



World AIDS Day and Build Up Events 2012

MAIN EVENT

The world AIDS day main event was conducted on the 1st of December 2012 at the Sisa Dukashe stadium. The focus of the event for 2012 was impact and sustainability and as result a number of initiatives emanated from it. The following programmes stated below are going to be implemented in 2013 as a result of the WAD event. The Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BCMM) was chosen as the hosting Municipality for the WAD 2012. As the National Strategic plan for HIV, TB and STI's (2012-2016) proposes that each municipality should have an intervention that focuses on the effects of HIV in the informal settlements, informal settlements were chosen as a theme for 2012. One of the reasons to choose BCMM for the event was also to strengthen its response as a newly elected AIDS council..

Services on Wheels where provided whereby different stakeholders offered their services for the day whilst the event was being hosted. Some of the services offered were HCT by different developmental partners, making of ID documents by Home Affairs and as well as information sharing by other stakeholders.

The finals of the soccer and netball tournaments were played on the day in accordance with the theme of "let's play safe". The entire event was to have a sports feel to it. Their Premier also alluded to this in her key note address and during the awards ceremony.

As mentioned in the introduction the ECAC wanted to host an event of reduced size and the event managed to attract approximately 2500 people from the surrounding communities of Buffalo City. The programme for the main event is attached in this report.

BUILD-UP EVENTS

International Men's Day

The Eastern Cape Men's Sector in celebrating the International Men's Day held a men's march in East London. The campaign was held in partnership with the Eastern Cape AIDS Council (ECAC) under the theme "Men Can Be Responsible".

The march started at the Trinity Church and ended at the City Hall where Dr Lessely Anne Foster CEO of Masimanyane Women Support Centre received the memorandum on behalf of all women in the province.

A dialogue against gender based violence was later hosted and included the panellist consisted of the following people: Mr Mbuyiselo Botha, and Nkosi Ngangomhlaba Mathanzima.

OUTPUTS / OUTCOMES:

- To work together with the house of traditional leaders and the department education to formulate a written curriculum for initiates. This curriculum must include information on HIV and TB, and gender equality.
- More dialogues in communities on issues of gender equality and
- To work together with the organization of former rape perpetrators to come with more interventions on rape and other sexual crimes
- To come up with a plan to mobilize men to test

WAY FORWARD:

- More dialogues to be held in the province.
- Mobilisation of other sectors of the society into supporting the men's sector will be strengthened.

CONCLUSION

The event did not attract as many people as anticipated, but was a good start for the council because it was a first March that the council organised. Due to noticeable apathy of people in attending events of this nature over the past few years in South Africa, we were too ambitious in setting a 1500

number for attendance. Some of the lessons that were taken from the event are the following:

- A march must be mobilised for a long time before it takes place
- It must perhaps be done during the weekend instead of a week day
- Proper travel arrangements must be made for participants
- It must be made in a residential area instead of central town
- It should include wider stakeholders instead of just men or women

The dialogue was a success in terms of the outcomes. It gave us a good insight on some of the issue that prompt violence in our communities, for example he spoke about absent fathers and the fact that many young men in our country live in perpetual anger and therefore are always prone to violence even if its meted against their family members. On the side Chief Ngangomhlaba gave a us a channel that we can use to restore our cultural values of ubuntu where everyone in a community is seen to be a member of the same family or clan.

Dialogue with Commercial Sex Workers

Discussions where held between the ECAC secretariat, Commercial Sex Workers in the Buffalo City and the MEC for Human Settlements at the East London Truck Stop Wellness Centre.

OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES:

The dialogues produced a number of insights into the challenges faced by commercial sex workers. These included:

- Clients do not want to use condoms and offer more money. They reported a substantive difference between those who use condoms (R250) versus those who preferred not use condoms(R500). This is a huge amount of money for commercial sex workers, so they agree not to use condoms.
- They suffer different and many forms of abuse, experiences / abuse sites were:
 - Correctional services staff would photograph them on their cell phone when they have been apprehended.

- Police only apprehend commercial sex workers and the clients is left to go free
- When they lay complaints of abuse with station commissioners, these complaints are ignored
- When asked who their clients are, they responded by saying priest, police, middle class people.
- Transgender women are by law suppose too be placed in female cells but they are put in male cells where they are raped by inmates.
- HIV positive commercial sex workers on treatment are denied there treatment while incarcerated.
- Commercial sex workers are knowledgeable about their rights but they find it difficult to get their rights upheld.
- Obtaining condoms is a challenge due to stigmatisation from community members and health professionals.

WAY FORWARD:

- If commercial sex industry needs to be legalized, this will allow better protection of their rights.
- Mitigation between SAPS and correctional service need to occur
- Facilitating the distribution of condoms to commercial sex workers by ECAC
- A workshop with commercial sex workers and law authorities to be hosted by ECAC
- ECAC to facilitate discussions on the improvement of choice condoms e.g adding flavored condoms to the CHOICE condom.

