

# REPORT ON THE 2005 WORLD AIDS DAY CELEBRATION

## **INTRODUCTION**

December 1<sup>st</sup> is a day set aside as World AIDS Day and is celebrated all over the world to remember people living with HIV/AIDS or suffering because of AIDS; raise funds to support AIDS work; increase awareness, education and fight prejudice. World AIDS Day celebration started in 1988 and has since been an important annual event that provides a means of reminding people that HIV/AIDS has not gone away and that there are many things still to be done.

World AIDS Day has been organized for many years by UNAIDS, who have chosen the theme after consultation with other organizations. However in 2005, UNAIDS handed over the responsibility for World AIDS Day to an independent organization known as World AIDS Campaign (WAC) and the WAC's theme for their campaign is **“STOP AIDS: KEEP THE PROMISE”**. Some HIV/AIDS organizations have chosen to adopt this theme for World AIDS Day 2005 while others have for the first time picked their own topic suitable for the event they are holding.

For the 2005 World AIDS Day celebration, Partners for International Development and Education (PIDE) focused efforts on mobilizing students in Higher Institutions of Learning, parents, members of clubs/unions , faith-based organizations, communities and the Local Government Councils to make commitments to stop the HIV/AIDS pandemic. This mobilization was successful in our target communities through a community/public sensitization rally in Isoko North and South Local Government Areas. Seminars on stigmatization of PLWHA were conducted in churches and mosques in the two Local Government Areas.

## **KEY ACTIVITIES**

PIDE conducted 2005 World AIDS Day with the theme **STOP STIGMA, STOP AIDS: MAKE THE PROMISE**

The two major activities conducted to mark 2005 World AIDS Day Celebration are:

- Community sensitization rally in Isoko North and South Local Government Areas.
- Seminars on stigmatization of PLWHA conducted in churches and mosques in the communities we serve.

## **PIDE CELEBRATES WORLD AIDS DAY WITH A COMMUNITY SENSITIZATION RALLY IN ISOKO NORTH AND SOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS**



The rally was conducted in collaboration with Society for Family Health and Delta State Government through the Local Action Committee on AIDS (LACA). The trail rally had about 80 participants including students of Delta State Polytechnic, Ozoro, and youth corps members, Man “O” War group, Community volunteers and representatives from the faith-based community. The rally covers Isoko North and South Local Government Area Headquarters (Ozoro and Oleh communities).

Some of the participants in the rally are:

- Mrs. Irobo - Outgoing HIV/AIDS coordinator, Delta State Ministry of Health
- Mrs. Okoro - HIV/AIDS coordinator, Delta State Ministry of Health
- Dr. Majero - Director of Primary Health Care, Delta State Min. of Health
- Mrs. Nwado - M&E Officer, Delta State Ministry of Health
- Mrs. Okpoto - Nutritionist, Delta State Ministry of Health

Others who came along with the Ministry of Health/Society for Family Health teams from Asaba include the Delta State Broadcasting Corporation crew led by Mr Austin Ubido.



During the rally, youth friendly music was played to attract youths; placards carrying various HIV/AIDS messages were displayed; Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and Behavioral Change Communication (BCC) Materials were distributed. A brief public friendly dance drama on sexual discipline and use of condom was also presented at strategic locations in the course of the rally.



The trail rally commenced from Delta State Polytechnic Ozoro and moved to Owhelogbo junction, a very busy spot in Ozoro community with a satellite motor park and a commercial motorcyclist park. Here, IEC and BCC materials were distributed to commercial motorcyclists and drivers and passers by. The rally was conducted through Urude community to Alla Square, the commercial center of Isoko North Local Government Area, where various IEC and BCC materials were distributed. After a halt of about 30 minutes at Alla square, the rally continued and moved through NDC road before proceeding to Oleh community, the headquarters of Isoko South Local Government Area. In Isoko South LGA, the rally was conducted through the motor mechanic village and halted at a busy junction where IEC and BCC materials were also distributed before moving through ICB junction to Nyanga market, a very busy spot which is also the commercial center of Isoko South Local Government Area. Here a brief community sensitive dance drama was presented on sexual discipline and condom use alongside distribution of IEC and BCC materials in the market and to commercial motorcyclists and other members of the community. The rally proceeded through Kefas road in Oleh community and returned to Isoko North LGA where it was ended with a speech by the Chairman of Isoko North Local Government Council presented by The Head of Personnel Management.

At the end of the rally, PIDE volunteers and participants converged at Bendel Shop, Alla Square for light refreshment before being dispersed.

