



## **Network in Africa: Nongovernmental Organizations against HIV/AIDS, for Democracy**

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**Network in Africa: Nongovernmental Organizations**  
**against HIV/AIDS, for Democracy**

HIV/AIDS is a significant problem in Africa. Some African countries hold the highest rates of virus infection in the world. In sub-Saharan Africa alone, there are 3.2 million young people living with HIV, 60% of the world's youth population with HIV, of which 78% are women.

Grounded in a belief of South-South cooperation as a important strategy for strengthening dialogue among peoples, and the experience of this cooperation in the development of youth leadership in the fight against HIV in Latin America and the Caribbean, Mirim-Brasil, along with the Swedish organization Unga Örnar, are establishing solid partnerships for the development of the project "Network in Africa: Nongovernmental Organizations against HIV/AIDS, for Democracy".

The project's proposal is to contribute to the strengthening of young African peoples' role in the response to HIV. The work is done in partnership with organizations led by young people or which work with/for young people in 15 African countries: South Africa, Botswana, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, Mauritius, Senegal, Madagascar, Kenya, Tanzania and Namibia.

Our principal objective is that the young people taking part in the project be able to acquire and strengthen abilities directed towards political accountability and influence, and that they can act as multipliers in their organizations, communities, regions and countries, promoting the necessary transformations for an effective response to HIV.

## **Mirim-Brasil**

The Children and Youth Revindication Movement, also known as **Mirim-Brasil**, is a not-for-profit, nonpartisan, organization that acts towards the fulfillment of human rights with a focus on childhood, adolescence, and youth, with the goal of combating inequalities, stimulating citizenship participation, and bringing about a true democratization of our society. Through its activities, the NGO dedicates itself to studying the situation of the child, adolescent, and youth, and to denouncing the violence that afflicts them; as well as promoting the personal and political development of these political agents to work for the fulfillment of human rights and the exercise of citizenship, involving family and community in its actions.

With the goal of globalizing the rights of children, adolescents, and youth, Mirim-Brasil works together with international organizations, promoting and participating in events such as congresses, conferences, leadership development meetings, and exchanges. Mirim-Brasil is the vice-president of the International Falcon Movement – Socialist Educational International (IFM-SEI), a worldwide network comprised of 60 entities. Through this representation, our entity has networked with youth organizations and platforms in Latin America, Africa, and Europe. The organization has also been developing actions to empower young people and face HIV, with organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, and Asia.

We believe that the promotion of gender equality and intergenerational understanding are important practices to foster respect, recognition, and democracy. With this perspective, it is important to affirm that Mirim-Brasil's relation to governmental action is based on the monitoring of public policy, keeping a vision towards the universality of our actions, and the democratization of the state. Our intention is to work in partnership and autonomously, knowing to resist, dispute, propose, and innovate. As organized civil society, we have to contribute to the reaffirmation of the notion that politics must not be considered a vertical relation, but a space of negotiation and debate.

## Unga Örnar

Unga Örnar - The Swedish Falcon Movement - is a child and youth organization within the labour movement. They have 16 000 members across the country. Unga Örnar's fundamental idea is that all people are of equal dignity. Comradeship and shared experiences are the foundation of their activities.

Main goals:

- To conduct positive activities, on a democratic basis, among children, youth and adults, in a spirit of solidarity and co-operation. Activities must be free from the kind of competition, which leads to rejection.
- To promote the participation of children and youth in the service of the community,
- To co-operate with other organisations for the promotion of children and youth interests in the community.
- To encourage interests in culture and creativity.
- To promote equality between the sexes and companionship and partnership between different generations.
- To promote the equal valuation of different jobs and tasks.
- To encourage children, youth and adults to show an active concern for nature and the environment.
- To counteract abuse of alcohol, drugs and other addictive substances.
- To work for a society of political, social, economic and culture democracy.
- To work for peace and liberty in the world and for universal human equality.

Unga Örnar is a democratically constructed organisation of autonomous groups, branches and districts. This means that members themselves decide which activities are to take place. It is natural in Unga Örnar for younger members also to have a hand in making decisions. Every branch is organised so that all members will be able to influence and decide things.

