



A training programme aimed at promoting and spreading the expertise of community-based organizations to improve global access to care

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Issue

Training of actors involved in HIV/AIDS care services is recognized as an essential step for global access in settings with a lack of well-trained human resources and efficient health sector managers. To help scale-up global access to care as well as increasing the quality of interventions the particularity of the training program developed by the Réseau Afrique 2000 is to integrate community expertise in training curricula.

Description

Since 1997, the Réseau Afrique 2000 (a network of 15 community-based organizations from 7 sub-Saharan African countries and AIDES in France) has developed a corpus of knowledge based on sharing global HIV/AIDS care experience. In 2005, 11 organizations from 6 countries in Central Africa started taking part in the network's activities. The main objective of the training programme is to strengthen the capacities of professionals and to recognise the capacities of non-professionals in providing care services adapted to the local context. The training approach is based on the spread of knowledge, practices and field experiences acquired after 10 years of fighting against HIV/AIDS and emphasizes community mobilisation and expertise, comprehensive care and networking between professionals and community-based actors. Between 2005 and 2007 the main issues were comprehensive care, organizational management, project methodology and advocacy. According to the needs in the field, the network is also working on "new" concerns in the African context such as men having sex with men, adherence to treatment, pediatric care, secondary prevention or co-infections (TB/HIV and hepatitis/HIV). Detailed reports of trainings and workshops can be found on our website www.reseauafrique2000.org

Lessons learned

The programme strengthens the professionalisation of community-based actors and helps to set up networks for better comprehensive care. It contributes to spread community-based organizations expertise within the public sector.

Recommendations

Lessons learned in programmes set up within the communities, community mobilization, comprehensive care and networking should be part of curricula in programmes aimed at increasing the capacity of local actors.

To reach their ambitious scaling-up global care objectives (from the point of view of quantity and quality), governments must emphasize the professionalisation of community-based actors as a key issue in National Programs to fight against AIDS. They must also recognize their expertise to train global HIV care actors from the public sector.



Role-play during the counsellors' training in Douala (Cameroon), July 2007



Childhood and HIV workshop, Brazzaville (Congo), March 2008



Working on secondary prevention in Abidjan (Ivory Coast), September 2007



Réseau Afrique 2000

Réseau Afrique 2000 is a network which gathers 15 NGOs from 7 sub-Saharan African countries (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Conakry, Mali, Niger, Togo) and AIDES in France.

It has helped to demonstrate the feasibility of access to antiretroviral treatments in Africa. Currently, the organizations run comprehensive care centres, providing quality services to people living with HIV.

In December 2007, the Réseau Afrique 2000 celebrated its tenth birthday.



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