

YOUTH VISIONING FOR ISLAND LIVING FINAL REPORTING ON HIV/AIDS AWARENESS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG)

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Title of Project

Let's fight HIV/AIDS Together

Lead and Partner Organizations

Lead organization is *“The Foundation for Young People Inc. (PNG).”* It also had partner organizations that contributed to the achievement of its objectives as follows:

1. The Provincial HIV/AIDS council (PAC) office. The PAC office provided us with a day indoor training for our volunteers. They also provided us with brochures, posters, and condoms throughout the project. It was our main source of supplier and information center.
2. The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society –Western Highlands Branch provided us with posters, brochures and condoms, which were distributed evenly to every institution as visited throughout the project.
3. The Anglicare, Stop Aids PNG also provided us with brochures, posters and even condoms.

They also provided motivation by encouraging us as well. When PAC office ran out of such needed brochures and information, we always sought for help through either PNG Red Cross branch here or Anglicare Stop Aids PNG branches here in Mt Hagen, WHP of Papua New Guinea.

The Taya Malg Youth group only provided motivation and encouragement for the project we were involved and we also used the Western Highlands Students Association Inc. (WHSa Inc) – networking for arrangements.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

We basically decided to implement this project here in our province (Western Highlands Province, WHP) among 30 institutions due to the fact that there is no decrease to the spread of HIV/AIDS here. HIV/AIDS is on the rise here (PNG) amongst young people. Many young people including schooling teenagers have died of HIV/AIDS. It involves teachers as well, among many who are dying daily in the Province and the country as a whole.

Another factor is that HIV/AIDS is highly spreading here in PNG especially among young people. Here we want to stop or reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS in the country by involving ourselves in such awareness programs. We believe that by cooperating together, we can reduce and eventually stop the spread of HIV/AIDS in the country. As a result, we came up with our theme; **“LET’S FIGHT HIV/AIDS TOGETHER”**.

Finally, in order for the information to be disseminated to a lot of people, we have targeted the young schooling population to further disseminate the information to others. This includes their parents relatives, peer groups, friends etc. In this way the information will be passed on from one person to another. And eventually, ***Together, we can reduce and stop the spread of HIV/AIDS among everyone her in WHP and Papua New Guinea.***

We have implemented this project with one aim in mind: - to minimize or reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS among everyone including student, staff members or others who might attend the program. We also mentioned and made it clear regarding information about *Positive Living*, which helps people living with HIV/AIDS to live longer through *Positive Living*.

ACTIVITIES

Each activity explains what: -

- (b) What took place? (1 Refer each for the 29 institutions as visited).
 - (c) Where it took place?
 - (d) Why it took place?
 - (e) Who organized the activity:
 - (f) How many people were exposed (including audiences) to the activity
 - (g) What is the outcome?
 - (h) If the activity was a success are not?
- The following are the 29 institutions that we visited. The main reason for visiting the twenty nine (29) institutions was to reduce or stop the spread of HIV/AIDS amongst schooling students. They further will disseminate the information to others in their peer groups, in their families or among other community.

The following are the twenty-nine institutions that we visited out of our targeted of thirty institutions in all. Due to time factor (Christmas Holidays) we never visited the remaining institutions to a total of thirty (30) as targeted. The visited institutions are as follows:

1. ST. PAUL'S KUSKOMB PRIMARY SCHOOL

This school is located some 40 Kilometres (Km) away from Mt Hagen township. It is located in Tambul Nebilyer District. It was arranged by Norman Wai with the Head master of the institution for us to visit and have the HIV/AIDS Awareness program.

It was our first school that we visited on the 25th of October and was attended by 412 students, 14 staff members and 5 others who gathered to hear the messages. We were scheduled to visit them from 11am to 1 pm in the afternoon.

Every one participated well by answering questions during presentations. It was a success, even though some of the presenters were in fear during presentation as it our their first time. However, we developed confidence as we went through. The messages presented were clearly stated. We also used the local vernaculars and Tok Pisin (our National Language) for children to understand.

2. KELTIGA PRIMARY SCHOOL

On the 26th October 2007, we visited Keltiga P/School from 10 am to 12 pm. This school is located in Hagen Central District and is about 10 Km to town, our main business center. Norman Wai organized the program together with the Headmaster of the institution Mr. William Wat.

General awareness about HIV/AIDS was done. Different speakers including all girls and boys disseminated information about HIV/AIDS to them. We used the local vernacular (Tok Pisin) together with English. The feedback was good when the students asked a lot of questions under the hot sun.

