

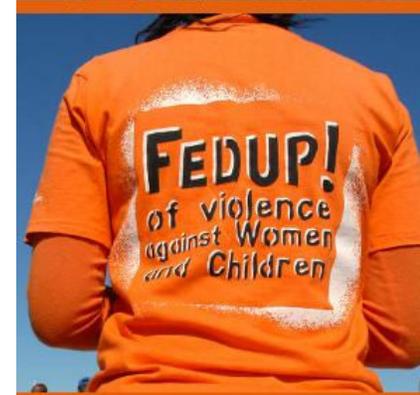
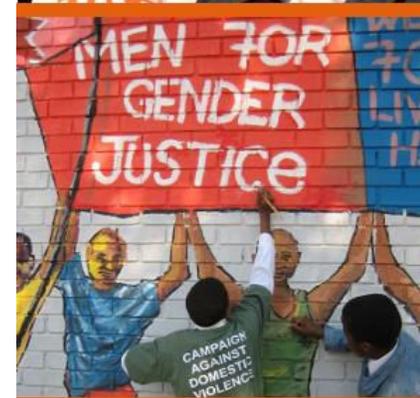


Sonke Gender
Justice Network
HIV/AIDS, Gender Equality, Human Rights

One Man Can: Supporting Men to meet the needs of children affected by HIV and AIDS in Nkandla and Mhlontlo

Patrick Godana

Many thanks to: Bafana Khumalo, Nyanda Khanyile, Vusi Cebekhulu and Mali Puzi



Key points:

1. Sonke Overview
2. Project rationale
3. Project background, staff and partner organisations
4. Project model and core components
5. Accomplishments, outputs and outcomes
6. Impact and sustainability
7. Exploring next steps

About Sonke

- Established in August 2006, now with offices in Johannesburg & Cape Town
- 30 full-time staff working in 8 provinces and many SADC and East and Central African countries, including Mozambique, Lesotho, Swaziland, Kenya, Burundi, Uganda, Namibia, Malawi and Zambia.
- Involved in many international networks and initiatives.

Sonke Mission and Vision

- Sonke Gender Justice Network works across Africa to strengthen government, civil society and citizen capacity to support men and boys to take action to promote gender equality, prevent domestic and sexual violence and reduce the spread and impact of HIV and AIDS.
- In this way the organisation contributes to the development of societies in which men, women, youth and children can enjoy equitable, healthy and happy relationships that contribute to the development of just and democratic societies.

Project Rationale: Men and care

- Legacy of migrant labour system means many men are detached from their families and often did not have the experience of an actively involved father themselves.
- National time-use survey found that women carry out eight times more care work than men.
- In 2002, 55% of rural African children's fathers were absent. (Posel and Devey, 2005)

The impact of HIV on the Care Economy

- About six million people are living with HIV.
- South Africa has almost twice as many people living with HIV and AIDS as any other country in the world.
- As of 2005, 1.2 million children under 18 had lost one or both parents to AIDS in South Africa, and millions more have been made vulnerable.
- KZN study shows that both male and female orphans are nearly one and half times more likely than non-orphans to have had sex.

Women & Girls Carry a Greater Burden

- Kaiser Foundation survey found that over two-thirds of primary caregivers of people with AIDS related illnesses are women and girls
- Women are also the principal carers of children who have lost parents to HIV/AIDS.
- A South African study by Desmond and Desmond (2006) found that in households where the mother has died, only 30 per cent of surviving fathers are present, whereas in those where the father has died, 71 per cent of surviving mothers are present.

Men open to change & active fatherhood

- Evidence that growing numbers of men are already playing an active role:
 - 32% of caregivers are men, according to 2002 Kaiser study.
 - Our own research in KZN, EC and Limpopo shows that men represented 43% of all those who reported having cared for someone with HIV and AIDS.
 - Fathers and step-fathers that live with their children are also likely to spend more money on them than they would if they lived apart.
 - In healthy relationships, women who live with partners “report being less stressed about childcare”.

Clear Project Rationale

- This represents a disproportionate and unfair burden on women and girls with range of negative consequences that reinforce gender inequality and compromise women's health, dignity and rights.
- There is therefore an urgent and clear need to involve men and boys in meeting the needs of vulnerable children!
- Growing numbers of men are keen to play an active and engaged role in the lives of their children and benefit from doing so.

Fatherhood Project Goals & Objectives

- “The goal of the project is to mobilize men in two municipalities and develop their capacity to be advocates and activists in efforts to eliminate violence against women and children, to prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS and to promote health, care and support to orphans and vulnerable children.”



Fatherhood Project Model

Five complementary components:

1. Formative research with men and children.
2. Capacity building & ongoing support to local NGOs
3. Innovative use of arts and new media, such as PhotoVoice and digital stories to equip children and youth to educate the broader community about their needs and aspirations.
4. Training of local stakeholders, including local government officials, religious and traditional leaders, on how to involve men.
5. Encouraging Provincial and National Departments to adopt and replicate the project in other municipalities across the country.

Formative Research

- Participatory needs assessment with two groups of children in each of Nkandla and Mhlontlo conducted by Glynnis Clatcherty.
- Focus group discussions and impact evaluation conducted by Gazilam Consulting, coordinated by Dr. Chris Colvin from UCT.

Accomplishments, outputs & outcomes

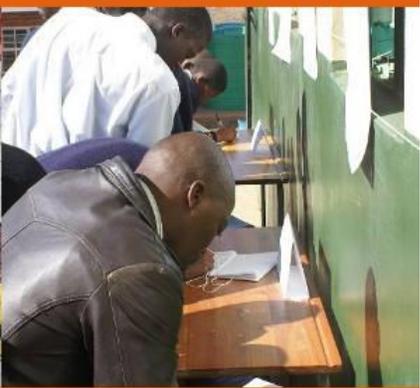
- Established Project Advisory Panels in Nkandla and OR Tambo in 2006-2007.
- 2006-2007 Trained 989 men in Nkandla and 1079 in OR Tambo.
- Worked closely with traditional and religious leaders and built strong relationships with local municipal leaders.
- Integrated focus on men and boys into Integrated Development Planning process with clear goals and resources committed.
- Trained core group of master trainers in all four organisations.

Accomplishments, outputs and outcomes

- Trained children and their teachers in the use of PhotoVoice Methodology and held series of community PV exhibits reaching thousands of community members.
- Developed set of PV posters that are now available for schools and other community settings.
- Developed set of digital stories and facilitators guide which can be used across the country and will be aired nationally through partnership with the National Dept of Education, UNFPA, Mindset and local partner organisations and schools.

Next steps

- Model available to be replicated but needs additional financial support.
- Proposals under review at the Open Society Foundation, UNFPA, UNICEF, National Dept of Education and National Dept of Arts and Culture.
- Hope to see project adopted and replicated by National Dept of Social Development, DPLG,
- Focus on children's rights to be sustained and strengthened across all of Sonke's initiatives.



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