Unga Örnar is essentially concerned with activities based on the interests and needs of children and youth and on an open attitude towards new ideas. Whatever the content of activities, they invariably have an overriding purpose, which can be summed up in terms of awareness, education and training.

Unga Örnar wants to make people taking part in the activities, aware of their own potentialities and to achieve a critical, reflective attitude.

### **Seminar “Networking against HIV and AIDS, for Democracy”**

Between December 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Mirim-Brasil in partnership with Unga Örnar held a seminar in Johannesburg, South Africa, with eight youth representatives from civil society organizations from Angola, Botswana, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The meeting aimed to broad the dialogue about the project proposal and collectively fine-tunes the methodology of the work to be developed by and for young people as well as a work plan for the following actions of the project.

The participants were:

| <b>Name</b>          | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Country</b> |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Conceição Guimarães  | FOJASSIDA           | Angola         |
| Faith Lefoko Oteng   | YOHO                | Botswana       |
| Anna Maria Forsberg  | Mirim-Brasil        | Brazil         |
| Lucas Marques        | Mirim-Brasil        | Brazil         |
| Manuella Donato      | Mirim-Brasil        | Brazil         |
| Maneesha Panchoo     | MFM - MSEM          | Mauritius      |
| Horácio Orção Muneme | AJUPIS              | Mozambique     |
| Agapitus Hausiko     | Invitee             | Namibia        |
| Johanna Urikhos      | Childline/Lifeline  | Namibia        |
| Masixole Ndima       | Molo Songololo      | South Africa   |
| Amir Daneshpip       | Unga Örnar          | Sweden         |
| Chaiwe Mushauko      | Youth Vision        | Zambia         |
| Tawanda Maguze       | Patsime Trust       | Zimbabwe       |

During the three days of seminar, the participants could be acquainted and deepen their understanding about the involved organizations, to discuss the main topics related to the project - Youth, HIV/AIDS and Advocacy - to know more about the project and provide inputs for the project's proposal. The seminar was designed with the objective of stimulating the participation of everyone involved and, in this sense, it was possible to build constructive dialogues for the next steps of the project.

## Seminar Programme

Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

| Time          | Agenda                       |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| 19:30 – 20:00 | Welcome and Introductions    |
| 20:00 – 21:00 | Presenting the Organizations |
| 21:00 - 21:30 | Presenting the Agenda        |

Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

| Time          | Agenda   |
|---------------|--|
| 09:00 - 09:30 | Human Bingo Ice breaker                        |
| 09:30 – 09:45 | Youth and HIV/AIDS                             |
| 09:45 - 10:00 | Advocacy on HIV and AIDS                       |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | Dialogue                                       |
| 11:00 - 11:15 | BREAK  |
| 11:15 – 11:30 | Project Proposal                               |
| 11:30 – 12:30 | Dialogue                                       |
| 12:30 - 14:00 | LUNCH  |
| 14:00 – 14:45 | Introduction of Road Map<br>Using the Road Map |
| 14:45 – 15:15 | Introduction of TIG tools                      |
| 15:15 - 15:30 | BREAK  |
| 15:30 - 17:00 | Group Discussion                               |
| 17:00 – 17:30 | Evaluation of the day                          |
| 18:30 - 22:00 | DINNER/INTERCULTURAL EVENING                   |

**Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**

| <b>Time</b>   | <b>Agenda</b>                   |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 09:00 – 09:30 | Ice Breaker                     |
| 09:30 - 10:00 | Reviewing 1 <sup>st</sup> day   |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | Thinking Next Steps<br>(groups) |
| 11:00 - 11:15 | Groups' Presentations           |
| 11:15 – 11:30 | BREAK                           |
| 11:30 - 12:30 | Building Work Plan              |
| 12:30 - 13:30 | LUNCH                           |
| 13:30 - 14:30 | Closing Work Plan               |
| 14:30 – 15:30 | Making Commitments              |
| 15:30 - 15:45 | BREAK                           |
| 15:45 – 16:15 | About IFM-SEI                   |
| 16:15 – 17:00 | Questions and Comments          |
| 17:00 – 17:30 | Closing evaluation              |
| 18:00         | DINNER                          |

## **Participant Organizations**

### **AJUPIS – Youth Association against Child Prostitution and AIDS**

AJUPIS' mission is to promote youth-oriented activities towards the fight against child prostitution and the propagation of HIV/AIDS, under a prevention perspective; to contribute to the development of youth associativism; to contribute with statements and reports on child prostitution and HIV/AIDS-related issues in ongoing discussions and analyses by state and civil society institutions; to make proposals and take part on the definition of the national policy for child prostitution and HIV/AIDS; to promote the debate within the Mozambican youth about child prostitution and HIV/AIDS. Its main activities are community sensitizing; home visits and care; seminars and debates within the community; promotion of human and child rights; cultural exhibitions (theatre and dance) as forms of displaying the many ways of contamination and prevention; and sports.

