



A 2-day workshop focussing on HIV/AIDS and Life Skills, an initiative spearheaded by the young people of Dakuivuna Village, Wainibuka in the province of Tailevu.

### **Who's involved?**

Project leader: Luisa Senibulu

Lead organisation: Dakuivuna Youth Group

Other organisations: 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

**Timeframe:** February - December 2009

### **Objectives:**

- To provide a forum where HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections issues were openly discussed and shared;
- To enhance rural youth (and parents) understanding and knowledge about the realities and facts surrounding HIV/AIDS and STIs;
- 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

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

### **Activities:**

The 2 day HIV/AIDS and Life Skills Training Workshop with the theme 'Our future: Our rights to HIV/AIDS information' was 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 in the 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. This 2 day follow-up workshop involved group activities, presentation, the distribution of relevant material and forums to discuss openly HIV and AIDS related issues as well as to dispel common myths and misconceptions.

### **Results:**

As a result, the young people who took part 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.

The Dakuivuna Youth Group liaised with the Ministry of Youth and Sports in order to send some of their youth participants as volunteers to the Pacific Youth Festival that took place later in 2009 and to enroll 3 people in the "Training of Trainers" for the Life Skills and Peer Education

Programme. The group is also continuing its efforts to involve young people in rural communities into youth development programmes.

**Downloads:**

[Final Report](#) [PDF 71Kb]

[Project Proposal](#) [PDF 39Kb]