

HIV & AIDS Strategic Planning

January 19 - 20, 2006



CRE

Cross River Environmental
Capacity Development
Coalition



Canadian International
Development Agency

CRE *Reports* provide an analysis of the results emerging from the CRE Project for civil society and policy makers in Nigeria.

1.0 Background

The goal of the Cross River Environment Capacity Development (CRE) Project is to strengthen NGO capacity to affect gender-sensitive policy change and environmental improvement in Cross River State. Its purpose is to build a network of long-term partnerships among Canadian and Nigerian environmental organizations that will work together to strengthen organizational capacity and environmental management.

The CRE Project brings together a coalition of four Nigerian Environmental NGOs (DIN, LENF, NCF and CERCOPAN) and one environmental network (NGOCE) together with One Sky into the CRE Coalition. These NGOs are in turn instruments to support communities and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in the buffer zones of the two surrounding key protected areas – the Guinean Lowland Forest Ecosystem in Cross River National Park as well as the Montane Ecosystem of the Obudu Plateau – in the Cross River bioregion of Nigeria.

Two cross-cutting themes flow throughout the project: gender equality and HIV/AIDS integration. HIV/AIDS is a growing problem in Nigeria. The National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS) estimates that five million adults are living with HIV in Nigeria, most of them between 15 and 45 years of age. More than 1.4 million Nigerian have died of AIDS (National Action Committee on AIDS, 2002), and over 410,000 children have been orphaned. On a regional level, the south-south political zone (which includes Cross River State) has been identified as a 'hot spot' of HIV/AIDS prevalence. With Cross River State as of 2003 having the highest prevalence rate of 12.0%, other hotspots include Benue (9.3%), Akwa Ibom (7.2%), and FCT/Abuj (8.2%) (Nigerian.Federal Ministry of Health Technical Report 2003 National HIV Sero-prevalence sentinel survey)

In response to the existing reality, the CRE annual work plan, a joint effort of One Sky and the CRE Coalition, has committed to enhancing HIV/AIDS integration in NGO and community-based initiatives (Outcome 3), and enhancing understanding of HIV/AIDS integration approaches by the ENGOS (Output 3.2) as partial contribution to the global mitigating response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and particularly to the development impediment it presents to the Coalition's work in Cross River State.

Consequently, One Sky planned a two-day HIV/AIDS Strategic Planning workshop, with the purpose of assisting the CRE Coalition in developing a pragmatic strategic map which would aid in actively integrating HIV/AIDS approaches throughout ENGOS and within their community-based activities. The CRE Coalition HIV/AIDS Strategic Planning workshop was held on January 19th – 20th, 2006 at the One Sky office, Calabar and was facilitated by the CRE Coalition HIV/AIDS Advisor, Evelyne Ssendendo.

Present at the workshop were twelve participants (eight women and four men) all of whom were CRE Coalition members, in particular, HIV/AIDS focal persons, individual ENGOS management staff, and the One Sky Gender Advisor.

This workshop report documents the workshop objectives and goals, facilitators, a descriptive synopsis of the workshop activities, workshop contributions to the CRE project outputs and outcomes, as well as appendices documenting the workshop attendees.

2.0 Workshop Objectives:

- 1) To review statistically, the impact of HIV&AIDS world wide, in Nigeria and in Cross River State;
- 2) To introduce, understand and apply the *Expanded Comprehensive Response* Concept and Core Principles in evolving the CRE Coalition HIV&AIDS Strategic Plan;
- 3) To review and discuss the Nigerian National Strategic Framework (NSF) as the principle guiding reference to the CREC HIV&AIDS Strategic Plan development;
- 4) To share each ENGO's HIV&AIDS Actions Plans and SWOT Analysis (as regards their HIV&AIDS response);
- 5) To develop a collective CREC SWOT Analysis/Appreciative Inquiry -Strengths (from ENGOs cross-cutting themes);
- 6) To review the CRE Annual Work Plan as regards ENGO's activities on HIV&AIDS integration approaches;
- 7) To develop a first rough draft CRE Coalition HIV&AIDS Strategic Plan (2006)

3.0 Workshop Goal

The goal of the meeting was to develop a first draft CRE Coalition HIV&AIDS strategic plan (2006) which would serve as a guide for the coalition's commitment and actions in their response towards mitigating the effects of HIV&AIDS, both in their NGOs and in Cross River State.

