

# **Information and Communication Technologies ICT and HIV/AIDS**

## **Report**

**JERE COMMUNITY (KAGARKO LGA)**

**KADUNA STATE**

**NIGERIA**



## **FAROF Using ICTs in the fight against**

### **HIV and AIDS in NIGERIA.**

### **Adolescent health project**

**DECEMBER, 2015**

**FREEHEARTS AFRICA REACH OUT FOUNDATION**

## **ACRONYMS**

**FAROF-Freehearts Africa Reach out Foundation**

**UAAON-United AIDS Advocate of Nigeria**

**AIDS -Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome**

**LGA- local government area**

**MYFOSCA-Muslim youth foundation of southern Kaduna**

**ICT-Information and communication Technology**

**CD ROMs -Compact Disc Read Only Memory**

**KADSAKA-Kaduna State Aids Control Agency**

**HIV -Human Immunodeficiency Virus**

**NGO- Non-Governmental Organization**

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## **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this brief review is to look at the role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in addressing the challenge of HIV / AIDS for immediate use by the people in Kaduna and if possible International donors to join the “ICT Against HIV/AIDS Coalition”.

In preparation for FAROF 2016 project for Adolescent with the use of ICT to fight against HIV/AIDS in Northern west region of Kaduna State, it is summaries under the listed activities

- a. ICT education
- b. HIV/AIDS workshop
- c. Group Discussion forum
- d. Community response and questionnaires

FAROF continues to seek avenues for productive collaborations for the improvement in HIV/AIDS services in Kaduna state. FAROF has designed a community based intervention where communities are trained in practical oriented ICT to support HIV/AIDS care, treatment and support.

**Our common goal for this project** is to reverse and stop the spread of HIV in Nigeria by 2020 and by building the capacity of community through the medium of using ICT to disseminate HIV/AIDS information ,using members within the communities as advocate groups

Our vision is serving as a source to humanitarian excellence “by Exercising Excellence in fullness”

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT:** Reaching Out To The Vulnerable, Especially, Children, Women And Youths Under Poverty & Health Challenges Into The Lime **LIGHT** of **PROVISIONS** Through Education And Health Programs That Are Sustainable And Appropriate For Hard-To-Reach-Areas

## **PROJECT BACKGROUND**

The purpose of this review is to look at the role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in addressing the challenge of HIV / AIDS in Nigeria and Kaduna state as a pilot location . The report provides an overview of HIV/AIDS, the ways FAROF use ICTs to address the pandemic, and some preliminary information on the need for other CSO and CBO in the state to inculcate this intervention.

ICTs are seen as a potential tool in the global response to the pandemic because they offer the feasibility, at relatively low cost of providing access to information and knowledge for those working on the problem, to those who are suffering from the disease or its effects, and to those who need to take preventive actions. It allows for networks that have the potential to link partners in different spheres and locations.

There is a general concern that reaching adolescents in hard to reach areas will require more resources to be spent on technology and education infrastructure.

This report is based on information gathered through the innovation of the one month ICT/HIV capacity building workshop organize through the collaborative effort of community Association such as MYFOSKA in Jere community and other communities in LGAs, this report covers the training which was held from 21<sup>st</sup> November to 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2015.

It has been discovered that ICTs are an important tool. But there is very little material and organizations addressing the current gaps.

FAROF program is to integrate ICTs into our HIV/AIDS strategic approach and current efforts. It is also evident from this brief review that ICT is the fastest medium of passing information and making wider awareness, There are huge amounts of information on HIV/AIDS available through the Web for many working on different aspects of health project

The major challenge in Nigeria is the poor ICT knowledge and not knowing how to access this service, surfing various sites provide very useful, often reliable and current information.

FAROF has developed a quarterly Discussion groups that offer a forum for information exchange among those who have been trained by FAROF on her ICT/HIV/AIDS Project and for updates on current issues. It is agreed that ICTs do provide a cheap, reliable link to communities and others working in the field.

**Our major challenges are limited funding and the need for sustainability and long term continuity is of essence, It is apparent for many reasons reviewed below, that Internet-based technology in Nigeria will remain 'limited' in availability and use for large numbers of people. The lack of infrastructure is inhibiting the use of ICTs among community groups and individuals.**

**FAROF seeks to improve this situation with the help of grantors and international donors to support this intervention. Slowly but surely we shall get there. However, in spite of the barriers, FAROF is still working to support communities through building the ICT Capacity of Adolescents within the community and ensuring follow up through the quarterly discussion meeting and alliance with community Association.**

**The use of ICTs to disseminate HIV/AIDS information will make a great impact from the community level to regional and national levels. What FAROF projects establish are that strong programs and achievement using ICT components to enhance community effectiveness.**

**FAROF empower intermediary groups such as community members, health care providers, and those working with OVC's, the poor and vulnerable groups, can make good use of ICTs to improve the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS. The resources allocated to ICTs for HIV/AIDS must be in balance with and a small percentage of the overall funding, as the bulk of resources needs to be dedicated to the immediate needs of people who are affected/infected through those not infected/affected.**

