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Pakistan National AIDS Consortium



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### Shared Thoughts

Thinking at the time when the world was just learning about AIDS, most of us now know how to prevent AIDS, but worldwide thousands of people a day are infected with HIV/AIDS. One can see the humanity behind all of the AIDS statistics we may have heard. Lets talk about RBA now. Rights Based Approach: The HIV/AIDS pandemic is not just a public health issue, HIV/AIDS presents an obstacle to all human rights, for example, the right to education, the right to work and the right to safety and protection from abuse and violence. Protecting human rights is therefore crucial to responding effectively to HIV/AIDS.

A Rights Based Approach does this by integrating human rights principles in health policy, planning and legislation. Adopting a rights Based Approach means providing people with the skills, knowledge and resources to protect them from contracting HIV/AIDS. Rights Based Approaches to prevention do not just provide information, prevention programs should identify the needs of those particularly vulnerable to HIV/AIDS infection, such as sex workers, drug users and mobile populations. A Rights Based approach aims to guarantee access to treatment and care to those affected by HIV/AIDS. At the policy level, this means ensuring that State are held accountable for the consequences of exclusionary health policies. At the program level, Rights Based Approaches seek to provide psycho-social support, medical treatment and nutritional support. Tackling discrimination is fundamental to Rights Based Approaches to HIV/AIDS. The stigma attached to HIV/AIDS stifles education and knowledge. This causes the virus, and panic, to spread faster. Rights-based approaches address discrimination by working with parents, teachers the media and religious organizations, to address attitudes about sex and sexuality.

LETS ADOPT RBA.....

### ADVOCACY SEMINAR- ISLAMABAD

Pakistan National AIDS Consortium (PNAC), organized a seminar on Tuesday 21 March, 2006 in Islamabad under the title of "Communicating for HIV & AIDS Prevention-A development communication prospective".

The purpose of seminar was to discuss and analyze the strategies and methods which have been adopted by the different organizations and national and international agencies to evaluate their communication effectiveness and bring light in the lime light as Developmental issue. Mr. Qadeer Baig, National Manager PNAC gave an Overview over the last few years and common man exposure to National media and communication strategies.



Dr. Arois Bekhat, Program Manager NACP Ingering PNAC, SRH Journal

Mr. Baig also shared TVCs produced by MIDAS Communications for NACP under the theme of "THINK-UNDERSTAND-PREVENT" on the electronic media of Pakistan. Dr. Rukhsana Kosar, Chairperson, Behavioral Sciences Department, Fatima Jinnah Women University in her keynote, highlighted the misconceptions about the diseases and presented the methodology to eliminate discrimination and stigma regarding HIV and AIDS through media. Ms. Bettina Schunter, Program Officer (HIV & AIDS) UNICEF explained the international communication perspective and communication strategies adopted by international organizations specially UNICEF Pakistan. Mr. Fayaz Baqir, Senior Advisor on Policies, Partnership and Outreach UNDP gave details of the role of communication as the strengthening part, as well as discussed the relationship of religion, HIV/AIDS and use of communication to promote the religious ethics and moral values to address the issue at family unit level.

Dr. Nazir Mehmood, Capacity Dev; Specialist, DTCE discussed how to build capacity of Government, CSOs, NGOs, Media for effective communication. Dr. Asma Bokhari, National Program Manager, NAEP discussed various methods for conveying the message and advocating the problem to the masses both through electronic and print media. Raja Khalid Mehmood- President PNAC discussed the various initiatives of PNAC to eliminate discrimination and stigma against PLWHA and to prevent the dissemination by increasing the access to the information. Later President announced the launching of the first "PNAC Sexual and Reproductive Health Journal" SRH Journal in the field of sexual and reproductive health will become the mouth piece of the vulnerable and marginalized, so that their voice will also heard and noted in the policy making forums and will serve communication need to enhance the process of awareness to decrease stigma. This seminar was attended by the representatives media, civil society and general public.



