

FINAL REPORT

Project leader: Luisa Senibulu, Fiji

1. Title of project:

UNESCO YOUTH VISIONING HIV/AIDS and LIFE SKILLS WORKSHOP

2. Lead and partner organizations:

- Dakuivuna Village Youth Group
- Dakuivuna Village Council
- Methodist Church
- Ministry of Youth & Sports
- Ministry of Health (Korovou and Suva)

3. Summary of the project:

The workshop had three main objectives:

Firstly, the training workshop was a follow up to the Youth Empowerment and Capacity Building Training that was held at Dakuivuna Village in March 2008. Young people from Dakuivuna Village who attended that training had specifically requested for another thorough HIV/AIDS and STIs session. They did not have sufficient time for in-depth discussion because of the limited one hour slot given to the Adolescent Health and Development Unit from Korovou Hospital. The training was an opportunity to address the issues that arose from the March 2008 session. Life Skills Education (LSE) was incorporated into the training program to address youth issues like conflicts (family / peer pressure etc), communication, low self esteem and positive thinking.

Secondly, the training was part of our on-going efforts to involve young people in a rural community in youth development programs that will contribute to their social empowerment and expose them to opportunities for learning and interaction. I am adamant that the youth visioning training opened up opportunities for our young people to actively engage in youth advocacy development programs both at the village and provincial levels and also at the national level.

Thirdly, as the project leader for this training, I liaised closely with the Ministry of Youth and Sports for our youth who undertook both the March 2008 Capacity Building Training and the proposed youth visioning training to be volunteers at the upcoming Pacific Youth Festival in 2009. I had also liaised with Ms Manaini Rokovunisei, the staff coordinating the Life Skills program at the Ministry of Youth and Sports here in Fiji for 3 of our young people to undergo the Training of Trainers for Life Skills and Peer Education.

4. Activities:

Pre-Workshop preparations:

1. Buying stationery and food

Organising committee members Mere Divatulili and Losana Mualaulau were responsible for mobilizing other youth group members for the shopping trips. The stationery was bought a few weeks before the workshop and purchases of food items a day prior to the workshop. Mere, Losana and a Suva youth group member Sesoni Ragona were responsible for drawing up the stationary list and food items to be bought and purchasing whatever was needed.

2. Meeting with stakeholders (Ministry of Youth and Ministry of Health) & Drafting workshop program and evaluation form

Luisa and Losana Mualaulau were responsible for liaising with representatives from the two government ministries, and arranging for resource people to facilitate at the workshop. This was a lengthy process and started months before the workshop. It involved telephone calls, exchange of emails and meetings to firm up on the workshop arrangements.

3. Meeting with Dakuivuna Village Youth Council and representatives from participating villages

Nasoni Roko and Taitusi Tunavutu (President of village based youth group) were responsible for making the necessary arrangements in Dakuivuna and the neighboring villages. This component involved meeting the Dakuivuna village headman and relaying the workshop message and traveling to the individual villages to convey the workshop invitation, writing invitation letters (follow up) and hand delivering it in all the villages and confirming the workshop arrangements with the village council.

4. Meeting with women of the Namatadora clan

The women of Namatadora clan, Dakuivuna village catered at the workshop. Lia Ulusole, a youth group member in Suva was responsible for making arrangements with the Namatadora women. Lia also met with the young girls and women who were responsible for getting food like prawns, fresh water fish, taro leaves and green vegetables for the workshop.

During their meetings leading up to the village, Lia and the caterers drew up the workshop menu and budget estimations. They also discussed the finer details for catering like cooking tools to be used (ovens, kerosene stove etc), cutlery, cleaning of the village hall etc.

Workshop

During the two days, the organizing committee members all helped out in the running of the workshop. Luisa was the MC for the two days, Mere and Sesoni were responsible for registration, handing out the workshop files and safe keeping of the workshop stationery, Taitusi and Nasoni were responsible for liaising with the village pastor for the devotion for both days and the traditional kava ceremony (sevusevu) accorded to facilitators.

Lia and other youth group members like Mirini and Veniana worked with the ladies who catered ensuring that meals were served on time.

At the conclusion of the workshop, Timoci Tawake, a village based youth group member gave the vote of thanks and Nasoni Roko announced the workshop prize winners before inviting the village pastor Suliasi Kulavere to close the workshop with a short devotion.

