

Responding to HIV and AIDS

Key objective

To enable group members to respond more effectively to HIV and AIDS in their communities through a structured process of discussion and reflection that leads to positive action

TOOLS required

Responding effectively to HIV and AIDS, Mobilising the church, Building the capacity of local groups, Mobilising the community, Facilitation skills workbook

Personnel required

Trainer to share skills in facilitation and to give group facilitators confidence. Trainer with basic understanding of how HIV and AIDS is transmitted, and of the social and economic implications of the pandemic on the lives of individuals and their communities.

Anticipated outcomes

- Provision of factual information that addresses misconceptions around how HIV is transmitted
- Stigma and discrimination towards those living with or affected by HIV is reduced
- Community or church based care which supports people's physical, spiritual and social needs initiated or strengthened
- Churches are mobilised to respond to HIV/AIDS in an informed and compassionate way
- People living with HIV and AIDS demonstrate an increased level of participation in civil society
- The gender inequality and socio-cultural issues that increase people's vulnerability to HIV or AIDS are addressed

Suggested approaches

- Use Responding effectively to HIV and AIDS as training material for church leaders or groups
- Integrate Responding effectively to HIV and AIDS into the curriculum of theological institutions
- PILLARS approach to producing information used to help a community document their understanding of HIV
- Use generic Guides such as Building the capacity of local groups or Mobilising the community, with people living with HIV and AIDS to help them set up income generating programmes or peer education or care programmes.

Case studies

1. As part of the PILLARS process in Burkina Faso, a new PILLARS guide on HIV and AIDS was written in Mooré and has been well received.
2. WKHC have written a guide on Harmful Traditional practices (including those which encourage the spread of HIV) in Wolaitigna.
3. Siam-Care are using PILLARS guides for awareness-raising with young people, and with groups of people living with HIV and AIDS
4. Casa Filadelfia, Brazil, have used guides with their clients and have found the discussion process forms close bonds and encourages people to plan together for the future.