## **PIDE CONDUCTS FAITH –BASED SEMINARS ON STIGMATIZATION OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS IN CHURCHES AS PART OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2005 WORLD AIDS DAY CELEBRATION**



As part of our strategies to reduce stigmatization of PLWHA in rural communities, PIDE conducted seminars on stigma in churches in our target communities in Isoko North Local Government Area between November 27<sup>th</sup> and December 4<sup>th</sup> 2005. This program is aimed at reducing the high level of stigmatization of PLWHA in rural communities through faith based organizations/churches/mosques.

The seminars which were held at different times in different churches focused on:

- educating members of the faith based community on how stigma affect PLWHA, PABA, and their families, individuals and communities in relation to the spread of HIV/AIDS.
- the rights of People Living With HIV/AIDS and the importance of ensuring that such rights are not violated.
- caring for PLWHA and PABA and raise an offering to support services being provided by “PIDE to Partner for Hope” (a self support group of People Living With HIV/AIDS form by PIDE whose members are current beneficiaries of various programs/services provided by PIDE).

### **BENEFITS OF THE PIDE TO PARTNER FOR HOPE**

- 1. Transportation/lodging and board to member to and from Benin for treatment.**
- 2. Counseling Services.**
- 3. Provision of special dietary meals.**
- 4. Education on personal hygiene.**
- 5. Helping members to adjust in the community.**
- 6. Encouraging family support.**
- 7. Bringing together other PLWHA to be supportive.**

The success recorded in this program has encouraged some of the churches visited to publicize PIDE’s HIV/AIDS messages on the cover page of their weekly bulletin.

To ensure effectiveness of this program, specific scriptural words from the Bible were interpreted to members of the various churches in relation to care and support for People Living With HIV/AIDS. Some of the scriptural quotations adopted from the Bible for this program include:

- Colossians 3:13 .....Tolerance and charity
- 2 Peter 1:7 .....Love and care for and another
- 1 Corinthians 3:13 .....Love and care
- Proverbs 31:26 .....Love and care
- John 8:7-10 .....Being judgmental about people
- John 7:24 .....Being judgmental according to appearance

A total of 10 churches were contacted for this program. However only four were visited due to time constrain as most of the churches have busy schedules in December. They however expressed interest in participating in PIDE programs in the future as long as they receive at least a one month advance notice

Below are some of the churches visited and their contributions in support of our PIDE TO PARTNER FOR HOPE.

<b>S/N</b>	<b>NAME OF CHURCH</b>	<b>DATE VISITED</b>	<b>AMOUNT DONATED</b>
1.	Christ Apostolic Church Aradhe	27/11/2005	N650:00
2.	Christ Chosen Church Ozoro	29/11/2005	NIL
3.	Gospel Church of Christ Aradhe	04/11/2005	N750:00
4.	S. Paul's Anglican Church	04/11/2005	N1,565:00
			<hr/> <b>N 2, 965:00</b> <hr/>

We sincerely thank all the churches for their hospitality and interest to participate in our programs. Special thank you goes to churches that contributed to our PIDE TO PARTNER FOR HOPE as their contribution is a gesture of support confidence in our program to help PLWHA.

### **CONCLUSION**

The trail rally was indeed successful considering the limited time available for preparatory works and community mobilization. The participation of key officers of the Ministry of Health and Society for Family Health and Delta State Broadcasting Corporation contributed to the success of the rally. We extend our thanks to them.

### **LESSONS LEARNED**

Though the 2005 World AIDS Day celebration was successful, earlier preparations for future World AIDS Day celebration will help to improve the level of success achieved.

It is recommended that fund drive for future World AIDS Day celebrations be commenced around July to provide room for proper follow-up and appropriate decisions on the level of activities based on available funds and greater participation of all stake holders at local, state and national levels.

It is also recommended that future WAD celebration be conducted with particular consideration to printing of IEC/BCC materials bearing PIDE logo, if funds are available. This will greatly improve our public relations and enable us to get greater participation of volunteers in future programs as they would have been familiar with what PIDE does in the community. It will also make it easier for people to contact us for enquiries especially about PLWHA and Voluntary Counseling and Testing programs. The positive impact of such publicity will improve our relationship with the public and will enhance our Monitoring and Evaluation programs.

### **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACCRONYMS**

IEC	- Information Education and Communication
BCC	- Behavioral Change Communication
WAD	- World AIDS Day
PLWHA	- People Living With HIV/AIDS
PABA	- People Affected By AIDS
N	- Naira (Nigerian Currency)