REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP IN NAIROBI-KENYA

**PREAMBLE**

The Nairobi Training Workshop from the 5th to the 9th of January 2012 centred around ways of abating the contraction of HIV amongst young people precisely in Africa. The training was organized by UNICEF in partnership with the MTV NETWORKS, QUESTION MEDIA GROUPS and PEPFAR’s HIV FREE GENERATION, KENYA. The workshop was christened, SHUGA RADIO WORKSHOP. The objective and procedure of the workshop was to create HIV awareness across Africa through radio drama series, magazine and the internet, especially through social media. SHUGA is a drama series to engage young people to educate their peers about HIV. Evidently, this programme has been successful in countries like Tanzania, South Africa and Kenya. It was pivoted around eight themes:

* Transactional sex;
* Multiple sex partners;
* Girls negotiating safe sex;
* Educational opportunities;
* Prevention with positives;
* Staying safe, using condoms;
* Communication about sex + feelings with family.
* Cameroon
* Tanzania
* Kenya
* Lesotho
* South Africa

Democratic Republic of Congo

**Day 1 and 2 of the Seminar (5th and 6th January, 2012)**

The Cameroon team comprised of Dr. Mayer Magdalene, Eric Mbotiji, Desmond Nji and Tatiana Choudi spent two days out of the seminar, in Yaoundé in strides to obtain visas to get to Kenya. Thanks to the UNICEF team both in Kenya and the United States, we finally got visas and arrived in Nairobi on Friday 7th of January 2012 at 6 pm Nairobi time.

**Day 3 of the Seminar (7th January, 2012)**

On the same day we arrived, we joined the rest of the participants who gave us a warm welcome. We were then drilled on the whole programme thanks to the MTV representative, Lawrence Lartey. The UNICEF experts briefed us on what the rest of the participants did for the past two days in our absence.

SHUGA was a drama series on radio and magazine. Thus, we were divided into two groups; Dr Mayer and Tatiana were to be part of the team to create 12 scenes for the Shuga Radio Programme with Mel Harris as the main facilitator. Desmond Nji and Eric Mbotiji went in for the radio script writing, facilitated by veteran BBC journalist, Russell Crew.

**Report of the Group in charge of Script Writing**

Russell Crew drilled us on techniques to write scripts and produce good stories with facets such as:

* The door stepping technique;
* The Q or CUE, for news presentation;
* Assiduity and time consciousness as prerequisites for conducting an interview.

In order to develop a case study on living and coping with HIV, we came up with:

* A vox pop;
* Peer discussion;
* Interview with UNICEF experts;

Later in the evening, all the participants were invited to the conference room to view some episodes of the Shuga drama.

**Day 4 of the Seminar (8th January, 2012)**

On this day, we framed questions for the UNICEF experts on HIV, based on the eight themes aforementioned. Later, we went down town, Nairobi to the Home Boyz Studio. There, we were interviewed by journalists who used questions we framed. This was done in English, French and Swahili.

Thereafter, the interview session with UNICEF experts was executed in English, French and Swahili as well. After this exercise, we were shown round the studio, the various departments in Home Boyz studio; awesome indeed! The day was full of fun. We finally returned to the Prideinn Hotel and Conferencing, at Westlands road in Nairobi in the afternoon.

**Day 4 of the Seminar (8th January, 2012)**

All participants both for the radio and drama groups met at the conference hall. There, the facilitators in the person of Lawrence, Melanie and Russell gave room for questions concerning what we had been doing so far; they addressed the questions posed and made it abundantly clear that they intend to make the fallouts from this seminar spread across Africa. This session witnessed the official close of the workshop but with the resolution to make the effect the workshop indelible in the minds of youth across Africa. A cocktail offered by the facilitators marked the close of the workshop.

* ***PROBLEMS OF HIV IN CAMEROON AND STRATEGIES OF MITIGATION***

**CAMEROON**

Cameroon with an HIV prevalence of 5.1% amongst the general population is one of the 22 countries with the highest HIV prevalence in the World. The young people aged 15and above, constitute about 46% of all new infections and the young women are at the highest risk of infection among their peers. Young women aged 15-24 years are 2.5 times as likely to be infected with HIV as compared to their male peers.

**Factors Driving the Epidemic amongst Young People**

* Early sexual debut:In Cameroon the average age of first sexual intercourse is 14 years.
* Multiple and concurrent sexual partners.
* Low level of consistent condom use.
* Challenges in changing sexual behaviour.
* Cross generational sex.
* Transactional sex.
* Sexual transmissible marks.
* Peer Pressure.
* Sponsoring.
* Poverty.
* Incest and rape.
* Unemployment.
* Prostitution.
* Migration and mobility.

**High Risk Groups**

* Vulnerable children (Orphans, Street Children, hawkers, House helps, child trafficking………)
* MSM
* Call box service providers
* Uniform Officers
* Distant truck drivers
* Adolescent Sex Workers
* Bike Riders
* Students.

**Impact of HIV Campaigns**

Cameroon has just begun the implementation of its 3rd National strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS for 2011-2015.

National prevention strategy for youths and Adolescent for HIV prevention is to support sexual and reproductive health education in youth centres to reach out-of-school youth; through health clubs, to reach youths in school; youth focused HIV testing campaigns organized during specific events and festivities such as the International Day of the child, Youth days, Holiday Free of AIDS Campaigns, the National Week/International AIDS Days and the like. These are aimed at enhancing the participation of young people as well as promoting income generating activities for out-of-school youth.

The campaigns have contributed to behaviour changes, as more and more young people are going in for HIV testing to know their status during HIV campaigns. Among the 123,504 young people mobilized for HIV prevention by the youths in 2011, over 10,880 of them went in for the HIV test and knew their HIV status.

***Compiled By Eric Mbotiji***