Participants Advocacy Seminar, Islamabad

### SNNHA Training Workshop

Sindh provincial office organized five days workshop on "Interpersonal Communication" from 20<sup>th</sup> March to 24<sup>th</sup> March at NIPA, Karachi. For the members of SNNHA, Ms. Farah Nusrat was lead facilitator while Mr. Anwar Iqbal and Mr. Mukhtar Ali were the co-facilitator. The purpose of this training workshop was to increase the capacity and skills of the participants to become a source of assistance for community and to prepare them for further referrals.



Raja Khalid Mehmood, President PNAC, presenting certificates to the participants of SNNHA Workshop on IPC in Karachi

With the support of slides presentations, brain storming, different exercises and groups work detailed information was given to the participants on basic communication skills, how to give information, talking about sensitive issues, understanding basic behaviors change, the principals of counseling, basic counseling skills, understanding one's self, stigma and discrimination and care and support to PLWHA. The successful completion of the training was highly appreciated and at the end of the session certificates were distributed among the all the participants.



Participants of SNNHA workshop along with the PNAC Board members in Karachi

### Provincial Workshop on GENDER and HIV/AIDS in BALOCHISTAN

A workshop on "Gender and HIV/AIDS" was organized by Balochistan AIDS Network BAN from 3<sup>rd</sup> April to 9<sup>th</sup> April at Shees Hotel, Quetta. The purpose of this workshop was to increase capacity and awareness related to gender and AIDS. The workshop was attended by representative of partner consortia in Balochistan. The inaugural session was presided by Chairman BAN Mr. Sirbubul Khan Jozzai



Participants of BAN Gender workshop in Quetta

He emphasized that the participants should learn, adopt and replicate training in their organizations. He also said that BAN always played a key role in providing technical assistance to member NGOs in increasing awareness and decreasing stigma and discrimination. The facilitator of this workshop, Dr. Rehana Kamper from Shikatajrah, explained the meaning of gender in a broader way and suggested that such kind of useful workshop should be conducted more frequently. Participants described this workshop as highly successful and useful activity.

## Participation in World Social Forum (WSF) 2006-Karachi

PNAC participated in World Social Forum 2006, which was held in Karachi from the March 24<sup>th</sup> to March 29<sup>th</sup>. The World Social Forum provides a unique opportunity of advocacy for the rights of the people living with HIV and AIDS and also for the rights of the vulnerable and marginalized. Over the past five years, WSF has grown into one of the most dynamic and important social events in the world. The motto for WSF-2006 is "Another World is Possible". This was the first time that we PNAC took part in such mega event. PNAC put up a HIV and AIDS Information Post in the forum for all five days and organized a seminar. The title of the seminar was "HIV and AIDS: Civil Society Response". The seminar was attended by the international delegates from Africa and rest of the world.

The focus of the PNAC activities at WSF-2006 was on reduction of stigma and discrimination and how it could be controlled through providing correct information to the people. PNAC also invited partner organization like Aahung, IUCP and HMAP for collaboration in participation of the event. PNAC banners were hung at all prominent places in KMC complex where WSF was taking place. Special Bulletin and posters were designed and published for WSF and were distributed at the PNAC Information Post. All activities at WSF highlighted the Reduction of stigma and discrimination related to HIV and AIDS issue and effort.



HIV/AIDS Information post at WSF 2006-Karachi



Participants of seminar in WSF 2006-Karachi

## RBA-Workshop in Muzafarabad

A workshop on "Rights Based Approaches" was organized by Kashmir AIDS Consortium in collaboration with Aahung at Muzafarabad. It was two days workshop and was chaired by President of PNAC Raja Khalid Mehmood. Mr. Sikandar Sohani conducted the workshop and facilitate the participants who have been selected from the partner. He explained the idea s of Rights Based Approaches in a broader way related to HIV and AIDS. Raja Abid Ashraf (President KAC), Syed Amjad Gardezi (General Secretary KAC), delivered thier speeches at the occasion. Raja Farooq Haider, Information Advisor Govt of AJK and Sahibzada Saleem Chishti, vice Chairman Allama Mashikh Council AJK. Dr. Parveen Farooq Programe Manager AJK AIDS Control Programe and Dr. Irum Gillani Incharge Blood Transfusion Department AJK were invited as guests of honor. At the end of the workshop, certificates were distributed among the participants. Participants evaluate the workshop as informative and useful.