**In responding to these issues, FAROF, either alone, or with the help of funders play a significant role. FAROF alone, find ways for using existing resources to leverage additional resources, both financial and knowledge, in order to address poor ICT and HIV/AIDS critical problems.**

## **METHODOLOGY**

**This project method of execution begins with community baseline questionnaires after which beneficiaries within the age of 15 to 40 are registered as project Volunteers to participate in the ICT/HIV/AIDs capacity building workshop for a period of one month.**

**After this training, beneficiaries are called the UAAON officials and are sent to build a network of members within their community, quarterly meeting is set for 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 to know the progress of work carried out by trained peer educators, all beneficiaries are keep in contact by phone numbers, emails and social media network, especially through FAROF facebook page and website. A data base is created for each community team**

**Please make request for concept note for details as we need donors to support 2016 project**

**JERE COMMUNITY ICT/HIV/AIDS CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT FROM 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER TO 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2015**

**KEY ACTIVITIES**

**Number of beneficiaries: 146**

**Training venue: Tsangaya primary school,tudun bala,Jere,Kagarko LGA,Kaduna state**

**Capacity building duration: 21<sup>st</sup> November to 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2015**

**Note:this is batch A of the training, there would be a batch B coming up January 2016.**

**FINDINGS - APPLICATIONS OF ICT**

**ICT/HIV Training**-training was done in both English and Hausa language from 21<sup>st</sup> November 2015 ,HIV workshop was carried out during the weekends, skills trained in the ICT practical training includes:

- a. Computer operation
- b. Microsoft word
- c. Microsoft excel/ spread sheet
- d. Power point presentation
- e. Internet (emails, search engine, website and social media network)

**HIV/AIDS WORKSHOP Curriculum**

- a. over view of HIV(Basic Facts)
- b. Harnessing the Power of ICT in the Fight of HIV/AIDS
- c. Common infection in HIV children
- d. Mode of Transmission Study 2015
- e. Anti-Retroviral Therapy in adults and adolescents; Adherence to ART & Communication and counseling skills.

The participants were interactive as they asked questions where answers were provided to. The objective of sharing the information was to build the capacity of the community members (youth) on the basic issues surrounding HIV, ART, community participation, Adherence and communication and counselling skills.

**HCT Number:** 146 tested, 0 positive and 0 referred.

## **PROJECT OUTCOME**

A total number of 146 Trained Adolescent who where between the age of 15 to 35 where trained as community peer educators, whose main purpose are to build a network of Adolescents within their reach as UAAON.

It is expected that in the next coming quarterly membership discussion meeting, the resul of new membership will be invited,especially persons infected or affected by HIV, members help to fight stigma in their community and encourage community unity in supporting those affected

## **PROJECT SUCCESS STORIES**

**This section presents the success of the project in Jere community. Participants where impressive and supportive, MYFOSKA who made a strong alliance with FAROF in the community monitored the training and ensured that Jere community where empowered with the ICT/HIV skill, 95% responded to the social media network HIV chat at the end of the training and 95% now have an email account and a social media account with face book, 100% are registered in FAROF data base and 100% are now ICT inclined at the end of the training, a play let portraying the ICT/HIV/AIDS training was done by beneficiaries, kindly visit FAROF face book page to watch play let.**

## **CHALLENGES**

1. Insufficient funds for facilitators and program maintenance
2. Insufficiency of IEC materials in terms of language and messages
3. Community internet service is poor.
4. Poor mobility into hard to reach areas for outreach

## **RECOMMENDATION**

### **PROJECTS USING ICTs TO ADDRESS HIV/AIDS**

1. More resources can be used more efficiently with the support of the state government, international donors and NGO.
2. Funds be channel to promotes the use of information and communication technologies in Kaduna state
3. Encourage schools to share their computer-related skills with NGOs; and encourage HIV/AIDS experts to assist in prevention efforts and in training peer educators.
4. Provision of vehicle in other to effectively have access into hard to reach areas.

## **2015 FUNDING**

Funding was limited for 2015 to the salary of the facilitators, training materials(education and equipment), transportation cost for both equipment and monitoring, project administration expense, website maintenance

## **2016 FUNDING**

### **Need for 2016 Budget**

**FAROF request Funding by partners:**

Salary for facilitators for 3LGA =~~N~~1,300,000

Training materials (educational and equipment) for participants=~~N~~4, 500, 000

Transportation cost for both equipment and monitoring=~~N~~3, 500, 000

Project administration=~~N~~1, 400, 000

Community Data analysis and website maintenance=~~N~~1, 750, 000

**TOTAL =12, 450, 000 (twelve million, four hundred and fifty thousand naira only)**

**Note:** project vehicle is highly needed to facilitate transportation of equipment and monitoring in hard to reach areas within the communities

**There are volumes of information available through the Web Site and quarterly news letter**

REPORT COMPILED BY FAROF COORDINATOR

**Adams Michael**