### **FOJASSIDA – Youth Forum on Support to Health and AIDS Prevention**

FOJASSIDA is an organization that works with adolescents and youth on HIV/AIDS and human rights through debates, seminars, public discussions, community theatre and home visits, aiming at the attenuation of the impact of HIV and AIDS in Angola. It carries out campaigns to sensitize and door-to-door mobilization campaigns, debates, public discussions, home care and visits to PLWHA, human rights and advocacy, in Cazenga municipality.

### **Lifeline/Childline Namibia**

LifeLine/ChildLine Namibia has the purpose to develop emotional resilience and skills for all Namibians in a changing social environment. The core principles and values which support this mission are Integrity, Respect, Humility and Openness. Through quality services and products Lifeline/Childline offers skills development such as Personal Growth; Counselling; Supervision, HIV continuum and Child Counselling.

### **Mauritius Falcon Movement – Socialist Educational International**

MFM-SEI fights for the rights of children, adolescents and youth. For the last decade the organization has collaborated with both local and international organizations in the dissemination of information. At the local level MFM-SEI has worked with NGO's, Government and private schools in order to sensitize and train children, adolescent and youth.

### **Molo Songololo**

Molo Songololo is a child rights organization that strives to advance children's rights to ensure their protection, development, survival and participation through education, training, lobby, advocacy, and support services. Their main activities are: advocacy and lobby for the rights and protection of children in difficult circumstances (child trafficking, child prostitution, child labour); child rights and responsibility education workshops for children and young people; life-skills education and training for children and young people; child participation in law and social policy reform, social action and campaigns; rescue, exit and recovery support for victims of trafficking and sexual abuse; research, data collection and dissemination; public awareness and community mobilization; educational workshop for service providers and community members.

### **Patsime Trust**

Patsime Trust uses theatre and other communication strategies to provide information, develop capacity and enhance communication in addressing HIV and AIDS and related development issues for targeted communities. Patsime's main activities are training in the production of theatre aimed at mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS within their own communities, mitigation of the impact of HIV and AIDS through production of edutainment theatre and electronic media such as Television and Radio and supporting discussion fora.

### **YOHO – Youth Health Organization**

YOHO strives to be a leading youth health institution by promoting healthy lifestyles and relationships through Youth-Adult partnerships and the Triple E approach (Education, Entertainment for Empowerment). Their main activities are: student days, community days, road shows, trainings, meetings, Seboza life skills school program, Children's theatre Expo, community mapping exercises, play performances etc

### **Youth Vision Zambia**

Youth Vision-Zambia is a youth-led non-governmental organization that strives to promote, defend and advocate for the improved lifestyle of adolescents and Zambian youth and to empower them to make free and informed choices on matters relating to their sexual and reproductive health. The vision of YVZ is to have a society where Zambians, especially young men and women, are able to access and exercise their rights and participate at all policy and decision-making levels regarding issues that affect their rights, in particular issues related to Sexual and Reproductive Health, HIV/AIDS, gender, Human Rights and National Development.

## **Youth, HIV/AIDS and Advocacy**

At the beginning of the session on Youth and HIV/AIDS, a question was presented: "Why discuss HIV/AIDS from youth perspectives?" Talking about HIV/AIDS necessarily brings us to sexualities, since sex is currently the main way of transmission of the virus. And sexuality is still a major taboo in most, if not all societies, especially regarding young people.

The term responsibility is often used to affirm that it's up to the young ones to protect themselves, strengthening an idea of individual responsibility, of simple choice. We do want to talk about responsibility, but one that is shared by the whole society to create and sustain an environment where the youth can make choices out of appropriate information and free from violence of any sort. This is a responsibility of public policies, governments, families, adults and also young people. The youth must be part of this construction, since they are part of the solution and not the problem.

