

**Conference Presentation on:****“HIV, AIDS AND ADVOCACY: BRINGING ABOUT CHANGE IN POLICIES AND PRACTICE”***Organized by Medicus Mundi Switzerland**Held on 17 April 2012**Geneve Switzerland***Prepared by:**

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- My family
- Nelico Team
- Nelico partner organizations
- Government of Tanzania
- Nelico beneficiaries i.e. Youth, OVC, PLHAs

**NELICO**

- NGO based in Tanzania
- Registered under NGO Act NO 24 of 2002
- Nelico started its operation in 2004
- The focus was to Advocate, prevent and mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS

**Introduction:**

- The first cases of AIDS were reported in Kagera -region Tanzania in 1983, by 1987 every region had reported AIDS cases.
- In 1985, the government set up the National AIDS Control Programme.
- Current statistic shows that in TZ there is 1.4 million PLHAs
- In 2007 the HIV/AIDS prevalence among youth in Geita Region was 43%, with particular focus to sex workers(AMREF).

**WHAT INFLUENCED NELICO TO ENGAGE IN HIV ADVOCACY**

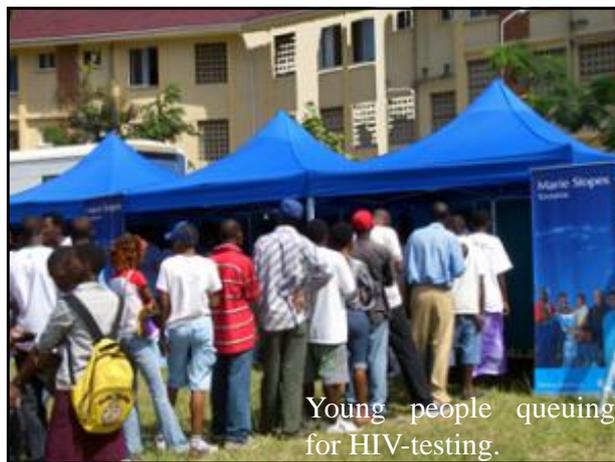
- Respond to the Vision&Mission of NELICO
- Increased number of OVC affected by HIV
- Increased number of PLHAs (youth)
- To fill the gape left by the Gvt and other stakeholders in HIV/AIDS Advocacy

**THE ROLE OF NELICO IN HIV/AIDS ADVOCACY**

- Lobbying to communities, Private institutions, government/politicians to change and amend the laws and policies.
- Provision of legal aid to PLHAs Eg sexual abused.
- Sensitize and rise conscious to PLHAs (especial youth) to speak out and advocate for their rights



- Provide PSS and SFA to PLHAs and youth.
- Engage media in awareness campaigns
- Consultative meetings with key stake holders on HIV/AIDS Advocacy.
- Form HIV/AIDS youth Clubs
- Conduct and Organize dialogues



**The story of SFA Client and The Healing Pastor of Loliondo**

*This was SF session facilitated by Bernard Otieno (SF practitioner) to a client who was referred to NELICO by the Geita District Social Welfare Officer. On behalf of the client the Geita District Social Welfare Officer in his letter requested psychosocial support and income generating activity to the client.*

*The client approached the organization and in the beginning met with Executive Director, Paulina Alex. After the initial interview with the Executive Director who discovered that the client had many things that she wanted to be done at the same time referred the client to Bernard Otieno.*

*Bernard Otieno conducted SF session with client who revealed to have many problems including lack of income to support her family and business after the death her husband. The money she had was spent during the illness of her husband and who was diagnosed HIV positive. More badly she revealed that she was also infected. She was psychologically affected with this to the extent that she told Bernard that she wanted to commit suicide. This was a beginning of the session with the client. These are some of the questions that were asked:*

- I understand how much you feel: What difference will it make for you to commit suicide?

*Answer: I will be free from all these problems.*

- You have told me you sadly lost you are beloved husband and you have three kids including your one year old kid I see here: Who do you think will take care of these kids when you commit suicide?

*Answer: silence.*

- What else can you think worthwhile of doing rather than committing suicide?

*Answer: If I can get money to visit a healing Pastor Ambilikile Mwasapile in Loliondo Arusha who treats HIV/AIDS and getting support to resume my fish business.*

*During the session with the guidance of Bernard the client refrained from committing suicide and suggested to visit Voluntary Counseling and Testing at Geita District Hospital, HIV/AIDS department to start counseling and taking ARVs instead of going to the Healing Pastor.*

People on queue waiting for a cup of medicine.

**PASTOR  
AMBILIKILE  
MWASAPILE**

People receiving the healing medicine of a cup.

## WHAT NELICO DO TO GET THINGS DONE

- Alliance Building/Networking, with Gvt, NGO's, CBO's volunteers/FBO's and communities
- Psychosocial Support and Solution focused approach to PLHAs, youth and the community as the main strategies.
- Resource Mobilization and fundraising Eg RFE For HIV/aids
- Influence PLHAs and Youth demand for their rights

- Community mobilization and sensitization through meetings, dialogues, workshops and seminars.



## SUCCESS THROUGH ADVOCACY

- Increased # of youth attending VCT
- Increased clinics providing ARV's
- Existence of HIV/AIDS committees in each ward all over the country
- National HIV/AIDS policy of 2007 and the HIV and AIDS (prevention and control) Act of 2008 in place
- Decreased stigma and discrimination among PLHAs that has led some PLHAs to speak openly about their status and demand for their rights

## CHALLENGES

- Inadequate number of health attendants.
- Lack of balance diet for many PLHAs using ARVs.
- Stigma and discrimination still exists especially in the rural areas due to lack of awareness
- limited resources to deal with HIV/AIDS advocacy.
- Unfriendly language used by health attendants
- Desire to have children after using ARV's

## CASE STUDY ON DISCRIMINATION

Recently local and international media including BBC, reported and incidence of Kabonja Primary School of Coast Region, where people who were infected by HIV/AIDS by getting used books for their school. After we made the rest of the school, students could attend. This was strongly condemned by the United Nations' Organizations and helpfully that they are going to return from such behaviour discrimination. It is wrong to see experiences of its kind to have happened in Tanzania.

On 21st March, 2012 the Head Teacher of this school was in interview with the BBC radio presenter in the evening. When he was asked, why they decided to limit the supply books with HIV/AIDS his reply was to do effect that the process was endorsed by the parents. And on the interview he further stated that such incidence is something normal.

## NELICO WAYFORWARD

- Continue to mobilize resources to enable the organization reach rural communities
- Continue advocacy on implementation of the HIV/AIDS policy and Act
- Continue building alliances with national and International NGO's on HIV advocacy
- Continue with PSS and SFA to youth

**NELICO'S PARTNERS IN THE  
HIV/AIDS ADVOCACY**

- Terre des hommes Schweiz
- Government of Tanzania (tacaids),
- Youth, community members,
- Faith based Org, local leaders and CBOs.
- Rapid Funding Envelop for HIV/AIDS (USAID)

*Thank you for your attention  
You are welcome  
To Tanzania*

**THE END**