



PROJECT SUMMARY

Stigma and Discrimination workshops, Nakuru

Background:

Stigma and discrimination are major obstacles to effective HIV prevention and care. If we do not address this issue we will never succeed. Stigma and discrimination are found in all spheres of the Kenyan society. People are scared of being seen attending VCT, HIV infected individuals are discriminated against when applying for jobs. A number of individuals affected (or believed to be affected) by HIV have been rejected by their families, their loved ones and their communities. This rejection holds as true in the rich countries of the north as it does in the poorer countries of the south. However, Kenya does not have a social welfare system in place to cater for individuals who are jobless and/or abandoned and cannot afford treatment and basic needs.

Preparation:

ICROSS, with funding from the Global Fund, has a home based care programme where 170 volunteers care for terminally ill aids patients. ICROSS is in charge of the training of the community health workers (CHVs) and distribution of prophylaxis and nutritional supplements among other things. We quickly realised the stigma and discrimination our volunteers met, both external and internal. After close dialogue with a number of volunteers, a comprehensive stigma and discrimination workshop was tailored. The workshop was incorporated into a refresher course for our CHVs on home based care.



Nakuru District Facts:

Population:	1.5 million
Tribe:	Mixed
Estimated HIV/AIDS infected:	150,000 (10%)
Life expectancy:	44 years

Benefits:

- The CHVs will have a greater understanding of the transmission of HIV/AIDS.
- This in effect will improve the relationship between the CHVs and patients, both physically and emotionally.
- The training creates peer-support groups where volunteers can share common experiences and express emotions.
- With the newly acquired knowledge, the CHVs will be less concerned about what others think of their commitment towards AIDS care.
- The knowledge they receive will have a trickle down effect throughout the community.



Action:

A three day workshop was organised by our project manager in Nakuru, June Omollo. Guest speakers from x, x and x were talking on x,x and x respectively. Every workshop was opened and closed with prayers in the religious faiths present in the workshop. The workshop was made interactive with lots of group activities.

This 3-day workshop was funded by the Global Fund.



How you can contribute:

There are many ways you can contribute to fight stigma and discrimination. Wherever you are in the world, stigma kills people.

- Make sure you have an understanding on the epidemiology of HIV/AIDS, and spread your knowledge. This way, YOU fight stigma and discrimination.
- Get in touch with the local HIV/AIDS organisation and help them fighting stigma and discrimination.
- Do you or your organisation want to support a Stigma and Discrimination Workshop? Contact ICROSS directly or donate online. (The workshop will be given the name of your or your organisation and an evaluation report will be posted on our website).

*AIDS attacks the body...
Prejudice attacks the spirit...
One is caused by a virus.
One is caused by ignorance.
BOTH KILL*

Activity /material	€/pax	Pax	€
Conference facility/lunch	9	45	405
Facilitators	15	3	45
Transport allowances	6	45	270
Monitoring and evaluation	20	3	60
ICROSS staff from the HQ	20	3	60
Stationary	2	45	90
Certificates	45	0.45	20
Total			950



Donors:

