



RC: 28911

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## JDF HAF II END OF PROJECT REPORT 2015

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## **List of Acronyms**

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BENSACA	Benue State AIDS Control Agency
CBO	Community Based Organization
FSW	Female Sex Workers
HAF	HIV AIDS Fund
HCT	HIV Counselling and Testing
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
JDF	Jireh Doo Foundation
LGA	Local Government Area
MARPS	Most At Risk population
MPPI	Minimum Package prevention intervention
MSM	Men having Sex with Men
OSY	Out of School Youths
PE	Peer Educator
PEM	Peer Education model
PEP	Peer Education Plus
SPAI	Specific Population Awareness Intervention
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections

## **Executive Summary**

JDF HAF II project was a 18 month project aimed at HIV prevention, control and treatment in three local government area. The project was implemented in Ukum, Vandeikya and Gboko local government areas. The project targeted three Most At Risk populations (MARPS) viz; Out of School Youths (OSY), Men having Sex with Men (MSM), and Female Sex Workers (FSW).

The project was implemented in 13 communities across the three local government areas. It enjoyed technical support from BenSACA and other support from other relevant stakeholders like the traditional, religious and women leaders and various LACAs in respective local government areas.

Project implementation commenced with project introductory visits across the target locations which provided ample opportunity to dialogue and galvanize support for the project implementation and success. This meetings was also platforms where peer educators were selected. In all, 87 (M49, F38) peer educators were trained across the three target groups.

The peer educators commenced sessions following the MPPI strategy. Firstly, the specific population awareness intervention is used followed by the peer education model which meetings are held in specific groups and educations passed on HIV/AIDS and STI prevention management and treatment. The sessions are concluded with the peer education plus model which utilize dramas, storytelling to further drive the theoretical sessions held for better understanding. During these sessions, JDF reached 930 FSW, 492 MSM and 1849 OSY. HCT activities were also conducted during the project period and 778 (M477 F301) were reached directly by JDF during her mobile HCT activities.

As part of project sustainability measures, JDF fixed a condom dispenser at the confidence center in Gboko for both FSW and MSM to have access to condoms always at a deliberate attempt to promote their condom utilization for HIV prevention. Also, the organization is in the process of forming CBOs for all her target groups to enable them sustain messages on HIV and STI prevention and management within their communities.

## **Acknowledgement**

Jireh Doo Foundation remains grateful to almighty God for his backing throughout the project period.

The technical support gained from Ministry of Health, BenSACA for the success of the project must be acknowledge. Your coordination role stood out in ensuring the success. The project would not record the successes it has without you. We commend the relationship and friendship enjoyed from various LACAs in the three LGAs of implementation. Their presence facilitated community implementation.

We must acknowledge the support gained from other stakeholders like the traditional, women, religious and women leaders in Ukum, Gboko and Vandikyaand the leadership of MSM and FSW across the local government. Their partnership and support was influential to the success of the project.

JDF staff have also been of immeasurable support to this course. Their unwavering determination and zeal towards the implementation must not go unnoticed. Been resolute has greatly pushed the organization a step further in achieving her vision.

## **1.0 Introduction**

The Jireh Doo Foundation SACA HAF II HIV Prevention Project was an 18 month project that is geared towards scaling-up HIV prevention programmes of JDF with the support of Benue State Agency for Control of AIDS (BENSACA). The overall goal of the project was contributing to the reduction in the prevalence rate of HIV among the general population Out of School Youths, (OSY) and Most at Risk population (MARPS) of Female Sex Workers and Men having Sex with Men (FSW, MSM ) in 3 LGA of Benue State by scaling up effective HIV and AIDS prevention interventions. The project was implemented in 13 communities across Benue State. In Vandeikya LGA the communities include; Ihugh, Tse-Mker, Agbo and Gbanyam hotel, in Ukum the communities includes, Atoo, Ukpaam and Ihungwa, chito and leke while in Gboko; Yakamata hotel, Holly wood hotel, Star Light hotel and Kaamem.

The project sought to comprehensively reach various target groups inclusive of out of school youth, female sex workers and MSM with quality HIV prevention services through capacity enhancing, work based programs, peer education activities and mobile HCT outreaches. This was to enable community members ascertain their health status which is the entry point for HIV care and support.

### **Project Goal and Objectives**

#### **GOAL:**

The overall goal of the project is “to facilitate the adoption of behaviors that will decrease HIV transmission and new infections among MARPS and the general population in 3 LGA of Benue State”

#### **Objectives:**

- To build the capacity of 18 OSY, 6 MSM and 12 FSW PEs to deliver HIV Prevention Interventions to 1910 OSY, 470 MSM, 850 FSW and in 3 LGA of Benue State by December, 2015
- To provide HIV prevention services that promote risk reduction to 470 MSM, 850 Female Sex Workers and 1910 OSY in 3 LGA of Benue State by December, 2015.

