



Community Conversations

Goal and Proposed Outcomes

NASTAD's goal via this project was to build the capacity of Botswana's Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development (MLG&RD) and National AIDS Coordinating Agency (NACA) to institutionalize the use of the Community Capacity Enhancement through Community Conversations (CCE-CC) approach as one pillar of the national social mobilization strategy. The CCE-CC is a community based intervention, designed by UNDP, meant to raise awareness and stimulate action within communities. Through CCE-CC, communities and individuals recognize for themselves that some long-held values, traditions and beliefs must change if the spread of HIV is to be controlled. Action is planned from there.

NASTAD Botswana proposed to build national capacity by helping to develop standardized national guidelines, tools, and implementation strategies for the roll-out of the national program, and also by developing human resources and institutions for the implementation of CCE-CC.

Strategy and Approach Used

NASTAD Botswana's technical assistance and support began at the national level and focused on the roll out of the CCE-CC training. NASTAD Botswana helped to train master trainers, and mentored them to train trainers and community level facilitators.

NASTAD Botswana also placed and supervised district based project officers that supported strong CCE-CC implementation.

To help support program integration and a sustainable implementation model, in-depth training and on-site mentoring of District AIDS Coordinators (DACs), Health Education Assistants, and volunteer community facilitators was provided.

To help demonstrate and document best practice in this area, NASTAD also supported MLG&RD in identifying and setting up two model CCE-CC districts (Letlhakeng and Chobe) and six model sites (Mabele, Sata, Pandamatenga, Letlhakeng, Botlhapatlou and Tswaane) to provide consistent support for the implementation of the CCE-CC approach with fidelity, and ensure the quality of program implementation.

Community Conversations in Chobe, Botswana



Results

- **Framework and Operational Guidelines for Community Capacity Enhancement through Community Conversation (CCE-CC)-2013:** Designed to guide effective implementation of CCE-CC in Botswana, this framework provides the contextual background and history of community mobilization in Botswana, as well as a step-by-step methodology for CCE-CC implementation, training and resource mobilization and outlines the leadership, coordination, and partnership roles and responsibilities of stakeholder at different levels, including effective strategies for monitoring and evaluation of the program implementation.
- **Community Capacity Enhancement through Community Conversation (CCE-CC) Training Manual-2014:** Designed to provide a standard package of training materials on the basic concepts of CCE-CC, the training manual serves as a reference for all training related to CCE-CC in Botswana, training of Master Trainers, Trainers of Trainers, and Community Conversation Facilitators. The manual uses interactive processes consistent with the principles of community capacity enhancement.
- **Community Capacity Enhancement through Community Conversation (CCE-CC) Facilitators' Guide-2014:** Designed to provide Community Conversation Facilitators a step-by-step guide in facilitating community conversations in their communities.

Summary of Outcomes

NASTAD Botswana:

- Supported MLG&RD and NACA with the development of the national Social Mobilization Strategy that recognizes the use of CCE-CC as the key component and pillar of this strategy
- Developed tools and materials to help institutionalize CCE-CC nationally
- Supported the placement, mentoring and coaching of 14 district-level CCE project officers to ensure high-quality implementation
- Supported the training of 33 national level master trainers, 153 trainers and 97 community level facilitators
- Supported Ministry of Health (MoH) to incorporate CCE-CC into Health Education Assistants training to enable them to take ownership of the day-to-day implementation of the program at the community level.

Over the life of the project, NASTAD Botswana worked closely with MLG&RD and NACA to build a fully functional CCE-CC implementation system and structures by developing guidelines, standard operating procedures and tools. NASTAD Botswana also built the technical capacity of staff at the national and district levels through training, regular and ongoing coaching and mentorship support. Overall, the CCE-CC program has empowered and significantly improved the level of community participation and ownership in the national HIV response.

Full transition of CCE-CC to MLG&RD was completed in 2014. The MLG&RD is now providing technical support and training to other government ministries such that they, too, can use the program to drive action at the community level.

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