two ex officio members representing the funders. The Executive Board meets quarterly.
3. **The Secretariat;** is run by a Management Team comprising of the Executive Director, Administrator, Accountant, Education and Training Officer, Social support officer, trainers among others.

Program Strategies:

1. **Advocacy and Meaningful participation;** This focus area forms the core rallying point for the organization's work on increasing young people's influence on the development policy agenda. E.Y.D holds a shared belief that advocacy is vital for promoting policies that protect universal human rights. Our advocacy program thus seeks to help young people to speak out against unjust acts, as well as empower these young people to participate in and influence development policy processes. This strategy seeks to change public policy and practices to improve the quality of life of the young people in Wakiso district and beyond.

Under advocacy and meaningful engagement, we have undertaken actions like interfacing with local leaders on the key issues and development challenges of the young people in Uganda, consultation and information sharing with other youth actors and stakeholders, media campaigns including social networks, radio and community mobilization and engagement on key policy issues and possible actions across the country among others.

2. **Raising Awareness:** Advocacy strategy to be successful we need to have the support of the young people in particular, we therefore seek to engage in activities that raise awareness and concern about the specific issues in question. To this end, we have employed several techniques including education campaigns, workshops, social network and media strategies for instance, we undertake education activities; workshops and outreach programs to inform young people of their rights, how their rights are being violated and what remedies and recourses are available. Education activities have been, for example, found to be effective for young people about the role they ought to play in challenging the youthful face of poverty in Uganda this has been done through Annual Reading competition and special events like World AIDS Day, International Women, African child and Youth Day, among others. The media is an essential information and communication tool for raising public awareness and calling attention of policy-makers. Posters, bill boards, banners, Charts, social networks, and radio spots are ways to get the young people's messages to the public.
3. **Empowerment and Skills development:** These strategies mainly focus on the provision of employable skills to youth to reduce poverty. We also intend to advance computer training program to build skills of the out of school youth to make them more relevant to the job market. Also, building their competencies in using computers among others major emphasis is to develop young mothers' capabilities to be economically self reliant; these are long-term strategies earmarked to promote meaningful youth economic empowerment in Wakiso district.
4. **Confidential Voluntary Counseling and Testing. (CVCT):** These services are provided through community outreaches and public health systems, where they are integrated into general health care through combination model of Family planning, prevention for mother to child HIV/AIDS Transmission, safe male circumcision among other modes.

Current interventions;

Domestic Violence prevention campaign aims to convince young men to speak out against violence against women and to educate men and women about the new Domestic Violence Act. Ultimately, the Domestic violence campaign aims at influencing young men to reject violence in their relationships. This is done through videos, comic books, Billboards and posters.

This campaign is focusing on VAW because according to research, VAW is widespread; it increases men's and women's risk to HIV; causes more problems beyond HIV like disfiguring, injuring, humiliation and killing of women by their partners; Women do not speak out against violence because they think it is normal or they do not want to see their men go to prison and the men who know that VAW is not right do not speak out against it with their families and friends. This intervention challenges men to stand up and refuse to Violence Against Women, work out their differences non-violently and to respect women as their equal with equal rights to a peaceful existence.

Violence Against Women is an important reason why HIV has continued to spread in Uganda. "Women in abusive relationships are less likely to tell their partner if they test positive, less likely to ask partners to use condom, or even to test together for HIV". It's upon men to behave respectfully towards women, reject violence in their relationships, speak out to others about violence in relationships and seek to know the Domestic Violence (DV) Act 2010. We encourage women to seek protection from the LC system, police and other duty bearers if experiencing violence by using the Domestic Violence Act.

Lesson learnt

1. Violence against women can be prevented when men as a group start taking responsibility for men's violence against women.
2. Reducing violence against women should emphasize holding men who use violence accountable in all courts of law.
3. It is up to all of us to break the silence surrounding violence against women, never tolerating violence, and speaking out when we see it happening even if community norms accept it.
4. It is a collective responsibility to prevent violence in communities and to support women facing violence.
5. Partnership and networking with organizations and development partners that prevent gender based violence to promote accessibility to resources and avoid duplication of services.

Achievements;

1. 200 information education communication materials distributed.
2. 264 young people reached with violence prevention messages.
3. 8 Community out reaches conducted in different parishes in Busukuma Sub County.
4. Two radio programs conducted (Radio Simba).
5. Battered women started opening up.
6. Increased leadership participation in the fight against domestic violence.

7. Schools have shown interest in this human rights awareness intervention.
8. Featured organization for February on Gender based violence prevention network website coordinated by Raising voices Uganda.
9. Participated in Uganda National learning assessment 2012 for primary schools.
10. Participated Women's day celebrations and produced/published an article (Empower Rural Women- End Hunger and poverty) on various media.

Challenges;

1. Community misconception on child and women rights.
2. Increased girl- child sexual exploitation in areas like Kiwenda, Magigye, and Guluddene among others which put them at risk of having teenage pregnancy and contraction HIV/AIDS.
3. Increased alcohol and drug abuse in Peri-urban areas.
4. Low parents-teacher engagement in universal primary and secondary education.
5. Lack of Television sets and camera to ease film shows because it is effective in getting photos and educating young people.
6. Increased need for community out reaches and IEC that address domestic violence prevention.
7. In adequate funds to facilitate community outreaches and training of peer educators.

Recommendation;

1. Increased community out reaches and training of peer educators.
2. Distribution of Information education communication materials on women and child rights.
3. Increased human rights awareness that emphasize violence prevention.
4. Involving parents, teachers and government to address gaps in universal primary/secondary education.
5. Enforcing and respect of laws in all aspect of life.
6. Meaningful partnership for increased resource mobilization.

Activity in photo



Community out reach on child rights held in Kiwenda trading center.



Out reach conducted at Guluddene

Launch of Domestic violence prevention campaign.



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