At the moment, half of the new HIV infections occur among people under 25 years-old, most of them between 15 and 24. According to the United Nations 2008 Global Report on AIDS, only 40% of the youth worldwide knows how to protect themselves from HIV.

So, if HIV is a preventable virus, what's happening that young people are not being able to protect themselves effectively?

Global data show us that among the 1.7 billion young people living in the world, 1.5 are in low-income countries. 5.4 million young people are living with HIV, of which 3.2 million live in Sub-Saharan Africa, where there is proportion of three infected young women for each young man. It is urgent and necessary that HIV is faced as a matter of Human Rights, integrally, guaranteeing young people the access to quality education and adequate information, health services that attend to the needs of youth and prevention strategies based on evidence. To give an effective response to HIV/AIDS it is necessary to guarantee the universality of sexual rights and reproductive rights, to face all kinds of violence and to contribute for gender relations based on equality.

It is also important to remember that when we talk about youth, we must consider the diverse realities of youths, with their different perspectives and needs: YPLHIV, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, sex workers, drug users, men who have sex with men, and groups considered as minorities. Policies must not be based on individual values and beliefs, but create the conditions necessary for everyone to have their rights respected.

And to know and reach the realities and needs of the youths it is fundamental that young people are involved in the development of strategies, in the design and implementation of

policies, in the integrated response to HIV/AIDS. In this sense, we are speaking of effective participation, more than just occupying spaces, participating in meetings. We're talking about contribution to the decision-making processes, about making young people's voices really heard. We are talking about real democracy.

This is why advocacy is key to the action of organized civil society as a strategy for social transformation:

"Advocacy is the pursuit of influencing outcomes - including public policy and resource allocation decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions - that directly affect people's lives. Advocacy organizations draw their strength from and are accountable to people - their members, constituents, and/or members of affected groups. Advocacy has purposeful results: to enable social justice advocates to gain access and voice in the decision making of relevant institutions; to change the power relationships between these institutions and the people affected by their decisions, thereby changing the institutions themselves; and to bring a clear improvement in people's lives" (David Cohen, Reflections on Advocacy, Volume I, Advocacy Institute).

"For NGOs/CBOs involved in HIV/AIDS work, this means understanding the role of advocacy in relation to other responses to HIV/AIDS, such as information, education and communication (IEC), community mobilisation and service provision" (Advocacy in Action – International HIV/AIDS Alliance).

### **Dialogue**

The presentation was followed by questions and a debate.

The sentence "youth are part of the solution, not the problem" raised some comments on the possible effects of saying it. Someone said it might be controversial to say that youth is part of the solution, as this is one of the most affected groups. And someone else said that the idea of it is exactly to raise the debate on what are the causes that lead young people to be one of the most affected groups.

It was strongly felt by the participants that HIV /AIDS is the product of a certain situation. It is a result of what young people find, such as lack of education, unemployment, poverty, lack of access to public health. It is widely felt by the participants that lack of information prevents youth to protect themselves. How should the message be spread then? We should communicate properly to local community, so that people get the right information.

What about accountability? It was felt that responsibility and accountability are aspects we tend to ignore. It was felt by some participants that actually everyone is responsible for self-protection. The question that we must answer is who is accountable for handling this information to young people? To sum up, it was felt by the participants that youth is

responsible for self protection, but it is vital to stress the accountability and to know who is accountable at this situation.

Another question raised was if it is more effective to work against poverty or HIV/AIDS. Some participants feel that poverty is a too broad topic, and that we should focus on HIV/AIDS, otherwise we will not reach results. In the other hand, some other participants think that it is better to have a more holistic view, dealing with poverty and unemployment for instance, because these are crucial to solving the problem. It was agreed that we cannot isolate poverty and HIV/AIDS. We have to tackle both points, but we got to have a focus and it should be HIV/AIDS and youth. It was widely felt by all the participants that a gender perspective must be present in our work, regardless of having a sharp or a broad approach on HIV/AIDS. In this sense, advocacy was felt as a strategic matter.