L-R Raja Farooq Haider (I) nformation Advisor-AJK) giving certificate of participation to Dr. Parveen Farooq (PM, AJK-ACP), President, PNAC, President KAC Raja Abid Ashraf and Sahibzada Saleem Chishti Dp.Chairman Ulama and Mashikh Council are also present.

## PNAC Board Meeting Karachi

PNAC Board of Trustees meets on quarterly basis. The 9th meeting of PNAC BoT held at Karachi on March 22-24, 2006. The agenda of the meeting was to review of Progress of National, Provincial and Regional Offices, conduct visioning exercise to develop vision for the next 10 years, discuss Resource Mobilisation strategy for next five years and review National AIDS Control Program's Study of National and Provincial Consortia. The meeting was attended by all six BoT members representing all the six constituents. On invitation National Manager PNAC and Provincial Managers, BAN, PAC, NAC, NAACC and Sindh participated in the meeting held on March 23, 2006. Meeting started with the welcome note by the President PNAC. The BoT reviewed the progress of national and provincial consortia and had detailed deliberations on vision of PNAC for the next 10 years, provided guidelines on Resource Mobilisation strategy (2007-2011) and discussed in detail the terms of reference of the National AIDS Control Program's study of provincial and national consortia. President PNAC concluded that active participation of all has been a source of energy for PNAC. He said that capacity building for HIV prevention and fundraising should be the priority for the management. The meeting concluded with thanks to all participants by the President, PNAC.

On March 24, First PM's Forum was held to review progress and work plan in line with BoT guidance. The managers discussed various strategies to enhance PNAC and partner consortia effectiveness to meet its mission.

## Gender Workshop by NAC in NWFP

NWFP AIDS Consortium (NAC) organized training on Gender and HIV/AIDS for the member NGOs from 24th to 30th April, 2006. National Training coordinator Ms Aisha Mukhtar provided initial coordination support with Shirkat Gab, Lahore. It provided Technical support for training thus facilitated by Dr Rehana Kariper, Ms Sajida perveen and Dr Ferkhanda Aibar. NAC's BOD represented by Mr. Sheraz Khan, Mr. Alam Zaib Khan and Professor Ismail. Training Academic session coordinated by Programme Officer while assisted by Program Associate NAC. 18 members of NAC completed the training.

## WELCOME TO PNAC FAMILY

### ISLAMABAD OFFICE

Ms. Aisha Mukhtar (National Training Coordinator)  
Mr. Kashif Ijaz (PO, Policy, Advocacy & research)  
Ms. Satyat Jabeen (Program Associate, M&E)  
Malik Arsalan (Program Associate, Administration)  
Ms. Asma Abbasi (Program Associate, communication)  
Ms. Asifa Amjad (Program Associate, Front desk)  
Mr. Amir Saeed Khan (Program Associate, Finance)

### SINDH OFFICE

Dr Iftikhar Somro (Program Officer)  
Mr. Mohammad Yahya (Finance & Administration Manager)  
Asma Umera (Program Associate)

### BAN OFFICE

Saima Gul (Program Officer)

### PAC OFFICE

Saeed Mirza (Provincial Manager)  
Shadman Aziz (Program Officer)

## AIDS Info of the month

### AIDS Clock:

Do u know.....?

After every 6.4 seconds one person in the world get infected with HIV

Log on :[http://www.unfpa.org/aids\\_clock](http://www.unfpa.org/aids_clock)

For more details

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