In summary, we the organizing committee of the workshop believe that the forum achieved its set objectives. Some of the young people from villages like Delasui and Malabi had never been exposed to a youth forum that discussed issues of interest to youth. For many participants', it was their first experience sitting and discussing reproductive health issues with the opposite sex, something which is regarded as a 'taboo' in the Fijian culture. Participants started off with basic information such as the difference between HIV and AIDS and modes of transmission of virus to addressing issues of mental health and effective communication as a tool to create and maintain healthy relationships with others around you.

Young people were empowered with knowledge and skills that will help them make informed decisions and choices pertaining to their reproductive health, personal development and welfare and well being.

Post Workshop

Luisa compiled the workshop report and analysed the evaluation forms and Mere, Nasoni and Losana completed the acquittals.

5. Results and outcomes of the project:

OBJECTIVE(S):

Objective 1 – To provide a forum where HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections issues are openly discussed and shared;

- The first day of the workshop focused on HIV/AIDS and STIs. The trainers Sekove Delai, Penina Druavesi and Simione Tuni discussed issues ranging from the facts about HIV/AIDS and STIs, symptoms, the modes of transmission and how we can protect ourselves from these diseases. I believe that the issues related to objective 1 were effectively addressed by the facilitators.
- Participants were given group activities and presentations to do and these helped them discuss HIV/AIDS and STI related issues in detail.

Objective 2 - To enhance rural youth (and parents) understanding and knowledge about the realities and facts surrounding HIV/AIDS and STIs;

- As stated above, the sessions on the first day specifically focussed on HIV/AIDS and facilitators explained in detail the myths and facts on HIV and STIs. IEC

materials were distributed to participants to complement knowledge and understanding gained from the HIV/AIDS and STI sessions. The facilitators also used the group work sessions to help enhance participants understanding on HIV/AIDS and STIs issues.

- Group presentations allowed for discussion, and according to the facilitators, questions raised and discussions that followed basically showed that some participants were well informed about HIV/AIDS issues (and these were those that had attained upper secondary school or tertiary education) whilst others knew very little about HIV/AIDS and STIs (mainly villagers who had minimal education).
- Facilitators took the time to explain in great detail the facts surrounding HIV/AIDS and STIs, and effectively addressed misconceptions that participants had. Facilitators also distributed a range of IEC materials that were reader friendly and suited a rural audience.

Objective 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;

- The Life Skills Education training on the second day facilitated by Usa Cirikiwai helped participants learn and appreciate the importance of making good choices in life, positive thinking and being proactive when it comes to day to day living.
- Usa focused on effective and consistent youth participation in the community, ranging from the family, clan, village, province and also at the national level.

Objective 4 – To promote the involvement of rural youth in advocacy activities as an effective tool in fighting HIV/AIDS

- The two day workshop provided an opportunity for participants to actively engage in a forum that helped them gain invaluable skills and knowledge on youth reproductive health. The Life Skills component encouraged youth to actively participate in village and provincial activities, and to be responsible citizens. Active participation by youth in the family, clans, village right up to the provincial organized activities will greatly enhance older people's respect and trust in young people.
- This process also applies to rural youth involvement in the fight against HIV/AIDS and STIs. Young people were encouraged to be agents of change and information in their society, sharing knowledge and skills gained over the past two days with their peers, family members and members of their communities.

6. Lessons learnt:

1. Good support is vital if the workshop is to be successful. Compared to the first workshop that I organized in 2008 involving just Dakuivuna village, this one involved 5 villages and good preparatory work is essential if the workshop is to run smoothly and above all the objectives met.
2. As project coordinator, I found out that working with a diverse group can be challenging. Some members of the community are resistant to change and always question the benefits of initiatives like a workshop. This workshop has

taught me to be firm in decision making, helped me improve my organisation skills and persevere till the task is completed and objectives met.

3. The project coordinator needs a few days off work to prepare for the workshop. I found that one day was not enough to prepare, especially if it involved traveling to a rural area.
4. Energisers are important in workshops. I found that energizers were an effective means of keeping people engaged and attentive during long sessions.
5. Young people related well to personal experiences shared by facilitators. In the last workshop I organized in 2008 and again for this recent one, I found that participants were drawn to personal stories and examples given by facilitators, instead of just theoretical and long winding explanations. Korovou Hospital's ARD Community Educator Sekove Delai consistently used this approach throughout the first day, sharing his experiences working with STI patients for example, and the participants related very well.

