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SOCIETY FOR WOMEN AND AIDS IN ZAMBIA

(SWAAZ)

SWAAZ ORPHAN CARE PROGRAMME

SWAAZ recognizing the fact that women and children are more vulnerable in Zambia because, from the beginning of the epidemic, HIV/AIDS still spreads through sex between men and women (Hetero sexual). Women in the child bearing age group, are mostly anected with the virus. These women have more children on average than other women in other continents. From information collected by SWAAZ through discussions in the communities, SWAAZ has realized that more and more vulnerable children including girl children are being infected or affected by HIV/AIDS through deaths of parents, abuse, Neglect, prostitution.

From 1989 when SWAAZ was inaugurated the main constrain was lack of accurate information on the number of vulnerable children including Orhpans. Needs Assessment using market women, Youths, Church leaders School Teachers, Traditional Counsellors and families were organized in order to verify and identify vulnerable families and children.

RESULTS.

Information on the number of vulnerable children such as orphans country wide through the SWAAZ Branches were known.

Information on status of families/guardians responsible for their daily needs.

Information on the status of orphans Health, Education, Housing were also identified. A register of needy families house by house was compiled.

ACTION

Four Support Homes in Lusaka Urban were bought. These are in Bauleni, Mandevu, Mtendere and Chawama compounds. Activities include provision of one meal a day as well as pre school education for orphans children.

Mpika Branch in Northern province - Renovated an old hut for pre- school activities.

INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES

I.G.A. activities identified in various communities in order to generate funds for vulnerable children's school equipments and food.

Mpika Branch (Northern province- bought oxen and till land given to them by local chief.

Kasempa Branch (North Western province - The British Government bought machines in order for Kasempa Branch to make school Uniforms for orphans and sell the surplus.

TRAINING

Partners have supported SWAAZ by training community leaders and SWAAZ members in identifying problems, local resources, provision of home based care for those infected and effected which include counselling. This is known as Community Preventive Teams (CPT).

NET WORKING

SWAAZ has developed a referral system for the affected and infected in the Communities.

DIFFICULT/CONSTRAINTS.

Numbers are large and ever increasing, resources are meager. Food cannot reach everyone. Education

CHALLENGES

Behaviour change is too slow

There is need to strengthen Youth Drama groups

More Youths in peer Education to reach more people in the community are needed.

CPT Teams- There is need to train more people in the community. The educational counselling component of SWAAZ needs more counsellors and to make programme more accessible to more literature in local languages is required.

Reach out to rural communities and provide basic facts.

Open more branches in rural areas.

Rural communities require Basic facts about HIV/AIDS

Provide activities in rural areas for vulnerable children to benefit as in the vulnerable children in Urban area.

Activities for vulnerable children in rural areas need to be strengthened.

WAY FORWARD

.Reach as many areas in rural areas as we can .

.Strengthening Networking with our partners.

.Documentation of SWAAZ activities in the last ten years.

.Strengthen the research capacity of SWAAZ

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SOCIETY FOR WOMEN AND AIDS

END OF YEAR REPORT

The Society for Women and AIDS in Zambia was created as a branch of Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA). Its mandate was to create awareness on the impact of HIV/AIDS as it affects the most vulnerable groups namely women and children. The mission of SWAAZ is to reach out to the Community and ensure grassroots participation in the fight against HIV/AIDS and related problems using women and youths and to empower communities with the skills of addressing issues of women's and children rights, sexuality and reproductive health in order to reduce women's vulnerability to HIV infection.

SWAAZ has a current membership of about 6,000 people representing the following branches: Northern Province: Mpika - Chilonga Village, North Western Province Kasempa, Luapula Province: Lubwe and Kashikishi, Central Province Kabwe, Serenje and Chitambo. Southern Province. Kalomo, Monze, Chikuni and Livingstone, Western Province. Mongu and Senanga, Copperbelt Ndola, Kalulushi, Luanshya, Chambeshi, Masaiti, Ibenga, Mufulira, Chingola, Chililabombwe, and Kitwe. Lusaka Province. Bauleni, Mtendere, Chawama Mandevu and Kabanana. In addition SWAAZ has also two special branches dealing with prisoners i.e Kamfinsa, Copperbelt Province and Chimbokaila Lusaka Province SWAAZ activities are coordinated by the Secretariat based at the University Teaching Hospital Lusaka and supervised by an Executive Board Committee whose members are drawn from each Province.

