

Programme Area Summary

Country: Malawi

Programme Area: HIV&AIDS 2004 –2009

Aim of the Programme Area

To assist in the mitigation of impact of HIV & AIDS on those infected and affected and contribute towards reduction in the spread of HIV in Malawi.

Why is VSO working in that particular Programme Area and Region?

In 2003 the National Aids Commission estimated that almost a million of Malawi's population are living with HIV & AIDS and up to 800,000 are in the 15-49 age group. There is a similar number of orphaned children, making Malawi one of countries most affected by the HIV & AIDS pandemic.

This has been worsened by the initial slow response of the government of Malawi when the first case was reported in 1986. The absence of government policy made attempts to combat the pandemic disjointed, with conflicting approaches among various stakeholders. It was not until 2004 that a policy guide to fight the virus was formulated.

HIV & AIDS is not only a health problem but a social concern in Malawi. It has fathered orphans, stigma and discrimination, plus lack of care and support. These are happening at a background of high poverty levels especially in the rural areas

Further complicating the scene in Malawi is the lack of capacity in community based organisation (CBOs), NGOs, government departments and the private sector to effectively respond to issues related to HIV & AIDS.

Key Beneficiaries and Partners

Key beneficiaries of the programme are women and orphaned children especially those heading households in rural areas, People living with HIV and AIDS, other vulnerable children such as street children and youth.

- The Ministry of Women, Child Welfare and Community Services (District Social Welfare Offices and Reformatories)
- District Assemblies (District AIDS Coordinating Committees)
- The Department of Prisons
- Tea Estates (communities living around estates)
- The Ministry of Health in all 8 District Hospitals in Malawi
- Network of Organisations Working with Vulnerable and Orphaned Children (NOVOC)
- National Association of People Living with AIDS in Malawi (NAPHAM)
- Centre for Youth and Children Affairs (CEYCA)
- Population Services International
- Tutulane AIDS Organisation
- GEAMACADET
- Ministry of Education through Teacher Development Centres
- Other NGOs, CBOs, FBOS

Key Objectives of the Programme and the cross-cutting theme

- Increased capacity of local HIV & AIDS CBOs, NGOs, private sector and government departments at both management and programme levels.

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- Reduction in the number of HIV & AIDS cases through distribution of advice on best practices that would lead to prevention and behavioral change.
- Increased sustainable mitigation of the impact of HIV & AIDS through provision of care and support to orphans and vulnerable children and people living with HIV & AIDS.

Current Programme Activity

Focus of International Volunteer Placements

- Business Management Professionals (Capacity Builders)
- HIV & AIDS Professionals
- Youth Development workers (including Global Exchange)

Workshops, training & conferences

- PAP Review with partners and volunteers
- RAISA Regional Conferences
- HIV&AIDS Staff training
- Partners and Volunteers M&E training

Research

- Feasibility study for Out of School Youth Project
- Assessment of effectiveness of Capacity Building in District AIDS Coordinating Committees

Advocacy and global education

- Partners and Volunteers Advocacy training
- Supporting NOVOC Advocacy Initiatives

Partner exchange visits/study tours

- RAISA National and Regional Exchanges and Study Tours
- Links for staff and partners

Providing Grants and/or equipment for partners e.g. small grants fund

- Aside from the regular VSO funding, other sources are RAISA, UNICEF, UK Sports, PSO and other funding partners.

Development of publications or other materials for training of communication

- HIV & AIDS Mainstreaming Manual

Other partnership activities

- Linkages with the Education, Health and Food Security in the area of prevention, treatment and nutrition.

What makes VSO's work in this Programme Area special?

HIV&AIDS is a development issue. It affects and cuts across all development sectors and affects everyone in society. It is bringing suffering in families, communities and the nation as a whole.

VSO Malawi's work on HIV & AIDS is strengthened by particularly strong relationships with the District AIDS Co-ordinating Committees whom we help support their member CBOs in a range of activities to mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS on communities. We also have a very strong relationship with the National Association of People Living with AIDS in Malawi and are helping develop PLWA groups in different contexts around the country.