Some participants highlighted that we should focus on behavior of young people. It was felt that initiatives such as distribution of condoms, free counseling, etc, should be considered. It was said the information is not being spread properly. And that even professionals or people who have got information are getting infected. Also that young people are even getting discriminated when they test. So it has to do with information and much more.

On the discussion about the role of the civil society organizations, some participants mentioned the importance of raising awareness. For instance, there are many people who believe that woman is the one who spreads the virus, not man. Therefore men are not worried because they blame woman. Also it was talked about the effectiveness of the programs. It was perceived that GLBTI issues are not being enough tackled. The programs should be more inclusive. It is important to guarantee rights and an inclusive perspective is crucial for our work.

Another important issue raised is about stigma and discrimination. People are afraid of taking part in HIV /AIDS organizations. It is felt that in Africa we should work with advocacy, in order to bring people together and include more people in the struggle.

It was strongly felt by the participants that networking is the best way to struggle for finding a solution. We have to promote advocacy to diminish stigma and discrimination. Therefore civil society organizations have important role in raising awareness.

But, how should the organizations deal with the problem? It was noticed by the participants that there is a lack of sharing responsibility between civil society organizations and government. Therefore organizations have to change leaders' and politicians' mentality. The stakeholders are the responsible for changes and the local organizations should be linked to politicians and decision makers.

## **Group Discussion**

The whole group chose main topics they would like to go deep in the debate, then they divide into two groups and each of them discussed and presented what they had discussed.

### **Group 1:**

#### **Stigma and Discrimination**

##### **GLBTI issues**

People are discriminated and stigmatized;

- On the basis of their status, in terms of HIV/ AIDS. This is mainly due to peoples misconceptions on HIV/AIDS.
- Due to people's lack of accurate information on HIV/AIDS.
- Due to the way certain cultures perceive certain matters on the basis of rules or norms. (taking it one that contracted the virus was either promiscuous or committed adultery)
- As a result of segregation in health centers i.e HIV positive patients have different wings from people with other diseases and are also given medication or ARV'S from different pharmacies within the same health center.
- Due to the perception based on moral grounds emphasized by religion and culture towards GLBTI

What should be done?

- Give the parties affected a chance to air their opinion
- Promote human rights for GLBTI and people living with HIV/AIDS
- Disseminate universal information concerning HIV/AIDS
- Advocate for the inclusion of GLBTI and HIV/AIDS infected people in decision and policy making bodies.
- Work around changing certain cultural practices and beliefs.

## **INC – Information, Networking and Communication**

- There is no adequate platform for INC in Africa.
- Lack of adequate basic education and information, therefore resulting in lack of access to INC on HIV/AIDS.
- Language barriers make it difficult for information to be disseminated to certain areas.
- Lack of communication tools
- Inability of nations, CBO's and NGO's to work together.
- Communication gap between cultures, religions and the elderly and young people

What should be done?

- Encourage NGO's to avoid compositing for funds.
- Increase funds to work towards improving communication and networking tools.
- Promote basic education to allow for dissemination on information
- Create consistent platforms to discuss issues surrounding HIV/AIDS and sex education.
- Encourage programs that are direct and right to the point 'The in Your Face Approach'.
- Promote universal information i.e nations and organizations must speak the same language.

## **Group 2**

### **Gender Perspectives**

- We need to mobilize men and women and create spaces for them to discuss men's and women's rights, for them to understand that by creation and nature of our societies they have different needs;
- Need for capacity-building to the girl-child to address the current situation of disparity, build her capacity in leadership and other areas and promote peer capacity development;
- For attitude change and increase of self-esteem;
- Increase networking for change that is localized;
- Women will find it difficult to become part of movements because she cannot afford the time hence the need to make available resources;
- Aspects of intergenerational sex increase also their vulnerability;
- Promotion of fairness in terms of access to information and services;

- Work to promote generalized understanding of what gender is beyond thoughts of them being women's issues;
- Deeply culturally entrenched norms will take time to reverse:

What should be done?

- Encourage more face-to-face communication through our organizations and peer-education.
- Advocate for criminalization of adults involved in intergenerational sex with minors who have not reached age of majority.
- Gender sensitivity in terms of conceptualization of programmes and projects.
- Promote equality /equity through balanced communication.
- Lobby for adoption of quota systems in areas where women have limited access.
- Promote, share and learn Gender Analysis tools, such as Harvard Analysis tools.