There were a total of 486 students, 13 staff members who were present together with 10 locals who visited the institutions. A total of 509 audiences who attended the program. It was a success when we realized that even though it was very hot, children never moved a single. Instead they asked questions and concentrated very much. We then knew that they have learnt something that our outcomes were reached.

3. GIHAMU PRIMARY SCHOOL

On the 30th of October, we visited Gihamu Primary School in the Tambul/Nebilyer District. Its about 20 Km to Mt Hagen town. Norman Wai made the arrangement with the Head master, Mr. Goro Koiti to carry out HIV/AIDS Awareness.

Due to weather problem, as it was raining we all occupied a classroom. It was overcrowded, and completely filled with 454 students' and 4 staff members. Some stood outside and peeped through the windows to hear the messages. A total of 458 plus audiences attended our program.

We shouted or spoke loudly, using the local dialects, or local vernacular, Tok Pisin (our national language) together with English. We reached our target, by delivering all messages we wanted to share with them and they responded very well with questions and answers when asked.

4. MINIMP PRIMARY SCHOOL

Arrangements were made by Norman Wai to visit to the 4th school, Minimp Primary School on the 1st of November from 10:00 am to 12 pm. The institution is located about 10 Km from town and is located at Hagen Central District.

It was a sunny day and the weather was too hot for all of us. Never the less, people scattered everywhere around the school to hear the message as we were using the national language, Tok Pisin and English to deliver the messages.

The messages presented reached 200 students, 10 staff members and others including the community members up to 50 others. A total of 260 audiences in all. Very good feedbacks indicated that the outcomes were reached when they asked questions or even answered questions and others made additional comments.

5. NANGA EMMANUEL LUTHERAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

The above-mentioned institution is located in Hagen Central District, and is about 15km from town. Arrangements were made by Norman Wai with their Senior Teacher, Mr. Omba to visit them.

On the 5th of November, we visited them without using PA System, as it's located in a rural village. Thus having no power and poor roads. We walked 2 km to reach the institution from the main road.

As it's newly established, we only disseminated the information to 314 students, 4 staff members as grades ranges from preparatory to grade 4 and 20 others, parents and community members. We presented the information to about 338 audiences.

The messages were received, as they concentrated very well and even answered few of our questions. How well they received the messages, was only known when they contributed to some answers of questions when we asked. The presentations were done in their capacity using the local vernacular and Tok Pisin for them to understand.

At the end their senior teacher, Mr. Omba made some remarks to relate the messages to their parents and others. We were with them from 10AM to 12PM.

6. ARUAGAI PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our sixth school to be visited was Aruagai P/School which is located about 15 Km from town. It is located in the Tambul Nebilyer District. Prior arrangements were made by Norman Wai with the institution through one of their staff members Mr. Lewa Aia. We visited the institution on the 6th of November 2007.

There were about 52 parents and community members, including eight (8) staff members and 280 students. A total of 340 participants during the event. Presentations were done using both English and Nation Language Tok Pisin. We received good feed back from the audiences, when they asked questions or made additional comments. They all contributed towards some of the answers when asked during presentations. They were too eager to learn and know more as HIV/AIDS was very common around their areas. More and more people have died. It was a success for us when we started off at 10 am and finished around 12 pm.

7. PISPOND ADVENTIST SCHOOL

Pispond Adventist School was the 7th institution being visited. It's located about 5 kilometers from town and is in the Hagen Central District.

Norman Wai made the arrangements with the head master Mr. Sebastian Itati for the 7th of November 2007; from 10 am to 12 pm as we presented the information about HIV/AIDS to them. A total of 350 student, 8 staff members and 15 others, a total of 373 audiences who attended the program.

We used the National Language – Tok Pisin and English to disseminate the information. We received good feedback from them when questions were asked and answers were given. It was a success for us.

8. **EPULGA TOP COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

The mentioned school above is located 12 Km from town and is in the Hagen Central District. Arrangements were made with the Board of Management for the school but upon our arrival at the school on 8th of November, we found out that most students and teachers weren't in school. Only a female teacher, Mrs. Julie Kongupa was present with her classes and we decided to visit them.

We disseminated the information about HIV/AIDS to them from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm. We used the National Language in which everyone knows very well.

There were 110 students and 1 staff member, a total of 111 audiences who participated. Good feedback, from the students when they were able to contribute to answers when questions were asked.

