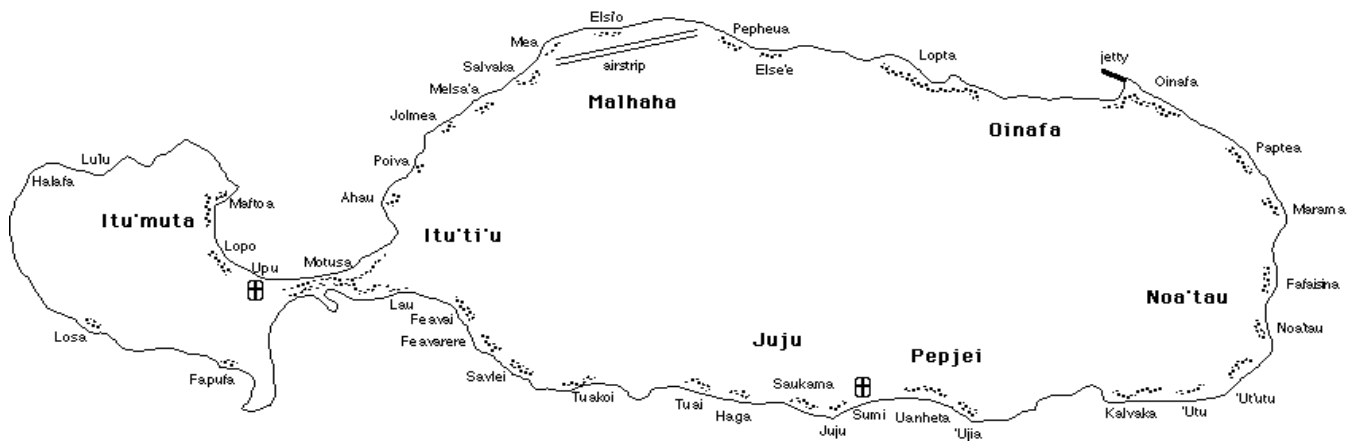


ROTUMA: HIV/AIDS AWARENESS PROPOSAL



BY: Emily Akata Erasito

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Objectives

To inform on what HIV/AIDS is about.

To provide accurate information on HIV/AIDS and create awareness

Goal:

Reduced spread of HIV and improved quality of life for people living with and affected by HIV.

Values:

- Commitment
- Confidentiality
- Honesty
- Transparency

I have just joined the Ministry of health as a peer educator for the last two weeks. They have been fighting the fight against HIV/AIDS and have been running the race of providing awareness for the nation of Fiji. Obviously they have the capacity, qualification and credibility in this area that as a peer educator trained by the ministry of health I wish to take this awareness to Rotuma since the ministry have peer educators in some islanders such as Kadavu, Lau, Vanuabalavu, Lakeba and not in Rotuma.

With the current political situation my request for attachment in Rotuma has been hindered due to financial constraints. I have consulted my authority if this proposal is given the green light then they would guarantee its continuity after the four months by making sure I am posted to Rotuma as the peer Educator working closely with the medical team on the island.

Abstract

HIV/AIDS is on the rise and one of the many reasons is that it has no cure and that many are not aware of the reality of it. Lack of information or awareness plays a very vital part in the status of HIV/AIDS itself in any place.

Rotuma is looked as isolated and used to be seen as isolated too from all the wickedness of the world. However, there is doubt on the subject of HIV/AIDS on the island since there are enormous numbers of different visitors coming to Rotuma every year especially during the festive season.

This awareness will be conducted in the **Rotuman vernacular** which would be the first ever pertaining HIV/AIDS. This is to cater for all levels, from the well educated to the least on the HIV/AIDS facts and issues.

My objective of running this project is to inform and provide accurate information to the people of Rotuma.

As a picture speaks more than thousands words, I intend to have a female and a male HIV positive person who is willing to testify during this awareness program.

The target groups would be mainly the youths. Areas of coverage will be the four primary schools (classes 5 and 6), the only high school and the communities in districts. The first month will be working with leaders – The Rotuma Island Council, the principle and head teachers of the respective primary schools, community chiefs.

The following month will be focused on the High Schools and one primary school together with the two communities they are located at. The following month will be on the other three schools and some communities and the last month will be focused on rest of the communities.

The sponsors will be informed at the end of each month on the happenings and provided with a financial report.

Why the NEED?

PREVENTION is better than TREATMENT in any case pertaining to HIV/AIDS anywhere in this globe. Rotuma needs awareness to inform its growing population about the facts of HIV/AIDS and how serious it is. So far there has only been one awareness done on HIV/AIDS for duration of one week. HIV/AIDS is a well known word but the rest of the story behind those popular well known and said words is very much unknown especially in a place like Rotuma, isolated and still holds onto “*Sex*” as a **taboo** subject. There have been rumors of HIV already in existence in Rotuma. To prevent or avoid the people in Rotuma from HIV/AIDS they need to be informed about what it is all about.

Rotuma has been declared a port of entry in May 13th, 2008 and soon enough the island will be visited often by boats. At the moment there are at least two boats every month. However, every Christmas the island accommodates visitors from Fiji and overseas, Rotuman families and friends goes back for the festive season. Thus, the local population is exposed to outsiders whom unknowingly could have been infected with HIV/AIDS. From my observation as a regular visitor to Rotuma for the past five consecutive years, many young people are sexually active at a very early age and even married at a very early age. As young people are more experimental and exposed to globalization the risks are high for a young person to contract HIV/AIDS.