### **Responsibility/Accountability**

- Young people have very low risk perception and hence are involved in risky behavior;
- Peer training in skills for behavior change;
- Negotiation skills;
- Limitations in efforts by government to combat HIV, particularly the young people in relation to HIV and AIDS.
- Young people need space in order to exercise freedom of choice;
- As organizations we are accountable to the constituencies we serve by enlisting and being driven by needs;
- Governments and other key stakeholders needs.

What should be done?

- Increase understanding of the contribution of the individual;
- Increase risk perception through targeted campaign;
- We need to quote leadership in our campaigns and activities to attain seriousness;
- Political leadership should be persuaded to address young people's issues in their campaigns and programmes after the election;
- Vote from young people should not come easy.

## **Youth Participation**

### **AJUPIS**

Youth participate in the General Assembly as all of the members. This is the space where the organization-related themes are defined. Young people also make definitions on the implementation of some programmes and activities, but those are submitted to General Direction to be approved. Youth take the lead on some activities and conduct viability studies, which contributes to develop leadership.

### **ChildLine Namibia**

ChildLine team consists of ten young employees that are encouraged to learn and take initiative. They empower children and simultaneously are involved in meetings, strategic planning's and are encouraged to organize trips to regions and events. By using the "learning by doing" approach these young employees are placed in positions whereby they need to make well informed and professional decisions within the framework of an organization with specific budgets. They also serve on various committees within the organization and present the organization at external platforms.

### **FOJASSIDA**

Youth is involved in decision-making processes related to project's development on youth benefits. There is responsible participation in dealing and solving problems in the organization and the community, focused on rights in a perspective of sustainable development.

### **Mauritius Falcon Movement – Socialist Educational International**

It is an organization with various branches throughout Mauritius. The Board of Directors is constituted from the representatives from all branches, which is a democratic process. All decisions are taken at the level of main committee and the youth are fully involved in.

### **Molo Songololo**

In most of the programs youth is invited to help run the program and to make the important decisions. Molo Songololo also trains young people in peer education and facilitation and encourage young people to organize themselves and form their own organization. They are given skills that help them to become facilitators and go back to schools and facilitate

programs in HIV/AIDS/ abuse and many more. We act developing leadership and good role models and encouraging the youth action for social change.

### **Patsime Trust**

Patsime is itself a youth organisation although the scope of its work extends far beyond just exclusively dealing with the youth. Youth are not living in a vacuum and firmly established in the organisation is the belief that there is need to extend activities to deal with the other constituents that make up the sum total of their environment. In both the Buddyz 4 Luv Programme and the Community theatre capacity development programme, the youth were consulted at project formulation, and have continued to do the so during reviews. With the Buddyz for Luv programme, the youth are responsible for running Buddyz Clubs, within the schools, where they determine activities and implementation with support from Patsime. Patsime does not explicitly focus on developing activities on youth leadership per se, but rather elements of leadership grooming are included as part of the theatre and HIV and AIDS training, and this includes management of the theatre organisations, and assumption of a more significant role in HIV and AIDS mitigation efforts. All the community theatre organisations/groups that engage with Patsime are made of and run by youths within their own communities, and quite often they have very little training in what they will be doing.

### **YOHO**

The organization is youth led and youth run and we recognize the adult professional's inputs  
The Seboza Life skills program develops children and youth leadership skills because they graduate in completion of the program so that they can be role models and teach other peers about the program content. YOHO has youth representation in at all decision making bodies that affect young people and children

### **Youth Vision**

Being a youth driven organization, YVZ encourages open and collective decision making, especially were projects and ideas are concerned, the organization holds meetings to discuss upcoming ideas and how everyone can contribute their part based on the knowledge they have on the mater at hand or based on knowledge that shall be made available to them. Our programmes centre on the belief that committed youth-adult partnerships and involving young people actively and meaningfully in the development, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes that affect their lives, is key to achieving better, and more sustainable programme outcomes and indeed national development objectives.

## **The Project**

### **Participants**

Youth organizations from 15 African countries, divided in two groups (2008 and 2009).

The 2008 group is formed by the following countries: Angola, Botswana, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The 2009 group is: Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Senegal, Tanzania.

