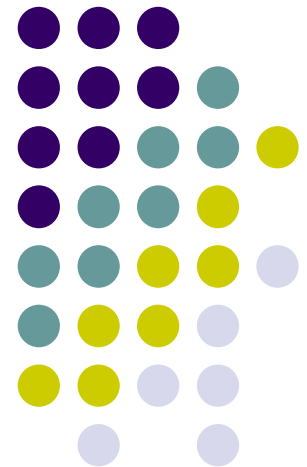




ZAMBIA INTERFAITH NETWORKING GROUP ON HIV/AIDS (ZINGO)

The Faith based Response: *ZINGO Experiences*

*Presented at the Children and HIV& AIDS
Action Now, Action How international
Symposium, Mexico City*



Composition



- Bahai Faith
- Council of Churches in Zambia
- Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia
- Hindu Association of Zambia
- Independent Churches of Zambia
- Islamic Council of Zambia
- Zambia Episcopal Conference

ZINGO Vision



A proud interfaith network that is free from the threat of HIV and AIDS

ZINGO Mission



To network, coordinate, build competencies and mobilize both technical and financial resources that will assist FBOs carry out HIV and AIDS activities that will promote quality of life and contribute to the reduction of new infections in the community

Strategic Plan



- **7 Thematic areas**

- *Intensifying prevention*
- *Treatment care and support*
- *Impact mitigation*
- Decentralization
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Advocacy
- Capacity building

- **17 strategic objectives**



Background

- Letter to All Children in Zambian

“We recognize the pains and sufferings you are going through. We are called by all of our different faiths to take care of you. We commit our selves and our resources to alleviating your sufferings”



Our work on children

Work with FBOs to prevent HIV infection in children and adolescents

- Built capacities of FBOs to provide ASRH info and services
- Mobilized FBOs to address parenting and fatherhood
- Engaged RL to advocate against religious misinterpretations & socio-cultural practices that fuel HIV infection

Build the capacity of FBOs to support OVC materially and emotionally

- Promoted the integration of CRP
- Provide small grants to FBOs to meet OVC needs
- Encouraging sporting activities for PSS

Overarching work



- Work with policy makers and legislative bodies and build coalitions with civil society to introduce child friendly policies to guarantee children's rights
- Strengthen structures and mechanisms at community level to guarantee sustained provision of children's basic needs and rights

Results



- Assisted more than 50 FBOs to provide support to over 7200 OVC and 150,000 adolescents
- Initiated Fatherhood and Parenthood project
- Established child rights advocacy teams within umbrella faith bodies
- Engaged RL to address issues of positive discipline and ASRH
- Engaged RL to engage policy makers & CSO to pass supportive legislation for children



Challenges

- OVC needs are high compared to resources available
- Needs based more attractive than rights based
- Legislative and policy environment still lacking to guarantee child protection (Corporal punishment, child abuse)
- Weak structures at community level to support OVC

Lessons Learned & Achievements



- Interfaith collaboration guarantees synergy and scale (more than 7200 OVC & more than 150,000 adolescents)
- Perfect platform to encourage participation & empowerment
- Opportunity for interfaith advocacy at the senior most level (Letter to All Children in Zambia)
- RLs more willing to engage in “controversial* issues when empowered