4.0 Summary of Key Workshop Activities: Day One

4.1 Statistical review on impact of HIV&AIDS world wide, in Nigeria and in Cross River State.

An overview of the impact of HIV&AIDS nationally and world wide was given, taking note of the HIV&AIDS statistics within the Nigerian States, and specifically of the 'hotspots' states, with Cross River State being among and in fact being the highest in prevalence rate, at 12.0%. This was to set the background context and rationale as to why the coalition was in fact coming together to design a strategic plan on the HIV&AIDS response within our working environments (both at work places and in the State).

4.2 Understand and apply the Expanded Comprehensive Response (ECR) concept and Core Principles in evolving the CREC HIV&AIDS Strategic Plan.

Borrowing from the recent State HIV&AIDS Strategic Planning workshop and experience, the key concepts and principles utilized in that process were introduced and explained as key fundamentals for the basis of the development of the coalition's HIV&AIDS strategic plan. Keeping in mind that the Coalition is more or less a grassroots-level community initiative, it was taken into account that the Expanded Comprehensive Response (ECR) concept could not in its entirety be realistically adopted by the coalition, but rather take on some of its approaches, understand the concepts entailed and ensure the strategic plan is embedded in the ECR key core principles. As such the following was presented in detail: a) *What constitutes an effective HIV/AIDS Response?* b) *What is the ECR Approach?* and c) *ECR Concepts and ECR Core Principles?*

4.3 Review and discussion of the Nigerian Strategic Framework (NSF)

The purposing of reviewing and discussing the Nigerian National Strategic Framework (NSF) was two-fold; first, to introduce and present the NSF to the coalition members, as they, as well as the larger public, are and were unaware of the existence of this important principle National guiding document. Secondly, given the NSF is the national framework, all other sectoral responses are mandated to be consistent and in line with the NSF, illustrating national unanimity throughout the national action frameworks for HIV&AIDS and their equivalent. In other words, sub-national plans must be derived from “*use of the NSF as the central framework for planning and programming of all AIDS activities implemented by the Stakeholders and partners*” (NSF, p.7).

4.4 Develop collective (CRE Coalition) Appreciative Inquiry as regards Coalition’s response towards HIV/AIDS.

The purpose of this activity was to develop a collective CRE Coalition Appreciative Inquiry, from the shared ENGOs strengths and analogous themes. Noting the individual organization’s SWOT analyses, the members were asked to reflect on what they deem makes them a strong cohesive coalition and allows them to effectively and successfully carry out their project objectives and activities.

4.5 Reviewing of the CRE Annual Work Plan as regards ENGO’s activities on HIV&AIDS integration approaches.

The purpose of the above exercise was to bring into focus and make relevant the goal of the workshop by working within the CRE Annual Work Plan and more specifically, the ENGO’s activities on HIV&AIDS integration approaches. By being familiar with their HIV&AIDS activities and integrating it into the development of the NSF objectives, the development of the strategic plan would be clearer. The review of the AWP was carried out within the formed syndicate groups as each proceeded in the *development of the first rough Draft HIV&AIDS Strategic Plan (2006)*.