### **Phases**

The first step is a meeting, in which the work plan is collectively constructed based on the discussions during the seminar. A commitment is made to move forward with the participants.

In the following months it is developed a capacity-building process on advocacy. The participants of the seminar will take the course through internet tools and act as multipliers in their organizations/communities, working together with peers.

As a result of that capacity-building process, advocacy campaigns are expected to be developed and implemented by the participants.

During this process, the participants from different countries and organizations are going to share their experiences, establish and strengthen network.

### **Timeline**

February – June: Capacity Building/Multiplying Process

July – December: Implementing Advocacy Campaigns



## Work Plan

In order to build the basic work plan, the participants were required to think on three questions:

- Who are the young people/groups that I want to mobilize to participate in the advocacy capacity-building process?
- How will I mobilize them? Is it difficult?
- Which forms of advocacy do I identify as the most adequate/effective to my local reality?

The participants worked in pairs and presented to the plenary the results of their discussion, which was used as a fundamental basis to build the work plan.

The group decided to have a name to identify them. It is a way to strengthen the group beyond the actions of the project. Many names were suggested and it was made an election. Then it was discussed the main objectives of the network, having the project objectives as starting point.

### **African Youth Activists Network**

#### **AYAN**

#### **Objectives:**

- To strengthen and network youth in the response to HIV/AIDS;
- To develop strategies to politically impact HIV/AIDS policies from youth perspectives, in respect to human rights and human dignity;
- To foster empowerment of young people to act as multipliers in their organizations and communities;
- To empower youth leadership in the fight against HIV/AIDS and social challenges.

| <b>Work Plan 2009</b>                      | <b>Activities</b>  | <b>Date</b> | <b>Responsible</b> |
|--|--|-------------|--------------------|
| Preparing to the Capacity-building process | Seminar Report   | Jan         | Mirim-Brasil       |
|  | Getting familiar to TIG  | Jan         | AYAN               |
|  | Mobilizing the <u>local group</u> to join the capacity-building:<br>- young people from CSO's, schools, peer organizations, health institutions, CBO's, NGO's, FBO's... (considering gender balance).<br><br>Mobilizing stakeholders and supporters. | Jan         | AYAN               |

|                   |   |                 |      |
|-------------------|---|-----------------|------|
| Capacity-Building | <p>Monthly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Send materials (Mirim-Brasil)</li> <li>- Local group discussion</li> <li>- AYAN Group chat</li> <li>- Feedback to Mirim-Brasil</li> <li>- Feedback to each group</li> </ul> <p>Road map-related activities</p>   | Feb<br>-<br>Jun | AYAN |
| Advocacy          | <p>Implementation of the advocacy campaign developed by the national group during the capacity-building process.</p> <p>Forms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public forums, street bashes, theater, petitions, peaceful marches, demonstrations, movements, media broadcasting (jingle commercials), IEC publications (print/electronic), debates, panel discussions, trainings, workshops, conferences, seminars...</li> </ul> <p>Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HIV/AIDS, Human Rights, Democracy</li> </ul> <p>Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Governmental organizations (Ministries of youth, health, gender), political leaders, parents, private sector, parliament members...</li> </ul> | Jul<br>-<br>Dec | AYAN |

## Roadmap

The roadmap was used to help the group to think ahead of key moments to mobilise collectively during 2009. It was marked not only HIV/AIDS events, but also related events or dates when it would be strategic to mobilize on youth and HIV/AIDS.

| <b>2009</b>   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <b>January</b>  |                                       |
| World Social Forum  | YVZ<br>FOJASIDA                       |
| <b>February</b>   |                                       |
| Valentine's Day   | YOHO<br>YVZ<br>FOJASSIDA              |
| Victory Day - Mozambique  | AJUPIS                                |
| <b>March</b>  |                                       |
| UN Commission of the Status of Women                                  |                                       |
| International Women's Day   | YOHO<br>MFM-SEI                       |
| Month of Youth against AIDS   | YOHO<br>YVZ<br>FOJASSIDA<br>Patsime   |
| Workers Day   | YVZ<br>YOHO                           |
| <b>April</b>  |                                       |
| Africa Union – Heads of State Meeting                                 | AJUPIS                                |
| Global Conference: Engaging Men and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality | Patsime<br>YVZ<br>AJUPIS<br>FOJASSIDA |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>May</b>                                 |   |
| Global AIDS Week of Action                 | YOHO<br>YVZ<br>FOJASSIDA                    |
| <b>June</b>                                |   |
| African Child/Youth Day                    | YOHO<br>Patsime<br>AJUPIS                   |
| Let's Realize: Children's Youth Conference | LL/CL<br>YVZ<br>YOHO<br>FOJASSIDA<br>AJUPIS |
| Independence Day - Mozambique              | AJUPIS                                      |
| <b>July</b>                                |   |
| International Youth Leadership Conference  | Patsime<br>YOHO<br>YVZ<br>Molo              |
| World Population Day                       | YOHO  |
| ICPD+ 15                                   |   |
| <b>August</b>                              |   |
| International Youth Day                    | Molo<br>FOJASSIDA<br>YOHO<br>YVZ            |