OBJECTIVES OF SWAAZ

1. Provide information to women, families and communities on STD's HIV/AIDS so that they are able to make informed choices and reduce their vulnerability to STD's and HIV/AIDS.
2. Provide skill's training to the Women and Youths through income generating activities as a way of economic empowerment.
3. Counselling of the affected and infected women and men, youths and couples with the use of both conventional and traditional methods.
4. Promote income generating activities as a method of empowering men and Youths sustainability for the organization, maximize the operations of SWAAZ in Zambia through HIV/AIDS campaigns in all provinces, districts and communities.
5. Support the vulnerable groups e.g. Orphans, Widows and Youths.

ACTIVITIES OF SWAAZ 1989 JANUARY-DECEMBER, 1998**A. INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES**

1.
 - a. The family support homes continued with their baking and knitting activities. Raised income is used to feed the Orphans.
 - b. Mpika/Kasempa branches continued their agricultural activities. The branch was in 1998 able to feed their orphans without assistance from the Secretariat.
 - c. The newly launched Lubwe branch through it's fishing activities raised enough money for sustenance of their branch activities.

B TRADITIONAL COUNSELLING

1. HIV/AIDS Sensitized and trained " Bana Fimbusa" counsellors for young women about to get married were used to train 2 other group of bana Fimbusa women in Chawama and the other in Mtendere.
2. In August "Bana Fimbusa" held demonstrations in traditional counselling for visiting dignatories from SWAA Africa.
3. Three couples were counselled with practical demonstrations during the Past year. In Zambia most tribes use Visual Aids made from clay to demonstrate to couples about marriage and on the importance of Love, Respect (Mutual) comminucation, dialogue family Planning and presentation of diseases such as STD's im marriage.

It is believed that couples that underwent this training in the past stayed to gather and most marital conflicts were sorted out. Divorces have also been minimal. SWAAZ believes that the introduction of this particular type of counselling in urban areas will help to improve marriage life for young couples, as conflicts in homes will be dealt with.

4. Two girls underwent traditional (Chisungu) at mernade using SWAAZ HIV/AIDS sensitized and trained traditional counsellors. The fee raised from the above activities have been used to mould new traditional visual AIDS.

C. PSYCHO - SOCIAL COUNSELLING.

Members continued to provide counselling at the family support homes. Members in the district also work in collaboration with their hospitals.

Youth Counsellors (Peer Educators) provide and distribute both females and males condoms from the Family Support Homes. The national AIDS/STD/TB and Leprosy programe provided the condoms for distribution to all the branches within the programme, there is also a training component as condom use. (SWAAZ Collaboration with Ministry of Health).

D. LEGAL COUNSELLING

Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) and Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) in collaboration with the SWAAZ Family Homes offer free Legal advice to the catchment population on various issues relating to support and care of families affected by HIV/AIDS.

E. ORPHAN CARE

1. Early child care and development services (Nursery School) provided in all family support home.

The family support homes have a total of children whose ages range from 3-7 years. The Local Schools have enrolled 70 Orphaned Nursery graduates. A SWAAZ run village Pre-School in Mpika has about 35 children.

2. In addition to the free pre School facilities for vulnerable children mostly orphans, children received a free meal each day. The meals are provided from Profits of Income generating activities (GA), Pre School monies. Collected monthly and donation from well wishes.
3. SWAAZ paid school fees for 10 vulnerable children in chief Siachetema area of Kalomo. The money was a contribution from the Lusaka based SWAAZ Executive.

F. SKILLS TRAINING FOR THE YOUTH

1. Mtendere family Support Home trained six youths in cartentry.
2. Swaaz ARTS Theatre trained 120 Youths from different schools in theatre production and Drama. This training was in confection with Nataaz.
3. The Counselling unit off the Ministry of Health trained one youth from Lusaka branch in Psycho Social counselling.

G. SUPPORT FOR HOME BASED CARERS THROUGH COMMUNITY PREVENTIVE TEAMS (CPT)

1. Kalomo branch 40 men and women were trained in Kalomo Chief Siachetema area (Zyangale, Tara and Kalenda) their task was to carry out community prevention and care activities within the community.
2. Kashikishi branch. The branch trained 38 women in the CPT concept. The team consisted of members from Chief Kambwali area, Majoni villages, Nchelenge Boma, Kashikishi and St Pauls.
3. Lubwe branch: The number of members trained were above CPT teams are an important component of the HIV/AIDS prevention strategy of SWAAZ. The teams provide care for the infected. They provide information on the prevention and spread of diseases.