9. **TOGOBA HIGH SCHOOL**

On the 8th of November, we visited Togoba High School. It is located seven (7) kilometers away from town, and is in the Hagen Central District. Norman Wai made the arrangements with the Headmaster, Mr. Nox Kiap for a visitation. As scheduled, we visited and disseminated the information to them (students and staff members) from 10 AM to 12 PM.

We received good feedback from them when both males and females asked questions, including staff members. It was then that the Deputy Headmaster, Mr Kupa Tanda raised a query on using **BOTTOM-UP** approach in addressing HIV/AIDS issues. (*Additional comments are stated later in the conclusion.*) We used both English and Tok Pisin to disseminate the information to 310 students, 10 staff members and 2 others, a total of 322 audiences, who attended the presentation.

The Headmaster later apologized, as they were not many students attended the very important session as they left immediately after the National examinations.

10. **KELOWAGI COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

This school is located about 10 kilometers from town and is located in Hagen Central District. Arrangements were made with the Headmaster, Mr. Lockie by Norman Wai.

On the afternoon of the 8th November, 2007 straight after visiting Togoba High School, we visited Kelowagi Community School from 1:30PM to 3:00 PM. 100 students attended it with 3 staff members which is a total of 103 participants in all.

Presentations were done in Tok Pisin and we received good feedback from the questions we asked throughout the presentation. Again enrollment was a problem as senior students left for home after completing their National Examinations.

11. **KWIP PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Kwip Primary School was the eleventh institution being visited on the 9th November 2007, from 10AM to 12PM. It is located in MUL/Baiyer District and is about twenty kilometers from town.

Prior arrangements were made with the Headmaster by Norman Wai to have a session with the 384 students and 14 staff members and seven community members, which gave us a total of 405 audience during the presentation.

We received good feedback by answering questions that were asked and further additional comments made by some staff members. We reached our outcomes and presentations were made in both English and Tok Pisin in this rural setting.

12. **KEREBUG COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

On the 13th November, 2007, we visited Kerebug Community School, which is located about 3 kilometers from town and is in the Hagen Central District.

Arrangements to visit the institution were made by Norman Wai and the Headmaster Moses Kupal. Due to weather problem (cold and rainy) the 354 students with 8 staff members and our youth volunteers crowded ourselves in one of their biggest classrooms. Throughout our presentation, we used posters and charts as our aid including brochures which were distributed.

We use both English and Tok Pisin throughout our presentations. Many students and staff members asked questions as we answered them. It was a good session with good feedback from the audiences, which indicated that we have achieved our outcomes. We were with them from 10AM to 12PM.

13. **KOMKUI PRIMARY SCHOOL**

On the afternoon of the 13th November, we visited Komkui Primary school. Its about 14 km from town and is located in Hagen Central district. Norman Wai and the Headmaster did arrangements. A total of 468 students, 13 staff members including 10 community members, a total of 491 audiences attended our presentations, which were done in English and the Tok Pisin.

From 1:30 pm to 3 pm, we made our presentations were followed by questions and answers from both staff and students after the presentations. Everyone enjoyed the presentations at the end of visiting the 13th institution.

14. **KAGAMUGA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

We visited Kagamuga Primary School from 10 am to 12 pm on the 14th November 2007. Its located about 10 km from town and is located in Hagen Central District.

Arrangements were made by Norman Wai with their senior staff, Mr. Buna Solomon. Presentations were clearly done in both English and Tok Pisin to 785 students, 27 staff members along with 30 community members, of total of 842 audiences attend the program.

We received good feed back when students were brave enough to ask questions and we answered their questions, even teachers made additional comments. Our outcomes for the day were reached.

15. TEGA PRIMARY SCHOOL

On the afternoon of the 14th November, we visited Tega Primary School from 2 pm to 3:30 pm. It is located about 15 km from town and was arranged by Norman Wai with their Deputy Headmaster.

Presentations were done in logical order by various volunteers using English and Tok Pisin. There were 500 students and 22 staff members and 30 community members that brought the total number of participants up to 549. after presentations, questions were raised and we answered their questions. It was a successful for us all.

16. KELUA PRIMARY SCHOOL

The 15th institution being visited was Kelua Primary School on the 15th of November 2007. The institution is situated in the Hagen Central District and is about 26 km from town. Arrangements were done by Norman Wai and the Head teacher Mr. Demas Kopi. During the occasion, we talked to 483 students, 12 staff members, and 2 others, that gives us a total of 497 audiences.