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>September</b>                 |  |
| Month of Prayer against AIDS     | YVZ<br>FOJASSIDA<br>YOHO                                 |
| National Heroes Day - Mozambique | AJUPIS   |
| <b>October</b>                   |  |
| Drug User Day                    | YOHO<br>MFM-SEI  |
| <b>November</b>                  |  |
| Africa Youth Day                 | YOHO<br>Patsime<br>YVZ                                   |
| 16 Days                          | YOHO<br>YVZ  |
| <b>December</b>                  |  |
| PLWHA Week                       | YOHO<br>AJUPIS   |
| World AIDS Day                   | YOHO<br>Patsime<br>FOJASSIDA<br>MFM-SEI<br>YVZ<br>AJUPIS |

## **IFM – SEI**

Mirim-Brasil and Unga Örnar are members of the International Falcon Movement – Socialist Educational International. At the end of the seminar, it was made a presentation on the organization.

The IFM-SEI is an international umbrella organisation bringing together 60 national children's and youth movements from all over the world. The movement advocates for children's rights, working with governments and NGOs to ensure children's voices are heard. The IFM-SEI uses the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as a basic document in all its work.

The movement promotes international solidarity and friendship through educational programme of camps, exchanges and seminars. The educational process uses peer education as a key tool and is based on values such as equality, peace, democracy, co-operation and international friendship. The IFM-SEI works on a wide variety of topics: Equality, reproductive health education, HIV and AIDS, children's rights, conflict resolution, training for trainers.

IFM-SEI works directly with harder to reach children such as street children and child labourers, striving to be inclusive of all children and young people. Inclusion is more than ensuring doors are open. The IFM-SEI has developed pro-active strategies to include disadvantaged children in its activities. Children and young people are involved in all levels of decision-making in the IFM-SEI.

| Evaluation         |   |   |  |  |  |
|--------------------|---|---|--|--|--|
|                    | Contribution of the project to Youth and HIV/AIDS agenda              | Methodology   | Presentations  | Logistics  | Fulfillment of the expectations  |
| Evaluation 1st day | 87,5% rated as "acceptable"; 12,5% rated as "high satisfaction level" | 50% rated as "acceptable"; 37,5% rated as "high satisfaction level"; 12,5% didn't provide a rate. | 25% rated as "average satisfaction level"; 25% rated as "acceptable"; 50% rated as "high satisfaction level" | 12,5% rated as "average satisfaction level"; 37,5% rated as "acceptable"; 50% rated as "high satisfaction level" | 25% rated as "average satisfaction level"; 25% rated as "acceptable"; 50% rated as "high satisfaction level" |
| Evaluation 2nd day | 75% rated as "acceptable"; 25% rated as "high satisfaction level"     | 62,5% rated as "acceptable"; 37,5% rated as "high satisfaction level"                             | 75% rated as "acceptable"; 25% rated as "high satisfaction level"  | 75% rated as "acceptable"; 25% rated as "high satisfaction level"  | 50% rated as "acceptable"; 50% rated as "high satisfaction level"  |

| Main challenges and possibilities for the project | How the project can impact your work | Recommendations for the next seminar |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|

Communication tools; other commitments in their own organizations (tight schedule); funding; working with youth issues and perspectives.

Getting young people involved; policy change; strengthening advocacy; disseminating information.

To send documents about the issues that will be discussed prior to the seminar; the organization of the meeting should be done earlier.