4.6 Workshop Modalities and Formulation of a rough Draft HIV&AIDS Strategic Plan (2006)

For facilitation in the above activity, other available and distributed materials for the working syndicate groups were: the Nigerian HIV&AIDS National Strategic Framework (NSF); Nigeria National HIV&AIDS Workplace Policy; National HIV&AIDS Behaviour Change Communication (5-year Strategy—2004’-08’); CRE Annual Work plan; HIV&AIDS: Global and National Statistics. These were to be used as aid tools in the information gathering of the development of the CREC HIV&AIDS Strategic Plan. In addition, the State HIV&AIDS Strategic Plan logical framework analysis (LFA) matrix would be adopted as our (Coalition’s) working matrix.

The syndicate groups (two groups of six participants) assembled and commenced work on the formulation of the first rough draft of the CREC HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan. This activity took up the rest of the workshop time.

5.0 Summary of Key Workshop Activities: Day Two

5.1 Continuation of draft formulation by syndicate groups

Following a recap of day one activities, participants immediately continued the formulation of the strategic plan. After lengthy syndicate group discussions and deliberations entailing rough drafts of probable group strategic plans, the groups reconvened into one large group for the presentations of their group work, which would then result into the one larger group plan.

5.2 Presentations of syndicate group work on first rough HIV&AIDS Strategic Plan and Development of rough draft CREC HIV&AIDS Strategic Plan.

This entailed presentations of the group work to the larger coalition group for validation, further input and necessary constructive criticisms. Following the presentations, the facilitator undertook the summary activity of the final workshop objective (*Development of first rough draft CREC HIV&AIDS Strategic Plan 2006*) by presenting the group's work and with participants' systematic analysis and thorough contributions, together composed the syndicate group work into one coalition first rough draft.

6.0 Workshop contributions to the CRE project outputs and outcomes:

Output 3.2, *enhanced understanding of HIV/AIDS mainstreaming approaches by selected NGOs in the AWP*. The workshop achieved the associated activity, 3.2.15 *Assist ENGOS with a strategic plan on HIV/AIDS*. It served to bring the coalition together to collectively strategize how to implement HIV/AIDS mitigating responses within their ENGOS and community activities, respectively.

Outcome 3, *enhanced utilization of HIV/AIDS integration in NGO and community-based initiatives*. The following are some of the workshop contributions: Selected ENGOS now have a unifying road map, the strategy plan, that they can use to guide them in incorporating HIV/AIDS activities into their daily work, both in their NGOs and in community activities. Coming together and strategizing made it possible to take a closer look at the relevance of HIV/AIDS to each ENGO's focus and mission, as well as a Coalition, thus noting commonalities and drawing strengths and lessons from each others work. What is more, the process of reviewing and examining other existing policies, plans and national and federal documents (and additionally incorporating them into our strategy plan) allowed the Coalition, for the first time, to see on a broader scale what was ongoing on the ground and moreover, how the Coalition fit into this larger framework of HIV/AIDS mitigation in CRS.

7.0 Outcomes of the workshop

A draft CRE Coalition HIV&AIDS Strategic Plan has been produced. At the time of writing, coalition members are still making necessary changes to the final strategic plan, following which will be distributed out to each respective ENGOS. In the mean time, however, ENGOS are utilizing their action plans to carry out some of their HIV&AIDS integration approaches in their work.

APPENDIX A:

List of participants in attendance at the CREC HIV&AIDS Strategic Planning at One Sky Office, Calabar, January 19th and 20th, 2006.

No.	Names	Organization	Address	Sex
1.	Priscilla Todo	NCF	Calabar	F
2.	Ojogu Ekum	NGOCE	Calabar	M
3.	Jerry Akparawa	CERCOPAN	Calabar	M
4.	Eme Utin	CERCOPAN		F
5.	Ruth Asek-Agbor	NCF		F
6.	Stella Odey	One Sky		F
7.	Eunice Kusi	LENF		F
8.	Joseph Ugbe	LENF		M
9.	Stella Ingwu	DIN		F
10.	Lori Mcquid	DIN		F
11.	Odigha Odigha	NGOCE		M
12.	Ijeoma Anyanwu	NGOCE		F
13.	Evelyne Ssendendo	One Sky		F