Presentations were done in English and Tok Pisin. After the presentations, students asked questions and we discussed answers together. Presentations were very good and we reached our objectives.

17. TIKI MEMORIAL SCHOOL

We visited Tiki Memorial Primary School form 2 pm to 3:30 pm on the 15th November 2007. The school is about 8 Km from town and is located in Hagen Central District. There were 361 students and 4 staff members, a total of 365 audiences present during presentation.

Most teachers and students were away due to some problems in the school among one of the teachers there. We also received good feedback when students asked questions and answered questions when asked.

18. TABAGA PRIMARY SCHOOL

On the 16th November, we visited Tabaga P/School from 10 am to 12 pm. It is located in Tambul Nebilyer District about 50 km from town. It was arranged by Petrus one of our volunteers who resides there.

It was a rural institution, having no electricity or such services. There were only 212 students and 5 staff members were present for the occasion. We used local vernacular and Tok Pisin. Questions raised after wards indicated that we reached our outcomes. We visited a total of 217 students and 5 staff members that gives us a total of 222 participants.

19. ULGA PRIMARY SCHOOL

We visited Ulga Primary School on the 19th November as arranged by Petrus. Its about 25 km from town and is located in Tambul Nebilyer District.

Presentations done were in local dialect and Tok Pisin including English among the 514 students, 14 staff embers and 22 community members listened attentively under the rain outside their assembly area. They asked many questions after presentations ad additional comments were made by their teachers. We also felt that it was a successful visit to the 536 audiences in all.

20. KENEMBO PRIMARY SCHOOL

On the 20th November, we visited Kenembo Primary School about 50 km form town in Dei District. Westen (one of our volunteers) made arrangements with the Headmaster, Mr. Alex Kombamong as he was from the local community there.

We started our program form 10 am to 12 pm that was attended by 521 students, 7 staff members and 17 others from the community. A total of 545 audiences. It was a rural setting school that had no power supplies. We were content with our presentations as many questions were raised at the end of the presentation.

The institution faced some problems, boy-girl relationship that the surrounding communities interfered the school. However, we were given the priority to do awareness to every one. We were satisfied that we reached our outcomes as stated for the days as our tasks related to their problems.

21. WURUP PRIMARY SCHOOL

On the 21st November, we visited Wurup Primary School form 10 am to 12 pm. Norman Wai with the Headmaster, Mr. Malachi, arranged it. It is located about 20 km from town and is in the Anglimp South Waghi District.

It was attended by 400 students, 15 staff embers and 20 others a total of 435 audiences in all. Presentations were done in Tok Pisin and English and students responded correctly to questions as asked. They even asked questions, which pleased us that we reached our objectives/outcomes.

22. WURUP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

From 1 pm to 2:30 pm on the 21st November, we presented information on HIV/AIDS to Wurup Elementary School. The school is situated 8 Km from town and is located in Anglimp South Waghi Districts. Presentations were clear and sound to suit the level of the 200 students, 6 staff members and 1 community member who brought the total to 261 audiences who attended the program. Being small, they never asked a question but during presentations, our questions were answered when we asked them, this indicated that our outcomes for the day were achieved.

23. KINDGENG PRIMARY SCHOOL

We visited Kindeng P/School on the 22nd November 2007. It was about 70 km from town located in Anglim south Waghi District. Although the school fields were wet and muddy they stood up to listen to the presentations as made. We used Tok Pisin and English that it was sound and clear.

As arranged by Norman Wai with the Deputy Headmaster Mr. William Raim, we started off from 10 am to 12 pm. It was attended by 450 students with 20 staff members and 11 others that totals to 481 audiences.

Nearly all the boys (students) dominated all the questions being asked and we answered their questions.

We were given the priority as the institution had faced problems relating to sex by schooling students. As the end, we were content with the outcome.

24. BAISU PRIMARY SCHOOL

We visited Baisu Primary School on the 23rd of November which is in the Anglimp South Waghi District about 8 Km from town. Daniel Angon made the arrangements for us to visit the institution as he resides there.

Presentations were done in Tok Pisin and English that every one understood.

There were 334 students, 7 staff members and 5 others who also were present that totaled up to 346 audiences.

Interesting questions were raised after the presentations and we were content that we reached the day's outcome after answering all the questions and comments raised.