As a Peer Educator in the Ministry of Health (focusing on Adolescence Development Health) and a young leader in the Ministry of Youth as the Rotuma Youth Representative to the Provincial Youth Forum of the Fiji Islands (PYFFI) and a member of the National Youth Advisory Board (NYAB) **I see this as an opportunity to bring about awareness to Rotuma**, not only to the Youths but inclusive of everyone in the community since HIV/AIDS can affect anyone and everyone regardless of age, ethnicity, culture or status. No one can say that HIV/AIDS is not in his/her backyard.

Target Places/Group	Time (Duration)	Activities (Topics)	Expenditure (materials)
Rotuma Medical Team	1st wk - Feb	Brief – work plan	•Transportation •Butcher paper/Markers
Rotuma Council	2 nd wk	Brief – work plan	•Transportation •Butcher paper/Markers
Principle and Head Teachers	3 rd wk	Brief – work plan	•Transportation •Butcher paper/Markers
Community Chiefs and sub-chiefs	4 th wk	Brief – work plan	•Transportation •Butcher paper/Markers
R	E	P	O
Rotuma High School	1 st wk - March	·Puberty and Adolescence · Sexuality · HIV/AIDS · STI's	•Transportation (Butcher papers/markers/condoms/models DVD/laptop/OHP)
Hapmak and Aha community	2 nd wk	·Values ·Sexuality · HIV/AIDS	•Transportation (Butcher papers/markers/condoms/models DVD/laptop/OHP)
Malhaha Primary Classes 5 and 6	3 rd wk	· Puberty and Adolescence · HIV/AIDS (Brief)	•Transportation •(Butcher paper/Marker)
Malhaha Community	4 th wk	·Values ·Sexuality · HIV/AIDS	•Transportation (Butcher papers/markers/condoms/models DVD/laptop/OHP)
R	E	P	O
Motusa Primary (Classes 5 and 6)	1 st wk - April	· Puberty and Adolescence · HIV/AIDS (Brief)	•Transportation •(Butcher paper/Markers)
Motusa, Itumuta and Losa Communities.	2 nd wk	·Values ·Sexuality · HIV/AIDS	•Transportation (Butcher papers/markers/condoms/models DVD/laptop/OHP)
Sumi Christ the King Primary	3 rd wk	· Puberty and Adolescence · HIV/AIDS (Brief)	•Transportation (Butcher papers/ markers)
Paptea Primary (Classes 5 and 6)	4 th wk	· Puberty and Adolescence · HIV/AIDS (Brief)	•Transportation (Butcher papers/ markers)
R	E	P	O
R	T		

Oinafa and Lopta Communities	1 st wk - May	·Values ·Sexuality · HIV/AIDS	•Transportation •(Butcher papers/ markers/condoms/models DVD/laptop/OHP)
Noatau and Kalvaka communities	2 nd wk	·Values ·Sexuality · HIV/AIDS	•Transportation •(Butcher papers/ markers/condoms/models DVD/laptop/OHP)
Pepjei and Juju communities	3 rd wk	·Values ·Sexuality · HIV/AIDS	•Transportation •(Butcher papers/ markers/condoms/models DVD/laptop/OHP)
Savlei, Tuakoi and Hapmafau Communities	4 th wk	·Values ·Sexuality · HIV/AIDS	•Transportation •(Butcher papers/ markers/condoms/models DVD/laptop/OHP)
R	E	P	O
<p>The reports will include pictures of field work when it has been conducted. All reports of the four months will be compiled and an executive summary written with all receipts and financial reports included.</p> <p>Two people will be working with me, one doctor or a person from the medical field and a volunteer from the island. For every district I work with, I will use one youth volunteer to assist me. Accommodation and meals will be provided by my family.</p>			

Estimated BUDGET – 4 months	\$	\$	\$
Transportation:			
Bus Fare (\$50 x 3) school visits	<u>150</u>	150	
Hire (truck) to communities			
-Ahau (\$30)	30		
-Malhaha (\$40)	40		
-Motusa (\$45)	45		
-Paptea (\$55)	55		
-Oinafa (\$50)	50		
-Lopta (\$45)	45		
-Noatau (\$85)	85		
-Kalvaka (\$65)	65		
-Pepjei (\$80)	80		
-Juju (\$70)	70		
-Tuakoi (\$60)	60		
-Savlei (\$55)	55		
-Hapmafau (\$50)	50		
-Hapmak (\$25)	25	<u>750</u>	
		<u>900</u>	900
Materials:			
Butcher papers	150		
Markers	70		
Chalks	<u>10</u>	230	
Condoms (freely donated by MOH-AHD clinic)	-		
Penis Models (freely donated by MOH)	-		
DVDs (own)	-		
Laptop	1700		
Over Head Projector (OHP)	<u>500</u>	<u>2200</u>	
		<u>2430</u>	2430
Allowances:			
Weekly (\$75 x 3 = 225 x 16wks = \$3,600)			3,600
Accommodation and Meals: (by my parents on the island)			570
<u>Fare: Return(2 x 250) (by boat)</u>			<u>500</u>
<u>Total Expenditure:</u>			<u>8000</u>

Conclusion

The statistics I collected from “Our Place”, Adolescence Health and Development Clinic reveals that there has been no specific record of Rotumans, yet it is far better to avoid than to treat. Rotumans need to be protected and to do so is for them to know the dangers and consequences that they can be faced with HIV/AIDS.

I humbly propose that this be done in Rotuma, in the Rotuman language and by Rotumans.