In Luapula province the teams felt that Luapula being a trading province with different wateralistics coming to trade in fishing, garments fuel etc free sex was in part being used for trading purposes. The teams are planning to ensure that HIV//AIDS information safer sex is provided to women/ Youths and vulnerable children. Distribution of condoms will be part of their activities. Reasons that prevent children and youths from continuing school to higher level were be addressed. In addition public health problems including access to safer water as it relates to ill infected persons will also be addressed.

The teams from Kalomo felt that their role would be to address safe sex within polygamous partnerships.

The issue of the girl child education will also be addressed.

They also felt that the provision of support to vulnerable children, youths and women including widows and widowers will be looked into.

H. FORMATION OF BRANCHES

The focus for SWAAZ is to provide information to the rural community on the vulnerability of women children and youths. Collaboration with other networking partners also wishes to provide information on the rights of women and children. The branches would be identified upon requests from members of the rural community.

The way forward for SWAAZ is to ensure that the Family in the rural community has access to information through women who are the primary care agents within the family.

EVALUATION:

Swaaaz was evaluated by SGS between March and May, 1998, results were discussed by Executive Board of SWAAZ and NORAD.

FUNDING

SWAAZ has been privileged by receiving funding from donors and well wishers for its activities during the year 1998.

The following organisations have assisted SWAAZ financially and continue to do so.

1. PROJECT CONCERN INTERNATIONAL (PC 1)

- a. PCI Supported SWAAZ financially for the branch and training of CPT Team in Southern and Luapula provinces.
- b. In addition through Family Health Trust (FHT) P.C.I. gave an innovation fund of K1 000 000 for the purchase of food to feed Orphans at the family Support Home.

2. UNFPA.

- a. The organization support SWAAZ Arts Theatre by providing fund for a workshop at Zambia Council for Social development.
- b. Support was given to two rural women (Lubwe and Mpika) to attend SWAA Conference in Senegal, Dakar.

3. WHO

The Organization supported financially the Secretariat to attend SWAA Conference in Senegal, Dakar.

4. NORAD

- a. Norad was as usual the main donor Dakar, it has so far supported the majority (>90%) of SWAAZ activities.
- b. It has approved a three year support for SWAAZ in the sum of K:.....
- c. In addition it supported two members to attend SWAAZ Conference in Dakar Senegal.

4. HILFE ZUR SELBSTHILFE E.V. (HELP)

This Germany Organization will provide food AID to SWAAZ from the period March, 1999 up year 2002. The society has already secured a warehouse for storage and distribution of the food, this includes meal meal, cooking oil beans and HEPS. The food will be initially distributed in Lusaka through Family Support Homes.

NETWORKING

- 1. None governmental Organizing Committee (NGOC) SWAAZ is affiliated to NGOCC and enjoys a Cordial relationship with it.

SWAAZ under NGOCC umbrella registered to take part in Gender Policy discussion with the government.

- 2. Zambia National AIDS Network (ZNA) though affiliated to the ZNA was not very active during the course of the year.

3. WORLD AIDS

SWAAZ is one the main organizers of this annual event. 1998 SWAAZ was on satellite and finance committee.

- 4. XLTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AIDS AND STD'S IN AFRICA (ICASA),

Members of SWAAZ including the Lusaka based members of the national executive, the two coordinators at the secretariat and the chairperson of the SWAAZ Lusaka branch have all been given significant roles to play in the organization of this big African AIDS Conference.

- 5. Ministry of Health- Voluntary Testing and counselling Project- SWAAZ will provide health education on this project.

6. MS ZAMBIA

A workshop on skills for resource Mobilization was organized by MS Zambia in Conjunction with Mwengwe of Zimbabwe. SWAAZ Moderated on same sessions. The workshop focussed on the new millennium strategies for substance of NGO resources.

BOARD MEETING.

SWAAZ during the year which ended on 31st December, 1998, held three board meetings. SWAAZ Executive Board Members from Provinces attended at their own expenses.