25. MUN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mun Primary School is located in Dei district and is about 25 km from town. Norman Wai made the arrangement with their Headmaster to visit the 374 students, 12 staff and 22 others that total up to 408 audiences.

Questions were asked by both males and females and contributed to answers for questions that we asked. Again it was success for us although most students and staff members were on early holidays as soon as their National Examinations were completed.

26. ENGKAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Again the school is located in Dei District, about 50 km from town. It was arranged by Norman Wai with a senior teacher Mrs. Walta Gypson on the 26th November. Presentations were done in a classroom, as it was getting very hot outside. We started there from 10am to 12 pm before we departed.

There were about 284 students, 5 staff members and 8 outsiders that contributed to a total of 397 audiences. Questions were asked as we answered them. It indicated that our outcomes were achieved.

27. MUGAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

We visited Mugand Primary School on the 28th of November as arranged by Norman Wai with the Headmaster. It is located in Hagen Central District about 10 Km from town.

Presentations were done in Tok Pisin and English. Everyone responded very well, even asked questions, which were later answered. It was attended by 420 students, 12 staff members and 15 others that totaled to 447. Everyone responded indicating that our outcomes were achieved.

It was there that Thomas Apua, the camera man made us a record of our presentations as well. You can refer to the video afterwards.

28. OGELBENG PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ogelbeng Primary School is one of the schools in Hagen Central District that located about 5 Km to town. It was arranged by Daniel Angon (Youth volunteer) with the Deputy Headmaster of the institution. On the 29th November, we visited the institution having 230 students, 4 staff members present for the program along with 11 others that totaled to 245 audiences in all.

Presentations were clear, using English and Tok Pisin to communicate. At the end of the presentations, questions were asked, including the staff members. The activity's outcome was reached when they (audiences) responded to questions we asked and even they asked questions which we also answered. Our video camera man also made another additional record of our presentations there as well.

29. KUGA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Due to time factor, Kuga Primary School is the last institution that we visited. It is located some 60 km from town and lies at the boarder of Southern Highlands and Western Highlands in the Tambul/Nebilyer District.

We visited it on the 4th of December during the schools graduation ceremony as arranged by Petrus with the headmaster. As arranged, before the graduation program officially started off, we had dissemination of HIV/AIDS to the 218 students 11 staff members and 450 parents, community members or visiting friends. We talked to a total of 629 population that were present for the graduation ceremony. Enough time was given for questionnaires and answers in which every one participated as they all showed concern. The days outcome were reached and then their official graduation program started.

It was during this time that when we returned, we came across a road accident, a Toyota Land Cruiser that hit a mother who died instantly and the car overturned. While trying to help out, we lost our digital camera. As a result, we never made it to the last school as we all got shock over the lost camera. We tried our best to search for it that we never visited the last school.

We only reached 29 schools, in five (5) different districts out of total seven (7) districts in the province. We disseminated the information to 10,608 students, 303 staff members and 810 others including community members, visiting friends during the implementation of our project.

RESULTS AND OUTCOMES OF THE PROJECTS

Assess the results of your activities and explain whether you achieved your objectives. For each objective, explain whether,

It was or was not achieved:

- i. 1. How it was or could have been achieved.
- ii. 2. What would you do differently?

We have achieved outcomes to implement the awareness programs. However, due to close up of institutions and final exams conducted throughout the country (schooling assessment period ending) it collided with our programs.

The program presentations were same throughout the but was slightly differed when reaching lower primary. We had to use a lot of motivation at lower primary students through illustration questionnaires, body gesture or actions involved and even changing the tone of voices. But regularly asking short simple questions kept everyone concentrating and contributing.

As we received the funding late (although we proposed to implement the project in the mid year) we actually implemented the projects from the last week of October till the first week of December 2007.

During October grades six (6), eights (8), tens (10) and twelve (12) students throughout the country, here had their final Examinations, Assessments Testing & Exams are also conducted during this period as well, that had prevented us from reaching our targeted institutions as arranged.

Most of our targeted institutions were in town when submitting the proposal, however, due to time factor they rejected us simply excusing themselves of a tight schedule etc or nearly they all gave excuses so we decided to visit institutions in rural settings and had to make necessary arrangements with them. Every day we had to come together and meet at a common central location in town. (Mt Hagen) town and then would drive out to various institutions as re-scheduled. Because of rescheduling with institutions in rural areas which also affected our Budget as well.