#### **WHY THE ACTIVITY (OBJECTIVE(S))**

The spate of HIV over the year in Nigeria and Benue State in particular has become worrisome. Resulting from this, the international agencies, government at all levels and the Non-governmental sectors alike in a bid to arrest the spread have developed and implemented several programmes and projects aimed towards its reduction.

The activities implemented under this project are aimed at HIV reduction across the three local government areas of implementation. Capacities been built is a one strategy to empower

community members with the correct information about HIV prevention and management. The PEs trained were equipped to further reach out to their peers.

Basically, the activities were implemented to first meet the project goal of facilitating the adoption of behaviors that will decrease HIV transmission and new infections among MARPS and the general population and on a general level reduce impact of HIV in Benue State.

## **2.0 Program Narrative**

**Project Management and Planning Meeting:** The project commenced with an innuagural meeting of the project management meeting. This followed series of meeting quarterly to appraise the project implementation, identify challenges and proffer workable solutions for project successes. The meeting was a platform where organizations target were reviewed and workable ways of meeting organizations target adopted.

### **2.1 Contact/Project introduction meeting:**

The Project Team held four contact meetings with community gatekeepers such as traditional, religious and opinion leaders in the three LGA to introduce project and galvanize support for project success. Through the contact meeting, gate keepers and the general community members were sensitized to participate effectively in the project implementation and monitoring. During these introductory visit, gate keepers pledge their unreserved support for the project towards achieving its goal.

### **2.2 Community Dialogue Meeting and selection of Peer Educators:**

Project dialogue meetings were held with various target communities. The dialogue were organized to better intimate community members on the project, its aims and objectives while seeking community buy in and support. The meeting was held with traditional, religious, youth leaders, women leaders and opinion leaders. The meeting was also part of JDF's strategy to mobilize communities for activ3 participation in the project. A total of 27 persons (male 18, female 9) were present during the dialogue meeting in Ukum local government across the 3 communities of Atoo, Ugbaam and Ihungwa. In Vandeikya local Government area, the total of 8 persons (male 2, female 6) were present and the total of 17 persons (male 9 and female 8) were present in Gboko LGA. At Chito and Leke, a total of 52 persons (male 34, female 18) were present in both communities during community dialogue visit.

The Project Team held meetings with key stakeholders where peer educators (PE) and Supervisors were identified and selected for the project. Peer educators and Supervisors were selected based on agreed criteria set by JDF and the community leaders. And already existing PEs and Supervisors were retained to fast track implementation building on their knowledge.

### **3.5 Training of Community Volunteers as Peer Educators:**

Peer Educators and supervisors were trained across the target communities of implementation. These peer educators will in turn recruit their peers and discussed HIV and other reproductive health issues using various strategies and activities. The supervisors were also trained to supervise peer educators during session and address issues that cannot be properly addressed by the peer educators. The supervisors were providing technical support to the educators both during education and in data entry. A total of 35 peer educators (male 15, female 20) and 6 supervisors (male 5, female 1) were trained across the 3 locations of Ukum, Vandeikya and Gboko local government areas of Benue State. Due to saturation in the three communities for OSY (Ugbam, Ihungwa and Atoo), JDF changed communities to Chito and Leke where 52 (M34, F18) peer educators were selected and trained for project implementation.

### **MPPI Implementation**

#### **Methodology**

The peer educators (OSY, FSW and MSM) adopted the minimum prevention package intervention (MPPI) for their peers' session to deliver HIV prevention messages and other sexual reproductive health issues across the various communities. Some of the strategies include specific population awareness intervention (SPA), Peer education model (PEM) and peer education model plus (PEP).

**Activity 1:** Specific Population Awareness intervention were carried out by Peer Educators with their peers. Peer educators held small group discussions with peers where key messages on HIV&AIDS as well as life skills were treated with the various target groups. A total of 1849 Out of School Youth were reached within the project year. This covers all target communities for OSY implemented in during the project year. The Out of School Youth had small group discussion sessions with messages focusing on Abstinence, Being Faithful to their sexual partners and condom use as well as on social vices such as alcoholism and drug abuse that could pre-dispose them to HIV infection. Peer Education sessions were held in various communities in Ukum LGA.

For FSW and MSM in Vandeikya and Gboko respectively, the PEs held small groups discussions specifically on the correct and consistent use of condoms and STIs preventions and management. More so, the sessions covered areas of the decision making. This was aimed at building their value of judgment with their client whom could persuade them from not using condoms. Sessions also touched on sexually transmitted infections (STI). It covered prevention and management for STI should one contract it. Within the project year, 930 were reached by FSW PEs and 492 by MSM PEs respectively.

**Activity 2:** The Peer Education Model strategy was used to reach peers among Out of School Youth in Ukum. Under this strategic intervention, the Out of school Youth, conducted social peer activity sessions where these target persons were reached with HIV prevention messages using ABC methodology. It focused on Abstinence, Being Faithful and Condom use as well as on the need to desist from harmful practices such as alcoholism, drugs and substance abuse.

Messages on STI prevention and management were also passed. More so, the peers were being dissuaded from keeping late nights at wake keep and other cultural festivals which will predispose them to risk of HIV infection. They were particularly educated from using sharp objects with other community members as they may stand a chance to be infected. A total of 1849OSY were reached within the project year.

