

YOUTH VISIONING FOR ISLAND LIVING 2008
APPLICATION FOR HIV and AIDS PROJECT
project proposal form

PROJECT TITLE: HIV/AIDS AND LIFE SKILLS TRAINING WORKSHOP

SUBMITTED BY: DAKUIVUNA VILLAGE YOUTH GROUP

PROJECT LEADER(S): LUISA SENIBULU (Ms)

BACKGROUND:

The proposed 3 days HIV/AIDS and Life Skills Training Workshop with the theme *‘Our future: Our rights to HIV/AIDS information’* is an initiative spearheaded by the young people of Dakuivuna Village, Wainibuka in the province of Tailevu.

Dakuivuna Village is approximately a two hour drive from Suva and is located in the Tikina of Wainibuka in the interior of the Province of Tailevu. There are 50 households altogether in the village with a population of about 250 people (excludes villagers residing in the major urban areas). Wainibuka is regarded as the most under developed part of the Tailevu Province with high school drop out and high teenage pregnancy rates.

Earlier this year from 7 – 8 March 2008, the Dakuivuna Village Youth Group organised an Empowerment and Capacity Building Training in the village that was attended by our young people in the village. The Ministry of Youth and Sports gave F\$1,000.00 to fund this training and stakeholders that facilitated the sessions included the Family Life Unit and the Technical and Vocational Education Training Unit of the Ministry of Education, the Adolescent Health Development Reproductive Health. The main objective was to expose young people in a rural remote community in Fiji to the opportunity of learning, dialogue and information sharing on pertinent youth issues like HIV/AIDS and STIs, vocational /trade skills training opportunities for rural youth, the value of education in improving livelihoods etc.

The proposed HIV/AIDS and Life Skills Training was a need that arose from the 2 day workshop conducted in Dakuivuna Village in earlier this year. Young people specifically requested for a follow – up workshop on HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections primarily because the HIV/AIDS team had only 1 hour to facilitate their session which did not permit for in-depth discussion on youth reproductive health. The proposed workshop will be held at the Dakuivuna Village Hall.

Issues to be addressed

Unintended teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and the threat of HIV/AIDS on youth and their families have emerged as important concerns not only for

policy makers in Fiji but more so in an isolated rural village community like Dakuivuna. Teenage pregnancy is an issue of concern for elders in Dakuivuna as many of the young girls become victims of unintended pregnancy. In recent years several young people were also infected with STIs. There is definitely a need to take capacity building trainings and information sharing opportunities to the grass-root level for our young people so that they are educated and equipped with the right information about their reproductive health and issues on treatment, testing and the proper use of contraception.

In response to recent comments made by Fiji's Director of Public Health Dr Josaia Samuela on the increase in sexual transmitted infections with Fijians in the age group 20 – 29 years, Suva based UNFPA Pacific Sub Regional Office Director and Representative Najib Assifi stated that 'there is a need for young people to be empowered with the right information and education. Education and right information would help young people be aware of the choices they can make' (Fiji Times Newspaper, 20 October 2008). Najib added that research has shown that education on these matters helps young people to make more informed decisions on their health, sexuality and life.

The organising committee for the March workshop saw the need to continuously expose our rural youth to forums that allow them to freely engage in dialogue and exchange of ideas on issues that are often perceived as 'taboo' in the Fijian culture like youth reproductive health and sexuality. Thus we propose an integrated and inclusive approach blending HIV/AIDS training and Life Skills Training as the core component of the workshop so that young people are not only sensitized to information and facts on HIV/AIDS and STI but undergo the UNICEF sponsored Life Skills Training which is currently being facilitated by Life Skills Trainers through the Ministry of Youth. The Life skills program ensures youth receive basic but important information on making good choices and thinking positively and proactively when it comes to their day to day living. Conflict, low self esteem, lack of communication skills and or the mere absence of communication are issues that will be covered at the Life Skills Training.

Participants

To ensure that as many young people as possible benefit from this training, young people from nearby villages like Malabi, Wailotua, Natokalau and Delasui will also be invited as participants. We are looking at a total of 80 - 100 training participants for the three days.

Workshop Prizes and T/Shirts

The interim organising committee had also suggested that to make learning more interactive and interesting throughout the three days, two prizes will be given as rewards to two participants at the conclusion of the three day training. They include;

1) The most attentive and enthusiastic student – for the student who is visibly keen to learn, contributes constructively to the discussions and a passion for the issues discussed;

2) Punctuality and attendance prize – for the student that is present for the 3 days and is always punctual to the workshop venue.

We propose to have t-shirts specially made for the workshop with the theme '*Our future: Our rights to HIV/AIDS information*' printed at the front that will be worn by all participants during the three days. The reason behind this initiative is to inculcate in young people the ethos of advocacy in the fight against HIV/AIDS and STIs.

SUSTAINABILITY:

The training is intended to be a one off event but we are also in the process of talking to the Ministry of Youth and Sports about the possibility of involving our young people in some of their advocacy programs. Some of the youth that undergo training in this workshop will be mobilised as volunteers for the upcoming Pacific Youth Festival to be held in Suva, Fiji in July 2009. Young people will also be identified by the Life Skills trainers to undergo the training as Life Skills Trainers and Peer Education Training.