Most of the schools that we visited had their numbers decreased as both students and concerned teachers left school immediately after the end of their exams together with their respective teachers. This is where a few number of students were missing. Meanwhile, the majority of the students with their teachers attended the programs.

How it was or could have been achieved?

Timing was a major contributing factor. If only we could have the project on the ground during the mid year, we believe, we would surely have reached our outcomes and fully reach our target of thirty (30) institutions as now we are less by one. We only visited twenty-nine (29) institutions..

What would you do differently?

We could use different alternative available as well to improve our methods of approaching as follows.

Puppet Show

For Lower Primary- preparatory (prep) school up to grade four (4) we could use puppet show to bring the message across to them. They'd be very interested other than general awareness (actually talking i.e. Lecturing) as it would become bored and they will lose interest easily.

Video Show

Another method could be video show. Showing movies about HIV/AIDS or so, would attract every schooling age groups. They will grasp the concepts and apply them in their daily lives. The videocassette could be in their possessions and they could always reach it whenever they feel like.

Drama

Another way of presentation could be drama. We can organize ourselves and perform dramas or to act out stories and information. Every one would be interested as it may contain humour or fun to laugh about but the messages be clearly presented.

Age Groups

Finally, grouping everyone according to age groups and sex groups. When separating everyone males from females, and their ages categories separately talking to them can have a greater impacts.

The above are some of the applicable alternatives that we could use to supplement HIV/AIDS awareness as well.

Lessons Learnt

Explain some of the lessons that you learnt while implementing the project.

As this has been our first project to be implemented b our organization, we learn a lot.

Survey

At least 100 written survey sheets were provided to usually bigger students especially Upper Primary and High School students. From the feed back, we summarized that students knowledge about HIV/AIDS is not enough. They need to learn more and constantly learn about the disease.

Commonly asked questions

Commonly asked questions by High School and Primary Students were:

- a. Is Condom reliable?

- b. Is there any style of having sex that avoids/ controls the spread of HIV/Aids?
- c. How did HIV/Aids begin?

Our answers to their questions were as follows:

Qa. Condom is not reliable due to the following reasons. Firstly, Condoms can break during sex and the virus can spread.

Secondly, most people here in PNG are illiterate. They don't know how to read the manufactured and the expiry dates. Using expired condoms contribute to the spread of HIV/ Aids . Also most people don't consider reading the labels or the expiry dates and are too quick to have sex. These all risk their lives.

Finally, we don't have to trust condoms as 100% percent safe. People take the risk of using condoms.

Qb. We told them that no technique or style as they referred to is safe. HIV Aids virus will spread from one person to another in any style of having sex with an infected person.

Qc. We repeatedly told them that there are different myths about the Origin of the disease but its not our worry to know of its originality. Its should be our worry to overcome and fight the disease.

These are many of the questions students asked during our awareness programs last year, 2007.

Few male teachers asked the same question (b) on any safe styles of having sex that which would prevent the spread of HIV/ Aids according to some students who commonly asked the questions during schooling hours.

We each took turns in answering their same questions each time when the question arosed. Most teachers seemed to know the concept very well and added their general comments regarding the subject. How well each teacher knew the subject was not really measured as few asked questions but a vast majority of them pretended to know the concept very well.

We assured some of them could be ashamed of the general student body and only pretended. The general body seemed to be aware of the disease but constantly they are needed to be reminded so that they will fully understand the concepts as most young and old people living in PNG are ignorant.

Myths about HIV/AIDS in the students

Most students in Primary Schools & High Schools believe that HIV/ Aids, is like an enemy that once someone contracts the disease somehow then he/she is a death person. It is just like seeing a ghost face to face with a terrible end result. But we educated them, that HIV/ Aids is only a disease. It is a sexually transmitted Infections (STI) just like Gonorrhea or Syphilis etc. Other STI have remedy for them but HIV/Aids No. There is no cure for HIV/ AIDS. The introduced ARV treatment (Antiretroviral drug) only helps them but not curing the disease. We also told them of Positive ways to live longer for People Living with HIV/ AIDS as well. We stressed that

HIV/ Aids is only a disease that has no cure or remedy. It is the responsibility of each person to decide and live a life, free of HIV/ AIDS.