CONCLUSION

The exercise gave great insight to the brutality experienced from clients, community members, SAPS and Correctional Services towards commercial

sex workers. It also allowed the opportunity to engage commercial sex workers and to form a relationship with them for future focus group discussions. What is came out strongly is that much mitigation with SAPS and correctional services need to occur moving forward. The respondents were very responsive and spoke openly and sincerely.

From the prevention standpoint the public dialogue left a number of unanswered questions, for example

Why would people prefer not use condoms, where there is huge evidence that even if you are already infected you put yourself in more danger by not using a condom?

- How can we reach the clients of the commercial sex workers sine they are widely dispersed among the sectors of society?
- How much is the impact of not providing the lubricants free of charge for MSM's in preventing the spread of new infections? Could they the reason of breaking condoms and therefore new spread new infections?

Ultimately it was resolved that more dialogues are needed with the sector to get more insight. More workshops are organised for 2013.

Taxi Rank and Prison HCT

A total of 613 people tested (326 males and 287 females) at taxi ranks in East London, King Williams Town and Mdantsane Highway, the majority testing at occurring at Mdantsane Highway. 568 prisoners where tested during the month of November in the Mdantsane and East London prison services.

OUTPUTS / OUTCOMES:

- Good uptake at testing sites
- Good uptake in prisons
- Partnership formed between IYDSA and correctional services

WAY FORWARD:

- Taxi ranks and prisons yielded satisfactory testing numbers, and should thus always form part of the built up programmes.

- With the 2012 built up programme testing occurred at 1 taxi rank at a time instead of multiple ranks which is what is recommended for future WAD built up programmes. The single taxi rank testing also occurred due to the shortage of testers. This posed a major challenge as the DOH of the sub district could not supply much staff.
- Prisoners are keen to test and the local prison authorities were very keen on allowing IYDSA to do testing. This has also resulted in a partnership being formed between IYDSA and correctional services for the IYDSA to do continuous testing throughout the year at prisons.

CONCLUSION

ECAC's main objective for these initiatives mentioned above was to have impact and have future spin offs emanating from them. This objective can be said to have been achieved because not only have new partnerships been established between ECAC and stakeholders but also stakeholder developed new partnerships amongst themselves which will be beneficial to the community of Ward 11 in Buffalo City

Food Security Programme

The mitigation of impact of the HIV epidemic on affected people is one of the most critical aspects of the HIV response. In December 2012 in partnership with the Buffalo City Municipality and the Department of Education a garden at Chuma primary school was adopted as a pilot for food security. The school was identified to participate in the programme as it has a number of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC's) who sometimes do not get enough food.

A project task team was set up consisting of the people from the departments of education and rural development and agriculture, ECAC and the SGB of the school. This task team has committed to oversee the implementation of the project for the period of one year.

The school has been assisted by the Department of Correctional Services with cleaning services and the tilting of the soil. Also, various seedlings were planted on the 22nd November with the help of inmates, members from the stakeholders stated above and community members. As a result of the success of the day, other stakeholders have committed to be part of the programme going forward. The project is now going to be used as a launch pad for the provincial campaign known

as “One School, One Garden” which will be rolled out throughout every district within the province.

OUTPUTS / OUTCOMES:

- A food security model is being piloted consisting of the school, community member, ECAC and the government.
- Formation of a project team to oversee the whole project and roll-out to other schools.

WAY FORWARD:

- Involvement of more stakeholders to obtain buy inn to the process for sustainability
- Educate the learners about the dangers of substance abuse and HIV prevention strategies.
- Involve the DoE for Learner Support Agent services and other departments for critical services on building a comprehensive programme.
- Before end of March 2013, there will be a handing over of the school sign board with HIV prevention messages printed on it and intensified partnerships with various stakeholders who have shown keen interest in the programme.

CONCLUSION:

This is a promising project as it has huge potential to lift the school community and families from dire circumstances to a brighter future. With the involvement of stakeholders and empowerment of learners, it is possible to make long term impact in the community.

Solidarity Walk Against Alcohol and Substance Abuse

A solidarity walk against alcohol and substance abuse was conducted on 23rd November 2012 from Indoor Sports Centre in Mdantsane to Mdantsane Highway. The walk was preceded by a community dialogue that was organized in partnership with the Department of Social Development. Both processes were aimed at raising awareness within the general public and community about the dangers of abusing alcohol/drugs and its direct link to the spread of HIV. Various stakeholders namely the South African Police Services, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, young people and the community of Mdantsane were highly active in the processes.