7. Future activities:

As stated in my initial project proposal, I am keen to get young people involved in community, provincial or national youth activities that will help in their capacity building process. I am in the process of liaising with the Ministry of Youth staff for at least three of our young people who undertook the Youth Visioning Workshop to be recruited as volunteers for the upcoming Pacific Youth Festival.

I have just received confirmation that one of our young women, Veniana Nakalevu has been chosen to undertake the Bottom Up Governance Study to be run by the Pacific Concerns Resource Centre (Fiji) and The Foundation for Development Cooperation, Australia. I had put in this application on her behalf in a bid to expose young people to more capacity building opportunities that will hopefully help them improve their socio-economic status.

I am also in the process of mobilizing the Dakuivuna youth group here in Suva for community development projects that we can contribute to in the village. We have just received word from the Suva based Australian High Commission has agreed to give us funding under the Direct Aid Program to upgrade the Dakuivuna Village bus shelter and market place where women sell their farm produce every Saturdays. This was an initiative of the youth group in Suva.

We hope to continue to make positive contributions where we can to improve the livelihoods of our people back in the rural community.

8. Conclusion

I personally believe that education is essential if we are to effectively combat associated youth problems like drug and alcohol abuse, sexual abuse, unemployment and the spread of HIV/AIDS and STIs. Policy makers, governments and those at the helm of leadership in society must invest in educating their young people so they are equipped with the right information about health, sexuality and life. I refer to the example given by Sekove Delai during the training where he stated that Dakuivuna Village did not record any STI case in 2008. Sekove had done a HIV/AIDS and STI session with the Dakuivuna youth in early March 2008 as part of the Capacity Building and Youth

Empowerment workshop. The other villages in the Tailevu North province recorded STI cases, and one of the highest was Malabi, a village that was part of the training.

Education and right information would help young people be aware of the choices they can make. There is a need to take capacity building trainings and information sharing opportunities to the grass-root level for our youth.

I am personally satisfied with the achievements of the workshop, and knowing that my people have gained a lot from the two days workshop. These rural youth received basic but important information that will help them make informed decisions about their future and their lives.

I am grateful to UNESCO (both in Paris and Samoa) for the financial assistance and the faith you had in me and the Dakuivuna Village Youth Group. I thank you so much for your support and words of encouragement that enabled us to successfully complete the project.

Vinaka Vakalevu!

9. Financial Report

UNESCO YOUTH VISIONING HIV/AIDS & LIFE SKILLS WORKSHOP ACQUITALS

PARTICULARS	AMOUNT IN US\$	AMOUNT IN FJ\$
MONEY DEPOSITED INTO YOUTH ANZ ACCOUNT # 9685994	US\$864	FJ\$1,534
TOTAL EXPENSES FOR THE WORKSHOP (refer to attached sheet detailing expenses and receipts attached)	US\$1,090	FJ\$1,945
MONEY USED BY THE YOUTH GROUP FROM YOUTH FUNDS	US\$226	FJ\$411
MONEY TO BE REFUNDED TO THE DAKUIVUNA YOUTH GROUP[ACCORDING TO CONTRACT SIGNED]	<u>US\$216.00</u>	

DETAILS OF EXPENSES

Date	Particulars	Receipts	Amount
18/02/2009	Stationery	Post Shop	103.04
	Taxi (transport for Stationery)	17401	7.3
21/02/2009	Payment of 20 bundles of edible ferns		20
	Payment for rourou (dalo leaves)		20
	Payment for prawns (6 kg)		90
	Payment for 6 bundles of dalo		72
5/03/2009	Payment of 4 bags of cassava		120
	Transport from Suva to Dakuivuna (workshop materials)		150
	Payment for 4 dozen coconuts		20
	Payment for fish slices	5620	130
	Payment for food stuff at Shop and Save Supermarket		330.02
	Payment of recharge card to be used for calling around	592	21
	Payment for goods(receipt att)		70.53
	Payment for fresh water fish		70
6/03/2009	EDCBA Supermarket, Tailevu		
	Payment to Sekove Delai (Korovou - Dakuivuna return)		60
7/03/2009	Dakuivuna Hall hire and electricity		20
	Payment of allowance to Usaia Cirikiwai and Merewalesi (Life Skills Trainers)		120
	Bus fare for Life Skills trainers		20
	Transport for workshop participants (Vogasau - Malabi - Dakuivuna return)- 2 days		220
	Prize money for workshop participants		40
	Miscellaneous		
	Payment of gas cylinder		38
	Kerosene (2 gallons)		12
	baking ingredients - baking powder yeast, custard powder and 4 kg sugar		10.3
	4 litre soya bean oil		6
	Payment to women who prepared meals for 2 days (9 ladies)		115
	Kava for traditional welcome ceremony for facilitators		60
	TOTAL		1945.2