HIV/AIDS statistics

The latest updates for HIV/ Aids status in PNG as of Dec 2006 PNG has **18,484** people living with HIV/ AIDS. For those tested positive but a vast majority of them have never tested their blood for HIV/ Aids. Others could be in fear or ashamed to go for blood testing. Many hundreds have died of the disease. In Western Highlands, there are **3,554** people tested HIV positive and a majority are still in isolation, without having to check their blood status for HIV/ Aids. This report is last updated 31st December 2006. However, the Provincial Aids Office here don't have the latest 2007 statistics in place. You can also refer to the other attachments to have general impressions on HIV/AIDS statistics in PNG. It is increasing rapidly.

Communication

Communication is very important that we'll have to regularly keep in touch with our contacts. We'll have to keep in touch with whoever we'll be implementing the project with until the project destined is completed.

Group Leaders

In some circumstances there has to be a group leader to implement the project. An assistant has to be available to take on the responsibility if the group leader is absent. In this way the project constantly is carried on without interference.

Entrust Responsibility

Some hints on keeping members feeling responsible is to assign various responsibilities within the project. This will also keep them occupied and will feel responsible.

Honesty

Honesty should be part of everyone's character. Honesty was a trait of character that all my volunteer possess that made them to give their best to reach our outcomes.

In the beginning of the project, the outcomes were well noted off. Even when we confronted difficulties or obstacles we survived through the principle of Honesty. When the arranged institutions in town couldn't accept us, we quickly arranged for institutions in rural areas. Our team, have tried our best in reaching the target of thirty (30) institutions, but because of time factor we have reached twenty-nine (29) institutions. We are sad that we have never topped the last remaining score.

Above mentioned are some of the lessons. Learnt during the implementation of the project.

Future Activities

Explain the current status of the project, whether it will continue in the future and whether you and your group will implement other projects.

We have been assigned to visit thirty (30) institutions in the province. However, due to time factor, we only reached twenty-nine (29). We supposed to visit the 30th institution but our camera was lost when we approached a road accident after visiting Kulga Primary School during their graduation. We lost for words and our spirit of completing the project was gone, and that we never visited the last school the next day.

We are hopeful of continuing this project in the future. We hope to try to improve our method of presentations, thus involving drama, poetry, story (ies) video shows, puppet or oral discussions about HIV/AIDS and its impacts.

We intend to seek funding from Donor Aid Agencies to fund us to continue with the project.

We will be grateful if Youth Visioning for Island Living (YVIL) could recommend us to some Donor agencies available in the world that could fully sponsor us to implement the project within our province (WHP) and the Highlands Region for a Massive Awareness through out the year.

We also intend to continue to write proposals to Provincials Aids Council (PAC) or National Aids Council NAC) to continue this project.

We also hope to implement other activities inline with our organizational objectives and aims with our young people here in the province. We'll only implement the project, if only we secure funds to implement the proposed activities.

Conclusion

Summarize the outcome of your project including your personal thoughts and experiences.

We implemented the project at a right time. The twenty-nine (29) institutions that we visited are all located within five (5) Districts out of the total seven (7) districts in the province. It's fair of us having to visit institutions in these districts other than visiting institutions in only one district.

The Awareness was a final warning and a friendly advice to students, staff members and others to bear in mind when getting ready for their Christmas holidays. Information's gained will further be disseminated among their friends, peer group families and relatives when they get home. All in whole we have visited twenty-nine institutions, in rural settings within five (5) districts our of seven (7) total districts in Western Highlands Province (WHP). We have visited a total of 10,608 students; with 303 staff members and 810 others including community members staff families or visiting friends. We have reached out to a total of 11,721 audiences who directly received the information who will be passing on information to others.

Our awareness to the rural student populations was relevant to their settings; Some institutions in the rural settings. Often face problems involving schooling children, boy- girl relationships that ends up in sexual behaviors that results in school discipline etc. Our visitation to Kenembo and Kindeng Primary Schools were highly appreciated as these schools faced such problems. Both

schools after our presentations, the Board of Management (BOM) or each school representatives especially Head Masters or senior teachers further added comments about our visitations at a right time to suit their situational problems they were facing.

During our visitation to Togoba High School on the 8th November 2007, we were surprised with the comments and suggestions made by Mr. Tanda – the Deputy Head Master made the following comment that “our approach in addressing HIV/AIDS school be a “**Bottom Up Approach**”. He further stressed that, “mostly awareness targets young youths and adults but not the children. The children ages ranging from prep elementary to grade four (4) experience sex. They want to explore and experience life. “This is fact in Papua New Guinea as these young people are prone to HIV/AIDS as well”. We need to make awareness for everyone, that not one age group is left out. In this way we’ll all *fight HIV/AIDS together*.