The proposed first ever combined HIV/AIDS and Life Skills Training will lay the platform for exposure and further training for our young people and also their active involvement in youth advocacy work for the Ministry of Youth, Ministry of Health and other stakeholders that drive youth development projects at the national level here in Fiji.

BENEFICIARIES:

The young people of Dakuivuna and nearby villages like Malabi, Wailotua, Natokalau, Delasui will greatly benefit from this project. The workshop will also be open to parents, specifically young parents who will be invited to come along and listen so that they too will be better informed and aware of the issues facing our young people.

PARTNERS:

- Lead organization:

Dakuivuna Village Youth Group

Dakuivuna Village Council

Ministry of Youth and Sports, Fiji

Adolescent Health and Development Unit, Korovou Hospital

NGOs that will supply IEC materials for our participants like Marie Stopes International

- Other organizations:

DURATION:

The project is scheduled for 3 days. We intend to have the HIV/AIDS session on the first day. This will basically set the platform for the Life Skills Training that is to follow over the next two days. The project leader Ms. Luisa Senibulu will be the Principal Coordinator for the workshop and supported by executives of the Dakuivuna Village

Youth Group. They will be responsible for liaising with stakeholders, village communities and the Dakuivuna Village Council.

PROJECT TOOLS:

Education and communication and advocacy

GOAL:

1. *To educate and raise awareness on HIV/AIDS and the basic principles of life skills;*
2. *To empower rural youth to make informed decisions and choices;*
3. *To expose young people to capacity building opportunities and enhance effective youth participation in provincial and national youth programs*

OBJECTIVE(S):

1. To provide a forum where HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections issues are openly discussed and shared;
2. To enhance rural youth (and parents) understanding and knowledge about the realities and facts surrounding HIV/AIDS and STIs;
3. To provide capacity building opportunities for young people through life skills training, so that these young people appreciate and value the importance of effective youth participation in village, provincial and national youth programs; and
4. To promote the involvement of rural youth in advocacy activities as an effective tool in fighting HIV/AIDS

BENCHMARKS:

Objectives 1 – 2: A training feedback form will be distributed at the end of the 3 days to gauge the participants' responses to the 3 days training. The training form will be analysed and attached with the final report

Objective 3 – 4: One of the main objectives for the workshop is promoting effective youth involvement in youth organised programs. We intend to link with the Ministry of Youth at this workshop to explore the opportunities for our young people who have gone through this training and also the earlier Capacity Building workshop held in Dakuivuna Village in March 2008 to be volunteers for the Pacific Youth Festival and also as Life Skills Trainers / Peer Educators.

ACTIVITIES:

- Awareness raising and promotional:

Promoting youth visioning in my community

1. If the funding is granted, the Organising Committee intends to mobilise the young people of Dakuivuna Village to explain the Youth Visioning project and the objectives that will be achieved;

2. The organising committee also will visit the villages that will be invited to attend the workshop and talk to them about Youth Visioning and the purpose of the workshop

3. We will also use the media, especially the vernacular station to promote the initiative and extend the invitation to all young people in surrounding villages to come along to the workshop and take advantage of the opportunity to interact with other youth, listen, learn and discuss issues at the heart of youth development in Fiji

- Tackling the issues:

- IEC materials will be used throughout the training as a means of reinforcing the message and facts about HIV/AIDS and STIs;
- Experts from the Adolescent Health Development will share their experiences in working with HIV/AIDS patients;
- As much as possible, participants will be asked to form discussion groups to exchange ideas, dialogue and debate on topics that will be discussed;

ACTION NEEDED:

1. Liaise and confirm with ARH Unit, Korovou Hospital their participation on the first day of the workshop
2. Confirm Life Skills Trainers participation at the workshop with the Ministry of Youth and Sports
3. Meeting with Dakuivuna Village Council to inform them of the workshop
4. Meeting with Dakuivuna Youth Group to finalise preparations / arrangements they need to make for the workshop
5. Meeting with stakeholders before the actual workshop date (Adolescent Reproductive Health Unit, Ministry of Youth, Life Skills Trainers etc)

ITEMISED BUDGET:

	Cost in Fijian Dollars	Cost in Fijian Dollars
Transport		
Participants from other villagers to Dakuivuna	\$110 x 3 days (pick and drop off – carrier charge)	\$330
For trainers from Korovou (ARH) to Dakuivuna	\$30 x 2 ways (drop and pick up)	\$60
Allowance and Transport for Life Skills Trainers	Allowance: - \$30 per day x 2 days x 2 trainers	\$120
	- Bus fare from Suva – Dakuivuna return to Suva	\$40
Transport of food items for meals / stationery / IEC materials from Suva to Dakuivuna	\$100	\$100

Stationery		
Writing pads, pens, manila folders, name tags, vanguard sheet, pentel pens, cellotape, stapler, calculator	\$150	\$150
T-shirts		
T/Shirts	\$25 x 100 t/shirts	\$2,500
Meals		
Meals for the workshop (morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea)	\$500 per day x 3 days	\$1,500
Prizes		
Prizes to be awarded	Most attentive and enthusiastic student - \$30 Most punctual / 3 days attendance - \$30	\$60
Miscellaneous	\$200	\$200
TOTAL		F\$5,060.00
November exchange rate		US\$2760.74