As the group of more than two hundred (200) people marched in solidarity to Mdantsane Highway, songs expressing dissatisfaction to issues that contributed to alcohol abuse were chanted. The solidarity walk was a peaceful exercise that was closely monitored by the SAPS. On arrival at Mdantsane Highway, the participants were very motivated and the process gained momentum from people who were attending to their chores as it resonated with the issues they related with. After chanting few songs and slogans against substance abuse, the petition that was signed by all sectors as mentioned above and was handed over to the Councillor from Ward 11, Cllr Caga and was handed over by Mrs. N. Hlatshaneni. Cllr Caga received the petition and expressed that as a concerned member of the community; he will follow up on the issues raised and ensure that the relevant authorities do what is requested by the communities. He reiterated that the easy access of liquor to minors and young people is contributing to lots of challenges that lead to risky sexual behaviours.

OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES:

The following issues were highlighted:

- Access to liquor by underage children
- Intergenerational sex due to unemployment and low economic status of women
- Stigma and discrimination of those infected by HIV resulting in non-adherence to treatment and sometimes death
- Excessive drinking and drug abuse by community members including school children
- Abuse of women, children and people with disabilities as a result of alcohol abuse
- Non-compliance by tavernors to liquor laws

WAY FORWARD:

- Continued advocacy for tightening of liquor by laws and enforce adherence
- Lobby for political buy in from public office bearers to denounce substance abuse and the accompanying negative behaviour
- Advocate for more programmes that educate communities about dangers of alcohol and drug abuse

- Revive community policing forums in order to fight crime and atrocities against women and children

CONCLUSION

Substance abuse remains one of the key drivers of HIV in South Africa. The problem is wide spread and deep rooted in our communities. Most communities remain disempowered to deal with this problem as it is often taken as a form of leisure and legal means of getting income. Parents remain disempowered as their teenagers are enticed and become substance abusers at an early age as the problem is often reduced to the issue of lack of parental guidance.

The main fundamental problem is not that of parental guidance or that of fighting people against a legitimate form of business. The main problem is too much unlimited access of liquor in communities and lack of will to implement regulations governing liquor by community members. The solidarity walk helped ECAC to test the response of the community if they were to be encourage to stand up against proliferation of taverns and other liquor outlets in residential areas (mainly black communities) and non implementation of regulations such as selling to children.

The response of the community was an encouraging one, even those that were not part of the walk joined in songs. The community members also show a good insight of the main problems and how to solve these problems.

The substance abuse campaign must be taken forward in 2013. More municipalities and communities must be involved. A second phase of the campaign in 2013 will be community education and media campaign.

Youth Sports Week and Youth Bash

The theme of the 2012 WAD was “are dlale safe” (let’s play safe). This theme denotes both safety and discipline that is required on sport and much as the discipline and safety required in sexual relationships. Consistent with this theme the steering committee designed a week long programme which was called the AIDS week. The week was divided into two:

Sport

A total of 32 teams for soccer, 32 teams for netball and more than 40 boxing boys coming from Mdantsane and Duncan village were selected to play in an AIDS cup tournament.

In partnership with GIZ Grass roots soccer programme the players from all teams that participated in the AIDS cup tournament will be given training on basic HIV information and will be used as HIV messaging ambassadors. As a spinoff of this

programme negotiations are unfolding between ECAC, Department of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation and the Office of the Premier to use the Premiers cup to centre on HIV for 2013.

Entertainment

A number of youth entertainment groups from the Mdantsane and Duncan village were also invited in bash to perform. The activities were according the theme of the main event and performers strove to send HIV messages through dance, poetry and Hip-Hop. The entertainers will also be used as HIV ambassadors and will be connected to the Buffalo City AIDS council

OUTPUTS / OUTCOMES:

- Discussions on Substance Abuse, Intergenerational Sex, STI's and Condom Use where stimulated and messaging around these topics was given to youths.
- Stigma and Discrimination experiences shared by youths

WAY FORWARD:

- Soccer Participants will be exposed to the Youth Developmental Football Project.
- Participants are to be trained in a peer education programme.
- Buffalo City Municipality is to develop a sustainable programme.

CONCLUSION:

HIV prevalence is high among people. It is very difficult to penetrate this market through usual forms of mobilisation as they are only attracted to what is relevant to them. The youth week assisted ECAC to penetrate even the most difficult segment of the youth market which is the out of school youth. Sport and entertainment became the language that young people understood and the one that they could relate.

However the main criticism that was given against the campaign was not enough balance between the sport and entertainment and HIV messaging as it was intended. As a result some people could not make the connection.

In future a right balance must be given between the strategy or method used and direct HIV messaging so that the planned results can be yielded. The project will be

taken further this year and there are prospects of making it bigger and more sustainable.

Support and Wellness

The new NSP and PSP reflects the fact that South Africa has done very well on the side of treatment through the ART programme but is still lacking on the side of support and wellness. During the World AIDS day two home based care organizations operating in Mdantsane were identified that do good work but who struggle financially. ECAC requested the support from the Department of Social Development to contribute to funding those organisations

OUTPUTS / OUTCOMES:

- Two home-based care organisations were and given grants amounting to R 150 000 each from DSD.

WAY FORWARD:

- ECAC will work together with these two organizations in 2013 to develop a comprehensive support and wellness programme for the province.