Before concluding we would like to suggest two (2) options.

Most schools in rural settings having access to electricity requested for video cassettes, or CD to show movies about HIV/AIDS during their free times in schools. We were handicapped in meeting their demands but thought that it could be a good suggestion. If there be any HIV/AIDS video tapes/CDS available, then such materials be distributed to schools freely in the future if we happen to implement a similar project.

Health teacher/officer in Charge

To constantly, remind the students in each institution, there has to be an officer or teacher in charge of Health issues in schools. We belief that they could be trained fully about Health issues including HIV/AIDS. They would liaise with the Provincial Aids Council (PAC) to update information’s and collect supplies/materials to each institution. The concerned officer would be obliged to continually remind everyone in each school about HIV/AIDS and other Health issue. In this way, we belief, we can *fight HIV/AIDS together*.

Lessons Learnt

From the forms that were filled by students, we can conclude that continually students have to be reminded about HIV/AIDS in schools.

Only a few fully understand the concept but majority of them are still in confusion especially in rural areas here in the province. More awareness programs are needed to be conducted in rural schools and areas.

Therefore, we recommend for full time health officers in each schools to constantly discuss and do more awareness in schools. The person will be obliged to carryout HIV/AIDS Awareness and other Health issues consistently in schools.

HIV/AIDS could be adapted as a curriculum in schools. The concerned officers could teach HIV/AIDS in schools. In this way, (to remind them constantly can help to reduce HIV/AIDS in the country through young people in schools.

Please refer to the attached copies of evaluation sample or copies that students filled during visitation to schools.

Lastly, but not the least we would like to thank **Youth Visioning for Island Living (YVIL)** for allowing us to access a page in its programs in the world.

We would like to thank the **Lighthouse Foundation in Germany and UNESCO** for funding such projects around the world, as we are the recipients. It is for the good of every body. You are doing great and keep up the good efforts.

Not to forget to mention our partner organizations, for information materials, advice and contributions. PNG Red Cross Western Highlands Branch Provincial Aids Council (PAC), PNG Stop Aids Anglicare Inc, the Taya Malg Youth Group including the Walmug Youth Group and the Seventh Day Adventist Church of Walmug for the venue for training.

Finally, a great word of appreciation to the Youth Visioning for Island Living (YVIL) team comprised of Michael Tran, Joyce Tulua, Natalie Pereira and H. Thulstrup or others that I may forget to mention, without your efforts, advice and assistances our project wouldn't have been a success. We wish you all the LORDS blessings upon you all.

Footnote: For few photographs of the project, please refer to the Flickr address as : <http://www.flickr.com/photos/22066239@N08/>

PUBLICIZING ALL ACTIVITIES

All our activities were publicized in our local media. We used the Local newspaper to publicize our activities in the Post Courier, PNG's Daily on the 17th December 2007, page 14. You can refer to the Website: [htt://www.postcourier.com.pg](http://www.postcourier.com.pg).

In the beginning of the project and during the project, we were so occupied with the implementation of the program that we never knew of our stories appeared on the media or not, but we did give our stories to the media people, both The National and The Post Courier, our daily newspapers.

During the implementation of the project, our stories came on during news on our local radio station. Eagle FM News Bulletin, which was later re, publicized throughout the country on Karai National Radio – Current Events News.

Our events were also made known in the radio spot using our local station – Eagle FM.

We always acknowledge UNESCO, Light House Foundation in Germany for Sponsoring Youth Visioning For Island Living in which we were benefiting, before commencing our usual HIV/AIDS Awareness activities in schools. It is also acknowledged in the media – newspapers and/or local radio programs.

PROJECT IMPACT EVALUATION

From the forms that were filled by participants in every presentation, we can conclude that continuously participants have been reminded of the epidemic HIV/AIDS in schools throughout the country. Only a few seem to have understood the concept whilst the majority of them are still confused especially those in the rural areas of this province. More awareness programs needs to be conducted in rural schools and areas to really educate them well with regards to the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS in the province and the country as a whole.

Therefore, we would like to recommend for a full time Heath Officer in each school to effectively address this issue. Secondly, HIV/AIDS can be adopted as an subject to be taught in schools by both teachers and Health Officers. In this way, we can remind the generation of tomorrow of the causes and effects of the epidemic HIV/AIDS which is spreading like bush-fire in Western Highlands Province and Papua New Guinea, as a whole.

