

Jubilee Centre

**Suwuluka Guest House Kabompo East Constituency
26 to 28 March 2007**

Workshop for thirty local government (councilors), FBO, CBO and NGO leaders conducted at Kabompo by Jubilee Centre in partnership with PACT Zambia/USAID to improve HIV/AIDS policy analysis (MP leadership in HIV/AIDS) and influencing the development of policies that protect PLWHA against stigma and discrimination that they also address the issues of quality, availability, and accessibility of VCT and ART services.

The Participants declaration on the protection of Human Rights and prevention of stigma and discrimination

Bearing in mind, that the government has made a commitment to ensure that the rights of HIV-infected and affected people are protected and stigma and discrimination are eliminated, and knowing that many people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) are usually stigmatized and discriminated against, and being aware that some PLWHA act irresponsible, thereby spreading the infection, we the undersigned met to deepen our commitment to eliminate stigma and discrimination, and to influence leaders to implement policy changes that could dramatically reduce HIV/AIDS incidents,

Considering, that the FBO, CBO, NGO and the community at large should engage in partnership with the government in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) number six

Concerned, that even as the Zambian government has adopted the National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Policy and it is now half time since the world leaders in 2000 pledged to halve incidents of HIV/AIDS by the year 2015, achieving the MDG on HIV/AIDS remains a major challenge

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Taking into account, that the rural community is playing minimum role in ensuring the success of efforts towards achieving the MDG on HIV/AIDS and being aware that some rural FBOs, CBOs, NGO and local government leaders have insufficient information and knowledge about government's intentions in the fight against stigma and discrimination.

Section 1: Kabompo East HIV/AIDS Constituency Liaison Committee

1. **We therefore commit** ourselves to immediately respond to the following key concerns for Kabompo East Constituency

We are concerned for the need of coordination in response to HIV/AIDS in our constituency. We therefore, are delighted that we stakeholders including His Royal Highness Senior Chief Sikufele and ward councilors have formed a CLC committee

(HIV/AIDS Constituency Liaison Committee) to provide a proactive advocacy for improved HIV/AIDS interventions in the constituency; to research and report on HIV/AIDS service delivery and policy implementation in the constituency; and to act as a forum for HIV/AIDS discussion in the constituency.

Being aware that stigma and discrimination are negative forces that have the double effect of demeaning individuals infected or affected by HIV and AIDS and making it more difficult to deal effectively with the pandemic, the CLC and its members commit itself to come up with a joint program to encourage and mobilize the church, CBO and NGO leaders to intensify education of church and community members about the need to eliminate stigma and discrimination against PLWHA. The program will also focus on educating PLWHA about their responsibility in protection of human rights and prevention of stigma and discrimination

2. **Realizing** that people on ART require additional food supplements, we have resolved to identify and strengthen HBC programs within our constituency so that PLWHA are cushioned from the effects of these strong drugs.

3. **Knowing** that VCT is about the best way for those wanting to know their HIV/AIDS status and **observant** that the Government has made a commitment to promote the establishment of VCT centres in all major health facilities throughout the country, **we call** on the Kabompo District Health Management Team to facilitate the establishment of VCT facilities at the following Rural Health Centres:

- Kasamba RHC stage 2
- Kashinakazhi
- Dyambombola

We also **call** on our Member of Parliament to lobby the Ministry of Health to provide human and material resources for this initiative that people living in poverty can have access to VCT near their health centres

Section 2: The Area Member of Parliament

The Kabompo East Constituency community and the area Member of Parliament (currently Honorable Ronald Mukuma) have not formally met to discuss HIV/AIDS issues that pertain to HIV/AIDS service delivery and stigma and discrimination in our constituency

1. **We therefore invite** our Member of Parliament and ward councillors in the spirit of partnership to join and work with us that we come up with a strategy in ensuring the implementation of the National HIV/AIDS policy in our constituency especially as it relates to service delivery and to stigma and discrimination

2. **We further call upon** the Member of Parliament to support our resource mobilization to enable us implement our program to train and mobilize our local church leaders CBOs and NGOs to intensify counseling and caring activities for PLWHA in their churches and the communities

Section 3: Government of the Republic of Zambia

1. Having briefly reviewed the National HIV/AIDS Policy, **we are surprised that**, most crucial intentions for the protection of Human Rights, particularly those of children, and prevention of stigma and discrimination have not been implemented. To ensure that the rights of all citizens are protected **we call** upon the government to act on the following:

- a.** Review the clause on confidentiality as to ensure that all people are protected especially breast feeding children of infected mothers and women married to infected husbands.
- b.** Implement the legislation on mandatory testing in cases of persons charged with sexual offenses that could involve the risk of HIV transmission
- c.** Implement the legislation against individuals who deliberately and knowingly withhold their HIV/AIDS status from their partners or spouses
- d.** Implement the legislation against willful transmission of HIV/AIDS
- e.** Implement legislation against parents or guardians who deliberately and knowingly withhold HIV/AIDS health services to children under their custody.

Signed on Behalf of the Kabompo East Constituency