**UNESCO YOUTH VISIONING HIV/AIDS AND LIFE SKILLS TRAINING
WORKSHOP
6 – 7 MARCH 2009**

OBLIGATIONS OF THE CONTRACTOR

2) Provide a brief written summary of the process of the selection of the Organising Committee for the project

The members of the HIV/AIDS and LIFE SKILLS TRAINING WORKSHOP are as follows:

1. Ms Luisa Senibulu (Chair)
2. Mr Nasoni Roko (Assistant Chair)
3. Ms Losana Mualaulau (USP Post Graduate student)
4. Ms Mere Divatulili (Fiji Institute of Technology student)
5. Mr Taitusi Tunavutu (Dakuivuna Village Youth President - village based)
6. Mr Aloveta Kulavere (Village based)

In selecting the organising committee, I as President of the Suva based Dakuivuna Village Youth and principal applicant for the project funds, in consultation with the Suva based Dakuivuna Youth Group ensured that there was a balance in gender representation (3 males and 3 females), and that the village based youth group was also represented in the committee.

In consultation with the Dakuivuna Youth members residing in Suva, it was agreed that we also selected members who would be able to contribute effectively to the organisation and running of the workshop. The Youth Group Organising Committee selected are; Nasoni Roko (Assistant Accountant, University of the South Pacific), Losana Mualaulau (USP Science Post Graduate Student) and Mere Divatulili (Fiji Institute of Technology Commerce student). These people were chosen by the youth group primarily because they would be able to provide me with the necessary help and assistance needed pre and post workshop period.

The inclusion of the village based youth group members is vital, because they will be the link to the community. The two young men, Aloveta and Taitusi will be facilitating arrangements for the workshop in the village, and they will also be directly responsible for liaising with the other villages like Wailotua and Malabi who will be part of the training workshop.

The inclusion of the village based members also ensures that young people in the community are included, they have a voice in the organisation of the workshop, and they are also empowered in the process, being part of decision making and positively influencing the lives of other young people in the village.

4) FORMULATING OF EVALUATION FORMS

Luisa and Losana were responsible for putting together the workshop evaluation questions that made up the evaluation form.

Firstly, we discussed the broader objectives of the training, and the methods used to facilitate the workshop during the two days. We took into consideration the fact that participants' level of understanding on HIV/AIDS and Life Skills would vary. Then we tailored the questions in ways that would enable us to draw sufficient feedback from participants, bearing in mind that we had to report these back to UNESCO and we would need ample information to be able to put together a good report.

We also had samples of evaluation forms, and chose questions that were appropriate for such training. The evaluation form was written in the Fijian language, and the summary provided translated to English.

5) Workshop briefs have been sent to Tarusila (SPC, Suva) for her first quarter workshop, Donna Hoerder, Communications Specialist-UNICEF (she specifically requested for information on the workshop to include in the UNICEF newsletter) and Vani Vulaca, Public Relations Officer of the Ministry of Youth and Sports. We expect the workshop story to feature in the Ministry's upcoming publications and website.

6) Luisa is also talking to youth group leaders from the villages of Malabi and Delasui to explore ways of getting them involved in youth development projects and also seminars on youth development issues. The Ministry of Youth and Sports has funding under the Youth Development Grant for such projects, and Luisa will be assisting these two villages in formulating proposals to access this funding. If one of the village is successful and given the grant, invitations will be extended to neighbouring villages to join the youth development workshop. The organising committee of the recent Dakuivuna UNESCO Youth Visioning HIV/AIDS and Life Skills Workshop will assist the successful village in the planning and organisation of the workshop.