Also, sessions were held with the other target groups as well. The FSW were also reached through the HIV prevention messages with this strategy. Discussions specifically centered on the correct and consistent use of condoms with all clients with special boyfriends inclusive and also STIs preventions and management. It was discovered that most of the FSW were only thinking of HIV as the only transmitted disease through sex, however, reports discussions on STIs further served to encourage their level of condom use with their clients. This was made possible through the pictorial manuals provided to the PEs to be used during education sessions. Inclusive also, was sessions on decision making and self-esteem. This was aimed at building their value judgment with their client whom could persuade them from not using condoms. This aspect was key in creating a deep and lasting change to this target group as most of them still had special boy friends who wanted to have sex with them without the use of condom or by accepting high amount for sex without condom. A total 930 FSW were reached.

The MSM were also reached with specific discussions focusing on being faithful to each partner and consistent and correct utilization of condoms. Also discussed were prevention and management of sexual transmitted diseases. In all, a total of 492 MSM were reached within the year.

**Activity 4:** Reinforcing the HIV prevention messages delivered to peers during the peer education and specific population awareness campaign sessions, the Peer Education Plus strategic intervention activities such as drama, dance, sporting activities and folklore (story telling) were employed by Peer Educators. Short dramas were presented by peer members to depict the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse by out of school youth especially that it increases their vulnerability and risk to infection. This variety of activities afforded the peers the opportunity to actively and meaningfully participate in the sensitization of their larger community on HIV prevention and other related issues, while interacting with one another within their respective communities. The third strategy incorporated a number of variety activities marking the graduation of peers. A total of 1849OSY reached with the PEP strategy in target in Ukumlocal government area.

Peer Education Plus strategic intervention activities such as drama were employed by Peer Educators to practical demonstrate the HIV prevention messages delivered to peers during the peer education and specific population awareness intervention sessions. This also clearly portrayed a true picture of what the practical sessions were all about. A total of 930FSW and 492 MSM, were also reached with the PEP strategy.

**3.6 HIV Testing and Counseling Outreaches:** HCT Outreaches was carried out to target population in the communities across 2 local government areas of Ukum and Vandeikya where peer education intervention is currently going on. Community sensitization and mobilization was

adequately carried out ahead of the outreaches to ensure massive turnout of community members although the outreaches is supposed to target specifically peers who have been reached through peer education activities. These activities help to ensure that structural issues affecting behavior change in the communities are addressed as the entire communities will be reached through the HCT Outreaches. The HCT Outreaches involved the services of well-trained and certified counselors and testers drawn from the pool of Jireh Doo Foundation's HCT Unit. A total of 778 (M477, F301 ) persons were reached and 32 positive cases (M11, F21) recorded.

#### **4 Referrals, Networking and Collaborations**

Throughout the project year, Jireh Doo Foundation continued to leverage on existing partnership with the various community structures in target communities. During implementation, the organization was able to mobilize resources for the successful implementation of the Peer Education sessions across the 3 LGA in Benue State, namely Gboko, Ukum and Vandeikya. Worthy of mention, is the support by the various community leaders such as the TER Vandeikya and TER Ukum and religious leaders who have also supported the activities of Out of School Youth by providing venues like town halls and church buildings for peer education session.

The positive clients identified during mobile HCT outreaches were referred to General Hospital; a health facilities in Ukum and Vandeikya local government respectively.

#### **5. PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY**

As part of sustainability plans on the project, Jireh Doo Foundation held meeting with FSW in Gboko local government. The meeting was conducted with the aim of selecting EXCOs and forming a CBO with the target group. EXCOs were selected and a process for a final registration with the Ministry of women Affairs have been on-going.

##### **Access Condoms**

With the aim of making condoms accessible to both MSM and FSW, JDF fixed a condom dispenser at the Gboko Confidence Center. This is a youth friendly center where youths come and access health services anytime and also to play other sports. With this in mind, the dispenser was fixed and condoms are been refilled always for access to MSM and FSW. Before this dispenser, most MSM and FSW usually buy condoms from different sources and where they lack the finance to do so, they tend to engage in unprotected sex. With the dispenser fixed, there is always access to condoms for both target groups which has increased condom utilization and also improved protection for HIV.

##### **Challenges**

- Late take off of project activities due to delay in fund release.
- Inadequate supply of commodities like lubricants
- The legislation against MSM in Nigeria was challenging making it difficult with the target group in identification and turning up for meetings

- High level of attrition of some PE especially FSW due to their trade was challenging during implementation.

## **Conclusion**

The HAF II project was a great experience for JDF. The successes recorded over the months were quiet encouraging. These little efforts are ways to achieving a HIV free generation among these target groups not just in Benue State but also Nigeria at large. The successes gained would not have been possible if not for support from BenSACA who is the coordinating body of the grant. Also, support enjoyed from traditional leaders and other community members was instrumental to the success of the project in the respected communities and target groups of intervention.